

MARCH 19, 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)

Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)



# THE LADDER

VENERATION OF THE HOLY LIFE-GIVING CROSS

## 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.

## “PANDORA’S BOX” or THE CROSS?

The Lord tells us: *“Whoso desires to follow Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.”* (St. Mark 8:34). Our Lord is speaking about such a strong desire that it cannot be compromised for anything else. In this regard, Christ said in another place, *“It is not possible for one to serve two masters.”* (St. Matthew 6:24).

Our salvation is a matter of our own personal will being united to God’s Will. In his analysis of the Sunday of

the Veneration of the Holy Cross, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann suggests that, in so far as we desire to follow Christ, our “cross” truly becomes the Cross of Christ. (See *Great Lent*, pg. 76). In essence, therefore, our salvation is not something that we accomplish as a human deed apart from the work of God. It is His Cross alone that chases away demons and temptations. His Cross is the Altar upon which the Sacrifice for our salvation is offered.

*Continued on page 2*

## SERVICE OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Following the Doxology, with the end of the Orthros Service, the choir / chanters sing: *“Aghios o Theos, Aghios Ischyros, Aghios Athanatos, eleison imas.”* “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us.” as the priest carries in procession the tray holding the Holy Cross, which is decorated with many flowers and/or basil plants. The procession includes the deacon and Altar Boys as it continues around the interior of the church temple. When the procession arrives at the center of the church, in front of the Holy Altar, the priest raises the tray with the Holy Cross high and exclaims: **“Wisdom! Let us attend!”** The priest then sets the Holy Cross on a table arranged for this service and censes the Holy Cross as he proceeds around the table and chants: **“Soson Kyrie ton laon Sou”**... *“Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over adversaries and, by Your Cross, protecting Your commonwealth.”* This hymn is repeated twice by the choir/chanters.

Then, as the priest and deacon venerate the Holy Cross, the priest chants: **“Ton Stavron Sou proskinoumen, Despota”**... *“We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.”* This hymn is also repeated twice by the choir/chanters. As the faithful venerate the Holy Cross, hymns are chanted and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated.



Ο Κυριος μας λεγει: <Οστις θελει οπισω Μου ακολουθειν, απαρνησασθω εαυτον και αρατω τον σταυτον αυτου και ακολουθειτω Μοι.> (Μαρκ. 8:34). Ομιλει ο Κυριος περι μιας τετοιιας θελησεως, η οποια δεν συμβιβαζεται με καμιαν αλλη, οπως ειπει ο Χριστος αλλου: <Ουδεις δυναται δυο κυριους δουλευειν.> (Ματθ. 6:24).

Η σωτηρια μας ειναι θεμα της ενωσησ μεταξυ της προσωπικης θελησεωσ του καθενωσ και της Θειασ Βουλησεωσ. Στην αναλυση την οποιαν προσφερει περι της Κυριακησ της Σταυροπροσκυνησεωσ, ο Πατηρ Αλεξανδρωσ Σμεμανν προτεινει οτι οσο θελουμεν να ακολουθησουμεν τον Χριστον, ο <σταυρωσ> μας γινεται ο Σταυρωσ του Θεανθρωπου Σωτηρωσ μας. (Δειτε Μεγαλη Τεσσαρακοστη, σελ. 76). Στην ουσιαν, λοιπον, η σωτηρια μας δεν ειναι εργον ανθρωπου ξεχωριστο απο το εργον Θεου. Ειναι ο Σταυρωσ του Χριστου που διωχνει τις σκοτεινεσ δυναμεισ και τουσ πειρασμωσ. Ο Σταυρωσ ειναι το θυσιαστηριον επανω στο οποιο εγινε η Θυσια για την σωτηριαν μας – μια Θυσια η οποια ενεργει αιωνιωσ, συνδεωμενη με την Αναστασην.

Για αυτο ο Αγ. Παυλωσ γραφει στην Επιστολην του προς τουσ Εβραιωσ οτι ο Ιησωσ Χριστωσ ειναι ο Μεγαλσ Αρχιερωσ μας (Εβρ. 4:14). Ωσ αρχιερωσ, ο Χριστωσ ειναι και ο Ιατροσ και ο Σωτηρ μας, ο Οποιοσ ειναι ικανωσ να μας συμπαθει καθωσ παλευουμεν κατω απο το ζυγο των αδυναμιων μας. Μαλιστα, ο Θεωσ αγαπα τον κοσμον ωστε εστειλε τον Μονογενη Του Υιον στον κοσμον για να συμμετεχει στην πεσμενην μας καταστασιν, ωστε να ξαναδημιουργησει την καταστασιν μας προς δοξαν Θεου.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

It is the eternal Sacrifice in light of the Resurrection unto Eternal Life.

