

OCTOBER 30, 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

## 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.

## THE "CHASM": GOOD vs. EVIL

Today, with the reading of the Gospel passage, we heard the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. In this, we learn, first, that there is *eternal life* beyond this present one, and, second, that there is a *chasm* between God's Kingdom and hell.

When the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, after the sanctification of the Holy Gifts, the priest reads a prayer in which he commemorates the names of our brethren who have fallen asleep in the Lord,

because we know that there is eternal life and that our prayers are heard, as was the Rich Man's request to the Patriarch Abraham (even though the reality upon which his request was made did not exist). We note that, according to today's Gospel passage, Lazarus' name is remembered and not that of the Rich Man! We, too, will have to give an account to Christ one day. Let us pay attention to the words of the Divine Liturgy, "*Wisdom! Let us be attentive!*", since our souls do not remain in this present world. Christ  
*continued on page 2*

**EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP** ... is going out to our people wherever they are in their walk with Christ, listening to their concerns, helping them to realize their importance as branches of the True Vine and encouraging them to offer their gifts in His service. We use various resources to support our efforts, but unless we meet with our people personally, sincerely listen to their ideas and concerns, and share a vision for the future of the parish, our efforts will not reach their full potential.

In *Oriented Leadership* their book on Orthodox Christian leadership, Williams and McKibben define stewardship as the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as a Parish, as a Metropolis, as a National Church, and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our active commitment to use ALL our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.

*"Stewardship is caring for the needs of others. Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us. Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I believe..." as proof of that belief." - Williams and McKibben in Oriented Leadership.*

– Taken from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



Ακουσαμεν την Παραβολην του Χριστου περι του Λαζαρου και του Πλουσιου σημερα κατα την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην αναγνωσιν και, συνεπως, γνωριζομεν οτι, πρωτον, υπαρχει η αιωνια ζωη μετα την επιγειον μας ζωην, και, δευτερον, οτι υπαρχει *χασμα* μεταξυ της Βασιλειας του Θεου και της κολασεως.

Οταν τελειται η Θεια Λειτουργια, μετα τον καθαγιασμον των Τιμιων Δωρων, ο ιερευς διαβαζει ευχην κατα την οποιαν μνημονευει τα ονοματα των αγιων της ημερας και των κεκοιμημενων αδελφων και συγγενων μας, διοτι εξευρουμεν οτι υπαρχει η αιωνια ζωη και οτι οι προσευχες μας εισακουονται οπως εισακουσθηκε η αιτησις του πλουσιου προς τον Πατριαρχην Αβρααμ (ενω αδυνατον η πραγματοποιησις της αιτησεως του). Παρατηρουμεν οτι κατα την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην περικοπην, το ονομα του Λαζαρου μνημονευεται και οχι το ονομα του πλουσιου! Μια ημερα θα δωσουμεν λογαριασμο στον Χριστον. Ας προσεξουμεν την εκφωνησιν της Θ. Λειτουργιας: <Σοφια! Προσχωμεν!>, αφου οι ψυχες μας δεν παραμενουν εδω. Το ειπε ο Χριστος: <Εγενετο γαρ αυτον αποθανειν και απενεχθηναι υπο των αγγελων...> (Λουκ. 16:22).

Η σωτηρια του Λαζαρου δεν εστηριζοταν στα πτωχεια του, αλλα στο οτι δεν ειχε αναγκη για τα πολλα πραγματα και για αυτον τον λογον δεν ειχε αγανακτησιν προς κανεναν συνανθρωπον. Ο πλουσιος, ομως, ηταν εκεινος ο οποιος κυνηγουσε τα πολλα πραγματα, χωρις αγαπη για τον πλησιον του. Λοιπον, υπαρχει *χασμα* μεταξυ των δυο ειδων ανθρωπων. Υπαρχει *χασμα* μεταξυ αρετης και αμαρτιας. Δεν συνανακατευονται! +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

said, "It so happened that he died and he was *carried by the angels...*" (St. Luke 16: 22). The salvation of Lazarus was not based on his poverty, but on the fact that *he had no need of riches*. Therefore, he had no anger against anyone else. The Rich Man, however, was a man who *pursued wealth* and either was totally negligent of his neighbor, or he had complete disregard for him. The difference between these two individuals shows the *chasm* between good and evil. We deceive ourselves often by thinking that no such chasm exists.

