

JANUARY 8, 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

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



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.

THE REVERSAL OF THE RIVER

In his Epistle to the Ephesians, St. Paul tells us that Christ ascended into heaven after He descended to us in the likeness of "a servant" in order to save the human race. Since Christ ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit descends upon us in order to enlighten the faithful to constantly know the Will of God and to always worship our True God, Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit imparts gifts to each of us: some people are prophets; others

are teachers; others are guides in our spiritual lives – each person has gifts from God, which are to be offered back to God for His glory. In offering them to God, one offers, at the same time, God's gifts to one's fellow human being. In this way, the Church works as a single Body for sake of bringing salvation to all people throughout the world.

In Christ, each person is part of an entire newly created humanity. Adam had no concept of repentance and
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CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

We all know the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand in the wilderness --- there was no food, except for five loaves and two fish - not much when you consider 5000 men. But Jesus blessed the loaves, multiplied them and used them to feed the 5000. Jesus used what was given to Him to perform a beautiful miracle. In offering even five loaves and two fish, we offer what we have - however great or small our gift. If we do this prayerfully and in humility, God will take our gifts and multiply them in order to feed His people.

In the Divine Liturgy, the bishop prays that the Lord will visit and confirm the vineyard which is the parish, the local Body of Christ, which the Lord planted with His own right hand (Ps 79:15-16). He Provides so that we may bear fruit. Saint John Chrysostom emphasized Christ's continual presence with us -- the True Vine that is always connected to the branches, giving them life. Christ shows His great love for us by "*remaining continually with those who shall bring forth fruit; for it is needful to enjoy His aid and so to bear fruit.*" St. John Chrysostom says in his *Homily 77 on the Gospel of Saint Christ*, in His great love for us, has joined Himself to us and offers us all that we need to bear good fruit that will lead us and others to salvation. (Taken from www.goarch.org)



Στην Επιστολήν του προς τους Εφεσίους, ο Άγιος Παύλος μας λέγει ότι ο Χριστός αναλήφθηκε στους ουρανούς μετά που κατεβήκε <εν δούλου μορφή> για να σώσει την ανθρωπότητα. Αφού αναλήφθηκε ο Χριστός, το Άγιο Πνεύμα κατεβαίνει για να διαφωτίσει τους πιστούς να γνωρίζουν συνεχώς το θέλημα του Θεού στην κάθε εποχή και να λατρεύουν τον Αληθινόν Θεόν, τον Ιησούν Χριστόν, παντοτε.

Το Άγιο Πνεύμα μεταδίδει τα δώρα του Θεού σε όλους: μερικοί είναι προφήτες, άλλοι είναι διδασκαλοί, άλλοι είναι ποιμένες – ο καθένας έχει τα δώρα του Θεού να προσφέρει στον Θεόν. Ενώ προσφέρει ο καθένας τα δώρα του Θεού προς δόξαν του Θεού, τα προσφέρει επίσης στους συνανθρώπους του. Κατά αυτόν τον τρόπον, η Εκκλησία λειτουργεί ως ενιαίο <σώμα> προς σωτηρίαν του κόσμου.

Εν Χριστώ, ο κάθε άνθρωπος είναι μέλος μιας ολοκληρωμένης νεοδημιουργημένης ανθρωπότητας. Όταν ο Αδάμ παρέκουσε τον Θεόν δεν είχε γνώση περί μετανοίας και συγχωρησεως. Είναι ο Χριστός ο Θεός, ο Οποῖος μεταδίδει σε εμάς το δώρο της συγχωρησεως, η οποία είναι ενωμένη με την μετανοίαν. Με τον Χριστόν, μάς δίνεται η ευκαιρία να συμμετασχούμε στο Μυστήριο της Θείας Εξομολογήσεως, η οποία είναι <το Δεύτερο Βαπτισμα>, και να αρχίσουμε να ζούμε μια ζωήν με καθοδήγησιν από το Άγιο Πνεύμα (διά μεσου της προσευχής και λατρείας προς τον Θεόν) και με την αγάπη του Σωτήρος μάς Χριστού στις καρδιές μάς. Κατά αυτόν τον τρόπον, θα συνεργαζώμεθα με τον Θεόν, ώστε να γνωρίσει <ο λαός ο καθημένος εν σκοτει> το <φως μέγα.> (Ματθ. 4: 17). +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

forgiveness. It is Christ our God Who grants to us the gift of forgiveness, which is tied to our repentance. With Christ we have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Confession, known as “the Second Baptism,” and to begin a new life, guided by the Holy Spirit (through our prayers and through worship). This life is one in which Christ’s Love dwells in our hearts. In this love, we will always be working with God so that “those who sit in darkness” can see “the great Light.” (St. Matthew 4:17).

So often we remind ourselves that the consequences of sin are far-reaching (as are the consequences of virtue). Regarding sin, we remember the consequence of Adam’s sin. By disobeying God, humanity has been affected for generations. Sin too often ripples through a community creating tons of “collateral damage.” That is why our thoughts and motives matter to others. That is why we must be careful with our attitudes, our credos and values. That is why our Saints fought so hard to preserve and teach the proper interpretation of the Bible and the Holy Tradition of the Apostles.

While sin becomes like a “river flowing toward death,” as in the case of the Jordan River running to the Dead Sea, accepting God’s Love, expressed in the Person of Christ our Savior, is the reversal of sin. It is a God-like way of life—a life of caring, in which one’s thoughts, motives and “credos” are based on God’s love for humanity. Our “credo” is the Nicene Creed; our attitude is one of love which “hopes all things, endures all things, and which never ends,” because God is Eternal Life. As sin ripples through a community, so does virtue ripple through a community and, through Christian virtues, the affects of sin are reversed, as were the waters of the Jordan reversed at the moment of Christ’s Baptism. The virtues of a spiritual way of life are made evident through caring for others, forgiving others, praying for others, teaching the Gospel to others. They are Christ-like virtues which become a “river flowing toward life.”

