

OCTOBER 8, 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



## 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.

## OUR ETERNAL LIFE WITH CHRIST

Today's Gospel passage gives us the opportunity to speak about the Funeral Service of our Orthodox Christian Church and the related Memorial Service.

The circumstance that is related in today's Gospel passage describes one of three occasions in which Christ raised people from the dead. The prophecy of Ezekiel states: "[God said] render a prophecy upon these bones...Dry bones listen to the word of the Lord, for thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Behold, I want you to

put a spirit upon yourselves and to live...'" Christ, being perfect Man and perfect God fulfills this prophecy and makes known to all of humanity that He is the True God of the living and the departed.

With this in mind, the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians is read at the Orthodox Funeral Service: "For, we believe that Jesus died and resurrected from the dead and, in this, God will bring with Him those  
*Continued on page 2*

## OUR THOUGHTS DETERMINE OUR LIVES, by Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

This new book is now available in our parish book store. The central theme of Elder Thaddeus' teaching is: "We must bear everything patiently and forgive all. If we have good thoughts and desires, these thoughts will give us peace and joy in this life and even more so in eternity." Elder Thaddeus is a native of Serbia. At the same time, he is a prominent spiritual guide for all of us everywhere throughout the world today. He was born in 1914 (saw two World Wars and the Communist takeover) and he reposed in 2002.

"In our minds we conceive everything we do, say and plan. Without this, we cannot do or say anything. Everything first receives its shape and form in the mind; all of our energy is first made manifest in our thoughts. Thoughts are the power that conceives everything in the center of our being (the heart), and, when we are united with the Source of Life, everything is revealed to us and we are open to all kinds of knowledge...We may long after God in our hearts, but oppose Him in our thoughts. Our opposition cannot harm God, for He is Almighty, but it can certainly harm us. Our thoughts, moods and desires set the path for our life." (pgs. 69 & 71).

+FR. THEODORE



Η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή μας δίνει την ευκαιρία να ομιλήσουμε για την Νεκρωσιμη Ακολουθία της Εκκλησίας και για το Μνημοσυνο το οποίο τελείται κατά την διάρκεια του ετους, ιδιαίτερος κατά τις ημέρες των Ψυχοσαββάτων.

Το περιστατικό το οποίο διηγείται κατά το αναγνώσμα του Ευαγγελίου σήμερα περιγράφει μια από τρεις περιπτώσεις κατά τις οποίες ανέστησε ο Χριστός νεκρούς. Η προφητεία του Ιεζεκιήλ λέγει: <[Είπεν ο Θεός] προφητεύσον επί τα οστα ταυτα...τα οστα τα ξηρα, ακουσατε τον λογον του Κυριου, ουτω λεγει Κυριος ο Θεος προς τα οστα ταυτα: Ιδου εγω θελω εμβαλει εις εσας πνευμα και θελετε αναζησει...> (Ιεζ. 37: 4-5). Ο Θεάνθρωπος Χριστός συμπληρώνει αυτήν την προφητείαν και γνωστοποιεί ολην την ανθρωπότητα ότι Αυτός είναι ο Αληθινός Θεός των ζωντων. Για αυτό αναγινώσκει και η 1η Επιστολή του Απ. Παύλου Προς Θεσσαλονικείς κατά την τελετή της Κηδείας: <Και γαρ πιστευομεν οτι Ιησους απεθανε και ανεστη, ουτω και ο Θεος τους κοιμηθεντας δια του Ιησου αξει συν αυτω.> (1 Θεσσ. 4: 14). Η Νεκρωσιμη Ακολουθία αποτελείται από δυο στοιχεία: 1) προσευχή με πίστη οτι ο Χριστός θα χαρίσει ζων αιωνιον στον κοιμημενον αδελφον μας εν Χριστω, και, 2) υπενθυμισεις οτι αναγκη εχουμεν να προετοιμασομεν τις ψυχες για να <αργησομεθα συν αυτοις εν νεφελαις εις απαντησιν του Κυριου εις αερα, και ουτω παντοτε συν Κυριω εσομεθα.> (1 Θεσσ. 4: 17). Προσευχωμεθα υπερ αναπαυσεως των ψυχων αυτων και υπερ ελεους του Θεου για εμας.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

*who sleep in Jesus.*" (1 Thessalonians 4:14). The Funeral Service consists of two main elements: 1) prayers offered *with faith* that Christ will grant Eternal Life to our beloved, and, 2) reminders that we are in need of preparing our souls to *"be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and, thus, we shall always be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Today's passage from St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians helps to understand the Gospel passage that is read during the Orthodox Funeral Service. St. Paul exhorts us to *have faith in God* and *do good works* on the basis of our faith. The Gospel passage for the Funeral Service (St. John 5: 24-30) reminds us that whether or not we are "caught up in the clouds" with our loved ones and with Christ to live forever depends on how we live our lives in the here and now. To quote the theologians of the *Orthodox Study Bible (New Testament Version)*, "*The hour [to which Jesus refers in the Funeral Gospel passage] is already present and 'now is' (John 5:25) in that an encounter with Christ results in life or judgment as a present reality, depending upon one's response.* (pg. 225) - *having faith and doing good works.*

