

NOVEMBER 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

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.

CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

"In peace, let us pray to the Lord...For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls...For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the Holy Churches of God and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord." These are among the opening words of the Divine Liturgy. One of the most beloved pursuits of people today is *peace*. As Rodney King once said, *"Can't we all just get along?"* However, that for which people pine becomes reality only with the grace of God, Who created His Holy Apostolic Church. The

life of the Church of God is described in today's passage from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians: *"I ask you...walk worthily according to your calling with all humility and gentleness, with patience, forbearing one another."* (Ephesians 4: 1-2).

Indeed, the Saints and theologians of the Church describe "the world" of the Church as one world "of unity in diversity." God gave each person *"grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."* (Ephesians 4: 17).
Continued on page 2

HOW TO LIVE WITH YOURSELF AFTER MAKING BLUNDERS

We all fall into sin, because we are not perfect people. This said, **how did the Saints deal with their sins and mistakes?** In the book entitled, *Unseen Warfare*, by Lorenzo Sculpoli, Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain, and Theophan the Recluse, we read the following advice: *"Every time you fall into some transgression, even if it happens a thousand times a day, as soon as you notice it, do not torture yourself and so waste your time without benefit, but at once humble yourself and, being conscious of your weakness, turn to God with hope and call to God from the depths of your heart, saying, 'O Lord my God! I have done this because I am what I am. If Your grace does not help me and I am left to myself alone, nothing more can obviously be expected from my own powers...Forgive me and give me strength not to offend You again and in no way to digress from Your Will...'* **Having done this, do not torment yourself with thoughts of whether God has forgiven you.** The Lord is near and listens to the sighings of His servants. *Calm yourself in this certainty; and, having regained your calm, continue your usual occupations as though nothing happened [yet dealing with the consequences of your sin with love for God]...Another way of protecting your inner peace when you succumb to trespasses is to combine the inner action of realizing your weaknesses and humility before God with the warm remembrances of God's mercy, which God shows to you personally...Then thank and glorify the Lord from the depths of your soul."* (pgs. 279-280). Added is that God's mercy is undoubtedly regained by the Prayer of Forgiveness from Confession.



Ενα απο τα πιο αγαπημενα ιδεωδη του σημερινου κοσμου ειναι η παγκοσμια ενοτης. Οπως ειπε μια φορα ο Rodney King, <Δεν μπορουμεν ολοι να συζουμεν ειρηνικα;> Αυτο που ποθει ο ανθρωπος αληθευεται συμφωνα με την χαριν του Θεου, ο Οποιος εδημιουρησε την Αγιαν Αποστολικην Εκκλησιαν Του. Η ζωη της Εκκλησιας του Θεου περιγραφεται στην σημερινην περικοπην απο την Επιστολην του Απ. Παυλου προς τους Εφεσιους: <Παρακαλω υμας ...αξιος περιπατησαι της κλησεως ης εκληθητε μετα πασης ταπεινοφροσυνης και πραυτητος, μετα μακροθυμιας, ανεχομενοι αλληλων εν αγαπη...> (Εφ. 4: 1-2).

Μαλιστα, οι θεολογοι και οι αγιοι της Εκκλησιας περιγραφουν <τον κοσμον> της Εκκλησιας ως εναν κοσμον <ενοτητας μεσα στην πολυμορφιαν.> Ο Θεος εδωσε στον καθεναν <χαριν κατα το μετρον της δωρεας του Χριστου.> (Εφ. 4: 17). Δηλαδη, ο καθενας εχει προσωπικα χαρισματα απο τον Θεον, τα οποια χαρισματα εχουν σκοπον να ειναι <κομματια> των ηνωμενων ικανοτητων των ολων. Η Εκκλησια ειναι αντανακλασις του κοσμου οπως το θελει ο Θεος—καθενας με τα χαρισματα του και ολοι ηνωμενοι στην αγαπην του Θεου. Κατα αυτην την εννοιαν, η Εκκλησια ειναι το Σωμα του Χριστου.

Για να αληθευεται ο Θειος σκοπος της Εκκλησιας, εχουμεν αναγκη να εφαρμουςουμεν τις Χριστιανικες αρετες – ταπεινοφροσυνη, αγαθοσυνη, μακροθυμια. Δια των αρετων πραγματοποιειται η ειρηνη του κοσμου, συμφωνα με <τα ειρηνικα,> οπως ακουμεν κατα την τελετην της Θ. Λειτουργιας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The Church is a reflection of the world existing according to the Will of God – each person living with their individual God-given talents, with everyone united in the love of God. In this sense, the Church is the Body of Christ, giving spiritual and material wealth to those in need, as Jesus instructed the ruler in today’s Gospel passage. The question that the ruler in today’s Gospel posed to our Savior had the purpose of verifying for his own interests that, by keeping the Commandments, he would inherit Eternal Life. In His response, Jesus tells us that following the Commandments does not save us if we are interested in our own salvation alone and not in that of others, as well. By uniting ourselves to Christ, we are then, not selfishly *observing* the Law, but we are *living* the Law and making it a verb for inspiring others to know God. This is the basis of *sacrificial love*. Hence, by asking the ruler to distribute his wealth to the poor, our Lord is telling him to practice what God does -- giving mercy and blessings to everyone who seeks Him.