This is why St. Paul writes in his Epistle to the Hebrews that Jesus Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews 4: 14). As High Priest, Christ our God is both Savior and Physician. Indeed, God so loves the world that He sent His Only Begotten Son into the world to participate in our fallen condition, precisely so that it can be restored to the glory for which it was created. It is clear that through the Cross of our Lord, we are given life in all fullness.

Our personal *desires* are pivotal factors in all of our affairs. In our Lord's words, we are called to specifically *desire* to follow Him. Hence, we have free-will choices. We can either choose the Cross and the Resurrection, or we can choose our own pride. Choosing human pride and intellect over the wisdom of the Cross leads to an increasingly more crime-ridden, litigious society, where blame is, ironically, placed on "society's ills." We have before us a "Pandora's Box" of pain and sorrow. What creates this "Pandora's Box" is our pride in "being right" and in "having rights." This "Pandora's Box" is one in which one injustice is used to justify another injustice; one complication gives rise to yet another complication. As a result, all we get is a bigger box. Truly that box is not Heaven, and, to sadness in our souls, that box is the very box into which we are "boxed in" - a place of frustration and despair. Unfortunately life in "the box" is insanely justified by mocking Christian virtues. Masses of people embrace justifications for sin, especially the notion that sin does not exist. Excuses abound for behaviors contrary to God's Commandments. There is truth to the maxim that every alcoholic can find an excuse to drink.

Standing as our fortress against such insanity is the Cross of Christ, through which one acquires "divinely-inspired" wisdom. While pride invites us to exchange the Heavenly peace of soul for the "Pandora's Box" of our times, to the contrary, the Cross of Christ invites us to become saints of God, "co-re-creating" His Kingdom on earth. In choosing the life of our soul in exchange for the life of a flawed society, we venerate the Cross of Christ with faith that God is with us.

From the Cross we receive the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ, "for the forgiveness of sins and for life everlasting," is intoned by the priest or deacon when one partakes of Holy Communion. Let us only try to crucify our pride to the Cross of Christ. It is ultimately the only way to truly venerate His Cross.

+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— O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. You gave a sign to those who fear You, so they may flee from the face of the bow.

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

Verse 2— You ascended on high, You led captivity captive; You received gifts for mankind, truly for the disobedient, so they may dwell there. The Lord God is blessed.

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

Verse 3— You give an inheritance to those who fear Your name.

*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— All the ends of the earth saw the salvation of our God. Let us enter into His tabernacles; let us worship at the place where His feet stood.

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

Verse 2— But God is our King before the ages; He worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

*Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who is Risen from the dead, Alleluia."*

Verse 3— Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.

*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 - Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at the footstool of His feet. O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. And shepherd them, and raise them up forever.*

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, O Lord, we give glory to You.)

Hymn for the Holy Cross: Soston Kyrie ton laon Sou ... (Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to Your faithful over adversaries and, by Your Cross, protecting Your Commonwealth.)

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.)

Instead of "Aghios o Theos (Holy God)," we sing: "Ton Stavron Sou, proskinoumen, Despota. Ke tin aghian Sou Anastasin doxazomen." (We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.)

READINGS—EPISTLE: Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 1-6 / GOSPEL: St. Mark 8: 34-38; 9:1

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

*After Holy Communion: "Soston, Kyrie, ton laon Sou..."*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**St. George Spring General Assembly today after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Thank you to all who attended our Membership Lunch and renewed their membership or became new members. More information and pictures to come in the April Voice. Our Easter bake schedule has changed. This **Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24** we are planning to make koulourakia. Monday and Tuesday, March 27 and 28 we are planning to make Easter bread. We need volunteers. Please see Lula for exact dates and times. **ALSO...our General Meeting on April 17th** will be a meeting including **elections. See enclosed notice.**

**ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS** – Today’s Altar Flower Bouquets were donated by:

– **Penelope and Anthony Chiotis: “In loving memory of both of our parents. ETERNAL REST!”**

