

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

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– 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.

TO LIVE IN ONE OF TWO WORLDS

The words “frame of mind” describe our view in relation to the world around us and ourselves within this world. The unbeliever sees himself or herself as a person within a *materialistic* world. The faithful Christian views himself or herself as a person within a *spiritual* world.

In this regard, there exist “two worlds” and the one world is something quite the opposite of the other. For this reason, the cares of one person completely

differ from those of another. For example, an atheist cares for materialistic benefits...the Christian cares for spiritual benefits. The unbeliever worries that perhaps he or she has no money, while the Christian worries that perhaps he or she lacks the love of God within his or her soul.

None of the stones or metals of the world have a conscience. They have no ethical value. In the end, however, the world’s rocks and metals are simply idols that have no power to

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ST. JAMES THE GREAT MARTYR OF PERSIA

This Saint was from the city of Bythlaba and was of noble birth; he was the closest and most honoured friend of Isdiger (or Yazdegerd) I, King of Persia (reigned 399-420). Though a Christian from his youth, James renounced Christ because he was allured by the King's friendship and flatteries. When his mother and his wife learned of this, they declared to him by letter that they would have nothing more to do with him, since he had preferred a glory that is temporal to the love of Christ. Wounded in soul by these words and coming to himself, the Saint wept over his error, and repudiated the worship of the idols. Therefore, becoming exceedingly wroth, the King - this was Bahram (or Varahran) V (reigned 421-438), Isdiger's son and successor - condemned him to a most bitter death, the likes of which not even a brute beast was ever condemned to: that is, his body was dismembered at every joint of his arms and legs. And so, when he had been cut asunder limb by limb to his very hips and shoulders, the courageous Martyr was finally beheaded, in the year 421.

– Taken from the Archdiocese Website: www.goarch.org



Η λέξις <νοοτροπία> περιγράφει την αποψιν μας σχετικώς με πώς θεωρούμεν τον κόσμον γυρω μας και τον εαυτον μας εντος του κοσμου αυτου. Ο απιστος θεωρει τον εαυτον του ως προσωπο μεσα σε <υλικον> κοσμον. Ο ευσεβης Χριστιανος θεωρει τον εαυτον του ως προσωπο μεσα σε <πνευματικον> κοσμον.

Ως εκ τουτου, υπαρχουν <δυο κοσμοι> και ο ενας κοσμος ειναι κατι το αντιθετο απο τον αλλον. Για αυτον τον λογον, οι φροντιδες του ενος ανθρωπου διαφερονται απο τις φροντιδες του αλλου—ως παραδειγμα, ο απιστος φροντιζει για τα υλικά συμφεροντα...ομως, ο πιστος φροντιζει για τα πνευματικά συμφεροντα. Ο απιστος στενοχωρειται μηπως δεν εχει χρηματα και ο πιστος Χριστιανος στενοχωρειται μηπως δεν εχει μεσα στην ψυχην του την αγαπην του Θεου.

Τα πλουτη της γης δεν εχουν συνειδησιν...δεν εχουν ηθικην αξιαν. Τα πλουτη ειναι τα ειδωλα, τα οποια δεν σωζουν τον ανθρωπον, τελικως. Για αυτο το ρητον του Θεου μας Χριστου τονιζει την πραγματικοτηταν περι της αιωνιοτητος: δηλαδη οτι ειναι αδυνατον να εισελθη ο πλουσιος στην Βασιλειαν του Θεου, διοτι, απλως, ο απιστος δεν φροντιζει για να εισελθη στην αιωνιαν Βασιλειαν αυτην.

Ο απιστος χρησιμοποιοει τα πλουτη για να ικανοποιηση τον εγωισμον του. Ο πιστος Χριστιανος χρησιμοποιοει τα πλουτη ως ευκαιριαν να δοξαση τον Θεον δια μεσων των εναρετων εργαων της αγαπης. Τα Αγια Μυστηρια της Εκκλησιας μας εισαγουν στον πνευματικον κοσμον οπου υπαρχουν τα αιωνια πλουτη της ψυχης: τα οποια λεγονται <Θεια Σοφια> και <Θεια Αγαπη.> + Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

deliver salvation. This is why the maxim delivered by Christ our God emphasizes an eternal truth: that it is impossible for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. It is because he or she simply does not believe in the True God, but in the false gods of stones, rocks and metals and does not care about entering God's Kingdom.

