

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)

Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)



# THE LADDER

EVE OF THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

## 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.

## RICHES vs. BLESSINGS

God breathed His Spirit into the first humans when He created them *“in His Image and Likeness.”* (Genesis 2:7). This *“breath”* of God is in every person who is born into the world and we call it *the soul*. The soul is *“God-within-us”* and it is what makes us human and not animals.

Unfortunately, when we are spiritually far from God, our behavior is even worse than that of animals. Yet, when we are spiritually close to God, our be-

havior resembles that of God’s angels.

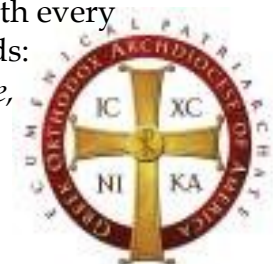
Since we have Free Will by which we are free to choose according to our desire, we have the ability to direct our soul towards God (through worship, prayer and virtuous deeds). However, we also have the ability to direct our soul away from God (through sin). The beginning of sin is our pride by which we direct our souls to our own self-centered purposes, rather than those of our Lord.

*Continued on page 2*

## ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR

Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constatas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later. It is on Mt. Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments and the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was established on this holy mount. To this day, St. Catherine’s monastery stands as the world’s oldest Christian monastery and is a special Episcopal throne of the Orthodox Christian Church.

The Feast Day of St. Catherine the Great Martyr is November 25th every year. The hymn that is chanted in her honor contains these words: *“Let us praise the most auspicious bride of Christ, the divine Katherine, protectress of Sinai, our aid and our help. For, she brilliantly silenced the eloquence of the impious by the sword of the spirit, and now, crowned as a martyr, she asks great mercy for all.”*



Ο Θεός ανεπνευσε το Πνεύμα Του στον άνθρωπον όταν τον επλάσσε <κατα εικώνα και καθ' ομοιωσιν Αυτου>. (Γεν. 2:7). Αυτή <η πνοή> του Θεού υπαρχει στον κάθε άνθρωπον ερχομενον στον κοσμον, και λεγεται η ψυχη. Η ψυχη είναι <ο Θεός μέσα μας>, και αυτό είναι το στοιχείον το οποίο μας κάνει ανθρώπους και όχι ζώα.

Δυστυχώς, όταν ο άνθρωπος είναι ψυχικώς μακριά από τον Θεόν, η συμπεριφορά του είναι χειροτέρα από εκείνην των ζώων. Όταν ο άνθρωπος είναι ψυχικώς κοντά στον Θεόν, η συμπεριφορά του ομοιάζει ως αυτήν των αγγέλων.

Επειδή, ο άνθρωπος είναι ελεύθερος σύμφωνα με την θέλησιν του έχει την ικανότητα να κατευθύνει την ψυχήν του προς τον Θεόν (δια της λατρείας, της προσευχής, και των εναρετών έργων). Έχει, επίσης, όμως, την ικανότητα να κατευθύνει την ψυχήν του μακριά από τον Θεόν (δια της αμαρτίας). Η αρχή της αμαρτίας είναι ο εγωισμός, σύμφωνα με τον οποίον κατευθύνει ο άνθρωπος την ψυχήν του προς τα συμφερόντα του και όχι προς τα αγαθά του Κυρίου. Όλος ο σκοπός της Θ. Λειτουργίας είναι να μας φέρει κοντά στον Θεόν. Αυτός ο σκοπός της Θ. Λειτουργίας εκφράζεται στους υμνούς και στις ευχές της. 1) Εικονίζοντες τα Χερουβιμ, <αποθώμεθα πασαν βιοτικήν μεριμναν...>. 2) Προσευχομεθα: <Καταξίωσον τη κραταία Σου χειρι μεταδουναι ημιν του αχραντου Σωματος Σου και του Τιμου Αιματος, και δι ημων παντι τω λαω>. Ειμεθα το <βασιλειον Ιερατευμα>, όπως λέγει ο Αγ. Βασίλειος. Όσο δεν σεβόμεθα τον σκοπό της Θ. Λειτουργίας, απορριπτούμεν τα ψυχικά πλούτη του Θεού και ομοιάζομεν με τον πλούσιον της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The Divine Liturgy directs our souls to God. This is the whole purpose of the Divine Liturgy and is expressed in its hymns and prayers. As examples: 1) We “represent the Angels of the Cherubim (and) set aside all cares of life that we may receive the King of all.” 2) We pray: “Let Your Pure Body and Precious Blood be given to us by Your mighty hand and through us to all Your people.” We are, then, “the Royal Priesthood,” as St. Basil says. In that society in general fails to respect the very purpose of the Divine Liturgy, we tend to reject the riches of God for our souls and resemble the rich man of today’s Gospel passage.

