

**JANUARY 22, 2017**

**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)**

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# THE LADDER

ST. TIMOTHY THE APOSTLE

## 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.

## PEACE IN OUR HOUSE

*"There are thousands of people in America who have their names on church rolls. They go to church when it is convenient...They may talk the language of the Christian and many of them can quote verses from Scripture, but they have never really experienced true repentance. They have a sort of 'take-it-or-leave-it' attitude toward religion. They turn to God and pray when they get in a tight place, but the rest of the time they do not give God very much thought."* (Peace with God, by Billy Graham, pg. 147). Billy Graham de-

scribes the general condition of our American society. People are Christians on Sunday and pagans on Monday...and we Orthodox Christians are a part of this society.

This is why it is difficult for us to comprehend the deep meaning of today's Gospel passage, through which we heard about the repentance of the tax-collector, Zacchaeus. He worked hard to climb the sycamore tree to see Christ. His effort represents the spiritual effort that we are all to make in

*continued on page 2*

## ST. TIMOTHY THE APOSTLE & MARTYR

St. Timothy was Paul's companion in many of his journeys. His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, are mentioned as eminent for their piety (II Timothy 1:5). We know nothing of his father but that he was a Greek (Acts 16:1). He is first brought into notice at the time of Paul's second visit to Lystra (Acts 16:2), where he probably resided, and where it seems he was converted during Paul's first visit to that place (I Timothy 1:2; II Timothy 3:11). The apostle having formed a high opinion of his "own son in the faith," arranged that he should become his companion (Acts 16:3)

According to tradition, Paul ordained Timothy Bishop of Ephesus in AD 65, where he served for 15 years. In 80, Timothy tried to halt a pagan procession of idols, ceremonies, and songs. In response to his preaching of the Gospel, the angry pagans beat him, dragged him through the streets, and stoned him to death.

In the 4th century, his relics were transferred to the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. The Church also numbers Timothy among the 70 apostles sent out by Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel.

– Taken from: <https://Orthodoxwiki.org>



<Υπαρχουν χιλιαδες στην Αμερικην, οι οποιοι εχουν βαλη τα ονοματα των ως μελη μιας εκκλησιας. Αλλα, εκκλησιαζονται μονον οταν ειναι βολικο... Συζητουν ως Χριστιανοι, χρησιμοποιουντας τις σωστες λεξεις και πολλοι μπορουν να πουν μερικους στιχους απο την Αγιαν Γραφην <απ εξω>, αλλα ποτε δεν εχουν στην πραγματικοτητα την εμπειριαν της αληθινης μετανοιας. Εχουν μια αδιαφορη σταση προς την θρησκειαν. Πλησιαζουν τον Θεον οταν ευρισκονται σε δυσκολιες, αλλα τον υπολοιπο χρονον δεν μελετουν τον Θεον.> (Ειρηνη Με τον Θεον, υπο του Ευαγγελιστου ιεροκηρυκος Billy Graham, σελ. 147). Ο Billy Graham, λοιπον, περιγραφει την γενικην καταστασιν της Αμερικανικης κοινωνιας. Οι ανθρωποι ειναι Χριστιανοι κατα την Κυριακην και ειδωλολατρεις κατα την Δευτεραν... και εμεις οι Ορθοδοξοι ειμεθα ενα κομματι αυτης της κοινωνιας.

Για αυτο ειναι δυσκολο να κατανοησουμε το βαθυ νοημα της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης, δια μεσου της οποιας ακουσαμεν για την μετανοιαν του αρχιτελωνου Ζακχαιου. Ο Ζακχαιος εκανε μεγαλο κοπο για να αναρριχθει σε συκομορεαν. Αυτος ο κοπος συμβολιζει τις πνευματικες προσπαθειες που κανουμεν για να αποφυγουμεν τις αμαρτιες και να διορθωσουμεν τα σφαλματα μας. Η πνευματικη ζωη ειναι ζωη της μελετης των γραμματων της Εκκλησιας μας και της καθημερινης προσευχης. Ειναι επιλογη που κανουμε καθε στιγμην, ετσι ωστε να ελεγχουμεν τις σκεψεις και τα κινητρα μας. Οταν ο Ζακχαιος εκατεβηκε απο την συκομορεαν, εδειξε ταπεινοφροσυνην, ετσι ωστε να επιτρεψει τον Χριστον να εισελθει στην ψυχην του.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

order to flee tempting situations and to correct our faults. Spiritual life is a life of contemplation about the writings of our Orthodox Church and daily prayer. It is a choice that we make each moment so that we can control our thoughts and our motives. When Zacchaeus came down from the sycamore tree, he showed *humility*, by which he allowed Christ to enter his soul.

In fact, humility has at least two aspects: 1) the willingness to “climb up, outside of ourselves,” up into a view of reality—looking for Christ our God instead of looking for self interests; 2) the willingness to “climb down” from our perch of pride and surrender to Christ by seeking His Will. Zacchaeus displayed this humility by both looking for Christ and also obeying Christ.

Unfortunately, some of today’s Christianity, as Billy Graham implies, is of a “self-serving” sort. This is pride! As a result, many Christians are deceived into believing that we can be free from sin by assuming that the Bible itself is mistaken. Such pride, however, is countered by humility, and humility goes hand-in-hand with obedience. In truth, behaviors demonstrating disobedience to God’s teaching in the Bible are sins. It is *repentance* frees us from sins.