An unbeliever tends to use wealth to enhance his or her ego, while a pious Christian is prone to use wealth as an opportunity to glorify God through deeds of love.

Going a step further in the effort to understand the difference between the two worlds of humanity, we can say that the lottery is precious wealth to an unbeliever, while the Holy Sacraments are, collectively, precious wealth to a sincere Christian — two views of wealth leading an individual into one of two different types of lives: one being in hell; the other being in heaven.

This translates in concrete terms to a reality in which the balance between time with loved ones and hours with work; patience and politeness—as well as prayer—are trade-marks of relationships in which the value of individuals is defined by the love of Christ our God, rather than simply by material advantages.

We should review our Lord's words, *"What is impossible for men is possible with God."* (St. Luke 18:27). Whole systems of government have been promoted for the purpose of insuring equality for all and guaranteeing everyone's happiness. However, history has proven that "it is impossible for men" to create paradise on earth. Christ is calling us to put all of our faith in Him, rather than in human powers. Doing this requires prayer. Indeed, we might often find ourselves thinking of prayer as a seemingly "futile" effort to do something nice. However, sincere prayer from the depths of our souls brings upon us the Divine energy and wisdom that is needed for us to work with God in bringing about miracles. Not even one of our Saints brought about wonders for the benefit of others without first giving themselves over to prayer, because prayer connects us to Christ our God, confirming that all things are indeed possible through Him.

Central to our possibilities with God, we are reminded of the power of prayer as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. As we participate in the Liturgy, we hear the priest exclaim, *"Let us lift up our hearts."* It is a calling for us give ourselves over to prayer with all of our being.

+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."*

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: *Angelike dynamis...[Tone 6] (When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For, You did vanquish Hades and, uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of life, O You Who arose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You.)*

HYMN for St. James the Martyr from Persia: *O Martys Sou Kyrie...(Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You the crown of incorruption, in that he contested for You our immortal God. Since he possessed Your power, he defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, 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: *Ee Parthenos symeron...(On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.)*

READINGS: Epistle - Ephesians 2: 4-10/ St. Luke 18: 18-27

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

Coffee Hour: George Megalonakis

PHILOPTOCHOS – Make your reservations today for the Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 4. See Tina and Linda at the Philoptochos table. Have you ordered your Christmas Baked Goods? Get your order form at the coffee bar. **Important – ladies we need your help starting Monday, November 28 to make cookies and bread.** Please volunteer! **Our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m.** There will be no General Meeting in December as we are having our Christmas Lunch.

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.

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

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

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.**

PARISH ELECTION –The election for candidates to serve as members of the 2017 Parish Council will be held on **Sunday, December 11, 2016** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The candidates for election to serve are (listed in alphabetical order):

- Becky Allen
- Tony Dalkas
- Spiro Astmos
- Lula Valissarakos
- Susan Clark

Those serving as members of the **Election Committee** are: **Michael Long, Matushka Gloria Lehman and Presvytera Petula Pantels.** Only Stewardship members who are up to date with their Stewardship Pledge for 2016 may receive a **ballot to vote.** Please contact any member of the Election Committee for more information. Contact our parish office for any questions regarding Stewardship.

RE-FURBISHED FLAGSTONE FLOOR –This past week, the interior of our church temple was upgraded by a resealing and refreshing of the flagstone floor, as well as the cleaning and shampooing of the church temple carpets.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 29th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 30th.....ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

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

Saturday, December 3rd.....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.

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

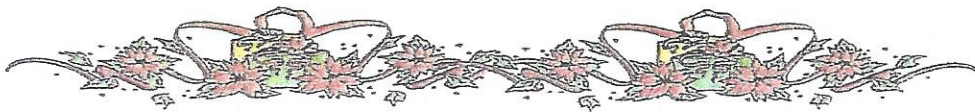
Choice of Entree (Please check one of the selections below):

- 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

