

OCTOBER 29, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA.92261
Tel: (760) 568-9901
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– 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.

ENERGIZED THROUGH CHRIST

"I am crucified with Christ; I live; yet, it is not I who lives, but Christ lives in me." With these words, St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Galatians, emphasized that, in that we would live for the purpose of simply following the law, first, we would find that we do not follow it properly (in which case we will never be perfect people) and, second, our ego becomes a big issue in everything around us. The more our egos work in us, so much the less do we allow Christ to guide us.

As Christ lives in us, we find that we perform deeds of love – deeds which do not transgress any law. This is why St. Paul would never boast about being a "man of the law", but he would boast about being a man of Christ. When he wrote, "Christ lives in me," he meant that all of his thoughts; all of his hopes; all of his motives had their beginning in his love for Christ. In reality, we are speaking about the spiritual life of each Christian.

Continued on page 2

THE TWO EVENTS RELATED IN TODAY'S GOSPEL PASSAGE

Opening our *Orthodox Study Bibles*, we learn much about the significance of the healing of the ailing woman and the raising from the dead of Jairus' daughter:

"For the Jews, contact with blood caused defilement and led to religious and social isolation. The woman displays bold faith by approaching both Christ and the ruler of the synagogue in a crowd, potentially defiling all of them and subjecting herself to ridicule. Who touched Me?" does not simply mean a physical touch, but rather, 'Who touched Me in faith?' Just as 'the temple sanctifies the gold (Mt. 23:17), so also matter is sanctified by Christ's Incarnation and the power of Christ works through even His garment. To touch Christ's garment in faith is to touch Him. In the Church, we touch Christ through icons, oil, water, bread, wine, etc. When this is done in faith, the power of Christ is received." (pg. 1381)

"[The raising from the dead of Jairus' daughter] is one of three resurrections performed by our Lord as recorded in the Gospels. They confirm the promise given to the Prophet Ezekiel that God will one day open the graves and raise all the dead (Ezk.37:1-14). Many people have exercised authority over the living; only the Son of God 'has power over both the living and the dead' (funeral Service)..." (pg. 1377)



<Χριστώ συνεσταυρωμαι—ζω δε ουκειτι εγω,ζη δε εν εμοι Χριστος.> Με αυτα τα λογια, ο Αποστολος Παυλος ετονισε στηνΕπιστολην του προς τους Γαλατας οτι, οσο ζουμεν μονον με σκοπον να τηρησουμεν τους νομους, πρωτον, δεν τους τηρουμεν οπως πρεπει (οποτε δεν ειμεθα ποτε <τελειοι> ανθρωποι), και, δευτερον, ο εγωισμος μας γινεται μεγαλο θεμα σε ολες τις υποθεσεις της ζωης μας. Οσο πιο πολυ δουλευει ο εγωισμος μεσα μας, τοσο πιο λιγο επιτρεπουμεν τον Χριστον να μας καθοδηγησει.

Οσο ζη ο Χριστος <εν ημιν>, τοσο τελουμεν εργα αγαπης – εργα τα οποια δεν παραβιαζουν κανεναν νομον. Για αυτον τον λογον, ο Αποστολος Παυλος δεν εκαυχοταν οτι ηταν <ανθρωπος του νομους>, αλλα εκαυχοταν οτι ηταν ανθρωπος του Χριστου. Οταν εγραψε <ζη εν εμοι Χριστος> εννοησε οτι ολες οι σκεψεις του και ολες οι ελπιδες του και ολοι οι σκοποι του ειχαν αρχη στην αγαπην του για τον Χριστον. Στην πραγματικοτητα ομιλουμεν για το θεμα της πνευματικης ζωης του Χριστιανου.

Η σημερινη Ευαγγελικη περικοπη μας διδασκει οτι η προσευχη μας πρεπει να συνοδευεται με πιστην: 1) την πιστην της γυναικος <ουσης εν ρυσει αιματος> και 2) την πιστην του Ιαειρου. Στην σημερινην περικοπην της Επιστολης του Απ. Παυλου, μαθαινουμεν οτι ο Αγιος Παυλος τελικως υπονοει οτι η αρετη της πιστεως οριζεται ως την γνωση οτι ο Χριστος ο Θεος ειναι στην πραγματικοτητα παρον στην ζωην μας. Μαλιστα, ο κυριος σκοπος της προσευχης ειναι να βιωσουμεν την <εν Χριστω Ζωην.>

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Today's Gospel passage reminds us of *prayer with faith* - 1) the faith of the ailing woman and 2) the faith of Jairus. In the Epistle passage today, we learn that St. Paul ultimately implies that faith is defined as knowing that Christ our God is deeply present in our lives.

Indeed, the true intention and value of prayer is to live in Christ's Divine/Human presence, always experiencing *His great and pure energy*, graced with the *energy to create – to be co-creators with God...to inspire, energize and to save* others for His glory. The Light of Christ - His energy and wisdom - serve to allow us to participate in His Will, which, at the same time, offers us our purpose in life. The "life in Christ" is understood as a genuine self-fulfillment as God intended for each one of us born into the world.

While Christ our God took upon Himself human flesh, He did not forfeit His incredible Divine energy, which emanates from His very essence as True God. The Personhood of Christ our God is "Light from Light." Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos writes, "*In the vision of God, the Saints see three lights. At the same time they also see the difference between them, because one is the source of the other two; the second comes from the first, but has a human nature, so that the body too is a source of the uncreated Light, and the third comes from the first, but has no human nature...[Thus], when the Saints attain experience of God, in their vision of God and participation in Him, they see very well that God is light. John the Evangelist declares, 'God is light.'*" (*The Person in the Orthodox Tradition*, pgs. 169 & 204).

