

APRIL 1, 2018

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

PALM SUNDAY



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

email:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

– 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.

TODAY'S "APOLYTIKION"

The main hymn for this Sunday (the "Apolytikion") is the same one that was used in our worship yesterday in commemoration of the raising from the dead of Lazarus: *"To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: 'Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

All the hymns of the Church are like a sermon for all of us. There are two parts

to this hymn: 1) the reference to the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and, 2) the welcome of our Savior upon entering Jerusalem. In this way, the Church is telling us that the raising of Lazarus and the entrance into Jerusalem are connected as one event that leads to the salvation of all of humanity.

Within any discussion about the raising of Lazarus, there are two points to ponder: 1) that Jesus wept; 2) that Lazarus was raised after four days in the tomb.

Continued on page 2

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, Have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who rests upon the Cherubim and has reaffirmed Your power and sent forth Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save the world through His Cross, Burial and Resurrection: Who when He drew near to Jerusalem for His voluntary Passion, the people that sat in darkness and the shadow of death took as tokens of victory boughs of trees and branches of palms, thus foretelling His Resurrection. Do You Yourself, O Master and Lord, keep and preserve us also, who, following their example, on the pre-feast of that day, we carry in our hands palms and branches, and who, like the crowds and children cry out unto You, saying: "Hosanna!" That with hymns and spiritual songs we may be accounted worthy to attain the life-giving Resurrection on the third day: in Jesus Christ our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



Το σημερινον Απολυτικιον ειναι και το χθεσινο Απολυτικον καθως εμνημονευαμεν την τετραημερον αναστασιν του Λαζαρου: <Την κοινην αναστασιν προ του Σου Παθους πιστουμενος, εκ νεκρων ηγειρας τον Λαζαρον, Χριστε ο Θεος – οθεν και ημεις ως οι παιδες, τα της νικης συμβολα φεροντες, Σοι τω Νικητη του θανατου βοωμεν: Ωσαννα εν τοις υψιστοις, ευλογημενος ο ερχομενος εν ονοματι Κυριου.>

Ολοι οι υμνοι της Εκκλησιας ειναι <κηρυγματα> για ολους μας. Το σημερινο Απολυτικιον υμνει δυο πραγματα: 1) την εγερσην του Λαζαρου εκ των νεκρων, και, 2) την εισοδον του Χριστου στα Ιεροσολυμα. Κατα αυτον τον τροπον, μας υπενθυμιζει το Απολυτικιον οτι και η αναστασις του Λαζαρου και η εισοδος του Χριστου στα Ιεροσολυμα συνδεονται ως ενα γεγονος το οποιο συμπληρωνει το εργον της σωτηριας της ανθρωποτητος.

Μπροστα στον ταφον του Λαζαρου ο Χριστος εκλαψη. Ως Ανθρωπος, εκλαψε – ως Θεος ανεστησε τον ανθρωπον εκ των νεκρων. Το <κλαψιμο> του Χριστου δειχνει την αγαπην του Θεου, αφου το ανθρωπινο γενοσ υπεφερε κατω απο το βαρος της αμαρτιας και του θανατου.

Οι οπαδοι του Χριστου ησαν εκεινοι οι οποιοι ειδαν το θαυμα της αναστασεως του Λαζαρου. Μαζι, αυτοι ειναι μια <προεικονισις> της Νεας Ιερουσαλημ – δηλ., της Εκκλησιας. Οι Φαρισαιοι αντιπροσωπευουν τον κοσμον τουτον. Ομως, η Νεα Ιερουσαλην ειναι ο κοσμος του Θεου, μεσα στον οποιοι οι πολιτες εχουν καθαρες ψυχες. Μαλιστα, ο Θεανθρωπος Χριστος ηλθε για να σωσει τις ψυχες μας, οχι να σωσει κοσμικες δυναμεις.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Before the tomb of Lazarus, Christ our Savior wept. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, in an article about this matter, notes that as Man, He weeps; as God, He raises the dead. In His weeping at Lazarus' tomb, Christ also shows the love of God, since the human race was being tormented by sin and death. *"The forthcoming darkness of the Cross, its necessity, its universal meaning, all this is given in the shortest verse of the Gospel – "and Jesus wept."* ("The Christian Way", 1961, by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann). Secondly, in calling Lazarus out of the tomb after four days, our Lord confirms the salvation of all of humanity. St. Cyril of Alexandria suggested that the four days of Lazarus' entombment represent elements of nature--earth, wind, fire and water, which are the elements of nature renewed by Christ.

