

MARCH 26, 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

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

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.

ORTHODOX SPIRITUAL LIFE

Salvation is a gift from God. Accepting this gift requires from us both "prayer and fasting." (St. Mark 9:29). If we explain the word, "fasting" as the effort to avoid evil, we see that, not only is prayer needed, but the avoidance of evil is needed also. When we do evil deeds, we undo every prayer that we offer. At the same time, we can acquire the ability to avoid evil by trying to fast.

Prayer is communication with Christ our God. It is impossible for evil to exist

together with Christ. Yet, we live in an age of secularism in which there are many temptations pushing people to the evil that we see so much in our world. The Orthodox theologian, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, writes: "The tragedy from a spiritual point of view is that secularism forces us into a real religious "schizophrenia" - dividing our life into two parts: the religious and the secular..." By this, it is understood that, for example, many businesses operate without Christian values, like sacrifici-

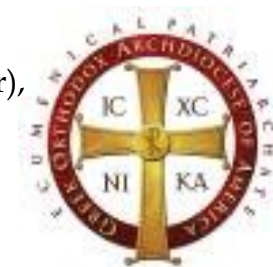
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DEFINITION OF REPENTANCE: BY ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

"Repentance is:

1. the renewal of baptism.
2. the contract with God for a second chance in life.
3. the 'buyer' of humility
4. the constant self-discipline of bodily luxury.
5. the self-acceptance of responsibility for wrongs.
6. the daughter of hope and the weapon against despair.
7. the reconciliation with the Lord by doing His Will contrary to one's errors.
8. the cleansing of one's conscience.
9. the voluntary endurance of consequences.
10. the willingness to give one's self over to spiritual discipline.
11. the controlling force of one's appetite and greed.
12. the sharpening of awareness of motives and passions within the soul."

– "Step 5 of the 30 Steps on the 'Ladder to Heaven,' *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by St. John Climacus (a.k.a., St. John of the Ladder), pg. 98



Η σωτηρια μας ειναι ενα δωρον απο τον Θεον. Για να παραδεχθουμεν αυτο το δωρον απαιτει απο εμας και προσευχη και νηστεια. (Μαρκ. 9:29). Εαν εξηγουμεν την λεξιν <νηστεια> ως την προσπαθειαν να αποφυγουμεν την κακιαν, γνωριζουμεν οτι, οχι μονον χρειαζεται η προσευχη, αλλα και την θελησιν να αποφυγουμεν την κακιαν. Οταν κανουμεν κακες πραξεις ξεκανουμεν την καθε προσευχην την οποιαν προσφερουμεν στον Θεον.

Η προσευχη ειναι επικοινωνια με τον Θεον μας Χριστον. Ειναι αδυνατον να συνυπαρχει η κακια μαζι με τον Χριστον. Ομως, ζουμεν σε εποχη του υλισμου, μεσα στην οποιαν υπαρχουν πολλοι πειρασμοι που σπρωχνουν τον ανθρωπον προς την κακιαν. Ο Ορθοδοξος θεολογος, ο Πατηρ Α. Σμεμανν εγραψε: <Η μεγαλη τραγωδια απο την πνευματικην μας αποψιν ειναι οτι ο υλισμος μας αναγκαζει να ασπαζωμεθα μια πραγματικη θρησκευτικη <σχιτζοφρενιαν> δια της οποιας ζουμεν σε δυο κοσμοι: τον θρησκευτικον κοσμον και τον υλικον κοσμον.> Εννοειται οτι τα περισσοτερα καταστηματα του κοσμου δεν δουλευουν συμφωνα με Χριστιανικες αρετες, ωσαν την θυσιαστικη αγαπην, τον σεβασμον για τον καθεναν, κ.τ.λ.

Συνεχιζει ο Πατηρ Σμεμανν: <[Απο αναγκη, λοιπον, ας δωσουμεν, τουλαχιστον, μεγαλη προσοχη στην σπιτικην μας ζωην.] Συμφωνα με την Ορθοδοξη αποψιν, το σπιτι και η οικογενεια αποτελουν την πρωτιστην και την σπουδαιοτερην περιβαλλον για την Ορθοδοξην πνευματικην μας ζωην – για την εφαρμογην των διδασκαλιων του Χριστιανισμου καθημερινως.> (Η Μεγαλη Τεσσαρακοστη, σελ.100).
+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ficial love for others; respect for the individual, etc.

