

MAY 1, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD OF JESUS CHRIST OUR GOD

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,

Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,
M.D.

Holy Communion Order

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

The Gospel passage that is read at the performance of the Agape Vespers on Easter Sunday afternoon leaves us with the Doubting Thomas, who said, *“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and place my finger in the print of the nails and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.”* (St. John 20:25). In this way our Church acknowledges a great human frailty, which manifests itself in reality. That is, we followed the Lord, side-by-side with His Disciples at every event in His earthly life, including His Crucifi-

xion. We were present with the Myrrhbearing Women at His tomb and with others after His Resurrection from the dead. Even so, as with all of Christ’s followers, we must face this great human frailty, namely: the need for proof!

Truly, we, along with Christ’s Disciples – men and women – even though we have been present during His earthly ministry and when He performed His many miracles (and He still performs them); *and* having been

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THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST’S VOICE PROCLAIMING ETERNAL LIFE

“He is risen as He said (Matthew 28:6); there you will see Him, as He told you (Mark 16:7); and remember how He told you (Luke 24:6). The angels called the women and the disciples to remember His voice and His words; to reflect on all that had happened and to recognize that the promises of the Lord had been fulfilled, death and the tomb could not hold the Son of God, and just as He said, He is the resurrection and the life!

For the disciples the voice of Christ was a very real experience. They were present for all of the miraculous events and His teaching. Following His Resurrection and Ascension, they could not but speak of all the things they had seen and heard for those full years being with Him. (Acts 4:20)

In receiving the Gospel by faith, we affirm and proclaim the power and truth of His Passion and Resurrection as well. Through our worship and His power and presence in our midst, we hear His voice, we affirm the fulfillment of His promises, and we proclaim to the world the salvation and abundant life found in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. We see and hear, and we become the voice of Christ!” (2016 Paschal Encyclical; His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios)



Η Ευαγγελική περικοπή η οποία αναγινώσκεται κατά την εκτέλεσιν του Εσπερινού της Αγάπης μας αφήνει με τον αμφιβαλλόντα Άγιον Θωμά, ο οποίος ειπέ: <εάν μη ιδώ εν τοις χερσιν Αυτού τον τυπον των ηλών, και βαλώ τον δακτυλον μου εις τον τυπον των ηλών και βαλώ την χειρα μου εις την πλευραν Αυτού, ου μη πιστευσω.>

(Ιωαν. 20:25). Κατά αυτόν τον τρόπον η Εκκλησία αναγνωρίζει την μεγάλην ανθρωπινήν αδυναμίαν μας, η οποία φανερώνεται μέσα στην πραγματικότητα. Δηλαδή, παρακολουθούσαμεν τον Κύριον χερι-χερι με τους μαθητάς Του μέσα από κάθε εκδήλωσιν στην επιγειον ζών του Χριστού μέχρι την Σταύρωσιν Του και παρουσιάσθηκαμε με τις Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες στον τάφον Του και με τους άλλους μετά την Αναστάσιν Του. Ωστόσο, όπως και με όλους τους οπαδούς του Χριστού, πρέπει να αντιμετωπίσουμεν αυτήν την ανθρωπινήν αδυναμίαν μας, η οποία είναι η **ανάγκη μας για αποδείξεις!**

Πραγματι, εμείς, μαζί με όλους τους μαθητάς του Χριστού, άνδρες και γυναίκες, αφού ημασταν παρόντες κατά την διαρκείαν της διακονίας Του και όταν έκανε τα πολλά θαύματα Του (και εμείς ακόμα δικαιοχόι των θαυμάτων Του μέχρι σήμερα) και μαζί Του όταν αναστήθηκε ο Λάζαρος από τον τάφον – ωστόσο, εμείς ευρισκόμεθα εκπληκτοί με ό,τι δεν μπορούμεν να κατανοήσουμεν.

Όπως εφανερώθηκε ο Άναστας εκ νεκρών Χριστός στον Άγιον Θωμά με σκοπό την διαλύσιν των αμβολιών του, κατά τον ίδιον τρόπο θα αποκαλύψει τον Εαυτόν Του σε εμάς δια μέσου της προσευχής μας και θα καταλάβουμεν την ακαμπτήν αληθείαν: **Χριστός Άνστη!** +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

with Him when Lazarus was raised from the dead – even so, we are confounded with whatever we cannot comprehend.

As the Risen Christ revealed Himself to St. Thomas, in the same way Christ will reveal Himself to each of us through our prayers. In fact, the truth of His Resurrection is revealed to each person in various ways – all by the grace of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life and the Source of all Wisdom.

