

JANUARY 15, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

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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.*

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy the priest exclaims: *“Let us give thanks to the Lord.”* Indeed, the Divine Liturgy is also known as the Holy Eucharist. One of those healed of leprosy through the Divine Love of Christ returned to offer thanks to God—and he was a foreigner, as is described in today’s Gospel passage.

We express our gratitude to God through worship in which we partake of Holy Communion. Through worship

we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit so that we can live a Christ-like lifestyle on a daily basis. We are united with Christ so that we can *“conquer sinful desires”* and *“consider doing those things that are well-pleasing to God”* (as is said in our prayer before the reading of the Holy Gospel).

In this way we elevate our own dignity as beings created in *“the Image and Likeness of God.”* For this reason, as the Divine Liturgy is celebrated, after the priest raises the Holy Gifts, we hear
continued on page 2

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

We are all asked to pray for the success of our St. George Stewardship efforts for 2017.

Priest [or People Together]: O Lord our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You showed us the way to salvation and have granted us the revelation of the heavenly mysteries. Accept our Stewardship Offering as an acceptable sacrifice and in return send down upon us the grace of your Holy Spirit. Look down on us, O Lord, and accept our Stewardship Commitment as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the offerings of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly sacrifices of Moses and Aaron and the peace offerings of Samuel. Accept also now, in your goodness, O Lord, these gifts from the hands of us sinners, making us worthy of the reward of the faithful and wise stewards on the fearful day of Your just judgment. For You are the God of mercy, love and salvation and we glorify You, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.



Κατα την τελετην της Θειας Λειτουργιας, ο ιερευς εκφωνει: <Ευχρηστησωμεν τω Κυριω!> Μαλιστα, η Θεια Λειτουργια λεγεται επισης, Η Θεια Ευχαριστια. Ο ενας απο τους θεραπευμενους λεπρους, οι οποιοι εκαθαρισθησαν δια της θειας αγαπης του Χριστου, εγυρισε για να προσφερει <ευχαριστω> στον Θεον – και αυτος ηταν ξενος, οπως γνωριζομεν απο την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην περικοπην.

Εκφραζουμεν ευχαριστιαν στον Κυριον δια μεσου της λατρειας, κατα την οποιαν μεταλαμβανουμεν την Θειαν Κοινωνιαν. Δια μεσου της λατρειας, λαμβανουμεν την χαριν του Αγιου Πνευματος, ωστε να ζουμεν την <εν Χριστω> ζωην καθημερινως. Ειμεθα ηνωμενοι με τον Χριστον, ωστε να καταπατησουμεν <πασας τας σαρκικας επιθυμιας> και να <μετελθωμεν πνευματικην πολιτειαν> ωστε να πραττουμεν <παντα προς ευαρεστησιν> του Θεου, συμφωνα με τις ευχες της Θειας Λειτουργιας.

Κατα αυτον τον τροπον, υψωνουμεν την προσωπικην μας ανθρωπινην αξιοπρεπειαν ως πλασματα δημιουργημενα <εις εικονα και καθ ομοιωσιν του Θεου.> Για αυτον τον λογον, στην τελετην της Θειας Λειτουργιας, την στιγμην κατα την οποιαν ο ιερευς υψωνει τα Τιμια Δωρα, ακουμεν τον <Ευχρηστηριον Υμνον>: <Σε υμνουμεν, Σε ευλογουμεν, Σοι ευχαριστουμεν, Κυριε, και δεομεθα Σου, ο Θεος ημων.>

Η Θεια Κοινωνια ειναι το <Φαρμακον της Ψυχης.> Ευχαριστουμεν τον Θεον για αυτο το φαρμακο, διοτι, δια μεσου της Θειας Κοινωνιας καθαριζεται η ψυχη μας, η οποια εχει πληγες απο τις αμαρτιες μας. Οπως η λεπρα πληγωνει το σωμα, η αμαρτια πληγωνει την ψυχη. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

the hymn of Thanksgiving: “We praise You; we bless You; we give thanks to You, Lord, and we pray to You, our God.”

Holy Communion is the “medicine for the soul.” We thank God for this medicine, because, through Holy Communion, our souls are cleansed, since they have wounds as a result of sin. What leprosy is to the body, sin is to the soul.

The connection between the soul and the body is deep and strong. When the soul is weighed down with guilt and worry, the body takes a toll. Of course, our free will allows us to choose for, or against God. Choosing for God, allows for peace in our souls, which, in turn brings comfort to the body. Choosing against God has the opposite effect—the soul is not at peace and neither is our body in comfort.