In Christ-centered love, we find peace in ourselves and among others – and remind one and all of St. Seraphim’s axiom: “*Acquire a peaceful spirit and thousands around you will be saved.*” Therefore, peace for the sake of peace does not help our neighbor to know God’s love. The purpose of peace is to know God. By practicing Christian virtues to the best of our ability, we distribute many kinds of wealth to those in need -- not only money, but also compassion, understanding, good advice, and prayer—each person according to his or her special gift. These gifts add up to the one united ministry in Christ as His One Holy Church, which is why the petition for peace immediately follows the opening exclamation of the Divine Liturgy: “*Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*” This Kingdom is characterized by Godly peace, which, for us, comes from “above.”

We give our efforts, while God supplies the rest - and all things are possible with God. The opening petitions of the Divine Liturgy indicate that we pray for *peace from above* so that we can *have salvation for our souls*, and that *in the peace of the whole world and the stability of the Holy Churches of God*, we may have *union with all*. While Such peace is actually given to us through the mercy and love of God, personified by God-in-the-Flesh, our Lord, Jesus Christ, it is also personified by each of us as followers of our Lord and Savior. Nicholas Cabasilas writes, “*There is moderation which is acquired by our own efforts, and there is that which is given to the soul by God.*” (*Commentary on the Divine Liturgy*, pg. 46). In sum, our life is a partnership with God in all of our “ups and downs.”

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards (*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 – *Ex ipsous katilthes [Tone 8]...(From on high You descended O Merciful Savior, You endured the grave for three days, that You might free us from sufferings. Glory to you Lord, our Life and our 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– *Ee Parthenos simeron...(On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.)*

READINGS: *Epistle—Ephesians 4: 1-7 / Gospel—St. Luke 18: 18-27*

Axion Estin

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

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 28th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 29th...Men's Bible Study -2:00 p.m. (Ephesians 5:8-19)

Thursday, November 30th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2nd.....No Vespers

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

Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour Hostess: Becky Allen

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Constantine (Taki) Tavlarides (40 days)** and **Presvytera Catherine Tavlarides**, the beloved son and Presvytera of **Fr. James Tavlarides**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Constantine Tavlarides** and **Presvytera Catherine Tavlarides** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Fr. James Tavlarides** and his entire family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our **Annual Christmas Luncheon** will be on **Saturday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m.** Make your reservation today with **Rhonda Latkovic** or **Tina Veroulis**. Invite your family and friends. We will have a great lunch, special music and great indoor prizes. Our December Board Meeting will be on Monday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m. Check the bulletin board for the baking schedule for our Christmas Bake Sale. See **Lula Valissarakos** for details. Also, we need **Coffee Hour Sponsors and hosts** for December 17th; 24th and 31st. See **Pat Dalkas** to volunteer.

HELP MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A FINANCIAL SUCCESS – Along with time and talent, any financial contribution toward **underwriting the costs of the 2018 Festival** is a blessing. Please see the “2018 Festival Needs List,” posted in our parish hall. **Our next Festival Meeting: Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY -Next Sunday, December 3rd! A special presentation will be offered following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS – 2018 Parish Council Candidacy Forms are now available in our parish office (or from Fr. Ted). Deadline : Monday, December 11, 2017. To be considered for candidacy to serve as a Parish Council member, one must be baptized and chrismated as an Orthodox Christian and, if married, his or her marriage must have been performed according to the **Rites of our Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese**. In addition, one must be a responsible Stewardship member of St. George parish for at least one year prior to applying for candidacy. Candidates are also required to meet with **Fr. Ted** prior to the Parish Council Elections. Elections will be held on **Sunday, December 17th.**

FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY- St. George Fall General Assembly is **Sunday, December 10, 2017** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. To participate, Stewardship Commitments are to be up to date.

STREET LIFE PROJECT - Many thanks and blessings to all who helped feed the homeless for Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 21st. **George Argyros** prepared a delicious Thanksgiving meal for hundreds of homeless in our community with the support of our **St. George Philoptochos** (and the generosity of an anonymous donor). In partnership with the local Street Life Project, the following parishioners helped serve the meals to the homeless in Indio: **Pam & Larry Zaverdas, Mary Zachariadou, Tina & Angelo Veroulis, Lula Valissarakos, Tasia Richards, Alice Pulos, Julie Makrianis, Nadia Hector, Jeffery (Demetrios) Curreri, Rhonda Latkovic, Fr. Ted & Presvytera Petula.**

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD FORMS – *Available in the parish hall.* The deadline is December 1,

READERS NEEDED –We need faithful servants of God to volunteer for reading the Sunday Epistle passages. Please contact **Jim Christopoulos** to sign up and be included in the schedule of Sunday Readers.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

(See page 3 of today's Ladder)

*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.

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)

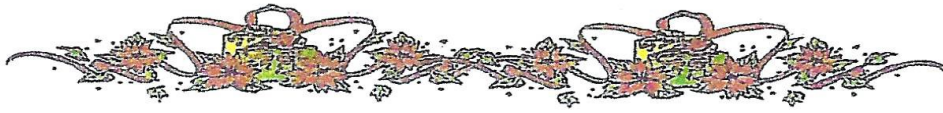
We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



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



*Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 9, 2017*

11:30 a.m.

At

*Desert Horizons Country Club
44900 Desert Horizons Country Club
Indian Wells, CA 92210
760-340-4646*

*R.S.V.P. by December 3, 2017 to
Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Kallis, Tina Veroulis
Make your check out to Philoptochos*

Family and Friends are invited

Pre-fixe Menu, no substitutions \$35.00 per person

Choice of:

- 1. Salmon with creamy polenta, sherried mushrooms and vegetables*
 - 2. Petite Filet with chutney sauce, garlic mashed potatoes and vegetables*
 - 3. Medallions of Chicken with kale risotto and vegetables*
- Salad, soft drinks and dessert are included*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____