

FEBRUARY 19, 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

JUDGMENT 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.

REGARDING CHARITY & LABOR

As Christ spoke to the Apostles about works of love, He said, *"In as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it for Me."* (St. Luke 25:40). In this way, Christ Himself verified that He is the One, *"through Whom all things were made,"* as we confess in the Nicene Creed, and confirms the words from the Book of Genesis: *"Let Us make man in Our own Image and Likeness."* (Genesis 1:26). This "In the Image and Likeness" means that each per-

son is the "anti-type" of Christ God Himself, such that the Lord's words, *"In as much as you did it for one of the least of these My brethren, you did it for Me,"* are meant as being a mystical, yet, near-literal reality.

Works of love are not to be done in order to satisfy our egos. In addition, they are not to be performed in a Pharisaical way, so that we consider ourselves to be saints and, therefore, better than others who are just sinners and, thus, not as righteous as are we.

Continued on page 2

JUDGMENT SUNDAY

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

-Taken from: www.goarch.org



Καθως ομιλησε ο Χριστος στους Αποστολους περι εργαων αγαπης ειπε: <εφ οσον εποιησατε ενι τουτων των αδελφων Μου των ελαχιστων, Εμοι εποιησατε.> (Λουκ.25:40). Κατα αυτον τον τροπον ο Χριστος εξακριβωνει οτι ο Ιδιος ειναι Εκεινος <δι Ου τα παντα εγενετο> οπως ομολογουμεν στο <Πιστευω,> συμφωνα με τα λογια της Γενεσεως: <Ας κανωμεν ανθρωπον κατα εικονα Ημων και καθ ομοιωσιν Ημων.> (Γεν.1:26). Αυτο το <κατ εικονα και καθ ομοιωσιν Ημων> σημαινει οτι ο καθενας ειναι αντιτυπος του Θεανθρωπου Χριστου, ωστε τα λογια του Κυριου <εφ οσον εποιησατε ενι των αδελφων Μου των ελαχιστων, Εμοι εποιησατε,> ενοουνται ως μια τελειαν πραγματικοτητα.

Τα εργα αγαπης δεν πρεπει να ποιουνται κατα εναν τροπον με τον οποιον ικανοποιουμεν τον εγωισμον μας. Δεν πρεπει, επισης, να ποιουνται με Φαρισαικον τονον, ωστε να θεωρουμεν τον εαυτον μας ως αγιοι και σε υψηλοτερη στασιν απο αλλους, οι οποιοι δεν κανουν τα εργα αγαπης οπως κανουμεν εμεις.

Τα εργα αγαπης εχουν την μεγαλυτεραν αξιαν οταν διδονται με σκοπον να φωτισουμεν τον πλησιον μας περι της αγαπης του Θεου, ο Οποιος ειναι ο Χριστος. Εργα αγαπης δεν ειναι εργα εκμεταλλευσεως.

Ως παραδειγμα δειχνοντας την ουσιαν του θεματος, εχουμεν τον Αγιον Νεκταριον, ο Οποιος επροσεφερε υλικη βοηθεια σε ολους γυρω του, οι οποιοι ειχαν αναγκη. Αλλα, μαζι με την υλικην προσφοραν του προς αυτους, επροσεφερε και θρησκευτικο μαθημα περι του Ευαγγελιου. Επροσεφερε πνευματικες συμβουλες και τις θερμες προσευχες του. Εξουσε σε μια πνευματικην πραγματικοτητα που ο συνανθρωπος του ειναι <ενας Χριστος,> συμφωνα με την παροιμιαν του Χριστου την οποιαν ακουσαμεν απο το κατα Λουκαν Ευαγγελιο.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The performance of loving deeds have their greatest value when they are offered for the purpose of enlightening our neighbor regarding the love of Christ our God. Acts of love are never to be done for the purpose of manipulating others.

As an example indicating the essence about which we are speaking, we have St. Nectarios, who always gave material aid to those in need. But, with the offering from his material possessions, he always offered spiritual advice and personal prayers, as well. He lived with faith in a reality that his fellow human being was an "individual Christ," in accordance with the Lord's Parable in today's Gospel according to St. Luke. His interpretation of the words "the least among these My brethren," was that we not judge ourselves as being better than others – for we are all of equal dignity.

Unfortunately, however, this passage of the Bible has been misinterpreted in such a way as to make allowances for those who are lazy, supposing that the government and the Church will follow the teaching of our Lord and, therefore, take care of them. In this, St. Paul lends a corrective to such a misinterpretation in his Second Epistle to the Thessalonians. In his visit to the Thessalonians, St. Paul made it clear that his presence among them was not to be a tax for them, but that he himself was able and willing to work "with labor and toil, not because of lack of authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us." (2 Thessalonians 3:9). In this he commanded them – and, by extension, he commands us – "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The purpose of work is to glorify God by offering opportunities to others to also glorify God. Greed and sloth are both sinful, since they are expressions of "self," as opposed to love. As with St. Nectarios, the hope in giving charity is for others to also live according to the Gospel of Christ.