Given that the only things that we can indeed prove are things that can be observed as part of the tangible universe, we must concede that there still exist many realities that lie outside the bonds of the tangible. There are *intangible realities*. Such realities of love and the beginning of the universe, as well as the reality of the very essence of light lie beyond the physical. They are part of the immaterial, intangible totality of God's creation.

Here's an example. Steve Jobs, who amassed great wealth through the Apple Industry, upon his death bed, shared the reality of *God's love*:

"I have come to the pinnacle of success in business. In the eyes of others, my life has been the symbol of success...At this time, lying on the hospital bed and remembering all my life, I realize that all the accolades and riches of which I was once proud, have become insignificant with my imminent death. In the dark, when I look at the green lights, of the equipment for artificial respiration and feel the buzz of their mechanical sounds, I can feel the breath of my approaching death looming over me. Only now do I understand that once you accumulate enough money for the rest of your life, you have to pursue objectives that are not related to wealth. It should be something more important...No, stop pursuing wealth; it can only make a person into a twisted being, just like me. God has made us one way: we can feel the love in the heart of each of us...This is the true wealth that will follow you; will accompany you. I can only take with me the memories that were strengthened by love. He will give strength and light to go ahead...Please treasure your family love; love for your spouse; love for your friends. Treat everyone well and stay friendly with your neighbors." (This quotation was shared with me by members of our parish.)

The only true love in the world is the *love of Christ our God*, Who arose from the dead, conquering death by His death. His Resurrection is as much a reality as is His voluntary death on the Cross. So, in this spirit (or, with this Spirit) let us celebrate the Feast of Love – *the Agape* – with love for one another as is conveyed in the Agape Vesper Service of our Church.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne and George Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Bob Maverick, Gerasimos Mikelatos, Evangelia Melissaratos, Gerasimos Canakis, Kathy Canakis & Peter Canakis (Eva and Spiro Canakis relatives), Kenny Henderson, Mary Fondas, Maria Kellow, (Chris Laskaris' daughter), Yiannis Koutroubis (Kalitsa Xitco's brother), Thelma Spirtos, Nicholas Kyriakou (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

Paschal Encyclical 2016 - His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos

"You, O Christ, Who has destroyed Hades and raised up mankind by your Resurrection, make us worthy with pure heart to praise and glorify You." –From the Praises of Pascha



Dearly Beloved,

We have completed our Lenten journey and very soon we will find ourselves at the tomb of Christ where He has rested for three days. In this upcoming Holy and Great Week we will have journeyed with Him to Jerusalem and we will witness His Passion. We will see Him extend His arms to accept the life giving Cross. We will hear Him pardon those who crucified Him. We will hear Him grant entry to Paradise to the repentant thief crucified next to Him. And then early in the morning we will, like the women who went to anoint Him, experience His triumphant emergence from the tomb. He has destroyed death and granted life to the world.

In the icon of the Resurrection, our Lord and Savior reaches out to Adam and Eve and lifts them out of their tombs. When they saw Him in Hades, they extended their hands towards Him and the Risen Lord gave them new life. In one ancient text He says to them, "Arise!". In the Exapostilarion of Pascha we hear how Christ raised up Adam, the first man, from corruption. All of this reminds us that we are celebrating two resurrections in this Feast of Feasts, that of the Lord Jesus from His three days in the tomb and our own. We, the descendants of Adam, experience resurrection because we have joined ourselves to Christ. We have reached out to Christ and He has taken us by the hand to give us life. Christ has conquered death so that we may be free from its power. His conquest emboldens us to mock the darkness and chains of the Evil One with the words of St. Paul, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:54-55). The lit candles that we will hold up in middle of night on Pascha are symbols of that victory and we will carry them through the streets into the night to our homes to proclaim the news to all that Christ is Risen!

And the joy we will experience on the day of Pascha and through this season of resurrection must be proclaimed and shared. We will greet one another with a joy-filled "Christ Is Risen!". We will remember the words of the hymn of Holy Saturday "Arise, O God, and judge the earth; for You shall have an inheritance in all of the nations." The Resurrection banishes sadness in a tragedy-filled world and offers meaning and purpose in an age that feel adrift. The Resurrection shows us that the love and mercy of God knows no boundaries. The Resurrection gives life to the world, to all humanity, with no barriers. In the sermon of St. John Chrysostom we hear, "Let all enter into the joy of the Lord."

The words of joy, life, mercy and forgiveness are easy to say, but their meaning and implications for the world are not so easy to put into practice. We see the outstretched hands of the suffering in the Middle East, the refugees fleeing Syria, and all those who yearn for peace, security and freedom from persecution. We see the outstretched hands of the poor and the suffering in our own cities and among our neighborhoods. We, like Christ in the icon, must extend our hands to those who seek to experience the power of the Resurrection and receive the gift of the new life that Christ has granted to the world. The Risen Christ who has granted the world great mercy and new life, calls us to extend that mercy and love and new life to all.

