

MARCH 12, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260

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# THE LADDER

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

**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 FAITH**

The main theme of the Second Sunday of Great Lent is that of maintaining our Faith in the grace of Christ our Savior. In the reading of St. Paul’s Epistle to the Hebrews, we heard: *“How shall we escape [consequences of disobedience] if we neglect so great a salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?”* (Hebrews 2:3). He is speaking about the Holy Tradition of Christ’s Gospel. The Orthodox Faith is a collect-

ive Tradition of the experiences of personal faith of those who live according to the Gospel.

There are at least two expressions of personal faith: 1) One is our physical movements—for example, efforts to draw near to Christ, like the friends of the paralytic of today’s Gospel passage—that is, (for example) motions which parallel our efforts to participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. 2) The other is our spiritual life, based on prayer in the grace of

*Continued on page 2*

**ST. GREGORY PALAMAS**

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

– Taken from [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



Το θέμα της Δευτερας Κυριακης της Μ. Τεσσαρακοστης ειναι η τηρησις της Πιστεως μας στην χαριν του Σωτηρος μας Χριστου. Κατα την αναγνωσιν της Επιστολης του Αγ. Παυλου προς τους Εβραιους, ακουσαμεν: <Πως ημεις εκφευξομεθα τηλικαυτης αμελησαντες σωτηριας; ητις αρχην λαβουσα λαλεισθαι δια του Κυριου...> (Εβρ. 2:3). Ομιλει περι της Ιερας Παραδοσεως του Ευαγγελιου του Χριστου. Η Ορθοδοξος Πιστις ειναι μια συλλογικη Παραδοση απο τις εμπειριες της προσωπικης πιστεως εκεινων οι οποιοι ζουν συμφωνα με το Ευαγγελιο.

Εχουμεν δυο εκφρασεις προσωπικης πιστεως: 1) η μια ειναι οι σωματικες κινησεις μας, π.χ., οι προσπαθειες μας να πλησιασουμε τον Χριστον, οπως οι φιλοι του παραλυτικου της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης – δηλ. (π.χ.) να εκκλησιαζωμεθα και να πραξουμεν εργα αγαπης. 2) Η αλλη ειναι η ψυχικη μας ζωη η οποια βασιζεται επανω στο εργο της εν Πνευματι προσευχης.

Ο Αγ. Γρηγοριος, τον οποιον μνημονευουμεν σημερα εδιδασκε περι ενος τυπου προσευχης που λεγεται *Ησυχασμος*. Η βασις του <ησυχασμου> ειναι η εντολη του Χριστου: <Συ δε οταν προσευχη, εισελθε εις το ταμειον σου και κλεισας την θυραν σου προσευξαι τω Πατρι σου τω εν τω κρυπτω.> (Ματθ. 6:6). Δια της <εν τω κρυπτω> προσευχης αποφευγει ο ανθρωπος τα εγκοσμια εμποδια της προσευχης, κυριως, την εντυπωση σε αλλους οτι ειναι αξιος για επαινους – και, συνεπως, γνωριζει το <Φως Χριστου,> η οποια φωτιζει ολους. Επομενως, οι διδασκαλιες της Εκκλησιας μας – η Ορθοδοξος Πιστις – ειναι το αποτελεσμα των προσωπικων προσευχων των αγιων. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

the Holy Spirit.

St. Gregory Palamas, whom we commemorate today, taught about a particular type of prayer called *Hesychasm*. The basis of *Hesychasm* is commandment of Christ, “When you pray, go into your closet, close the door and pray to your Father in secret.” (St. Matthew 6:6). Through this “prayer in secret,” one escapes worldly distractions of prayer, which even include thoughts of pride. As a result of such sincere prayer, one comes to know “the light of Christ,” which illumines all people. Such prayer gives way to a God-centered view of life – i.e., prayer gives birth to our teachings. In this respect, the personal faith of generations of Saints became the “Faith” as it is summed up in our Church teachings – a “Faith” (or teaching) that transverses time, place, race, gender and circumstance. In sum, we might say that *the teachings of our Church – the Orthodox Faith – is the result of prayers of individual Saints, collectively, offered through their personal faith in Christ.*

Of course, when speaking about prayer, we need to discern between sincere, true prayer and “false” prayer, such as the kind of prayer offered by the Pharisees, who prayed in a braggadocios manner to impress others, while, at the same time, deceiving themselves. Indeed, there are many forms of “false” prayer, such as prayer for riches; prayer for power over others; prayer for our “self-will”. In addition, true prayer arises through a silent, inner yearning for the love of the True God, Christ, and is not at all akin to modern or far Eastern forms of meditation or transcendentalism (an idealistic philosophical and social teaching akin to pantheism).