Together with the raising of the widow's son, which we heard from the Gospel reading today, there is the occasion of our Savior raising the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue, Jairus (St. Luke 8:54) and the raising of Lazarus (St. John 11: 43-44). With this, we know that *Christ has made us partakers in His Resurrection from the dead.* The raising of the widow's son, Jairus' daughter and Lazarus indicate that, as much as Christ's Resurrection from the dead shows that He is God, His Resurrection is *shared in the flesh* with His people *with our identity as individual persons* – a personhood that *begins* at the moment of *conception* and continues through birth into this world and on to life in the Kingdom.

The Orthodox Funeral Service proclaims this reality. We pray *by name* for the salvation of our loved ones. The anointing of the body with oil and earth at the Funeral Service testifies to the fact that we belong to God. The oil reminds us that our Lord washes us from sin through the Church's prayers in light of Christ's Resurrection. The anointing with earth reminds us that, though we are individuals, we are members of the entire human race, created by God from the dust of the earth. Thus, we proclaim that the same God Who *created* us, also *saves* us. The body is anointed, because, as the "house" of the soul in this life, it is the "temple" in which God has dwelled. This is revealed through the Saints' holy relics, showing that the energies of God work through our bodies somewhat proportional to the purity of our souls.

+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, Chris Laskaris, Taki Tavlarides (Fr. James Tavlarides' son) (*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, 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."*

**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."*

**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—** *Tou lithou sfraghisthendos [Tone 1]...(The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding watch o'er Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose. And unto all the world did you give life whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that you are the Giver of Life. Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; glory unto Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.)*

**Hymn for St. Pelagia—** *En Si Miter akriovhs....(In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Pelagia, your spirit rejoices with the angels.)*

**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—2 Corinthians 9:6-11 / Gospel—St. Luke 7: 11-17*

**Axion Estin.**

**Communion Hymn—** *Enite ton Kyrion. See page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Hour Sponsor: Mary and John Tatomir in memory of their beloved son,  
Alan Michael Tatomir.**

**MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Our General Meeting will be **tomorrow, Monday, October 9, at 11:30 a.m.** There will be a brunch for a donation of \$5.00. We need a Coffee Hour Sponsor for Sunday, October 29th and for the Sundays in November. See **Athena Snarskis** or **Linda Petalas**.

**AHEPA MEETING** – **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 6 p.m. at Stuff Pizza (patio area) in the Westfield Mall.** It is “no-host.” Also, see the AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon flier posted in our parish hall.

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** – **Today**, we will commence with our annual St. Georges' Annual Baby Bottles Campaign. The campaign will end **next Sunday, October 15th**. Baby Bottles with instructions will be on the tables in the parish hall. Donations will be sent to **Birth Choice of the Desert** in La Quinta, CA. Their theme is "*Birth Choice of the Desert Wants to Save God's Babies!*" **WILL YOU HELP?** Checks are to be made payable to: “Birth Choice of the Desert.”

**PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE ORDER FORMS** – **Now** available in our parish hall at the coffer bar.

**THE VOICE OF ST. GEORGE**- Copies of the October 2017 parish newsletter, *The Voice of St. George* are available in our parish hall. Take a copy for yourself and a friend.

**HELP MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A SUCCESS** – We always are in need of volunteers. In addition, everyone can help by underwriting costs related to the Festival. For example, if everyone gives \$100 toward the Festival, the Festival gains \$10,000 to apply for covering the costs. If everyone were to give \$250 toward the Festival, the Festival gains \$25,000 to apply for covering the costs. Our goal is to raise more than \$25,000! So, let each of us feel free to offer a donation according to one's ability toward our Festival in order to exceed, if possible, this goal of \$25,000!

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 9th.....Philoptochos General Members' Meeting – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 10th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 11th...Men's Bible Study – (St. Luke 8: 5-15 and Titus 3: 8-15)  
AHEPA Meeting at Stuff Pizza, Westfield Mall – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14th.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

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, OCTOBER 20th @ noon-2pm**

**Where: St. George Church Hall**

**RSVP: By OCTOBER 15th to Rhonda Latkovic**

**We will have a Fall Theme for our luncheon & 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!**





**SUNDAY, 12:00 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 19th**



**ST. GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX  
CHURCH Hall**



**74-109 LARREA PALM DESERT, CA**

**ADULTS: \$15**

Children under 12 are free

**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](http://www.ahepa528.org) or mailed to:**

**AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund**

**PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735**

**[contact@ahempa528.org](mailto:contact@ahempa528.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	\$ _____