The Communion Prayers said during the Divine Liturgy allude to this reality. We pray, “At Your Mystical Supper, O Son of God, receive me today as a communicant.” Our presence at the Heavenly Banquet (the Divine Liturgy) is our gift to God, while we seek to be welcomed as one who is in communion with our Lord. As such, “I will not speak of the Mystery to Your enemies,” meaning that “I will not allow a reason for anyone to mock You, O Lord.” (God’s enemies are always mocking God’s Commandments and teachings, as well as the Church.) “Nor will I give You a kiss like Judas.” Betraying God can best be defined as living a life-style of hypocrisy: we say we love God, but we go against God with our attitudes, actions and words. Judas said he loved Christ our God, but he went against Him in the end. “But, like the thief, I confess to You, ‘Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.’” The thief on the cross confessed that Jesus Christ is God; as such, he confessed his sins, saying, “we are receiving justice for our deeds.” (St. Luke 23:41). Asking to be “remembered” is tantamount to asking to be eternally saved in God’s Kingdom. Hence, the thief expressed the true faith, with which we are to draw near to partake of Holy Communion. Furthermore, we pray that this Holy Sacrament be “for the cleansing and sanctification of both body and soul...”

Through repentance and participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the wounds of our souls caused by sins become healed. This goes far in terms of healing our bodies, as well—like the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. We are called to be like the one leper who returned to glorify God. As we remember all the times in which our Lord has given us hope, healing, safety and every good thing, let us all be, collectively, the “one leper” who gives thanks to God through our participation of the Divine Liturgy.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou (*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: *Ton synanarchon Logon... [Tone 5] (Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

Hymn for St. Paul of Thebes: *Ek vrefous ton Kyrion... (From infancy fervently you loved and longed for the Lord; * you therefore renounced the world and every worldly delight, * and excelled in ascetic feats. * You set the hut you dwelt in before the gates of your parents. * Therein, all-blessed struggler, you crushed the snares of the demons. * And therefore, O John, Christ has glorified you worthily.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis (pg. 110 in the Divine Liturgy books)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *O Mitran Parthenikin aghiasas to toko Sou... (You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.)*

READINGS: EPISTLE— *Colossians 3: 4-11 / GOSPEL—St. Luke 17:11-19*

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

PHILOPTOCHOS – Thank you to all who attended our Taverna Night! We had so much fun. We were busy this past week preparing dolmathes (6,000) for the Festival. This week we need lots of hands for making tiropita and spanakopita: Monday through Thursday. We need Coffee Hour Hostesses for January 29 and for the month of February. See **Linda Petalas**. **We need at least 12 Philoptochos ladies to help with food preparations each day during the week.** Please look at the enclosed schedule.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The Altar Flower Bouquets gracing our Holy Altar today were donated by: **Terry Ayanopolis - A dedication to my family The Bellasperanza's meaning of our family name "Beautiful and Hope"!**

**Tasia Richards-"For the Lord loves mercy and truth; He will give grace and glory.
Psalm 83:12"**

Availabilities - Please place your request on the Bulletin Board NOW, or see **Louise Dobbs Barringer** in the Parish Hall: MARCH 19th and APRIL 2nd

STEWARDSHIP – **Today is Stewardship Sunday.** Everyone is asked to prayerfully make a Stewardship Pledge for this year, considering an **increase of 10%** over the amount contributed last year. If everyone increased their amount by at least 10%, it would ensure we make our 2017 stewardship goal of \$115,000 based on 2016 giving. This is vital in meeting our church budget for the new year.

GREEK FESTIVAL – **Festival Volunteers:** If you have not already done so, please volunteer to work at our Festival, which is being held on Saturday and Sunday, February 25th and 26th. 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 call **Jim Christopoulos at 760-902-8460** or email at: **goofy_328@yahoo.com**. **This week: help is needed for tyropites and Spanakopita.**

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS – At the Parish Council meeting held on January 8th, the following Parish Council members were elected as officers: **Nick Krespis, President; Spiro Astmos, Vice-President; Nick Kaperonis, Treasurer; Tina Veroulis, Secretary (and Assistant-Treasurer).** Let us all support our Parish Council in their work for St. George!

