

APRIL 2, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260

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# THE LADDER

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

**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.

**LIVING WORTHILY**

Today's Gospel passage begins with the words of Christ, "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be given over to the high-priests and scribes and they will condemn Him to death." (St. Mark 10:33). With these words, we also prepare to go up to Jerusalem with Christ so that we can crucify our worldly desires and live the Resurrection for eternity.

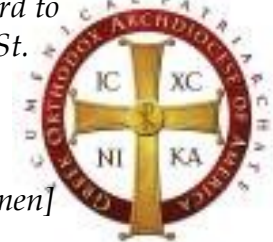
Only the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross trampled upon death, as St. John

Chrysostom says, "The death of the Savior has set us free...Hades is vexed and has been done away with." (Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom). To quote the *Orthodox Study Bible*, "The final reconciliation, the eternal one, is the presentation of Christ's Blood before God in heaven." (pg. 1664). St. Gregory the Theologian in his writing entitled, "The Second Oration on Pascha," says, "[Why] did the Blood of His Only-Begotten Son delight the Father, Who would not receive even the Isaac, when  
*Continued on page 2*

**WHAT'S UP WITH STS. JAMES AND JOHN?** – Today's Gospel passage includes an incident in which Sts. James and John incurred the condemnation from the other Apostles of our Lord for asking that they be given preferred treatment. After explaining to His Apostles, that they are going up to Jerusalem where He would be condemned to death, the first thing in the minds of Sts. James and John was that they have glory. The only glory that exists is God's glory. Human glory is both deceptive (meaning that it bears elements of untrue embellishment) and illusive (glory from people in this present life is always accompanied by jealousy, envy and attempts to disgrace the one "glorified.") God's glory is always something that no one willingly refuses, unless deceived by demons and through pride. Even those who reject God, in desperation, pray to Him – "every knee both in heaven and on earth" bows before Christ our God.

Our Lord quickly corrects Sts. James and John without condemning them. Instead, He teaches them the great privilege and value of servanthood for God's glory. According to the *Orthodox Study Bible*, "Note that with regard to sitting as equals on the right and left hand of Christ in His Kingdom, St. John Chrysostom teaches that no one could possibly occupy such a position. With regard to the highest places of honor that can be given, icons of the Church universally depict the Virgin Mary (Most blessed among women [Lk.1:28] and John the Baptist [the greatest born of women] holding these places." (pg. 1307).

+FR. THEODORE



Η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή αρχίζει με τα λόγια του Χριστού: <Ίδου αναβαινομεν εις Ιεροσολυμα και ο Υιος του Ανθρωπου παραδοθησεται τοις αρχιερευσι...και κατακρινουσιν Αυτον θανατω...> (Μαρκ. 10: 33). Με αυτα τα λογια ετοιμαζομεθα και εμεις να πορευομεν μαζι με τον Χριστον προς τα Ιεροσολυμα για να σταυροσουμεν τα κοσμικα μας ενδιαφεροντα και να ζουμεν αιωνιος την Αναστασιν του Χριστου.

Μονον η θυσια του Χριστου εκατεπατησε τον θανατον, οπως ειπε ο Αγ. Ιωαννης ο Χρυσοστομος: <Ηλευθερωσε γαρ ημας ο του Σωτηρος θανατος...ο Αδης φησιν επικρανθη και γαρ κατηρηθη.> (Κατηχητικος Λογος Αγιου Ιωαννου Χρυσοστομου). Να παραθεσω το *Orthodox Study Bible*: <Η τελικη συμφιλιωσις, η αιωνια, ειναι η παρουσιαση της θυσιας του αιματος του Χριστου ενωπιον του Θεου Πατρος εις τους ουρανους.> (σελ. 1664). Ο Αγιος Γρηγοριος ο Θεολογος στην ομιλιαν του, <Δευτερα Ομιλια Περι της Αναστασεως>, λεει: <Γιατι ικανοποιησε τον Πατεραν Θεον το αιμα του Μονογενη Υιου Του, ο Οποιος δεν παραδεχθηκε ουτε τον Ισαακ καθως ηθελε ο πατερας του να τον προσφερει;...Διοτι η ανθρωποτης χρειαζοταν να αγιασθη απο την ανθρωποτητα του Ιδιου Θεου.> (Migne, P. G, σελ. 431). Το αιμα του Χριστου δεν ειναι μονον μια ανθρωπινη προσφορα εξιλεωσεως, αλλα ειναι η πραγματικη συγχωρησις απο τον Θεον, η οποια ενεργει μεσα εμας το ζηλον για να μετανοησουμεν. Δεν υπαρχει τιποτα αλλο παρα την μετανοια που να προσφερουμεν ως <πληρωμη> για την σωτηρια μας. Η αληθεια αυτη εκφωνειται στα λογια του Ακαθιστου Υμνου: <...ισαριθμους γαρ ψαμμωδας αν προσφερωμεν... ουδεν τελουμεν αξιον ων δεδωκαν υμιν...> +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

he was being offered by his father?...because humanity was in need of being sanctified by the Humanity of God, that He might deliver us Himself and overcome the tyrant of death, drawing us to Himself by meditation of His Son..." (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Edition, Vol. 7, pg. 431). The Blood of Christ is not only a human offering of atonement, but it is the real forgiveness of God, which works within us the desire to repent of our sins.