Unfortunately, we live in a world of much justified fear, due to a general lack of conscience among many and massive anti-Christian sentiment. This presents Christians with grave dilemmas. What about people who are verifiably living a Godless life and refuse to hear the Gospel? Do we allow anyone into our homes without knowing whether or not they want to harm us and our children? Do we not have the responsibility to protect our lives and those of our loved ones? Do we give without trying to discern whether our gift is to be used to destroy one's self or others through drugs and alcohol, or through some violent crime? In order to best give wisely, let us work with the Ladies of our Philoptochos, who, in turn, work with organizations which offer material support, while, at the same time offering emotional/spiritual counseling to those in need. +FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Mike & Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru, Nicholas Cousoulis (*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 is Risen from the dead, 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 - *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 (pg. 110 in the Divine Liturgy books)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *Otan eltheis o Theos epi tis ghees...(When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.)*

READINGS: EPISTLE- 1 Corinthians 8:13-9:2/ **GOSPEL-** St. Matthew 25:31-46

Axion Estin. *"It is truly right to bless you...(page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)*

Communion Hymn— *Enite ton Kyrion...(Praise the Lord in the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.)*

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Annette Laskaris

PHILOPTOCHOS – We are down to the last week before the Festival. There are still many tasks to complete; come help us. Thank you for volunteering. Save the Date. Our Membership Lunch will be on Saturday, March 18. Look for the invitation in the mail soon.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Today's Altar Flower Bouquets dedicated to the glory of God were donated by: **Mrs. Mariya Dunkel: "In loving memory of Josie Palmer."**

Dr. Michael Long: "In loving memory of my father, Mr. Frank Long. 'Eternal Rest!'"

GREEK FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS – If you have not already done so, please volunteer to work at our Festival, which is being this upcoming weekend. You can sign up in the church hall after Liturgy. The **"Festival Volunteer" Sign-up Table** is located near the bookstore. If you have any questions, please contact **Jim Christopoulos at: goofy_328@yahoo.com**, or call him at: (760) 902-8460. **This week: help is needed for set-up, decorations, pastry packaging, galaktobouriko.**

YIAYIA'S ATTIC – We thank everyone who has contribute items for this year's Yiayia's attic. At this time, there is no need to bring any more items, since work is now needed for set-up, pricing and presentation of the items that are currently in stock.

FESTIVAL FLIERS – 2017 Festival Fliers and posters are available in our parish hall and ready for distribution throughout our community by St. George parishioners. Many fliers need to be distributed.

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.** As part of our Feast Day celebrations, we look forward to everyone's support toward the success of our annual **St. George Golf Tournament - April 21 – 22, 2017.** Registration and Reservation Forms will soon be available.

KNITTING CLASS – The knitting group will resume on **Wednesday, March 8th @ 5:30 pm.**

FESTIVAL TEE-SHIRTS -Booth Chairpersons can pick up their Booth volunteer tee shirts after Liturgy in the church hall today. We will be wearing the blue festival tee-shirts from our past Greek festivals. See **Rhonda Latkovic.**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP – In response to interest expressed in forming a Men's Bible Study group, we are scheduling the first Men's Bible Study for **Tuesday, March 7, 2017 from 6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** All men are welcome. The topic will be **"The Bible Readings of Pre-Sanctified Liturgies."** The first Bible Study will be: Genesis 1:24-32 and 2:1-3. Study: 1) How was humanity created? What is the role of humanity? What is significant about the "Day of Rest"?

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday-Friday, February 20-24th: Preparation for St. George 2017 Greek Festival. No Bible Study. No meetings. Everyone is invited to help each day-9:00 a.m.


Saturday, February 25th...SATURDAY OF SOULS

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

2017 GREEK FESTIVAL – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (workers to park off-site at Washington School).

*The Ladder for the month of February 2017 is
donated by
Annette Lewis
"In loving memory of Skip Lewis: 1 year of going*

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



*You are cordially invited
to attend the
St. George Philoptochos
Membership Luncheon
March 18, 2017*

*At The Home of Kalitsa Xiteo
753 Mission Creek Drive,
Palm Desert, CA 92211*

*Please R.S.V.P. to
Carol Lyons 760-200-8509*

*Directions to Kalitsa's Home: Take
Country Club Drive to Indian Ridge
Country Club and ask guard for directions.*

Kalitsa's phone: 760-200-9495