Fr. Schmemmann goes on to state: "[Out of necessity, let us at least give great attention to the home]. In the Orthodox world view, the home and the family constitute the first and most important area of Christian life, of application of Christian principles to daily existence." (Great Lent, pg. 100).

It is in the home and the family that the power of prayer can easily be seen, whereby forgiveness is experienced; thanksgiving is offered and good deeds have an immediate impact. Prayer with faith and with fasting (i.e., the effort to avoid sin and evil through self-discipline) are key elements of living the Orthodox spiritual way of life.

Calling upon Christ our God through prayer chases away the evil spirits that bring us temptations. The truth of this is made evident from today's Gospel passage. When the father brought his boy, to Jesus, "immediately the spirit convulsed him." At the same time, when we speak about "belief," we do not speak about "philosophical belief." We speak about the combination of: 1) our certainly that God loves us mixed in with 2) our sincere love for God. Prayer with these elements in our souls becomes a great power. It is in this sense that our Lord asked the boy's father if he had faith -- i.e., the certainly that Christ loves him and his boy – and that He is the True God. The father's answer was sincere. While he "believed" in a theoretical manner, he admitted that the element of certainty was lacking. God did not abandon him in this weakness, but He revealed Himself when He healed the boy.

The Cross and the Resurrection from the dead of our Savior are a reality that in itself defeats evil. Our Lord notified His Disciples before hand of this great victory arising from His Crucifixion and Resurrection. This reality is the basis of our spiritual life-style. Accordingly , we crucify our temptations to the Cross by asking our Lord in prayer to help us fight them and we acquire, again through prayer, virtues through which we can be with our Resurrected Lord forever.

This is all made clear when we study the lives and the writings of our Orthodox Christian Saints – among whom is St. John Climacus, whom we commemorate today and who is known for his spiritual advice found in his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. Copies of this book can be ordered through our parish book store.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Mike & Kathy Ligeros, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Nicholas Coussoulis, (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'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 all that is 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: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."

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 Ie 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."

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton [Tone 7]... (O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apos-tles did preach the good news at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, be-stowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.)*

Hymn for St. John of the Ladder: *Tes ton dakrion sou rho-ehs... (With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, 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 for this Sunday: *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 – 6: 13-20 / Gospel – St. Mark 9: 17-31

Today we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, pg. 125 in our Liturgy Books.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life"

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Debbie and Michael Vawter

As we celebrate the Divine Liturgy today, following the consecration of the Holy Gifts, the prayer will include our beloved brother in Christ, **Bob Maverick**, who fell asleep in the Lord last weekend. **Bob (Haralambos) Maverick** is the beloved husband of **Tommie Maverick**. Also, at this point in the Liturgy, we will pray for **Panagiotis Kanellos (6 months)**, the beloved son of **Venetia and Leonidas Panos**. We pray that our Lord grants Eternal Life to **Bob Maverick** and to **Panagiotis Kanellos** and that He grants peace and comfort to Bob Maverick's wife, **Tommie**, and to Panagiotis Kanellos' parents, **Venetia and Leonidas**. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Steve (Efstathios) Michaels (6 months)**, and **Gregory (Grigorios) Michaels (5 years)** the beloved sons of **Eleni Michaels** and the brothers of **Stacey Argyros** and **Michael Michaels**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Steve (Efstathios) and Gregory (Grigorios) Michaels** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Eleni Michaels, Stacey Argyros** and the entire family. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

PHILOPTOCHOS – Thank you to those who volunteered to make koulourakia on Thursday and Friday for our Easter Bake Sale. **Tomorrow, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28, Lula** will be baking Easter bread. She needs volunteers. Please help. **Carol Lyons or Linda Kallis** will be at the Philoptochos table for the next few weeks to sign you up for membership. Please join! Our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. Our next General Members Meeting will be on Monday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. We will have elections for the New Board of Directors at this meeting. Please plan on attending.

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.

KNITTING PROJECT – Knitting projects are all to be turned in on **April 2**. Contact **Tina Veroulis** or **Rhonda Latkovic** for more information.