Christ's presence is very much like that of *light* in our lives, although light has a totally different essence than our own. Yet, it exists throughout our being. If we understand the event of Christ's Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor, where He revealed His Divinity as Uncreated Light and listen to His own words, "*I am the Light of the World*," we can understand, to the limit of our human capacity, how Christ "the Light" can be in us while we maintain our personhood. In other words, St. Paul is still St. Paul, but Christ lives in him as light exists in our brains, traveling throughout to give us sight.

In itself, light is tremendous energy! Truly, light has no gender, age, or race. Christ's Light is the tremendous Divine energy. It is grace freely given to all, much as the rays of the sun fall upon all of us. The Light of Christ is Divine energy, giving us divine, yet individual spiritual gifts. It is also what gives *consistency* to the life-style among all the Saints dating back to the age of the Apostles. All we have to do is *open our eyes* through the power of prayer and through participation in the Holy Sacraments.

+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 – *To fedron tis Anastaseos [Tone 4]... (When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)*

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 2: 16-20 / Gospel – St. Luke 8: 41-56

Axion Estin

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Annette Laskaris

PHILOPTOCHOS – SAVE THE DATE! Our General Meeting will be on November 13 at 11:30 a.m. We are having a very special guest speaker the Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas. Please plan on attending this event. We will be meeting at a restaurant for lunch and you will be notified as soon as we make the arrangements. You will need to make a reservation with us so we may give an accurate count to the management. Our next Board Meeting will be on Monday, November 6 at 11:00 a.m. We need Coffee Hour Sponsors or Hosts for the Sundays in December. See Linda Petalas. Come to the Philoptochos table to make you reservations for the Ahepa Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19. See Tina Veroulis or Linda Petalas.

PARISH HALL RE-FLOORING PROJECT – The process of installing the new tile for our parish hall will begin on **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**. Tables will be set up in the patio area outside the parish hall for coffee hours throughout the month of November. **Help is needed today and tomorrow in removing tables and chairs from the parish hall, as well as books from the bookstore.**

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN – The Baby Bottle Campaign will ends this Sunday. 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." We thank God for the generosity of the following people. We look forward to the participation in our Baby Bottle Drive this year from others, as well.

Philoptochos, Diane Young, Kathy Amos, Fr. Ted & Presvytera, Alice Pulos, Mary Piggott Evelyn & Peter Grafas, Matushka, Gloria Lehman, Rhonda Latkovic

AHEPA – 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, if everyone can give something toward **underwriting the costs of the 2018 Festival**, a lot can be accomplished. Please feel free to offer a donation according to your ability.

LADDER SPONSORS – Many thanks to those who have volunteered to sponsor *The Ladder* beginning next month. Sponsorship for *The Ladder* is covered for the first part of 2018 (January – May, 2018).

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 31st.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 1st ...STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN

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

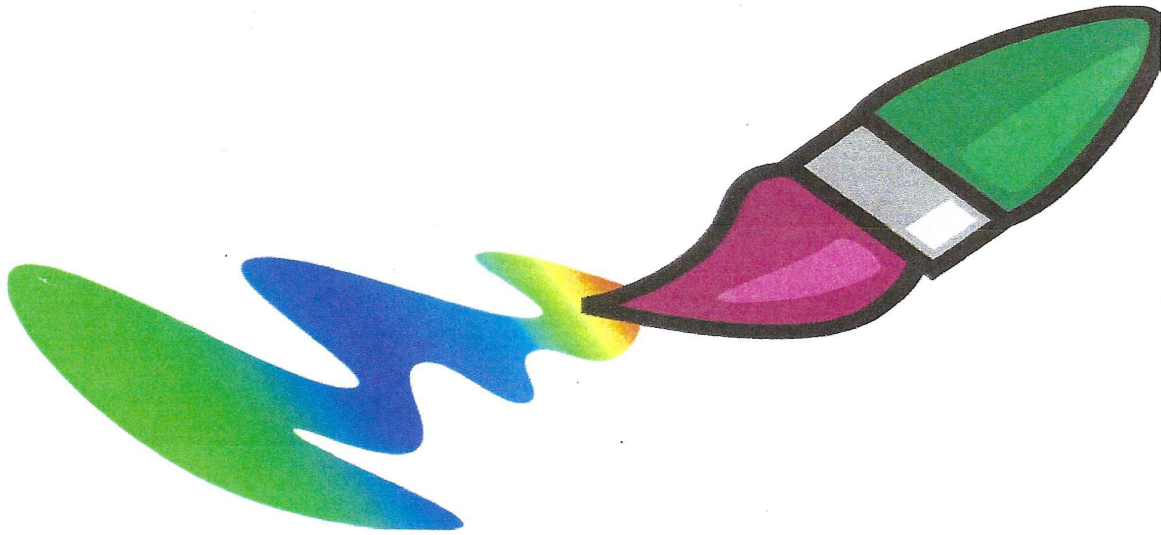
Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m. /Men’s Bible Study – 2:00 p.m. (Luke 18:35-43)

Saturday, November 4th.....Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 5th.....Coffee Hour at the patio, due to installation of tile in our parish hall.

Also, at 7:00 p.m.: Vespers with Miracle-Working Icon at St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church in Covina, CA. (His Eminence, Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles officiating)

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 15th @ 12 PM-2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By Nov. 10th to Rhonda Latkovic

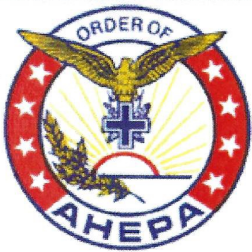
We will have a Thanksgiving Theme for our luncheon & coloring session! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us! Our December session will be held on Friday, Dec. 15th & we 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@ahepa528.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!

PHILOPTOCHOS



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