Dearly beloved, may the power of the Resurrection fill your hearts with the power of God's infinite mercy and love. Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

With Love in Our Risen Lord,
+ G E R A S I M O S
Metropolitan of San Francisco

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life"

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ushers: Many blessings for our Parish Council members, along with **John Petalas**, in their service as ushers throughout Holy Week and the Anastasi! Serving as Greeter for the celebration of our Lord's Holy Resurrection Services: **George Megalonakis**.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The Easter Lily Bouquets glorifying our Holy Altar today were donated by:

Mrs. Josie Desnoyers - "In memory of Frank Barboza Jr., the father of our children. May his memory be Eternal!"

Matushka Gloria Lehman - "For the Word of the Lord endures forever... For with God nothing shall be impossible."

"HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE", and may God bless you! -**Louise Dobbs Barringer**, Altar Flower Coordinator

PHILOPTOCHOS – We wish all of our parishioners a Happy Easter. As you know we canceled Easter Dinner due to lack of reservations. We hope you've made plans to be with your family and friends this important day. We need Coffee Hour Hostesses for May 15, 22, and 29. We are also signing up Hostesses for June. Please see **Linda Petalas. The Knitting Project, Phase One will end on Wednesday, May 4 when **Rhonda Latkovic and Christina Kundanis** will present the knitted items to the patients at City of Hope. Our next Board meeting will on Monday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m. Our last General Meeting of the season will be on Monday, May 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory.**

AHEPA – AHEPA Chapter 528 meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

We are most appreciative of the support that our AHEPA Chapter 528 members offer by planning to attend the **Men's Day Rally on May 14, 2016**. The day following the Men's Day Rally, Sunday, May 15th, is National AHEPA Sunday. Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, **college students** of our St. George parish and AHEPA 528 Family will be awarded the annual Fr. T.P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship.

ENCLOSED – Please find the St. George Golf Tournament Registration Form needed to join in our parish golf tournament May 6-7. Use this form to make reservations for the Steak and Greek Style dinners for Friday and Saturday nights (May 6 & 7). **Everyone will enjoy the dinners! Also enclosed is the **Men's Day Rally flier**. Following the golf tournament, final preparations will be made for the Men's Rally luncheon and related informative materials. We ask all who plan to participate to confirm with **Fr. Ted, Presvytera Pantels, or Louise Dobbs Barringer (Outreach Chairperson)**.**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, May 2nd.....ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR Feast Day of our Parish!

Orthros-8:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 6th.....THE LIFE-GIVING FONT

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

St. George Golf Tournament-Stroke Play: tee-off...2:00 p.m

Golf Tournament Reception Hour- 6:30 p.m./ Dinner-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 7th..... St. George Golf Tournament-Scramble: tee-off... 8:00 a.m.

Vespers-5:00 p.m.

Golf Tournament Reception Hour-6:00 p.m./ Dinner-7:00 p.m.

*The LADDER for May 2016
is sponsored by
Tillie Lockshire*

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the narthex for your use. God Bless.

Desert Willow

Golf Resort

Firecliff ♦ Mountain View



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016 • 2:00PM SHOTGUN | SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016 • 8:00AM SHOTGUN

ENTRY INFORMATION

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

- **\$125.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 2:00pm Shotgun Start (Stroke Play) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Steak Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 8:00am Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

TEE SPONSOR - \$100

Package Includes: One Tee Sign

INDIVIDUAL AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s)
Friday, May 6, 2016 ___ (# of Players) x \$125 \$ _____
- Individual Player(s)
Saturday, May 7, 2016 ___ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s)
___ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Steak Dinner
Friday, May 6, 2016 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$25 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek
Dinner | Saturday, May 7, 2016 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAME

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Saturday, April 30th**

Register Online: www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form To:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261

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74-109 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA 92260 • 760-568-9901

FR. THEODORE PANTELS, PASTOR

WWW.GO-STGEORGE.ORG



**CALLING ALL MEN 18 AND ABOVE,
FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS AND SONS**

Men's Day Rally

***Bring Out The
Godly Man In You***

Saturday: May 14, 2016

Location: Parish Hall

Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**“ONCE YOU’RE RIGHT WITH GOD
YOU’RE RIGHT WITH THE WORLD”**

**SHARE WITH QUALIFIED THEOLOGIANs,
SPIRITUAL GUIDES AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

ALL CHRISTIANS WELCOME!

PLEASE COME, AND BRING A FRIEND! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

RSVP: RALLY CAPACITY – 100
CATERED SIT-DOWN LUNCH - \$10.00

PRESENTING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Mr. Blaine L. Mack WWII Veteran

This event is created and sponsored by OUTREACH.