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.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, March 27th.....No Confession Service
Philoptochos Easter Baking projects – 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 28th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 29....Presanctified Divine Liturgy –6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 30th....Choir Practice –1:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 31st.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.
Akathist Hymn-6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 1st.....Art Exhibit: Nicholas Kontaxis at Los Angeles
No Vespers.

EPITAPHIO FLOWERS & EASTER LILIES – If you would like to donate for the purchase of the Epitaphio flowers and the Easter lilies, please make out your checks to "St. George Greek Orthodox Church" and mark "Easter Flowers" in the memo section. Any contribution toward the Epitaphio flowers and Easter lilies will be a great blessing.

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.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR OUR BROTHER IN THE LORD AND THE SERVANT OF GOD

BOB (HARALAMBOS) MAVERICK

Our Brother in Christ, **Bob Maverick** fell asleep in the Lord last Sunday, March 20th. His funeral services will take place in Chicago, Illinois as follows:

The name and address of the mortuary is: **Pederson-Ryberg Mortuary**
435 North York Road
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

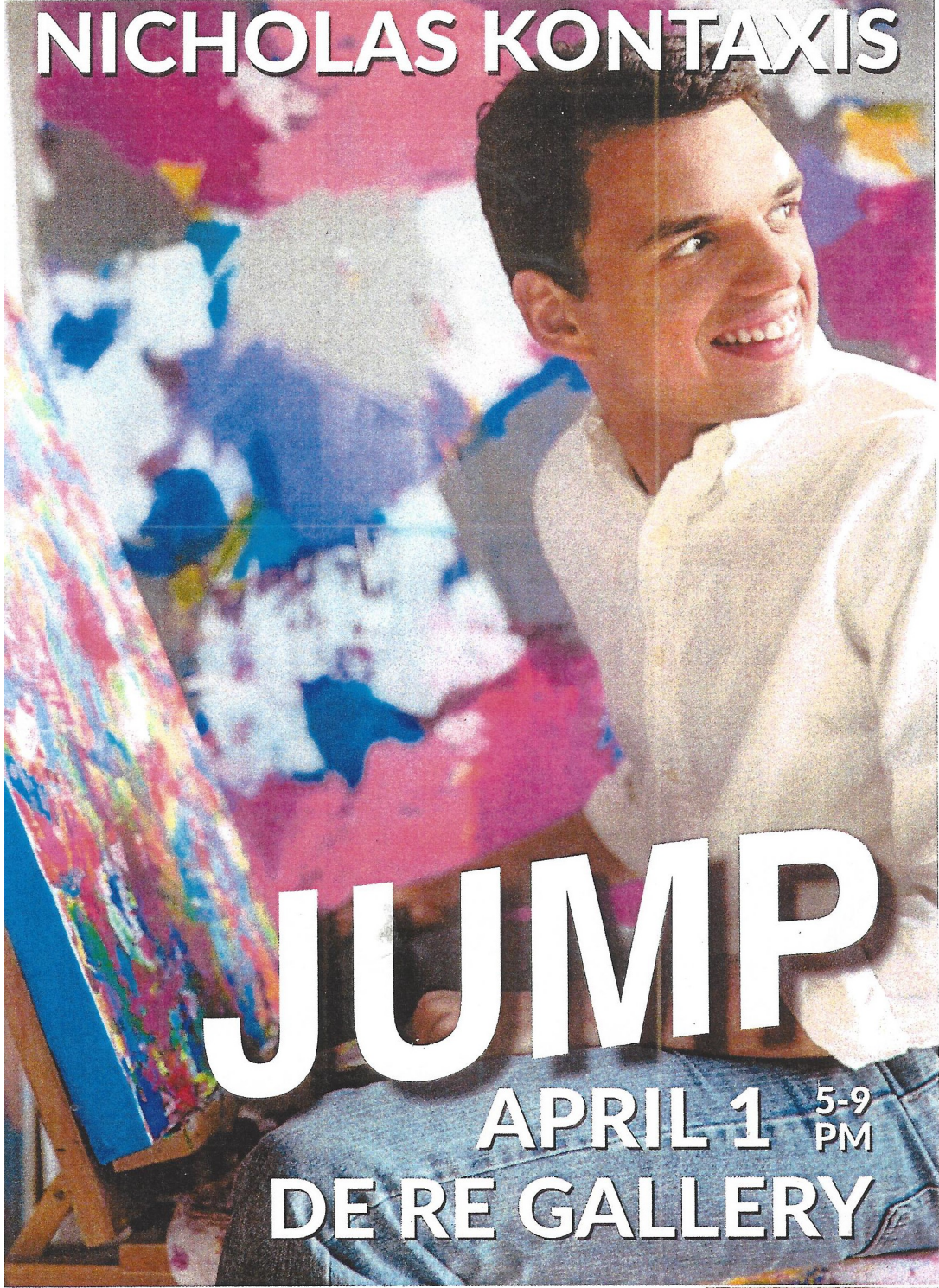
The "wake service" - Trisagion will be: **Friday, March 31, 2017**