This reality is one that should serve to make us wise as Christians. Too often we find ourselves trying to "have it both ways" in terms of living our lives according to God's Commandments: we want to be "good enough" to pray to God, but not "too good" to be popular with others. Given this wide-spread frame of mind among so many in our society, our personal spiritual efforts are doubly challenging. In the effort to "fit in," temptations are great for us to ignore God.

Decisions as to whether we do God's Will or not come from deep in our souls, where it is clear that there is no compromise between self-giving for God and self-serving for personal power and glory. Notice that even in hell, the Rich Man had nothing within his soul with which to ask for forgiveness. All he would ask for is for comfort in a place of torment, indicating the great "chasm" that exists between a good soul and one not so good.

The pursuit of the "American Dream" in itself can distract us from the Kingdom of God. The idea of "getting ahead" seems to justify any careless disregard for others. We deceive ourselves if we think that we can co-mingle *ambition* with *humility*; *greed* with *gratitude*; *dishonesty* with *honesty*—and even *prayer* with *self-will*. Imagine the number of sins that would be foiled if we all *prayed* for God's strength and guidance. Ironically, while the world dismisses prayer in public as the norm, when tragedy does strike, prayer, as an "afterthought," becomes popular to comfort victims in memorials.

It is time to find spiritual direction through participating in the Holy Sacraments of the Church through prayer on a sincere and daily basis. Prayer re-kindles baptism, confession, and marriage. Prayer is the foundation of each of the Sacraments. Prayer gives way to the mentality that verifies the fact that there is indeed a "chasm" between God's love and the seemingly "cruel, cold world" around us. Through living according to the purpose of the Sacraments, it is easy to discern the great differences between virtue and sin for the sake of both our collective sanity and our salvation. Such discernment will help in making life-long and life-changing decisions.  
+FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, 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."

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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:** *Ote katilthes pros ton thanaton [Tone 2]... (When You descended to the realm of death, You, as Life Immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You, from the inner depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heavens did proclaim and cry out: O Life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.)*

**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:** *Prostasia ton Christianon... (A Protection of Christians unshamable; mediation with the Creator immovable. We sinners beg You: do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since You are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to You with faith: Hurry to intercession; and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos, Who defends at all times those who honor You.)*

**READINGS:** Epistle - 2 Corinthians 11: 31-33; 12: 1-9 / Gospel - St. Luke 16: 19-31

**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.)*

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 1st...STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./Bible Study-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 3rd..Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 5th .. ST. RAPHAEL (see announcement)/ Vespers-5:00 p.m.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Hour: Philoptochos**

**Reader: Annette Lewis**

**MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Panagiotis Kanellos**, the beloved brother of **Venetia Panos**. We pray for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for **Panagiotis Kanellos** and for peace and comfort for **Venetia Panos** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** – The Altar Flower Bouquets gracing our Holy Altar today were donated by:

**Mr. & Mrs. John Tatomir Jr. - "In memory of our son Alan, with love Mom and Dad!"**

**Mr. & Mrs. Alexandra & Donald Diamond - "In memory of my (Alexandra's) parents Helen & Theodore Atsales! "**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – **SAVE THE DATES:** 1. AHEPA and Philoptochos Thanksgiving Luncheon on Saturday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m. Get your tickets at the Philoptochos table in the Church hall – the deadline for reservations is next Sunday, November 6th. 2. Board Meeting on Monday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. 3. General Assembly Meeting on Monday, November 14 at 11:45 a.m. All parishioners are welcome for the Book Talk. See Flyer. We need Coffee Hostesses for the month of December. See Linda Petalas.

**ST. GEORGE ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM** – Next **Sunday, November 6, 2016!** Everyone is asked to join in a program honoring our veterans who have served valiantly to defend our freedom of religion and all of the other freedoms that we enjoy. **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, vocalist, with accompaniment from musician **Sook Lee**, will honor our veterans with the National Anthem and the hymns of each branch of the armed forces. The speaker will be **Lt. Col. Blaine Mack, USAF (ret.)**. A special reception will follow in our parish hall.

**THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON** – The **Thanksgiving luncheon**, through combined efforts of our **AHEPA and Philoptochos**, will be served on **Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** Proceeds will benefit the **AHEPA Chapter 528 Fr. T.P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund**. Deadline for reservations: **Sunday, November 6, 2016**. Please see the enclosed flier for more information.

