

NOVEMBER 5, 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

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.

SPIRITUAL WATCHFULNESS

"Between us and you there is a great chasm fixed..." (St. Luke 16:26), said Patriarch Abraham to the rich man, according to the Parable of Christ, which we heard during the reading of today's passage from St. Luke's Gospel. This chasm is described by a motto that says that oil does not mix with water. Ever. What is good does not go with that which is evil. The virtues of the poor man Lazarus do not co-exist with the sins of the rich man. This is the essence of the chasm.

In the soul of the rich man there existed

greed, gluttony, pride. In the soul of Lazarus there existed patience, forbearance, humility. The rich man went through life hearing praises from everyone. Lazarus went through life hearing epithets of condemnation from everyone. Most importantly, according to St. John Chrysostom, we find the definitions of the words "wealthy" and "poor." He says that a wealthy man is not the one who rolls around in many material things, but the one who does not

Continued on page 2

ST. NECTARIOS OF AIGINA - HIS FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 9th

Not many people know the life of one of the more "modern" Saints of our Orthodox Church, whose **Feast Day is November 9th** every year (Thursday this week). Provided here is a thumb-nail sketch of his life for the glory of Christ our True God... He was born in Silivria, Greece (Thrace) in 1846. At a young age he studied for the Holy Priesthood and was tonsured as a monk. After accepting an assignment in Egypt, Patriarch Sophronios eventually ordained him first to the priesthood and then to the office of bishop. St. Nectarios was appointed to serve the district of Pentapolis. However, out of jealousy, other clergy spoke slanderous falsehoods to the Patriarch, who subsequently - and unjustly - exiled Nectarios from Egypt. However, as a man of great faith, he was never bitter about this.

Wandering throughout Greece without any financial means, St. Nectarios eventually took a post as dean of the Rizarios School in Athens, which trained priests. During this time, he wrote many books in teaching the Orthodox Faith. He also became a vivid example of prayer, faith and hope in Christ. In old age, he established a women's monastery in Aigina. Since his death at the age of 74 in 1920, many miracles have been attributed to his intercessory prayers and he is one of the Church's miracle-workers. He is the patron Saint cancer patients.



<Μεταξύ ημών και υμών μεγάλα χάσμα εστηρικται...> (Λκ. 16:26), είπε ο Πατριάρχης Αβραάμ προς τον πλούσιον, σύμφωνα με την παραβολήν του Χριστού την οποίαν ακουσαμεν κατά το άναγνωσμα του κατά Λουκάν Ευαγγελίου. Το χάσμα αυτό περιγράφεται με το ρήτον που λέγει ότι το λάδι δεν αναμιγνύει με το νερό. Έτσι και το καλό δεν σχετίζεται με το κακό. Οι αρετές του πτωχού Λαζάρου δεν συνυπάρχουν με τις αμαρτίες του πλούσιου. Αυτό είναι η ουσία του χάσματος.

Μεσα στην ψυχήν του πλούσιου υπήρχαν η πλεονεξία, η λαιμαργία, ο εγωισμός. Στην ψυχήν του Λαζάρου υπήρχαν η υπομονή, η επιμονή, η ταπεινοσύνη. Ο πλούσιος έπερασε την ζωήν του με επαινούς από όλους – ο πτωχός Λαζάρος, με κατηγορίες από όλους. Κυρίως, με τα λόγια του Αγ. Ιωάννου τον Χρυσόστομου, εύρισκομεν τους ορισμούς των λέξεων <πλούσιος> και <πτωχός>. Λέγει ότι ο πλούσιος δεν είναι εκείνος που τριγυρίζεται από τα πολλά, αλλά αυτός που δεν έχει ανάγκη τα πολλά. Ο πτωχός δεν είναι εκείνος που δεν έχει τίποτα, αλλά εκείνος που κυνήγα τα πολλά.