The re-creation of humanity by virtue of the Incarnation and Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ is a reality that is manifested in the lives of many sinners who became Saints. People are no longer doomed to destruction as a result of evil. Christ delivers us from evil, and, as St. Basil states through the Liturgy which bears his name, He, “makes the wicked become good.” All that is left in our capacity is to choose to turn to Christ and to constantly renew our baptism by admitting and correcting our faults, asking for forgiveness from God and from each other, and committing ourselves, our families and our friends to Christ our God.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Yvonne Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Erika Aguilar (Ana and Wynn Storton’s daughter), Jim Alex (*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— In the exodus of Israel from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a foreign people. Judah became His sanctuary, and Israel His authority.

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

Verse 2— The sea saw them and fled, the Jordan turned back.

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

Verse 3— What is it to you, O Sea, that you fled, and to you, O Jordan, that you turned back?

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 have loved, because the Lord shall hear the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: "Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 – For He inclined His ear to me, and in my days I shall call upon Him. The pains of death surrounded me; the dangers of Hades found me.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3 – The Lord is merciful and righteous, and our God has mercy.

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— Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: To fedron tis anastaseos [Tone 4]...(When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)

Hymn for the Feast Day of the Lord's Baptism: En Iorthani Vaptizomenou...-(pg. 106 in the Divine Liturgy books)

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

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: Epefanis symeron..(You appeared today to us on earth, O Master, and Your light was signed on us who cry aloud to You and say with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable)

READINGS: EPISTLE- Ephesians 4:7-13 / GOSPEL-St. Matthew 4: 12-17

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: Becky Allen

PHILPOPTOCHOS – We are looking for volunteers for **Coffee Hour Hostesses for January 29 and the month of February**. If you are interested, see **Linda Kallis** and also check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We are starting Festival food prepping tomorrow. We're making dolmathes this week. So roll up your sleeves and please come help us. Our **General Meeting is this week, Thursday, January 12 at 11:30 a.m.** Lunch will be served with a \$5.00 donation. Come for a short meeting and visit with our members.

OATH OF OFFICE – Today the Oath of Office will be administered for the members of the 2017 St. George Parish Council: Becky Allen, Spiro Astmos, Tony Dalkas, Linda Kallis, Nick Kaperonis, Nick Krespis, Anna Prineas, Tasia Richards, Lula Valissarkos, Tina Veroulis and Mike Zafirooulos.

STEWARDSHIP – Please visit our **“Stewardship Table”** in our parish hall to receive a 2017 St. George Stewardship Pledge Card. As we consider making our Stewardship Pledge for this year, let us all make the effort **increase our Stewardship by 10%** over what we 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.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Following are the "only" available dates to purchase Altar Flowers for the season: Sunday - January 15th (please act now!); Sundays - March 5th and March 19th; Sundays - April 2nd and April 30th (on this date 4/30 share with another for only \$25.00). Adorn God's altar, and dedicate your bouquet to a loved one, in memory of a family member(s), or a special occasion! Please visit the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall today, or see Louise Dobbs Barringer for more details. Thank you.

GREEK FESTIVAL – All parishioners of St. George who use Facebook are asked to place announcements for our 2017 Greek Festival on Facebook. See Jim Christopoulos for more details. Also, please visit the **“Festival Volunteer Table”** in our parish hall and volunteer to help with our Festival. See the enclosed “Festival flier.”

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 9th.....2017 Greek Festival preparations begin! (This week: Dolmades) – 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 10th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 11th..AHEPA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 12th.....Parish Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 13th.....Coloring Book Group meeting – 12:00 noon

Saturday, January 14th.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: The time for worship on Sundays and Feasts Days is posted as follows: Orthros-8:30 am./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Often, the time for special services is posted as being 10:30 a.m. The posted times for the Liturgy and special services are actually “approximate times,” since the length of the Orthros service governs the real start time for the Liturgy. Orthros varies due to the length of hymns; the tone in which they are chanted and other variables related to the Sunday or Feast Day. To be in Church for the start of the Liturgy, please consider arriving 10-15 minutes before 9:30. Also, it may happen that the Divine Liturgy begins after 9:30, which affects the “start time” of special services.

Volunteer for the Festival

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.



Please sign up to volunteer in the church hall after the liturgy. You may also complete the information below and leave it with Jim Christopoulos, John Petalas or Father Ted. God bless!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check Availability: Saturday 2/25: ___ 10:30-3:30 ___ 3:15-8:15

 Sunday 2/26: ___ 10:30-3:30 ___ 3:15-8:15

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 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.

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



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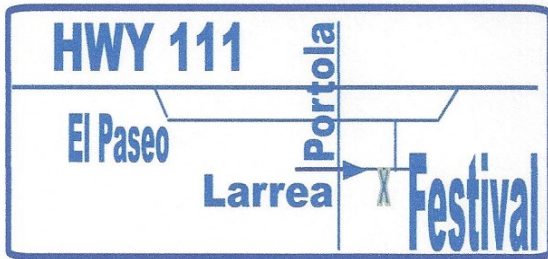
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GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - SOULVAKI - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES - GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES

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**

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 _____

Please make checks payable to:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Write "Festival Program Ad" in the

Memo section of your check.

Type or Print ad below or email to:

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Send this form and payment to:

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P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA 92251

Phone: (760) 568-9901

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

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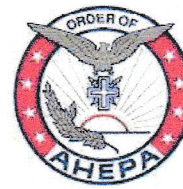
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