There is a relatively new book published by Fr. John Meyendorff, available through Amazon, that deals with the Tradition of Orthodox prayer and spiritual life. It is entitled: *St. Gregory Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality*. A review of this book indicates the basic theme that, through heart-felt prayer with Christ our God, the soul becomes the ruler of the body. True to Orthodox spiritual life (i.e., life in the Holy Spirit), prayer is a relationship with God, whereby one takes on Divine qualities. The paralytic of today’s Gospel illustrates how the power of Christ our God overcomes the limits of the body.

Consistent with sincere, inner prayer (*Hesychasm*), a careful study of and participation in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy teaches that the ultimate purpose of prayer is union with Christ in His Body and Blood, whereby our bodies and blood are mingled with the Divinity.

+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, Bob Maverick (*Many 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."*

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**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...)*

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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:** *To 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. Gregory Palamas:** *...(Beacon of Orthodox belief, the strong support of the Church and Her teacher inspired by God, you are the ornament of monks, the unassailable champion of theologians, O Gregory the Wonder-worker and boast of Thessalonika, the messenger of grace. Forever earnestly entreat for the salvation of our souls.)*

**Hymn for St. George:** *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you. O great martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

**Kontakion Hymn:** *Ti Ypermacho...(O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.*

**READINGS—EPISTLE:** Hebrews 1: 10-14; 2:1-3 / **GOSPEL:** St. Mark 2: 1-12

**THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT** (See page 125 in our Divine Liturgy Books)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Hour – Mary Lee – In honor and memory of her mother, Katheren Michaelson MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Katheren Michaelson (1 year)**, the beloved mother of **Mary Lee**. **May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to Katheren Michaelson** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Mary Lee** and her entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – This month **National Philoptochos'** is asking for a donation for the Autism Assistance Fund. We will be passing a tray today for this project. We thank you for your donation. Today is the last day to make your reservation for the Membership Luncheon. This event will be next Saturday, March 18 at 12:00 noon at Kalitsa Xitco's home. See **Carol Lyons** at the Philoptochos table. You must make a reservation so the guard will have your name at the gate on the way to Kalitsa's home and we need a count for the caterer. If you are thinking of volunteering for a Coffee Hour in April, consider having a partner! Ask another parishioner to share with you. **Our March Board Meeting will be tomorrow Monday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m.**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Next Sunday, March 19, 2017. Plan to join us for the **St. George 2017 Spring General Assembly meeting**. Participation requires proper Stewardship as a member of the parish.

**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**. The registration form is available in our parish hall.

**COLORING GROUP** – Our next coloring group session will be **Friday, March 17th** starting at **noon** with lunch. Coloring supplies are supplied. RSVP to **Rhonda Latkovic** by **March 12**. See flier in parish hall.

**SPECIAL LENTEN FUNDRAISER FOR CHARITY** – Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of the Annunciation on **March 25th**, everyone is invited to join for a charity fundraiser. Attendees are asked to bring items for those in need (hygiene items, bedding, gift coupons, etc.). The Lenten lunch is \$10 per person (for charity) and a separate \$5 donation is requested for participation in fun games for prizes. Contact **Pam Zaverdas** at [pam@yahoo.com](mailto:pam@yahoo.com) for more information. Also, see the enclosed flier.

**ART EXHIBIT** – Art Exhibit in Los Angeles on **Saturday, April 1st** featuring the paintings of **Nicholas Kontaxis** are asked to see **Krisann Kontaxis** for directions and details. See also the parish bulletin board.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, Mar. 13th.....Holy Confession-10:00 a.m.  
Philoptochos Board Mtg.- 11:00 a.m.  
AHEPA Meeting-6:30 p.m

Tuesday, Mar. 14th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.  
Men's Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 15th..Knitting Group for City of Hope – 5:30 p.m.  
Presanctified Divine Liturgy-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 16th...Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, Mar. 17th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy  
- 9:00 a.m  
Coloring Group -12 noon  
3rd Salutations – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Mar.18th....Philoptochos Membership Tea – 12 noon  
Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

*The Ladder for the month of March 2017 is donated by Rhonda & Nick Latkovic in loving memory of Patricia Fleming*

**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.**



## **ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON**

**When: Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> @ noon-2pm**

**Where: St. George church hall**

**RSVP: By March 12<sup>h</sup> to Rhonda Latkovic**

**Lunch will be served at noon with coloring to follow.**

**A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Lunch will be a Valentine theme menu. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!**





*You are cordially invited  
to attend the*

***St. George Philoptochos***

*Membership Luncheon*

*March 18, 2017*

*12:00 in the afternoon*

*At The Home of Kalitsa Xitco*

*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*



St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
Feast Day of the Annunciation  
and  
Greek Independence Day  
**Lenten Luncheon**



**Saturday, March 25, 2017**  
**11 a.m. following Divine Liturgy**

*Benefiting the Coachella Valley Rescue  
Mission and Street Life Project*

Attendees please bring one item for  
donation, ie: Hygiene items, bedding,  
shoes, shirts, McDonald's gift coupons, etc.