– **Stacey Antonopoulos, Vicky Bourdaniotis, Tatiana Moreland & Thomas Pantels: “In loving Memory of our grandparents, Athan & Betty Ladis and James & Esther Pantels. ETERNAL REST!”**

**ST. GEORGE PARISHH 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.

**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.

**KNITTING PROJECT** – No meeting on Wednesdays. Continue working on your knitting projects and turn them all in to **Tina Veroulis** or **Rhonda Latkovic** by **April 2nd.** We need **6 more knit caps; 15 scarves and 18 fingerless mitts.**

**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, March 20th.... Holy Confession – 10:00 a.m.

Set up for the funeral of our brother in Christ, George Tcharos – 10:30 a.m.

Viewing for George Tcharos at our church – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Trisagion Service for George Tcharos at our church – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21st.....No Morning Bible Study.

Funeral Service for our beloved brother in Christ, George Tcharos – 10:00 a.m.,

Graveside Service at Desert Memorial Cemetery & Makaria at our parish hall.

Men’s Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (Genesis, Chapters 6-9)

Wednesday, March 22nd..Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 23rd....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, March 24th.....Vespers- 5:30 p.m. / 4th Salutations – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 25th.....ANNUNCIATION

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

Charity Luncheon – 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.**

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)

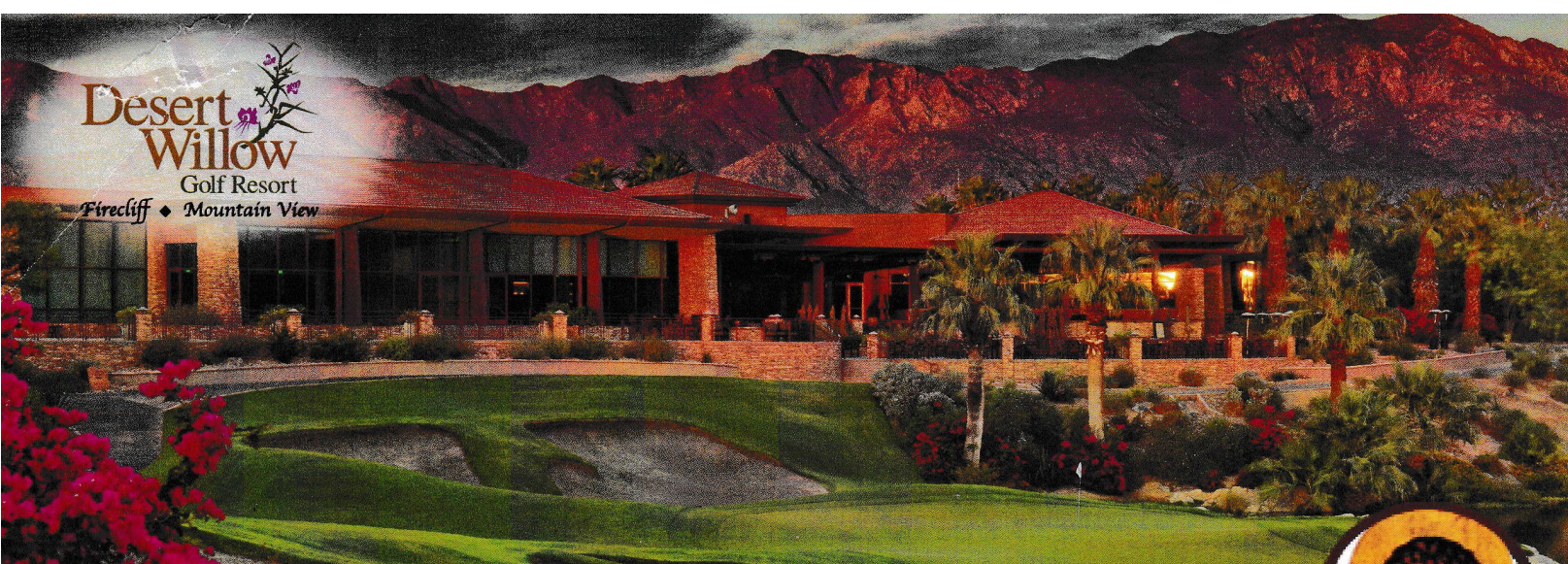
*We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos*



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**