

APRIL 9, 2017

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

PALM SUNDAY

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.

ICON PUTS US IN GOD'S PICTURE

Today Jesus enters Jerusalem so that He can be with us through everything that we endure every day in our lives. As Christ is with us, we are to be with Him in His passion and to find ourselves with Him at the Resurrection.

The icon of today's feast day teaches us a lot. Historically, the Palm Sunday Icon appeared in the Orthodox Church for the first time during the fourth century. According to the Holy Tradition of our Church, the icon de-

picts Christ on "the colt of a donkey", as the Prophet Zacharias prophesied (Zacharias 9:9). There are two important mountains in Christ's ministry: Mt. Tabor, where Jesus was transfigured, revealing His Divinity 40 days prior to His crucifixion, and the Mount of Olives, where Jesus frequently went to pray and from where He voluntarily entered into the Holy City. Opposite the Mount of Olives, as we see the icon, we recognize the city walls of Jerusalem and
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ORTHODOX PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS

Priest: O Lord our God, Who rests upon the Cherubim and has reaffirmed Your power and sent forth Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save the world through His Cross, Burial and Resurrection: Who when He drew near to Jerusalem for His voluntary Passion, the people that sat in darkness and the shadow of death took as tokens of victory boughs of trees and branches of palms, thus foretelling His Resurrection. Do You Yourself, O Master and Lord, keep and preserve us also, who, following their example, on the pre-feast of that day, we carry in our hands palms and branches, and who, like the crowds and children cry out unto You, saying: "Hosanna!" That with hymns and spiritual songs we may be accounted worthy to attain the life-giving Resurrection on the third day: in Jesus Christ our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

RAISING LAZARUS – "At the grave of Lazarus, Jesus encounters Death – the power of sin and destruction, of hatred and despair. He meets the enemy of God. And we who follow Him are now introduced into the very heart of this hour of Jesus, the hour, which He so often mentioned. The forthcoming darkness of the Cross, its necessity, its universal meaning, all this is given in the shortest verse of the Gospel – "and Jesus wept."

--Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, "The Christian Way", 1961



Σήμερα εισέρχεται ο Ιησους στα Ιερουσαλημα για να περαση μαζι μας ολα οσα υπομενουμεν καθε ημερα στην ζωην μας και εμεις ειναι να περασουμεν μαζι Του τα παθη και να βρεθουμεν μαζι Του στην Αναστασιν.

Ιστορικως, η εικονα της Κυριακης των Βαιων παρουσιασθηκε στην Εκκλησιαν για πρωτη φορα κατα την διαρκειαν του τεταρτου αιωνος. Συμφωρα με την Ιεραν Παραδοσιν της Εκκλησιας, η εικονα δειχνει τον Χριστον <επι πωλον ονου> οπως επροφητευσε ο Προφητης Ζαχαριας (Ζαχ. 9:9). Υπαρχουν δυο σημαντικα βουνα στην διακονιαν του Χριστου – το Ορος Θαβωρ οπου εμετεμορφωθηκε, αποκαλυπτοντας την Θεοτητα Του 40 ημερες πριν απο την σταυρωσιν Του και το Ορος των Ελαιων οπου επροσευχοταν συχνα, και απο οπου εισηλθε εθελοντικα στην Αγιαν Πολιν. Απεναντι, καθως βλεπομεν την εικονα, τα τειχη της πολεως απεικονιζονται και αυτο δειχνει οτι στον Χριστον, ο ουρανος και η γη συχωρευονται. Αναμεσα στο Ορος των Ελαιων και την Πολιν ειναι το φοινικα με ενα παιδι το οποιο κοβει ενα κλαδι για να υποδεχθει τον Ιησουν ως Βασιλευς. Απο την μια πλευραν βλεπομεν τους Μαθητας με τον Χριστον, οι οποιοι θα Τον εγκαταλειψουν, και απο την αλλη βλεπομεν τους πολιτες της Ιερουσαλημ – αναμεσα τους, οι Φαρισαιοι, οι οποιοι θα τους πεισουν να ζητησουν την σταυρωσιν Του.

Οπως με ολην την λειτουργικην ζωην της Εκκλησιας, η εικονα μας βαζει προσωπικως στην περιπτωσιν οπου συναντουμεν τον Χριστον, ετσι για να Τον ακολουθησουμεν προς τα Παθη Του και, πνευματικως δια της προσευχης, παντοτε να ζουμεν την <εν Χριστω> ζωην.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

this shows that, in Christ, Heaven and earth are joined together. As Alfredo Tradigo writes in his book, *Icons and Saints of the Eastern Orthodox Church*, “Christ is the branch (from) the Tree of Life...that bridges the gap between the Mountain of God and the city of man.” (pg. 130). Between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem there is a palm tree with a young boy cutting down a palm branch in order to welcome Jesus as king. As children of God, our spiritual maturity is based on climbing the “trees” of Bible study; Sacramental life and charity, welcoming Christ into our lives.