In His parable which we heard today, Christ our God puts specific words into the mouth of this imaginary rich man. Jesus said that this rich man said to himself: “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease – eat, drink and be merry.” Our Lord specifically uses the word “soul” here in order to emphasize the fact that “many goods” do not actually satisfy the soul. They satisfy the body. However, the body leaves this world; the soul lives eternally.

Contrary to this is the attitude of us all. We use “Many goods” to define us. We measure success in terms of “many goods.” We identify ourselves in terms of “many goods,” as a result of which we think of ourselves and/or others as powerful people with high status. However, power and status do not necessarily translate into being good people. A good person is one who has a good soul.

The quest for “respect and status” seeps into our souls and it creates the passions of *ambition* and *covetousness*. These passions war against us when we seek to fulfill the Lord’s Commandments to be compassionate to those in need.

This “tightrope” on which we walk between dealing with “many goods” and doing that which is beneficial to our souls requires the Wisdom of Christ our God, which is one of His greatest blessings for our souls. While, on the one hand, we are called to be responsible for ourselves in order to not be a burden to others out of our love for them, we are, on the other hand, to distribute our things to others in need. Since the Wisdom of God is the fruit of prayer, our attention should first be given to our souls. In this way, we can discern what are the things we need, as opposed to the things we want. The things we do not need are things that are to be stored in “barns,” which, as St. John Chrysostom notes, are the stomachs of the poor. Such “barns” are also the closets where we can place our extra coats and shoes for those who have none, as St. Basil suggests.

+FR. THEODORE

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

HYMNS AND READINGS FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

**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."*

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**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...)*

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**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:** *Ton synanarchon Logon...[Tone 5] (Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

**HYMN FOR THE EVE OF THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE OF THE THEOTOKOS:**

**Haran promnisteveteh...** *(Today righteous Anna solicits joy for us all, the opposite of pain and sorrow, having brought forth her fruit, the only Ever-Virgin Maid; and today in fulfillment of her prayer and her promise, to the Temple of the Lord she joyfully leads her who is truly the temple and pure \* Mother of God the Word.)*

**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:** *Efrosinis simeron, ee oikoumeni... (On this day the whole wide world is filled completely with great joy and merriment on the occasion of the feast of the Theotokos and cries aloud: \* "She is the heavenly tabernacle indeed.")*

**READINGS:** Epistle – Galatians 6: 11-18/ Gospel – St. Luke 12: 16-21

**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

**20th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ST. GEORGE CHURCH EDIFACE – Special reception for all to attend in our parish hall today** in commemoration of the **20th Anniversary** since our church temple and parish hall were constructed. Throughout 2017, we will celebrate Sunday Services and Church Feast Days in our church after a 20 year beginning.

