

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com



THE LADDER

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

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.

GOD'S "INN"

According to Apostolic Tradition, which is enacted in the Ecclesiastical Life of Orthodox Christians, it is not possible for a priest to celebrate the Holy Sacraments without the laity. In addition, however, the Holy Sacraments cannot be performed by the laity without a priest. This means that the Church is the Body of Christ in accordance to the grace of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the Holy Spirit guides us to Christ and works within us so that we can "appropriate" the personality of

Christ. This is the meaning of our teaching that we are united with Christ through our participation in the Holy Sacraments.

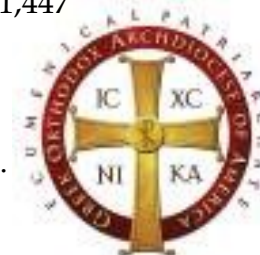
One important interpretation of today's Gospel passage regarding the Good Samaritan is that the Church is the Body of Christ, by virtue of the Holy Spirit Who descends upon us as we worship Christ. In this regard, the faithful of the Church bring the "wounded" to "the inn," which is the Church of Christ. It is here that the medicine for spiritual and physical

continued on page 2

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

St. John lived in the 4th Century A.D., departing this present life around 404 A.D. He began his service as the Archbishop of Constantinople in 398. By 404 he was exiled from Constantinople by the Empress Eudoxia, who was being scrutinized for her great vanity and lavish style.

The Saint received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan, and when asked before his death whom he wished to have for his successor, he said, "*John, had not the Christians stolen him from us.*" St. John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honor. Besides his feasts today and on January 27, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory the Theologian. – Taken from www.goarch.org



Συμφωνα με την Αποστολικην Παραδοση, η οποια εκτελειται με-χρι σημερον σην Εκκλησιαστικην ζων των Ορθοδοξων Χριστιανων, δεν ειναι δυνατον να τελεση ο ιε-ρευς τα Αγια Μυστηρια χωρις την συμπαραστασιν του λαου. Ακομη, ομως, δεν τελουνται τα Αγια Μυστηρια χωρις τον ιερεαν. Αυτο απο-δειχνει οτι η Εκκλησια ειναι το Σωμα του Χριστου κατα την χαριν του Αγιου Πνευματος. Δηλαδη, το Αγιο Πνευμα μας οδηγει προσωπι-κως προς τον Χριστον και ενεργει μεσα μας ωστε να σφετεριζεται στον καθεναν τον χαρακτηραν του Χριστου. Αυτο ειναι το νοημα της διδασκαλειας μας οτι ειμεθα ηνω-μενοι με τον Χριστον, δια της συμ-μετοχης μας στα Αχραντα Μυστη-ρια.

Λοιπον, μια πολυ σημαντικη ερ-μηνεια της σημερινης Ευαγγελι-κης περικοπης ειναι οτι η Εκκλη-σια ειναι το <Σωμα του Χριστου> κατα την χαριν του Αγιου Πνευ-ματος, το οποιο καταπεμπεται κα-θως λατρευομεν τον Χριστον. Ως εκ τουτου, φερνουν οι πιστοι της Εκκλησιας τους <τραυματισμε-νους> σε <σπιτι> (το πανδοχειον) οπου υπαρχει θεραπεια. Αυτο το <σπιτι> ειναι η Εκκλησια του Χριστου. Εκει ευρισκεται <το φαρ-μακον> της ψυχικης και της σω-ματικης υγειας – η Θεια Κοινωνια.

Εχουμεν, λοιπον, μια προσωπικη και πνευματικη σχεσιν με τον Χριστον η οποια στρεφεται γυρω απο την συμμετοχην μας στην Μυσταγωγικην ζων της Εκκλη-σιας. Ζωντας αυτην την Μυστα-γωγικην ζων, ειμεθα συγχρονως ο Χριστος (ως Εκκλησια η οποια ειναι το Σωμα του Χριστου) και τον τραυματισμενον, επιδη υποφε-ρουμεν απο τις πληγες των αμαρ-τιων, και ο ξενοδοχος, επιδη ο κα-θενας βοηθα τον αλλον με αγαπην.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

healing is offered. This medicine is Holy Communion.

Therefore, we have a personal and spiritual relationship with Christ, which revolves around our participation in the Ecclesiastical and Sacramental Life of the Church. Living this Sacramental Life, we are, at the same time, Christ (as the Church, which is the Body of Christ); the wounded, since we suffer the pains of sin – and the “innkeeper,” since, with the virtue of love, we help those in need.