To the one side of the icon, the Disciples are depicted; they will later abandon Jesus. On the other side, the citizens of Jerusalem are depicted – among them, the Pharisees who would convince them to call for His crucifixion. Children are seen spreading garments along Jesus’ path – much like a “red carpet” - crying out: “Hosanna in the highest...” Their fathers will divide Christ’s garments among themselves at the crucifixion after rejecting Him with “Crucify Him...” It was pride, jealousy, lust for power; bearing false witness and greed that stood behind the Crucifixion – all of which are the most basic of sins.

Our age is one of “Pharisees and scribes,” who continually cry out for Christ to be crucified, either in the form of ignoring the Commandments of God and justifying sin, or in the form of “rights” for unbelievers not to be offended. Certainly, we are not to hate anyone, for Christ has already forgiven them from the Cross. But, we are to pray for them and for the world. Above all, we are to improve ourselves spiritually so as to be better servants of God and greater ministers of His love toward others.

As any picture draws us into what it portrays, the icon of our Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday draws us into the life-long journey of joining Him in His death on the Cross and in His gift of Eternal Life. Christ our God will conquer death, thereby opening the door to repentance. As God created humanity, it is only God Who can save it – and save it as it was created: in a humanity that is His. In every way we are “in God’s picture!”

Holy Week is the time to implement St. Paul’s advice when he wrote to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always;... Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with all thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the God of peace, Who transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus...” (Philippians 4: 4-8).

+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, Mary Mitsias (*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— I have loved, because the Lord Shall hear the voice of my supplication. Shout to God with the voice of rejoicing.

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

Verse 2— The pains of death surrounded me; the dangers of Hades found me. I found affliction and grief. Then I called upon the Lord's name.

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

Verse 3— I shall be well pleasing before the Lord in the land of the living.

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— I believed; therefore, I spoke; I was greatly humbled.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O epi polou onou kathestheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who sat upon a donkey's colt, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - I will take up the cup of salvation. And call upon the name of the Lord. I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O epi polou onou kathestheis, 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— *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Let all who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Tin Koinin Anastasin...*(To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord.")*

Hymn for Palm Sunday: Syntafendes...*(We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord.")*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: To throno en ourano...*(In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, You were carried, O Christ our God; and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again.")*

READINGS: Epistle - Philippians 4: 4-9 / Gospel – St. John 12: 1-18

Instead of "Axion Estin," the following is sung: *"Theos Kyrios ke epefanen eemin...(God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. O Christians, appoint a feast, and with exultant joy come and let us magnify the Christ, waving our palm-leaves and branches, crying aloud in hymns: "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord our Savior.")*

Communion Hymn: Evloghimenos o Erchomenos en onomati Kyriou. Alleluia
(Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia.)

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON TODAY

AFTER THE CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY!

PHILOPTOCHOS – Today, Palm Sunday is the last day to pick up your Easter Bake Sale orders. See **Tina Veroulis** and her team in the hall. Important. Please note our April General Meeting has been changed to Tuesday, April 18 at 11:30 a.m. due to Easter. Members in good standing (your dues have been paid this year) will be voting for the new Board of Directors for 2017-2019. If you have not renewed your membership, please see **Tina Veroulis, Carol Lyons or Linda Kallis**.

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 this evening**. 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.

EPITAPHIO – A special tray will be passed today for contributions toward the Epitaphio. Sunday School children are asked to see **Fr. Ted** for a letter asking that they be excused from school on Holy Friday so that they can help decorate the **Epitaphio** with **Lula** (beginning at 8:00 a.m.) and join with the **Holy Friday Retreat** led by **Deacon Euthym**.

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**. Golfers are needed, as are reservation for the dinners. Sign up today at the "Golf Tournament Table" in our parish hall.

ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY – The **Banquet on Saturday night, April 22nd is now scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., following Great Vespers at 5:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 23, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 a.m. officiated by His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos.**

JOURNEY TO GREECE – Educational opportunity for **Elaine Karkeletsis and Katrina Storton**. Monetary contributions for the "Journey to Greece" program are most welcome. Prayers are always precious.

THE WRESTLER – We all join in thanking God for His blessings in allowing the son of our parishioners, **Contantina and Paul Kosturos, George Kosturos**, to be the lead character in a movie coming out this summer, entitled *The Wrestler*. **Special showing: May 3rd at the Rivers**. See flier enclosed.

ORTHODOX FUNERAL PLOTS – See the enclosed flier for details about reserving your space!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Tonight.....Nymnphios Service – 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 10th.....Nymnphios Service-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11th.....Nymnphios Service-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12th... Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m. / Holy Unction – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 13th.....Divine Liturgy – 9:00 a.m. / Service of the 12 Gospels– 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 14th..... Decoration of Epitahio-8:00 a.m. / Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.

Annual Holy Friday Retreat-10:00 a.m.