There is nothing else beyond our repentance that can be offered to God as "payment" for our salvation. This is poignantly noted in the Orthodox Church Service of the *Akathist Hymn*, which was held this past Friday: "Every hymn falls short in describing the multitude of Your mercies, O Lord. For, if we were to praise you with hymns equal in number to the sands of the sea, we would do nothing in compare to what You, O Holy King, have done for us, who cry out to You: Alleluia."

No one except God the Creator, in the Person of His Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, can offer what is acceptable for our salvation. Today's rejection of Christ yields a new norm: the illusion that there is no such thing as sin, as well as the justification to blame others for our faults, rather than to repent of ourselves. Few people will try to adapt the inner disposition exemplified by St. Mary of Egypt, whose memory we commemorate today. Her inner disposition is one of sincere repentance, characterized as the turning away from sin, without finding excuses for them, and turning totally to God. Only in this way can people find purpose and a sense of "self" worth.

We live in an age in which one of the "buzz-words" peppering our conversations is *self-esteem*. The sense of worthlessness that is sometimes expressed is rooted the way people treat each other. It is also rooted in feelings of guilt, which are unresolved, or in the denial of guilt, through which destructive behavior is considered to be hopelessly aberrant. For the Christian, *self-esteem* is no more than an illusion. "God-esteem" is more of a reality through which one finds a sense of value or meaning. "God-esteem" is the presence of the grace of God within us. Christ is the only God that makes us *worthy* of salvation!

Our participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion is not based on our "self-esteemed" notions of worthiness. Christ's Body and Blood is what makes us worthy as persons. Approaching Christ *worthily* makes all the difference. Fr. Stanley Harakas writes, "Receiving *worthily*' refers to our behavior, our beliefs and our attitude of reverence." (*The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers*, pg. 81). Holy Confession is the Sacrament of Repentance for the mistakes (or sins) that we commit through our weakness. Living "repentantly" is living *worthily*. +FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Mike & Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Nicholas Coussoulis (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

**HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'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 Ie 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, We 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—** *Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.*

**Sunday Resurrection Hymn:** *Ex ipsous katilthes...[Tone 8] ((From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure, three days in the tomb that we may be, released from pas-sions in this world, You Who are our resurrection and our life. Glory unto You O Lord.)*

**Hymn for St. Mary of Egypt:** *En si miter akrivoshs...(In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.)*

**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 for this Sunday:** *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 - Hebrews 9: 11-14 / Gospel - St. Mark 10: 32-45

*Follow the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. After the Great Entrance, turn to pg. 125 in our Liturgy books. After the prayer on pg. 125, turn back to pg. 38. After the Creed, turn to pg. 126 for the continuation of the Liturgy of St. Basil. The Lord's Prayer & Communion Prayers: pgs. 60-74.*

**Communion Hymn:** *Enite ton Kyrion... (pg. 64 in our Divine Liturgy books)*

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

*Proverbs 4:23*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Hour: Debbie and Mike Vawter**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Our Board Meeting will be tomorrow Monday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. Our General Meeting will be Monday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. We will have elections for the Board of Directors for 2017-2019. There will also be a lunch (\$6.00 donation) and a presentation of the 2017 budget. Please plan on attending; we need your vote. We need volunteers for Coffee Hour in May. The May sign up sheet is on the Bulletin Board. Carol Lyons or Linda Kallis will at the Philoptochos table today taking membership dues.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** – Today’s Altar Flower Bouquets gracing the Holy Altar Gates were lovingly donated by: **Mrs. Doris Elmo - In memory of my 13 year old son "Thomas" Eternal Rest!**

**Ms. Jean Chronis-Kuhn - In memory of my mother and father "Yiota and Stelianos Chronis" Eternal Rest!**

**Rhonda and Nicholas Latkovic - "In loving memory of Georgianne Latkovic, sister of Nicholas and Rhonda Latkovic."**

April Altar Flower sponsors may insure their commitment date(s) by checking with **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, or Tina Veroulas; make check out to St. George Church and in the memo column insert the date of your Altar Flower sponsorship. We will be displaying Easter Lillies on Easter Sunday, April 16th and we thank two families for their contributions! May God bless you.

**HOMELESS PROJECT : "PHILOXENIA"**-Please bring small travel size toiletry items like; combs, brushes, shampoo, hand cream, body cream, sunscreen, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, deodorant, etc. to the church hall and place in the designated container(s) **BY APRIL 16TH**. All items will be donated to the "**Street Life Project**" to help the homeless in our valley. Your generosity is most appreciated. See Rhonda Latkovic if you have any questions, as she is coordinating the project.

**PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON** -Next Sunday. Pleas see the enclosed flier for details.

**ST. GEORGE PARISH FEAST DAY / GOLF TOURNAMENT** – The St. George Feast Day is Sunday, April 23, 2017. We are honored to host His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos. St. George Golf Tournament - April 21 – 22, 2017.

**KNITTING PROJECT** – Knitting projects are all to be turned in on. Contact Tina Veroulis or Rhonda Latkovic for more information.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, April 3rd.....Holy Confession – 10:00 a.m.  
Philoptochos Board Meeting – 11:00 a.m.  
AHEPA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 4th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.  
Men’s Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (Genesis, Chapters 18-22)  
Wednesday, April 5th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 6th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m. / Parish Council – 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 7th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.  
Saturday, April 8th.....SATURDAY OF LAZARUS  
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Preparation of Palms for Palm Sunday -11:00 a.m.  
Vespers-5:00 p.m.

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.

# 2017 PHILOPTOCHOS

## EASTER BAKE SALE

Easter Bread-Koulourakia



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

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than **March 20, 2017**. 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. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501.

### PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, April 2, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

Sunday, April 9, 2017 (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            | _____              |
| Easter Bread                               | _____           | \$10.00           | _____              |
| Easter Bread with Egg                      | _____           | \$10.00           | _____              |
| <u>Make checks payable to Philoptochos</u> |                 | Total Amount      | \$ _____           |



ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PALM DAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 9, 2017

Dear Parishioners

Once again, our Parish Community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will hold its annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this meaningful holiday celebration.

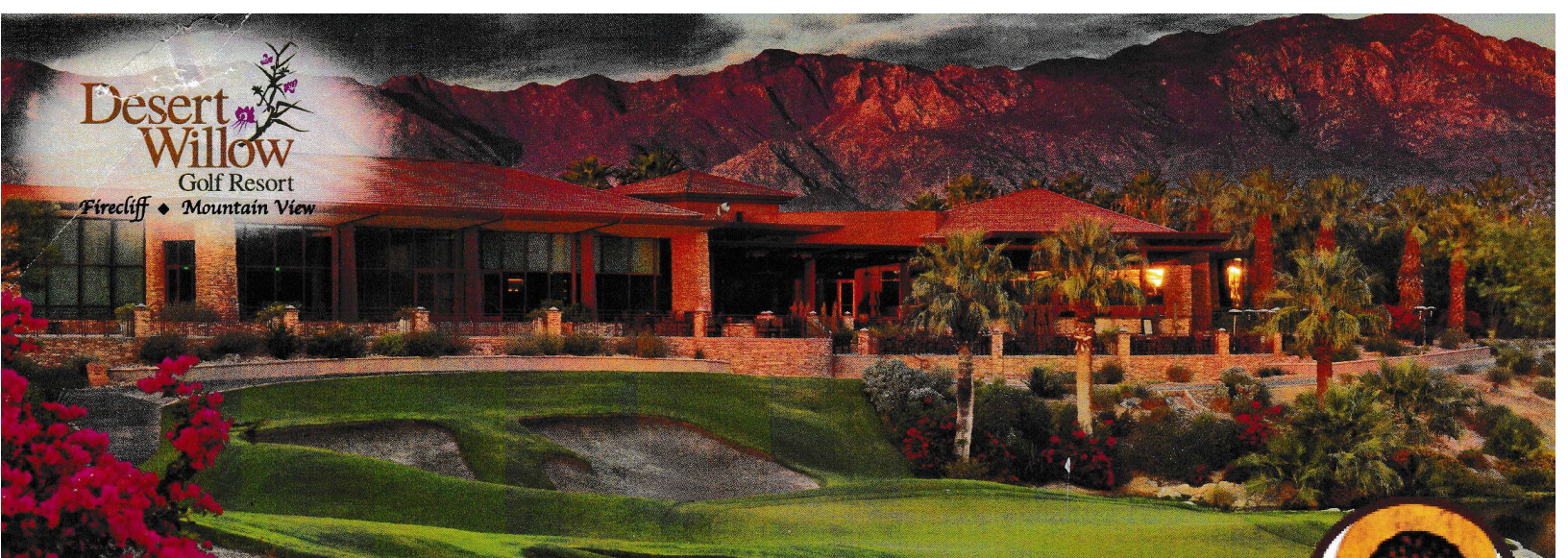
The cost for the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person. We would appreciate your support. Please enclose your payment with this form made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to P.O. box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to the office. The deadline is April 3, 2017.

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_



# SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017 • 2:00PM SHOTGUN | SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017 • 8:00AM SHOTGUN

## ENTRY INFORMATION

### FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

- **\$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, APRIL 22, 2017

- **\$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, April 21, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Players) x \$125    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Individual Player(s)  
Saturday, April 22, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Players) x \$175    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tee Sponsorship(s)  
   \_\_\_ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Steak Dinner  
Friday, April 21, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Dinners) x \$25    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Traditional Greek  
Dinner | Saturday, April 22, 2017    \_\_\_ (# 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 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Register Online: [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://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**