YIAYIA'S ATTIC – **Now is the time to bring items for Yiayia's Attic in support of our 2017 Festival.**

FUNERAL PLOTS / ORTHODOX SECTION – We have the opportunity for burial plots to be purchased together in one area at Desert Memorial Park Cemetery in Cathedral City and then bless the ground making it an Orthodox area. We were given a price of **\$1585.00** per plot. 14 people have expressed an interest at this point. A meeting with those interested will be scheduled in the near future.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, January 16th.....Festival Preparations continue (see insert) - 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 17th.....ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. /Bible Study-11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 18th.....ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, January 19th.....Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 20th.....ST. EUTHYMIOS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, January 21st.....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.

JANUARY 2017						Festival Preparation Calendar
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Dolmathes	10 Dolmathes	11 Dolmathes	12	13	14
15	16 Tyropita	17 Tyropita	18 Spanakopita	19 Spanakopita	20	21
22	23 Koulourakia	24 Kouloourakia	25	26 Koulourakia	27 Melomakarona	28
29	30 Paximathia	31 Paximathia				

FESTIVAL PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

Printed above is the “Festival Preparation Calendar” for this month, January 2017.

We need at least **12 volunteers each day** to maintain this schedule.

Those who cannot help at all, are asked to offer financial contributions to pay for hired workers to complete the tasks related to this preparation schedule.

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FESTIVAL UNDERWRITERS – Become a Festival Underwriter by contributing a substantial financial offering to help defray the costs of major Festival items: meats, feta cheese, set-up supplies, etc. See Festival Chairman, George Argyros, for details.

\$60 DOLLARS A SHIFT – Those who are unable to volunteer time and effort are asked to contribute financial offerings to hire help at **\$60 per shift**. Make checks out to: St. George Greek Orthodox Church, and write: Festival Help in the memo section and give them to our parish office or **Jim Christopoulos** at the “**Festival Volunteer**” Table in the parish hall.

- GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES -
 - GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - SOULYAKI - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES - GYROS
 - GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES
 - GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD

HEAVENLY PASTRIES

GREEK FOLK DANCERS

OUZO • RETSINA • METAXA

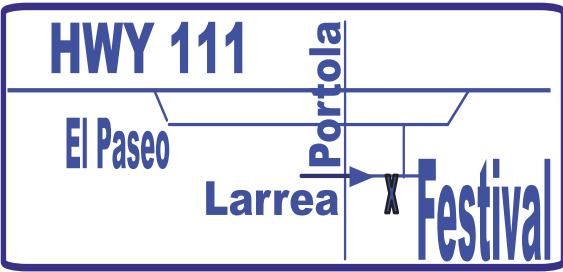
ART & SOUVENIRS

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

CHURCH TOURS

KIDZ ZONE

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



www.PDGreekFest.org


 PDGreekFest

Saint George
Greek Orthodox Church
 Palm Desert, CA

Proudly presents the

21ST ANNUAL

GREEK FESTIVAL

Experience Authentic Greek Food
Devour Heavenly Pastries
Dance to live Greek music, and
Be Greek for a Day!

February 25th & 26th 2017

Saturday & Sunday

11am to 8pm

on the Church Grounds
 74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, CA
(760) 568-9901

Admission \$3 (Children 12 & under free)

Active Duty Military, Police, Fire & EMT Free w. ID



"We are pleased to provide assistance to anyone requesting it. If you need help, please ask"

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

2017 Greek Festival Ad Program

EVENT DATE: Saturday & Sunday, February 25th - 26th, 2017

Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

Date: _____

Ad Size: _____ Amount: _____

Ad Size Choices:

ads are available in color or B/ W

Corporate logo with name = \$300

Personal name/one line = \$150

Please make checks payable to:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Write "Festival Program Ad" in the

Memo section of your check.

Send this form and payment to:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA 92251

Phone: (760) 568-9901

Enclosed is my check in the sum of

\$_____ for _____ advertisement(s)

in the 2017 Greek Festival Program.

Business Name _____

Contact Name _____

Street# _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Signed _____

Type or Print ad below or email to:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

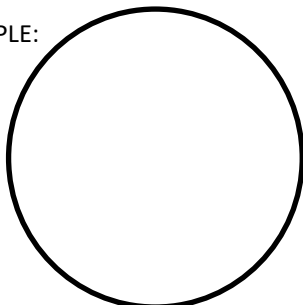
ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR COPY: JANUARY 22, 2017

Electronic submission of

camera ready corporate logos/names are accepted in most formats. Email to:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com or fax: directly to (760) 568-9492

BUSINESS LOGO SAMPLE:



NAME OF
BUSINESS