Ας προσεξομεν τις κινήσεις των ψυχών μας, διότι από τις ψυχικές κινήσεις βλάσανουν οι επιθυμίες και οι επιθυμίες γίνονται πράξεις οι οποίες μας οδηγούν ή προς την αιώνιον Βασιλείαν του Θεού, ή προς την κόλασην. Όπως είναι ένα νυκτερινό όνειρο μπροστα σε εκατό χρόνια, αυτό είναι ή εδώ, παρουσία ζωή απεναντι στην μέλλουσαν ζωήν. Όσο είναι μια μικρή σταγόνα μπροστα στο άπειρο πέλαγος, τόσο είναι τα χιλιά χρόνια μπροστα στην αιώνιον ζωήν.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

need many things. The poor man is not the one who has nothing, but the one who wants a lot of things.

We need to be careful with the notions and thoughts that come to our souls, because from such notions, our desires come into full bloom—and from our desires, deeds follow, which ultimately lead us either to the Eternal Kingdom of God, or to the place of Hell for eternity. As is a drop of water to the vastness of the ocean, so are a thousand years of our lives on earth compared to Eternal Life.

With this in mind, the Holy Tradition of Orthodox spiritual life is one of constant watchfulness, calling to mind the prayer of the Divine Liturgy for us to “*have a good defense at the awesome Judgment Seat of Christ.*” We are thus prompted to remember God at all times, with a view of being prepared to give an account to our Lord at any time. Our efforts to always remember God are efforts of watchfulness over our inner thoughts, motives, and desires and it is key to living a life of virtue. St. Hesychios of Jerusalem writes, “[*One way to be watchful is always to have the thought of death in one's mind. [Such] watchfulness, my child, acts like doorkeepers and bars entry to evil thoughts;...to fix one's gaze on heaven and to pay no attention to anything material.*” (Philokalia, pg. 282).

We can also achieve watchfulness over our inner thoughts and desires by seriously listening to the “voice” of our conscience. St. John Chrysostom, in his treatise, *On Wealth and Poverty*, explains that our conscience is the voice of our souls planted within us as a gift from God. It is a “voice” that calls us to repentance by confessing our wrongs and correcting them in this present life. Thus, we avoid eternal judgment in the next life. (*On Wealth and Poverty*, pgs. 88-90).

From the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus we note that the condition of the rich man's soul when he left this life remained the same in the next life where he was in torment. Note how the rich man failed to apologize to Lazarus when asking Abraham to send him to cool off his (the rich man's) tongue. Failure to seek forgiveness for sins in this present life follows us into the next life forever. The rich man's request to have “someone from the dead” warn his brothers (a seemingly “out of character” request for him), was an occasion for our Lord to remind us that the Scriptures have even more authority than any testimony from one risen from the dead. In point of fact, even upon thinking that St. John the Baptist had risen from the dead, Herod still failed to repent of his sins. (St. Mark 6: 14-16).

Let us cleave to the teachings of Scripture as imparted to us by our Church and measure our thoughts and motives accordingly.
+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Jean Chronis-Kuhn, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris (*Many faithful on the 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 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."*

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 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: *"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. Amin

People: *"O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)*

ANTIPHON III- *This is the day the Lord made. Let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn – Ton 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. George – Os ton echmaloton eleftherotis... *(Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday– Prostasia ton Christianon...*(A Protection of Christians unshamable; mediation with the Creator immovable. We sinners beg You: do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since You are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to You with faith: Hurry to intercession; and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos, Who defends at all times those who honor You.)*

READINGS: Epistle – Galatians 6: 11-18 / Gospel – St. Luke 16: 19-31

Axion Estin

Communion Hymn – Enite ton Kyrion...*(Praise the Lord...)* page 64 in the Divine Liturgy books.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Argyroula Krespis (40 days)**, the beloved mother of our Parish President, **Nicholas Krespis**. We pray for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of **Argyroula Krespis** and that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will grant peace and comfort to **Nicholas Krespis** and his entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our Board Meeting will be tomorrow Monday, November 6 at 11:00 a.m. We will meet on the patio. We will be passing a Philoptochos tray next Sunday, November 12 for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A donation will be much appreciated. **SAVE THE DATE.** Our General Meeting will be on Monday, November 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Our guest speaker will be the **Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeanie Ranglas.** Don't forget to make your reservation for the AHEPA Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 19 at the Towne Center Café. See Tina or Linda to make both these reservations.