The second part of this weekend's "Apolytikion" refers to Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. The followers of Christ are those who saw the resurrection of Lazarus: *"For this reason, the people also met [the Lord], because they heard that He had done this sign [having raised Lazarus from the dead].* (St. John 12: 18) Gathered together with Christ in entering Jerusalem, they prefigure, in a way, the New Jerusalem -- that is, the Church. Implied is the contrast between Christ's followers and the Pharisees who represent this present world. The New Jerusalem is God's Kingdom, with citizens having pure souls. Indeed, Christ entered this present world to save our souls, not to save worldly powers. In this, Christ confronted the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. In fact, as it was true for the Pharisees, our own hypocrisy robs all of us of efforts to search into our souls and to purify them.

Pride is the mother of hypocrisy and humility is the mother of truth. The truth is that we often want *our will* to be done, not God's. Like the Pharisees, we often see ourselves disliking those who oppose our will, as we try to hypocritically justify our will, despite God's Will that we should love one another. In the many conflicts between people, I almost never hear from anyone, including myself, these words: *"If I had behaved better in the first place, this conflict could have been avoided."* Indeed, we find salvation, as did the thief on the cross, when we admit our own faults and seek forgiveness.

Joining Christ on the Cross requires that we become His friends as was Lazarus. It requires that we search out our hearts with regard to our relationships with one another: are we swayed by thoughts of hypocrisy, as the citizens of Jerusalem were swayed by the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, or do we seek the truth Who is Christ? Let us participate in this year's Holy Week Services as true friends of Christ and as people seeking the truth and the wisdom of God.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Spiro Canakis, Chris Panopoulos, Atlas Palos, Matthew Gray, Tasso Zambaras (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/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— I have loved, because the Lord Shall hear the voice of my supplication. Shout to God with the voice of rejoicing.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Verse 2— The pains of death surrounded me; the dangers of Hades found me. I found affliction and grief. Then I called upon the Lord's name.

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

Verse 3— I shall be well pleasing before the Lord in the land of the living.

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— I believed; therefore, I spoke; I was greatly humbled.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O epi polou onou kathestheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who sat upon a donkey's colt, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - I will take up the cup of salvation. And call upon the name of the Lord. I shall pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of His people.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O epi polou onou kathestheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon. 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— *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Let all who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Tin Koinin Anastasin... *(To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord.")*

Hymn for Palm Sunday: Syntafendes... *(We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord.")*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: To throno en ourano... *(In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, You were carried, O Christ our God; and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again.")*

READINGS: Epistle - Philippians 4: 4-9 / Gospel - St. John 12: 1-18

Instead of "Axion Estin," the following is sung: *"Theos Kyrios ke epefanen eemin...(God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. O Christians, appoint a feast, and with exultant joy come and let us magnify the Christ, waving our palm-leaves and branches, crying aloud in hymns: "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord our Savior.")*

Communion Hymn: Evloghimenos o Erchomenos en onomati Kyriou. Alleluia
(Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon today following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our Easter Bake Sale ends today. Be sure to stop by the table to pick up your orders. Our April Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m. the day after Easter. Our next General Meeting will be on Monday, April 16 at 11:30 a.m. We will have lunch (a donation of \$6.00), a speaker and a short meeting. Save the date. On May 6 the Agape Celebration of Love will take place. This luncheon is to benefit Kids n' Cancer. The location is at the Newport Beach Country Club.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES – Consider a special gift to our parish in thanksgiving to our Lord for His gift of life through His Holy Resurrection. Easter Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex.

EPITAPHIO – To volunteer to decorate the Epitaphio, contact **Lula Valissarakos**, to carry the Epitapho, contact **George Argyros**. Donations are welcome for helping to defray costs for the flowers used to decorate the Epitaphio – a blessing for those who donate whatever they can ... and a blessing for our parish.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Our annual Golf Tournament is set for **Saturday, April 14th**. Golfing at Desert Willow Country Club will tee off at 12:30 pm, with a Lamb dinner, silent auction, live music and dancing at the church beginning at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited for golf and dinner or just dinner. If anyone is interested in volunteering during the golfing and/or during dinner or giving any donations, please contact **Jim Christopoulos, George Argyros** or anyone else on the golf committee. We look forward to everyone sharing in the fellowship of the event!