The lesson of Zacchaeus is given clearly by Tito Colliander in his book, *The Way of the Ascetics*. “Jesus tells Zacchaeus: ‘make haste and come down; for today I must abide at your house.’ (Luke 19:5). House here can be understood as the heart. In other words, ‘Make haste now to humble yourself lest you think you are better than others, for it is in the heart of the humble that I must dwell.’ Zacchaeus now received Christ and the first thing he did was to give away all that he possessed...Zacchaeus knew that the heart which receives Christ must empty itself of everything else: it must offer all it has...‘the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the thoughts of pride. (1 John 2:16).” (pgs. 102-103).

There are many opportunities in our own houses for us to bring peace to all of America. The people in our lives rely on us to pray for them; to help them do their work; to accomplish some worthwhile task. Our efforts to respond to them by doing Christ’s Will, given our own limitations, shows the virtue of obedience. Furthermore, through obedience, we respect the “Image of Christ” in the person next to us. This goes far in terms of peaceful and loving relationships. Our “house,” therefore, is comprised of everyone in our lives wherever we go. Let us allow Christ to truly enter our “house” where we live—our “house” where we work or study and the “house” of our community at large.

+FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis’ mother) (*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, soson 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, soson 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:** *"Soson 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:** *"Soson 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:** *"Soson 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:** *Angelike dynameis...[Tone 6] (When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For, You did vanquish Hades and, uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of life, O You Who arose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You.)*

**Hymn for St. Timothy:** *Christotita ekdichachthis ke nifon eis pasin... (Having learned kindness, and being always steady and sober, vested with a good conscience as befits a priest, you drew out from the Chosen Vessel the secrets of God. And having kept the faith, you have finished the fair race, O Hieromartyr Timothy. Intercede with Christ our God, entreating Him to save our souls.)*

**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—** 1 Timothy 4: 9-15/ **GOSPEL—** St. Luke 19: 1-10

**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: Doris Elmo & Maximos Lee**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Would you like to volunteer to host a **Coffee Hour** in February? **Linda Petalas** would be happy to sign you up. This week we are making koulourakia and melomakarona for the Festival. Please come and help. See the Festival Preparation Calendar.

**STEWARDSHIP** – We are grateful for receiving **56** pledge cards year-to-date, totaling **\$71,985** towards our 2017 Stewardship pledge goal of **\$115,000**. Thank you for your generosity to our beloved church. God bless you. Please see **Rhonda Latkovic**, Stewardship Chairperson, if you still need a pledge card for this year.

**GREEK 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 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. 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: **goofy\_328@yahoo.com**, or call him at: **(760) 902-8460**. **This week: help is needed for koulourakia and melomakarona.**

**GREEK FESTIVAL PROGRESS** – Our festival food preparations began on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> thru Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> with the making of 5700 dolmathes for the festival. On Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, thousands of tyropita were made. Photos of the volunteers & food prep are posted in the church hall. Please review the Festival Preparation Calendar in the parish hall and see what days you can volunteer. We need your help! The Festival Preparation Calendar is also posted in today’s *Ladder*.

**FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADS** – **Today is the deadline** to submit an ad for our 2017 Greek Festival program “book.” One-line greeting ads are also needed. Please see the enclosed 2017 Festival Program Ad Form. Please see **Presvytera Pantels** after today’s Church Services.

**YIAYIA’S ATTIC** – **Now is the time to bring items for Yiayia’s Attic in support of our 2017 Festival.** Please drop them off in our parish hall at any time during the week. Call before making your delivery to arrange for assistance upon your arrival. Please see **Becky Allen** for more information.

**KNITTING CLASS** – For those ladies interested in learning how to knit items for donation to the City of Hope cancer patients, we have planned a knitting class for Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the church hall lead by **Tina Veroulis**. We will supply the knitting needles, yarn, and a snack! Just bring yourself! Please RSVP to **Rhonda Latkovic** by phone, text, or email @ **714-875-4661** or **r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com**.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.....Festival Preparations continue at our parish hall – 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.....ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN  
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Knitting Class – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.....PLEASE NOTE: No Vespers

**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.



# 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](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)

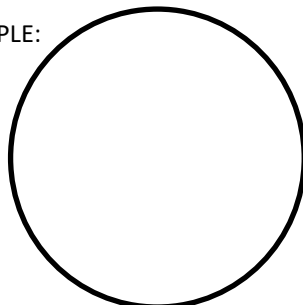
**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR COPY: JANUARY 22, 2017**

Electronic submission of

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

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

BUSINESS LOGO SAMPLE:



NAME OF  
BUSINESS



GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · LOUKOUMADES

GREEK CHICKEN · MOUSSAKA · SPANAKOPITA · DOLMADE · PASTICHIO · SOULVAKI · BAKLAVA · DOLMADES · GYROS



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD

HEAVENLY PASTRIES

GREEK FOLK DANCERS

OUZO · RETSINA · METAXA

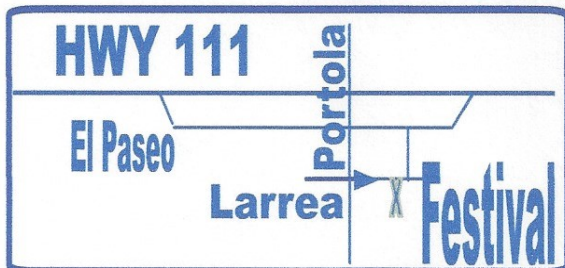
ART & SOUVENIRS

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

CHURCH TOURS

KIDZ ZONE

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Palm Desert, CA

*Proudly presents the*

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

# GREEK FESTIVAL

*Experience Authentic Greek Food  
Devour Heavenly Pastries  
Dance to live Greek music, and*

### Be Greek for a Day!

## February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 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"

GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · LOUKOUMADES