The funeral service will be: **Saturday, April 1, 2017**

We ask Christ our God and Savior to grant Eternal Rest to His servant, **Bob Maverick**, and to grant peace and comfort to his wife, **Tommie Maverick**, and to all of the members of his family.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS



JUMP

APRIL 1 5-9 PM

DE RE GALLERY



ITS MY TURN
16x20 - Heavy Body Acrylic

8373 melrose los angeles. ca. 310.205.7959

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)

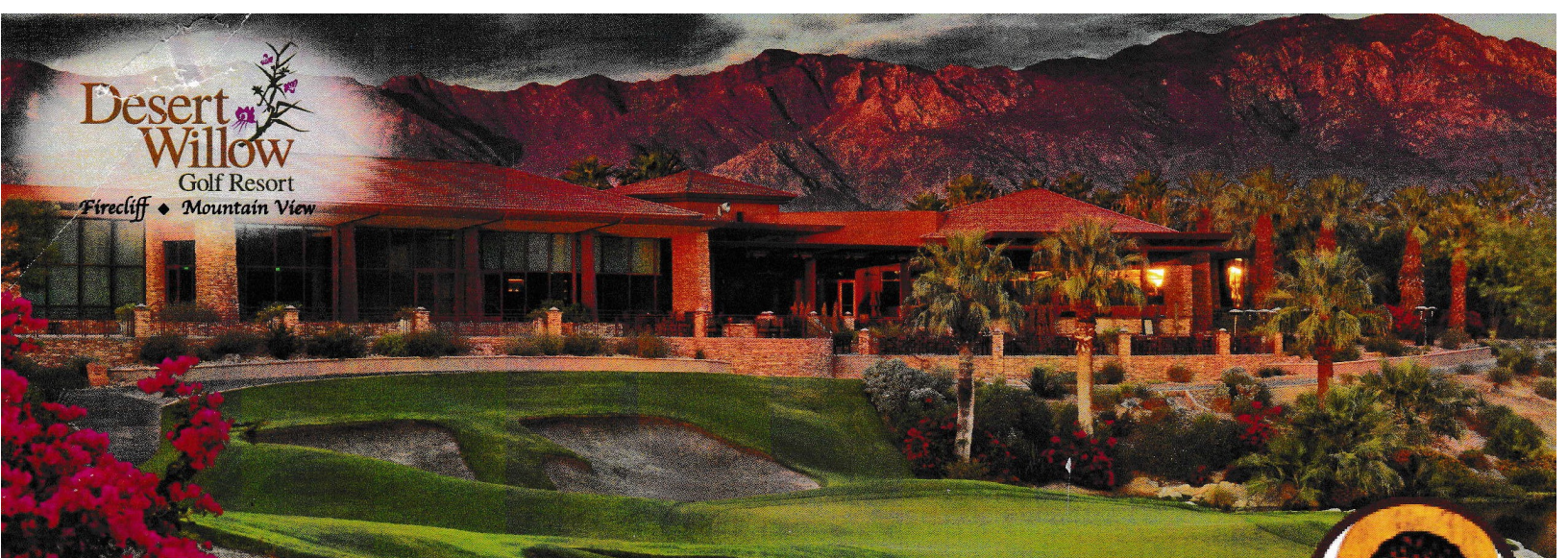
We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



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 15th**

Register Online: 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