COFFEE HOUR FORMAT FOR NOVEMBER - Due to the renovations in our parish hall, we ask everyone, upon receiving the *antidoron*, (**after the final prayers of the Liturgy**) to exit the church through the main church doors and go around outside behind the classrooms (as we do during the procession with the Epitaphio every year). Coffee Hour will take place on the patio area outside the parish hall.

AHEPA – AHEPA Meeting with **no host dinner** will take place this **Wednesday, November 8th, at the Old Spaghetti Factory (6:30 p.m.)**, celebrating **Tom Evans' 101st birthday.** Please see the new flier for the AHEPA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON indicating the necessary changes in lieu of the parish hall re-flooring project.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE ORDER FORMS AND 2017 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD FORMS – Now available in our parish hall.

HELP MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A SUCCESS – Along with volunteering time and talent, if everyone can give some financial contribution toward **underwriting the costs of the 2018 Festival**, a lot can be accomplished.

THE NOVEMBER 2017 *Voice of St. George* NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISH HALL

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, November 6th..... Philoptochos Board Meeting - 11:00 a.m. at the patio
Festival Meeting - 7:00 at Towne Center Café

Tuesday, November 7th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. in the church

Wednesday, November 8th...ARCHANGELS MICHAEL & GABRIEL
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Men's Bible Study- 2:00 p.m. in the church

Thursday, November 9th.....Fr. Ted will participate in the Divine Liturgy (9:00 a.m.) in honor of ST. NECTARIOS at the St. Nectarios parish in Covina, California.
Parish Council -2:30 p.m. at the church patio

Saturday, November 11th.... Vespers- 5:00 p.m.

The Ladder for November 2017

is sponsored by:

the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society

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, November 17th @ 12 PM - 2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

R.S.V.P.: By November 12th to Rhonda Latkovic

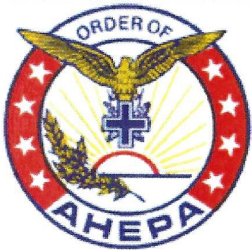
We will have a Thanksgiving Theme for our luncheon and coloring session! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us! Our December session will be held on Friday, Dec. 15th & we will be decorating sugar cookies for our Holiday shut-in baskets.

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
LUNCH

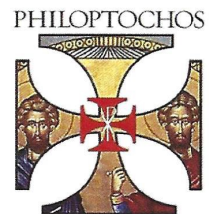
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 19th



Town Center Cafe

44491 Town Center Way
Palm Desert, CA



\$25.00

Children \$10.00 *under 12*

Tickets can be purchased from Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

**All proceeds go to Fr. Theophilos Theophilos
Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

Donations accepted at www.ahepa528.org or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

contact@ahpepa528.org

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online

Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 12, 2017

Thank You for your Continued Support!

Christmas Bread-Vasilopita Koulourakia



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Christmas bread, Vasilopita and Koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than **November 27, 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, Pat Dalkas or Tina Veroulis in the office. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501 or Pat at 760-574-1531

PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, December 10, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

Sunday, December 17, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

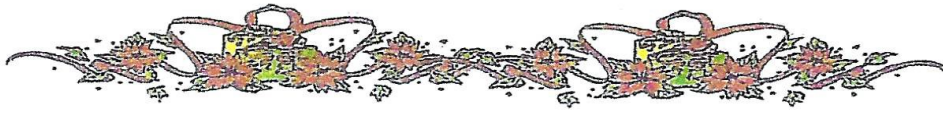
We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



NAME _____

PHONE _____

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



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Deadline: December 1, 2017



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

