

APRIL 8, 2018

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

THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD OF CHRIST OUR GOD & SAVIOR

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755  
Palm Desert, CA.92261  
Tel: (760) 568-9901  
or: (760) 880-5869  
email:  
[pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## LIFE'S MEANING & POTENTIAL

In the Paschal Catechetical Sermon of St. John Chrysostom, which is read during the celebration of the Easter Divine Liturgy, we hear two themes: 1) there is no reason for anyone *not* to join in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the dead, and, 2) there is no reason for anyone to feel despair or worry.

First, St. John Chrysostom says, *"Whoever toiled from the first hour...whoever came after the third hour...whoever arrived after the sixth hour...whoever arrived only at the eleventh hour, do not be dismayed... for, the Master*

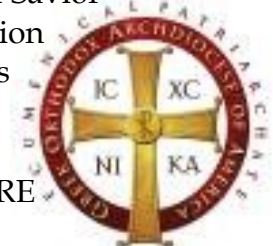
*receives the last even as the first..."* In other words, the gates of God's Eternal Kingdom are open equally to all—both to the Apostles who followed our Lord from the very beginning, and to the thief hanging on his cross during the last moments before Christ breathed his last. Let no one think that it is ever too late to seek the salvation of his or her soul, as long as they live in this present life. There is no status, financial or legal impediment to Holy Baptism—only that one receives instruction in the Faith. Everyone is called to join in His

*Continued on page 2*

## THE WORDS "EASTER" and "PASCHA"

"Easter" is the word commonly used to refer to the celebration of the Resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ our God. However, the word "Pascha" is liturgically more correct. The reason for this is that the word "Easter" is also associated with the Germanic idol-goddess, Ostara, who supposedly traveled through the heavens surrounded by Roman-inspired, baby-looking "putti." Pagan festivals ushering the season of Spring were associated with this.

The word "Pascha" refers to Passover. The Hebrew Passover marks the event of the Hebrew People leaving their bondage in Egypt, led by Moses, and "passing over" from slavery to the Promised Land. The Chosen People put the blood of a lamb on the door posts of their dwellings so that the "angel of death," as one of the plagues upon Pharaoh, (Ex. 12: 3-14) would *passover* their families. The Lamb of God is our Savior, by Whose Body and Blood we are rescued from death. With the Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, the *permanent* Passover is that of Christ's Resurrection from the dead, by which all of humanity "passes over" from this present world to the Eternal Kingdom of God. The word "Pascha" is from the liturgical Greek, pronounced "paw-skah." (See: *Orthodox Study Bible*, pg.78). +FR. THEODORE



Στον Πασχαλινον Κατηχητικον Λογον του Αγιου Ιωαννου του Χριστοστομου, ο οποιος αναγι- νωσκειται στην εκτελεσιν της Θ. Λειτουργιας την Κυριακην του Πασχα, ακουμεν δυο θεματα: 1) δεν υπαρχει λογος για να μην εορ- ταζει κανεις την Αναστασιν του Χριστου; 2) δεν υπαρχει λογος για απελπισια και στενοχωριες.

Πρωτον, λεγει ο Αγ. Χρυσοστομος: <Ει τις απο της πρωτης ωρας...ει τις μετα την τριτην ωραν...ει τις μετα την εκτην εφθασε...ει τις υστερησεν εις την ενατην...τι τις εις μονην εφθασε την ενδεκατην, μη φοβηθη την βραδυτητα...ο Δεσ- ποτης δεχεται τον εσχατον καθα- περ και τον πρωτον...παντες απο- λαυσατες του συμποσιου της πισ- τεως>. Δηλαδη, οι πυλες της Αιωνιου Βασιλειας του Θεου ειναι ανοιχτες και για ολους – και για τους Αποστολους, οι οποιοι ακο- λουθουσαν τον Χριστον εξ αρχης, και για τον κακουργον κρεμαμ- μενον στον σταυρον του κατα τις τελευταιες στηγμες πριν <εξεπνευ- σεν> ο Χριστος. Ας μην νομιζει κανεις οτι ειναι ποτε αργα για να αναζητησει την σωτηριαν της ψυχης του οσο υπαρχει στην εδω ζωην.

Δευτερον, λεγει ο Αγ. Χρυσοστο- μος: <Μηδεις οδυρεσθω πταισματα, συγγνωμη γαρ εκ του ταφου ανε- τειλε. Μηδεις φοβεισθω θανατον, ηλευθερωσε γαρ ημας ο του Σωτη- ρος θανατος...>. Μαλιστα, οι κοσ- μικες δοκιμασιες και δυσκολιες δεν αξιζουν για να ενοχλησουν την ψυχην του ανθρωπου, αφου, <Ανεστη Χριστος και πεπτωκασι δαιμονες.>

Ως τεκτα του Θεου, η αγαπη του Θεου παντοτε θα μας προστατευει. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Resurrection from the dead.

Second, St. John also states: “No one need to grieve over sins; forgiveness has dawned from the tomb. Let no one fear death; the death of the Savior has freed us from it...” Indeed, the trials and tribulations that come upon us from the world around us are not of any worth over which to bring aggravation to our souls causing worry and anxiety. “Christ is Risen and the demons have fallen.” Sins do weigh upon our souls, how- ever. By saying, “no one need to grieve over sins,” the word that is used in Greek, “*otheerhetho*,” from the word “*otheerhomeh*,” has the meaning of “grieving to despair,” as if there is no hope. Yet, we should give special care to repent of our sins, because repentance in the assurance of God’s forgiveness is the gift of Christ’s Resurrection.