"Taking Down of Christ from the Cross" (*Apokathelosis*) -12:00 noon

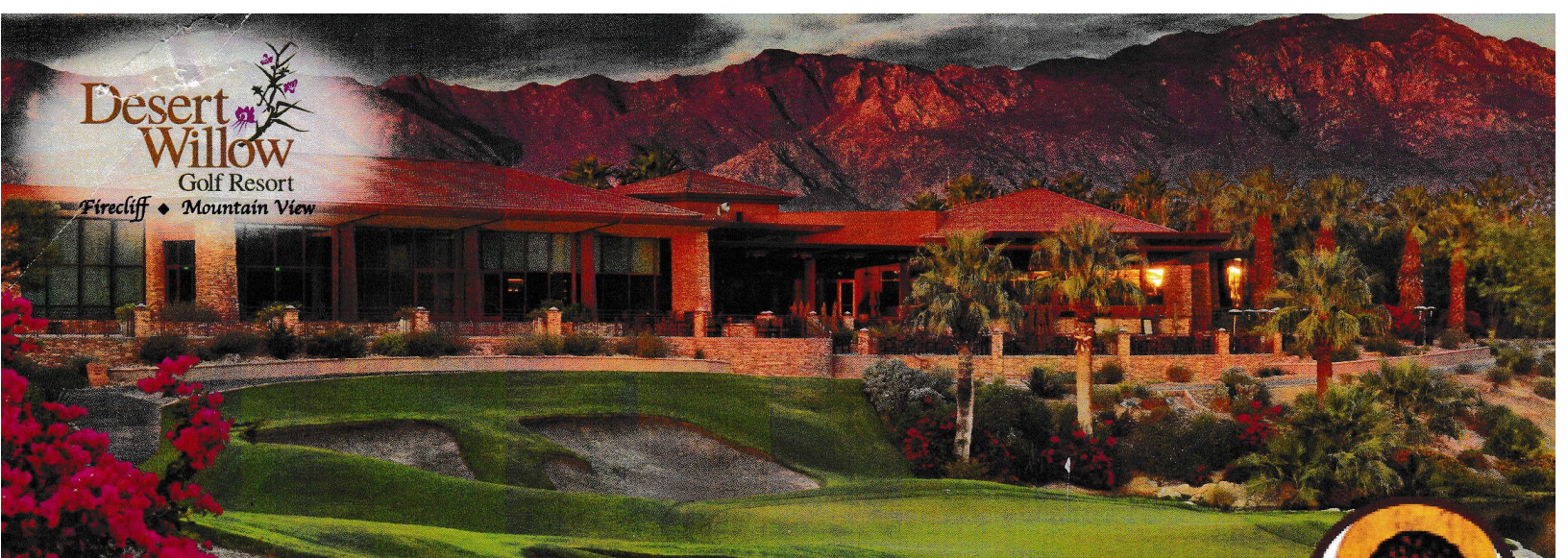
Epitaphio Service – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15th.... Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m. / Resurrection Hymnal Service – 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16th.....Resurrection Service-12:00 am/ Orthros – 12:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy- 1:00 a.m.

Easter Agape Service – 3:00 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.



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 15th

Register Online: 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

Desert Memorial Park

Orthodox Cemetery Plots

31-705 Da Vall Drive

Cathedral City, Ca 92234

760-328-3316

- Plots are \$1585 per plot**
- For an additional \$100 and 30% down you can have 18 months to pay off your plot.**
- All contracts are individual and must be purchased at Desert Memorial by May 7th to be grouped together in the Orthodox section.**
- The Orthodox section will be blessed as an Orthodox Cemetery as Holy Ground.**
- When contacting Desert Memorial speak with Stephanie or John and ask for the Orthodox section**

WINNER
AUDIENCE AWARD
BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER
BREAKOUT
PERFORMANCE
BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
IN FILMMAKING
NEWPORT BEACH
FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER
BEST SCREENPLAY
BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

"KARATE KID
MEETS
ROCKY."
- BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

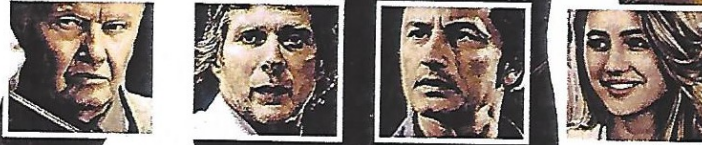
"INSPIRING, GREAT STORY,
STRONG PERFORMANCES."
- BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

"SUPERB, A
CROWD PLEASER."
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GEORGE KOSTUROS ALI AFSHAR WILLIAM FICHTNER JON VOIGHT

AMERICAN WRESTLER THE WIZARD

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS



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PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
BUT MAY BE APPEALING TO SOME CHILDREN
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SPECIAL ONE-DAY SHOWING – STARRING GEORGE KOSTUROS

MAY 3rd

At the River Century Theatre

Two times: 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Order your seats now!