**A FUN, POPULAR** Game will be  
played with fabulous prizes!

\*\*\*\$5 donation per game card\*\*\*  
(To be purchased day of)



**Please join us for fellowship and charity and as one  
Orthodox Christian asking another to care**

RSVP by completing form below and making payment. Place in an envelope  
marked "Lenten Lunch" and drop off in church office.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending at \$10 per person \_\_\_\_\_

After March 23<sup>rd</sup>, \$15 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any Questions? Please contact  
Pam Zaverdas  
pamzav@yahoo.com



# 2017 PHILOPTOCHOS

## EASTER BAKE SALE

Easter Bread-Koulourakia



The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Easter bread and koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than **March 20, 2017**. Please place the completed order in an envelope marked "PHILOPTOHOS" in the basket on the Coffee Bar in the Church Hall or give to Lula Valissarakos. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501.

### PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, April 2, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

Sunday, April 9, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

*We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos*

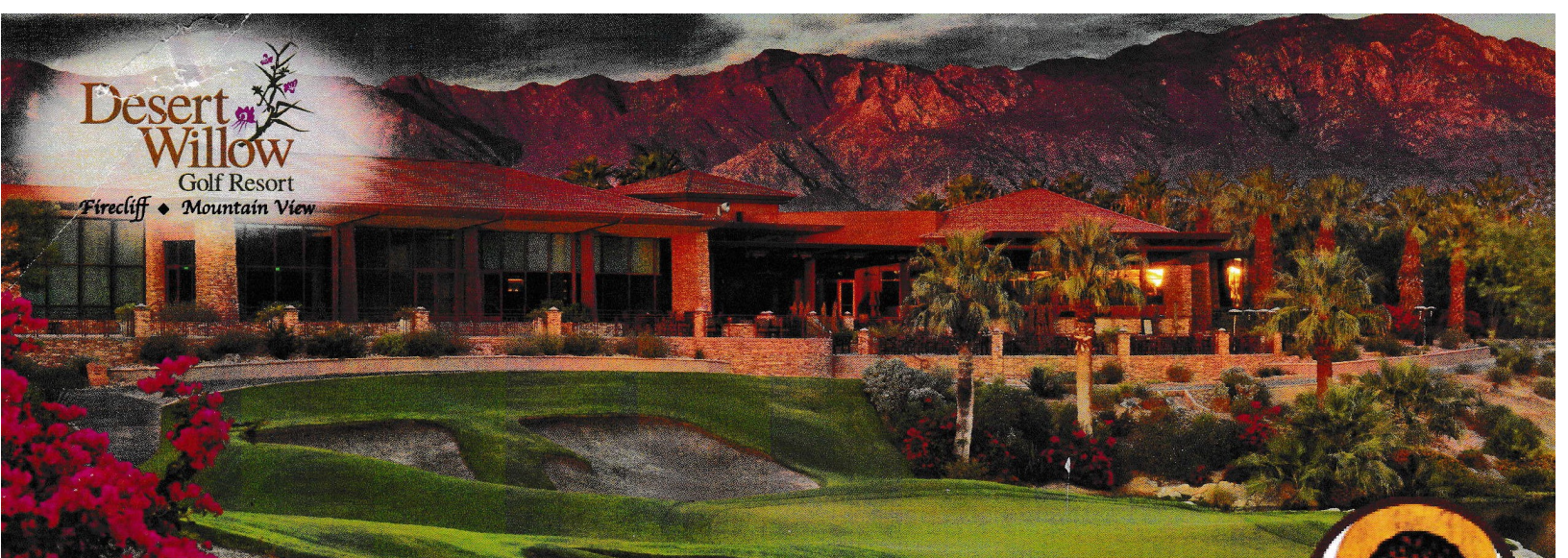


NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
Koulourakia	_____	\$6.00	_____
Easter Bread	_____	\$10.00	_____
Easter Bread with Egg	_____	\$10.00	_____
<u>Make checks payable to Philoptochos</u>		Total Amount	\$ _____





# 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 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Register Online: [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://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**