The joy that permeates St. John’s Paschal Sermon is in the fact that every person born into the world is no longer a simple “caretaker of God’s Garden,” as is implied in the Book of Genesis with the crea- tion of Adam and Eve, and, certainly, with Christ’s Resurrection, each person is not destined to simply “exist” in God’s Eternal King- dom as something of a robot. The joy in the Resurrection of Christ is that we are now *joined* with God. We are co-creators, given every- thing that God has as His children: *inheritors* of God’s identity and privileged to have the *potential* to do things that God does...and this is not mere “existence;” it is *Life* in His Kingdom. Thus, our lives in this present world are not simple “existences;” they are actual *lives*, meaningful to God and intertwined with the *meaning* of God’s love. In Christ, God abides in us and we abide in Him.

Our individual and personal participation in the Resurrection of Christ from the dead *means* that we participate in God’s glory as heirs, not as “servants” in the human sense. Our “servanthood” is the Servanthood of the Savior, Who is, at the same time, God Who, as St. Basil notes, “*took on the form of a servant, becoming conformed to the fashion of our lowliness, so He could make us comformable to His glory.*” (St. Basil’s Liturgy). Because our lives have *meaning*, there is every reason to live to our *potential*! In Christ our God, the life of each person has *meaning*, because the *potential* of each person is of God.

Keeping these thoughts in mind, as our Orthodox Church is always striving to keep them in our minds for us, serves to guide us to live out our lives sharing joy in God’s love, assured that God will never call us to a task that we cannot handle, nor will any such task – especially our repentance – be meaningless in His eyes. The life of each one of us is God’s Life and death is put to death.

+FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, 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—Sing now to His name; give glory to His praise. Sing now to His name; give glory to His praise.**

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

**Verse 2—Say to God, "How fearful are Your works; in the greatness of Your power Your enemies will lie to You."**

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

**Verse 3—Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let them sing to Your name.**

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

---

**ANTIPHON II: "Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)**

**Verse -1 —May God be gracious to us, and bless us; may He cause His face to shine upon us. That we may know His way on the earth, Your salvation among all the Gentiles.**

**Refrain: "Soston imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."**

**Verse 2—Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.**

**Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."**

**Verse 3—May God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth be in fear of Him.**

**Refrain: "Soston imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."**

**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**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**

*Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face. As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. So shall the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad. This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**Hymn with the Entrance with the Holy Gospel: Christos Anesti...** (Christ is Risen from the dead; by death trampling down death and, to those in the tombs, He has bestowed life.) [Hymn for the Resurrection of Christ from the dead.]

**Instead of "Defte proskinisomen,"** :En Ekklisias eologheete ton Theon Kyrion ek pighon Israel...o Anastas ek nekron

**Hymns after the Entrance with the Holy Gospel, Repeat the Hymn, Christos Anesti.**

**Prolavouse ton orthron...** (They who were with Mary came before dawn and finding the stone rolled away from the tomb, they heard the angel say: 'Why do you seek the Living among the dead, Who dwells in the eternal Light? Behold, the grave clothes. Go in haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen and has caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of all humanity.)

**Kontakion Hymn: Ei ke en tafo katilthes...** (Through You, the deathless One, descended into the grave, You destroyed the power of Hades and, as Victor, You arose again, O Christ our God. You greeted the Myrrh-bearing Women, saying, 'Rejoice!' You did bestow peace upon Your Disciples and Resurrection upon the fallen.)

**Instead of "Aghios o Theos:" "Osi eis Christon evaptistite, Christon enedhisasthe, Alleluia."** (As many as have been baptized unto Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.)

**READINGS: Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 / Gospel: St. John 1:1-17**

**The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated**

**Instead of "Axion Estin", "O Angelos evoh-a Keharitomeni..."** (The Angel spoke to Her, Who is filled with grace, saying, O pure Virgin, rejoice. And I say again: rejoice; for Your son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem. For the glory of the Lord has risen upon You. Rejoice and be glad, O Zion, and You, O pure Theotokos, exalt in the Resurrection of Him, Whom You did bear.)

**Communion Hymn: "Soma Christou..."** (Receive the Body of Christ and taste Him, Who is the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia.)



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – 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.

**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!

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – The Spring General Assembly is scheduled for **next Sunday, April 15, 2018**. Please remember to have 2018 Stewardship Commitments up to date.

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, April 9th.....Philoptochos Board Meeting – 11:00 a.m.

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

Wednesday, April 11th.....Parish Council – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 12th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, April 13th.....LIFE-GIVING FONT  
Orthros-8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 14th.....St. George Golf Tournament at Desert Willow Golf Resort,  
Palm Desert – Tee-off- 11:30 a.m.  
Vespers- 5:00 p.m.  
Golf Tournament Awards Reception and Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

*Sunday, April 15th.....Spring General Assembly following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy*

COMMON PRAYER DURING THE SEASON IN CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD AND ON SUNDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

*Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Christ, the only Sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your Holy Resurrection. You are our God. We know no other than You and we call upon Your Name. Come, all faithful, let us venerate the Holy Resurrection of Christ. For behold, through the Cross joy has come to all the world. Blessing the Lord always, let us praise His Resurrection. For enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death.*

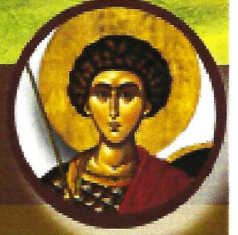
*The Ladder for April 2018  
is sponsored by:  
Eve Meek*

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 7<sup>th</sup>**

Register Online: [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://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 14<sup>th</sup>**. 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>*

*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](http://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](mailto:Wynn@ahepa528.org);*

*Vice President - Nick Krespis*

*Secretary - Gus Kurupas; Treasurer - Harry Loukatos PCP ;*

*Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Ted Pantels ...[Contact@ahepa528.org](mailto: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](http://www.ahepa528.org), or mailed to: AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund PO Box 1735  
Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735