PRAYER SHAWLS – Today we be blessing the knitted shawls that are part of our Prayer-Shawl ministry as we conclude the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Those participating in this ministry are: **Pat Dalkas, Josie Desnoyers, Fotini Krespis, Rhonda Latkovic, Christina Kundanis, Olga Vasilakos, Tina Veroulis, Angie Wysup, Pam Zaverdas**.

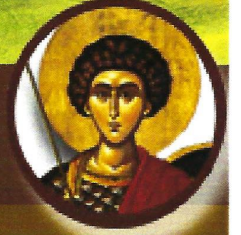
GENERAL ASSEMBLY – The Spring General Assembly is scheduled for **Sunday, April 15, 2018**.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR- HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 1st..... Palm Sunday: Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 2nd.... Holy Monday: Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 3rd..... Holy Tuesday: Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 4th... Holy Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy-9:00 a.m.
Holy Unction-6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 5th..... Holy Thursday: Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.
The Service of 12 Gospels-6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 6th..... Holy Friday: Holy Hours-9:00 a.m.
Youth Retreat-10:30
Apokathilosis-12 noon
Epitaphio-7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 7th..... Holy Saturday: Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.
Preparation for the Resurrection Canon-11:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 8th..... Easter Sunday (Great and Holy Pascha): Resurrection Service-12 midnight
Divine Liturgy-12:30 a.m.
Agape Vesper Service-3:00 p.m.

*The Ladder for April 2018
is sponsored by:
Eve Meek*

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.



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 • 12:30PM SHOTGUN

ENTRY INFORMATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and awards dinner)
- 12:30pm Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 5:30pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:30pm 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)
Saturday, April 14, 2018 ___ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s)
 ___ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek
Dinner | Saturday, April 14, 2018 ___ (# 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 7th**

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



It's Time for the 2018 St. George Annual Golf Tournament

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Palm Desert,

*We are pleased to announce this year's golf tournament will take place on **Saturday, April 14th**. This is an important fundraiser for our church which allows us to continue to provide the teachings and worship of Orthodoxy in the Coachella Valley. We look forward to your participation!*

Golfing will again take place at Desert Willow Golf Club, one of the premiere courses in the Coachella Valley. Following golf, dinner will be served at the church hall. We will be serving a traditional Greek dinner with lamb right off the spit, Greek salad, spanakopita, loukanico, and other favorites, including, for dessert, galaktobouiko. Following the meal will be live Greek music to get your feet moving! For those who do not golf, we encourage you to join us for dinner and dancing. The more the merrier!

*The application is attached and has the details for golf, dinners and tee sponsorships. Please complete and return the form to the church no later than **April 7th with full payment** made out to St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The following are some important details.*

- *Men & women golfers welcome.*
- *No-host-bar*
- *Raffle and silent auction Saturday night.*
- *Create your own foursome or be paired up with other golfers.*
- *Specialty golf awards for golfing excellence or... sometimes because the ball just bounced in the right direction.*
- *Friends and family are welcome*

We hope to see you on April 14th

Here's to long drives and short putts and a whole lot of fun!

*George Argyros, Chairman
And the St. George Golf Committee*



2018 AHEPA SUNDAY



CHAPTER 528

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. They also assisted Greek immigrants to assimilate into mainstream society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for AHEPA membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Please go online ahepa528.org for scholarships or see a current AHEPAn or Fr. Ted at Church
SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED AFTER SERVICES

Applicant must be *active member or son/daughter of an *active member, in good standing, of AHEPA Chapter 528 and/or St. George Orthodox Church of the Desert steward.

**Please read scholarship for eligibility and be aware of all deadlines.*

Chapter 528 meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month~6:30pm at St. George Church

Chapter President - Wynn Storton PDG -760.832.2825 Wynn@ahepa528.org;

Vice President - Nick Krespis

Secretary - Gus Kurupas; Treasurer - Harry Loukatos PCP ;

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Ted Pantels ...Contact@ahepa528.org

SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FALLEN BROTHERS:

2011– Fr. T. P. Theophilos, 2016—Steve Geotas, 2016—Stan Georgalakis,

2016—Steve N. Pisanos, 2017—Bob Maverick, 2017—George Tcharos

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**