During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we sing the “Cherubic Hymn,” which reminds us of what it means to live the kind of life-style by which we simultaneously take on the roles of Christ (Who is the Good Samaritan of today’s Gospel passage); the wounded (who is the traveler of today’s Gospel passage) and the “innkeeper” of today’s Gospel passage. According to this hymn, “*We set aside the cares of life, that we may receive the King of all.*” We receive the King of all through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The frame of mind that involves us in this Sacrament is one in which we are powered by our faith and with love to bring us to *unity* with Christ and with each other. Unity with Christ and with each other is more precious than the riches of the world.

Fr. Stanley Harakas, in his book, *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers*, wrote the following: “*Holy Communion, when received properly, draws us together into the people of God, His Church. It means that we all become one with God and one with each other. ‘Because there is one bread, we who are many are one Body, for we all partake of one bread.’ (1 Corinthians 10:17). When this happens we become separate from the forces and powers of evil in this world.*” (pg. 80). This “oneness” as the Body of Christ (i.e. the Church) is the basic factor which qualifies us to be God’s “innkeepers.” As the “innkeepers” we make our Church the place of healing. We are the Royal Priesthood, which is the co-workmanship of the Holy Priesthood (through the Sacrament of Ordination) *with* the faithful who have “put on Christ” through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

This is why the Orthodox Christians still celebrate the Divine Liturgy and participate in all the Sacraments of the Church in times of persecution, as well as in times of peace. Through history’s darkest moments there has never been a Sunday or Feast Day when the faithful failed to partake of Holy Communion; confess their sins, baptize and marry their children; teach the Orthodox Faith; call upon the prayers of the Church through Holy Unction and have priests properly ordained to help the faithful in this Sacramental Life. It is a life-style lived by all who dwell in the “inn” of God.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gal-
lade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Mary Ganakis, Erika Aguilar
(Ana and Wynn Storton’s daughter) (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer
List face chronic or serious illness*).

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His Holy Name.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Verse 2—: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

Verse 3—: The Lord prepared His throne in heaven and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Chanter(s): *Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1— Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: *"Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - Blessed is He whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

People: *"O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)*

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III— *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein. Let heaven and earth praise Him the seas and everything that moves in them.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *To fedron tis anastaseos kirygma [Tone 4]... (When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)*

Hymn for St. John Chrysostom: *...Ee tou stomatos sou...(Grace shining forth from your mouth like a beacon has illumined the universe and disclosed to the world the treasures of uncovetousness, showing the heights of humility. But, while instructing us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis...(As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn: *O katharos naohs tou Sotiros...(The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, Who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with Herself She brings the grace in the Divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is She.)*

READINGS: Epistle – Hebrews 7: 26-28; 8: 1-2/ Gospel – St. Luke 10: 25-37

Megalinarion: Axion Estin (page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion...(Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Allelouia.)*

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God, **Malia Georgalakis, Mary Georgalakis and Stan Georgalakis**. We pray for their Eternal Life and Salvation and for peace and comfort to their family and friends. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Today the **Fall 2016 General Assembly Meeting** will be called to order immediately following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. To participate, one must be a Stewardship member of our parish in good standing.

PHILOPTOCHOS – We are passing a tray today for the **Ecumenical Patriarchate**. We appreciate your donation. **Candied Pecans are for sale today only**. You will find them at the Coffee Bar and we have a limited amount of packages for the Christmas Season. **Tomorrow is our General Meeting and all parishioners are invited to hear a Book Talk**. If *you* are planning to come, please let Tina Veroulis or Carol Lyons know. **Save the date of Saturday, December 10 for our Annual Christmas Lunch**. See enclosed flier.

COLORING BOOK GROUP – Mark **Friday, November 18th** on your calendars and join us for the **November Coloring Book Group session**, beginning at **12:00 noon**. A nice luncheon will be included (a \$5 minimum donation is requested). **RSVP by Sunday, November 13, 2016**.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE – Everyone is asked to give toward the **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission’s Thanksgiving Food Drive** by donating canned and non-perishable food items, placing them in the CVRM Food Drive Box located in our parish hall. Please observe the “expiration dates” of those items donated.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD – Participation forms to participate in this year’s St. George Christmas Card are enclosed. Extra forms can be found in our parish hall.

PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE ORDER FORMS are available. One is enclosed in today’s *Ladder*.

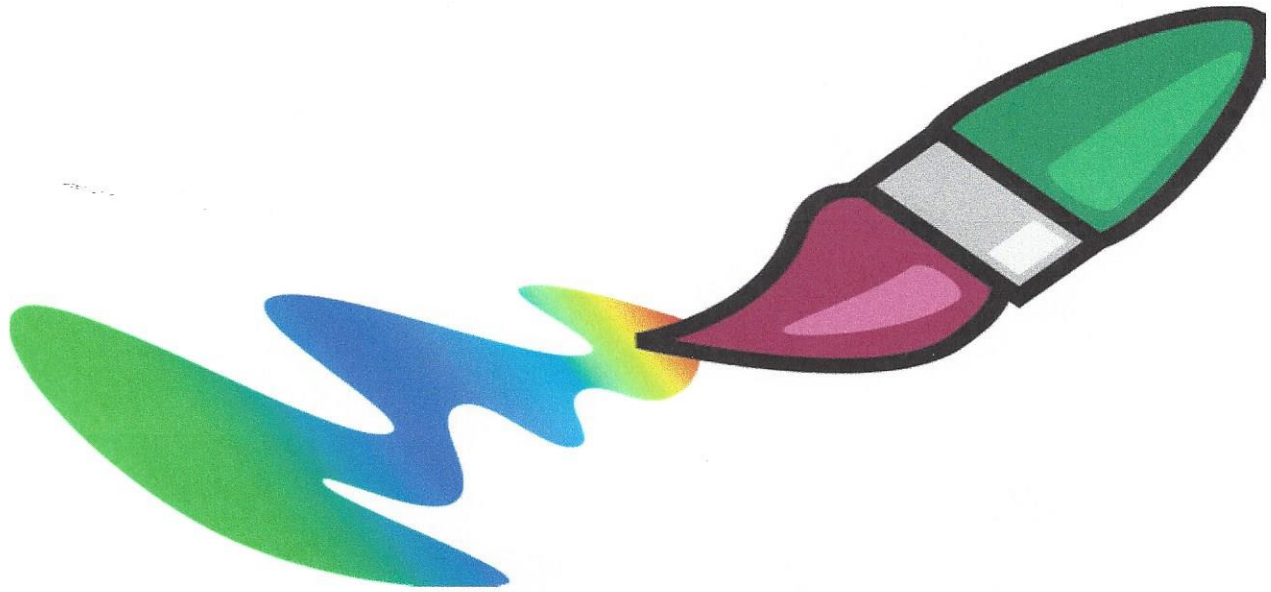
PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS are now available. Those who want to be considered for candidacy for election to serve on the 2017 Parish Council must submit their Candidacy Forms by **next Sunday, November 20, 2016**. Forms may be received from Fr. Ted today and throughout this week. One’s candidacy depends on the listed requirements stated on the Candidacy Form, as well on his or her participation in the “Parish Council Instruction” session led by Fr. Ted, with the date and time announced next Sunday (as per the Regulations of our Holy Archdiocese).

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, November 14th.....ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Philoptochos General Members Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 15th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 16th.....Fr. Ted will be attending the So. California Clergy meeting in L.A.
- Thursday, November 17th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 18th.....Coloring Book Group – 12:00 noon
- Saturday, November 19th.....Vespers-5:00 p.m.

*The November 2016 Ladder
is sponsored by
Philoptochos*

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.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, November 18th @ noon-2pm

Where: St. George church hall

RSVP: By November 13th to Rhonda Latkovic

Lunch will be served at noon with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Lunch will be a Thanksgiving inspired menu! There will also be raffle.

Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!



Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon

Invite Your Family and Friends!

Saturday, December 10, 2016

At 11:30 A.M.