**MEMORIAL –** Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Kiki Monogenis (40 days)**, the wife of **Emanuel Monogenis** and mother of **Emanuel, Maximos, Petra Monogenis**. We pray for their Eternal Life and Salvation and for peace and comfort to their family and friends. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** -Following are the Altar Flower Sponsors and their Dedications:

**Ms. Becky Allen - "In loving memory of my sister Eleni; May her rest be Eternal!"**

**Mrs. Terry Ayanopolis - "For my Dear husband Nick; We may be far apart, but you're always in my heart! The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid? Ps 27:1"**

Note to all parishioners – Please check the **2017 Altar Flowers sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board** in the Parish Hall, for your requests. The season begins in January, and ends in May. Altar Flowers are displayed on the first, third, and fifth Sundays. If you have special dates that you would like to recognize a love one, family member, or just to honor your church with a special dedication, sign up now. Also, if you desire you can pre-pay 'now' for your order, and in the Memo Column write the Month and date of your display! See **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, Altar Flower Coordinator. We would like to thank you for your support of the Altar Flower program.

**PHILOPTOCHOS – Save the Date. Our Christmas Luncheon will be Saturday, December 10.** Make your reservations at the Philoptochos table today. Invite your family and friends. **Our Christmas Bake Sale will be in December.** Place your order by filling out the order form found at the Coffee Bar in the hall. **Get your fingers nimble as we will need volunteers to make Christmas cookies and bread starting Monday, November 28.** Thanks in advance for volunteering. **We need Coffee Hour Hostesses for the month of December.** Please sign the Coffee Hostess sheet on the bulletin board.

**YIAYIA'S ATTIC –**It's not too late to consider donating items (in good condition) for Yiayia'a Attic at our Festival.

**CONTACT LIST-** A contact list of chairpersons is posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall so that anyone who wants to help in the affairs and ministries of our parish may know who to contact to offer donations of time, talent or treasures.

*See insert for more announcements*

*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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, continued

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**—Support 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."

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD**—Participation forms to participate in this year's St. George Christmas Card can be found in our parish hall.

**PHILOTOCHOS 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 forms **no later than today**. 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 prior to the parish election date of Sunday, December 11th. (as per the Regulations of our Holy Archdiocese).

**CHRISTMAS WITH THE KAROUNTZOSES** On **Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** there will be a showing of the comedy movie, *Christmas With the Karountzoses* in our parish hall following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. It will be a fine time of fellowship for all. We would like everyone to contribute to our Church by purchasing tickets for this event. We ask for a donation of **\$15 per person**, which includes snacks and refreshments. Your donation is tax-deductible. Please **RSVP by Sunday, December 11th**.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tonight.....Vespers— 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 21st.....ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 22nd.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 24th.....THANKSGIVING DAY— office closed

Friday, November 25th.....ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 26th.....Vespers-5:00 p.m.



# PHILOPTOCHOS

## CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Christmas Bread-Vasilopita  
Koulourakia



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Christmas bread, Vasilopita and koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than **December 5, 2016**. Please place the completed order in an envelope marked "PHILOPTOHOS" in the basket on the Coffee Bar in the Church Hall or give to Lula Valissarakos or Tina Veroulis. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501 or Tina 406 431-9516.

**PICK UP DATES:**

Sunday, December 11, 2016 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

Sunday, December 18, 2016 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

*We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos*



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
Koulourakia _____		\$6.00	_____
Christmas Bread _____		\$10.00	_____
Vasilopita Bread with Coin _____		\$10.00	_____
<u>Make checks payable to Philoptochos</u>		Total Amount	\$ _____





# *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*

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

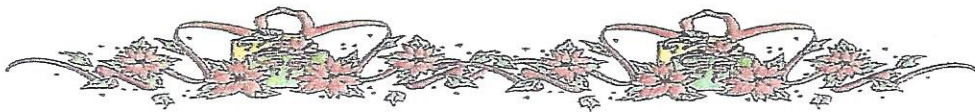
- 1. Pepper Steak (Petite fillet w/pepper, brandy & chutney sauce) \_\_\_\_\_*
- 2. Salmon Caprise (grilled w/ tomato salsa, grilled vegetables) \_\_\_\_\_*

*Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_*

*Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_*

*Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_*





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