**CELEBRATING HUMAN LIFE NIGHT** – Mark **Thursday, November 10th** on your calendars and join us for an hour and a half symposium, "**The Value of Human Life,**" at the **St. Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church on Monterey Ave., Rancho Mirage at 7:00 p.m.** Fr. Ted has been organizing this event with Fr. Krikor Zarkanian of the St. Garabed parish and Mr. Bob Kurtz of the **Sacred Heart Parish in Palm Desert**. Speakers: Fr. Donald Craig, Chaplain at Eisenhower Medical Center, on the topic of "**Physician-Assisted Suicide;**" Fr. Michael Fanous, priest at St. Mary Magdalene Coptic Church in Indio, on the topic of "**Genocide in the Middle East;**" and Patti Smith of the Roman Catholic Church organization, "**Silent No More,**" on the topic of "**Praying for the End of Abortion.**" See the flier in the parish hall and posted on the bulletin board.

**ST. RAPHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH** – The annual Feast Day of St. Raphael will be celebrated at the **St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms, California** with the Divine Liturgy on **Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** For more information, see the flier in our parish hall.

**2017 GREEK FESTIVAL MEETING** – Monday, November 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

*The October 2016 Ladder  
is sponsored by  
Rhonda & Nicholas Latkovic  
in memory of  
Patricia Fleming (Rhonda Latkovic's mother)*

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.

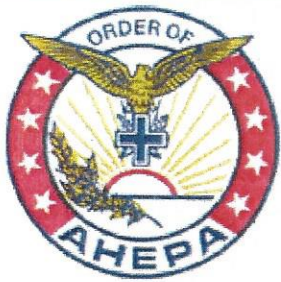


**ST. GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**THANKSGIVING  
LUNCH**

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

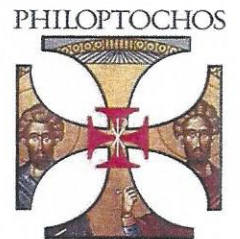
**SATURDAY, 1:00 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 12th**



**ST. GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH HALL**

**74-109 LARREA PALM DESERT, CA**

**ADULTS: \$15 / CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$7**



**Please reserve today: Tickets can be purchased from  
Philoptochos or AHEPA 528**

**All proceeds go to Fr. Theophilos Theophilos  
Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

**Donations accepted at [www.ahepa528.org](http://www.ahepa528.org) or mailed to:**

**AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund**

**PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735**

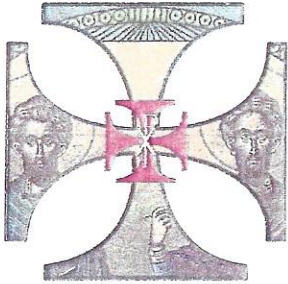
**[contact@ahempa528.org](mailto:contact@ahempa528.org)**

*Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family*

**Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 6, 2016**

*Thank You for your Continued Support!*





# The Ladies Philoptochos Society

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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.**

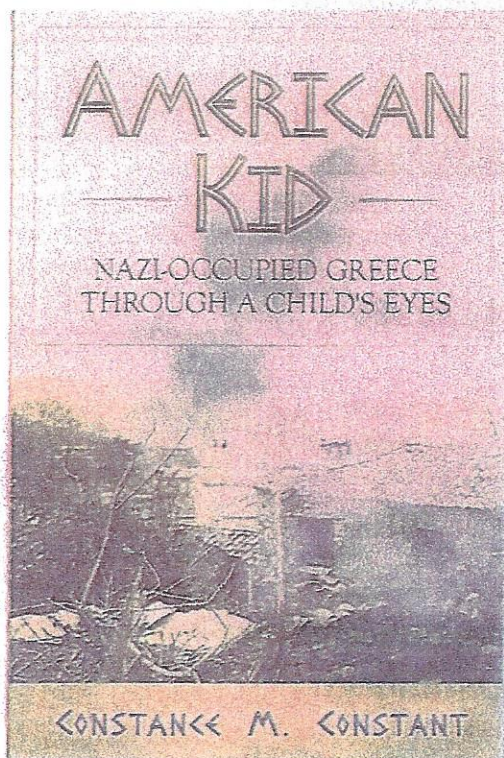
**We hope to see you at this exciting event!**

# 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](http://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