Desert Horizons Country Club

44900 Desert Horizons Country Club

Indian Wells, CA 92210 (760-340-4646)

Cost For A 3 Course Luncheon is \$35.00

*R. S. V. P. by Dec. 4th to the Philoptochos table or
See Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Bozigian, or mail ths form with check to:*

St. George Philoptochos, P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261

and note Christmas Luncheon

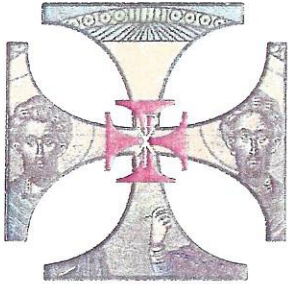
Choice of Entree (Please check one of the selections below):

- 1. Pepper Steak (Petite fillet w/pepper, brandy & chutney sauce) _____*
- 2. Salmon Caprise (grilled w/ tomato salsa, grilled vegetables) _____*

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of persons attending _____

Amount Enclosed _____



The Ladies Philoptochos Society

of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert

PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

All parishioners are invited to our meeting on November 14 for an informative Book Talk by author Constance M. Constant. She will talk and read excerpts from her recently published book:

AMERICAN KID

Nazi-Occupied Greece Through a Child's Eyes

Date: Monday, November 14, 2016
Time: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Church Hall

A hearty lunch will be available for \$8.00.

Please RSVP at the Philoptochos table in the Church Hall so we can plan how many servings for lunch.

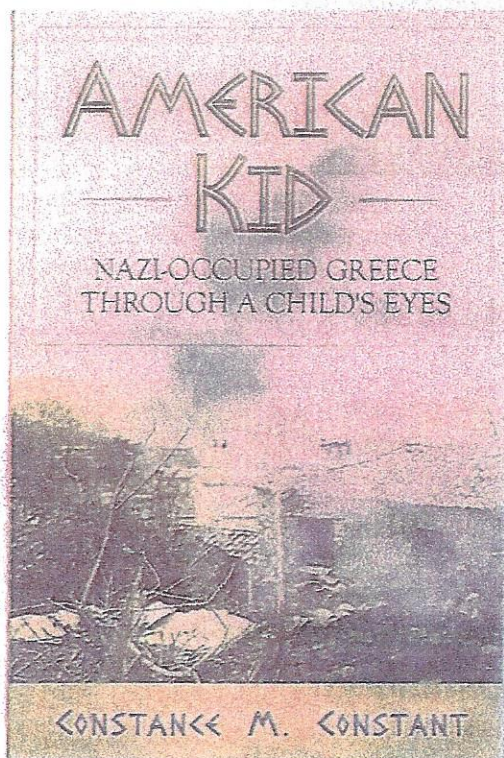
We hope to see you at this exciting event!

AMERICAN KID NAZI-OCCUPIED GREECE THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

BY CONSTANCE M. CONSTANT
AUTHOR OF AUSTIN LUNCH

For Katherine and her three American children, Greece was meant to be a one-year refuge from the late 1930's Depression. Her husband's family-owned orchard should have provided for their well-being, but instead embroiled them in legal debate. WWII Axis bombings of Kalamata prompted the young family to flee to the remote mountain village of Katherine's birth in Laconia, but Nazi invasion—and seemingly endless occupation of their village and their house—trapped them there until war's end.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON.COM, AND BARNES & NOBLE



"This book is an eye-opener on the kind of brutality the German army imposed on the people of Greece."

—Michael S. Dukakis

"In addition to the decimation of Greece's Jews, hundreds of thousands of civilians died, mostly because of starvation. Having a goat and an olive tree made the difference between life and death... Rich with telling detail, the book brings to life what it is to share fragile survival skills with family, friends, and neighbors. *American Kid* is a celebration of the dignity of simple people in the face of unimaginable cruelty."

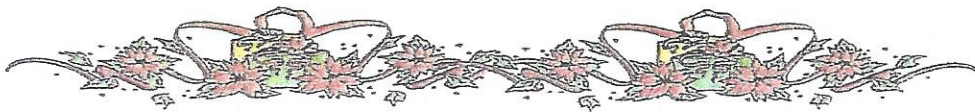
—Demetrios Liappas
Loyola Marymount University

"Told through a child's eyes, this heroic tale is the 20th century odyssey of an American family returning to their roots in Greece during the Great Depression, before the onset of WWII."

—Maria Fotopoulos
Writer, animal rights activist

"The author has captured a vibrant, fascinating portrayal of village life in Greece under Nazi occupation, along with the feelings, painful and pleasant, that innocent civilians endure in wartime. By telling the story through a child's eyes, without the cynicism or jadedness of adulthood, *American Kid's* Johnny brings the reader, scene by scene, into the relevance of historical events... a unique, easily readable, and engaging history of WWII."

—Chris G. Kuchuris
Professor of Social Sciences, College of Southern Nevada



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline: December 4, 2016



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

