

APRIL 29, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC



Mailing Address:

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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.*

BAPTISM: SACRAMENT OF LIFE

Paralysis in some way is a kind of “death” of the body. By analogy, the healing of the paralytic of today’s Gospel passage symbolizes the revival of humanity and this revival is accomplished through our Savior Jesus Christ. Indeed, without union with our Savior, there is no life...we are lost, paralyzed and “dead.”

Being in union with Christ our God means that we die according to worldly and lustful cares and we live according to the virtues and Commandments of

God. In this regard, the purpose of the miracles performed by our Lord, which are narrated in the Gospels (and which occur in His Name) is exactly the same as is the purpose of our very lives: to glorify God so that we can draw the world into the Kingdom of Heaven.

From the reading today from St. John’s Gospel we heard about the circumstance in which Christ healed the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda. This event symbolizes the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. This Sacrament enlivens us so that we can enliven others

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THE FIVE PORCHES OF THE POOL OF BETHESDA – In Holy Baptism our non-baptized personhood (the “old self,” paralyzed by lack of faith) dies. With the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, there are “five porches” that allow for the renewal of the individual to a vibrant, fulfilling life in Christ: 1) Love for God; 2) The human conscience that makes us accountable for our actions in loving God and others; 3) The Baptismal Font itself; 4) Martyrdom – bearing witness to God’s glory, and 5) Tears of repentance.

As we live out this life-style, we remember the words of theologians, who explain the fact that, for Orthodox Christians, Baptism involves three visible signs: there is the performance of the Sacrament of Baptism itself; there is the “baptism by blood,” i.e., martyrdom, which is not limited to martyrdom by physical death, but which includes our self sacrifice for the salvation of others, and, there is also our participation in the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion given for the forgiveness of sins and Life Everlasting. Indeed, the Sacrament of Holy Confession is also known as the Sacrament by which we are baptized in our own tears of repentance, turning from sin and living a life of Christian virtue. (reference: Metropolitan Ierotheos of Nafpaktos, *Major Feast Days of Christ*, pg. 108).

+FR. THEODORE



Η παραλυσίς είναι, κατά ένα ση-
μειον, ένας <θάνατος> του σώμα-
τος. Αναλογως, η ίασις του παρα-
λυτικού της σημερινής Ευαγγελι-
κής περικοπής συμβολίζει την
αναζωογονησίν του ανθρώπου και
αυτή η αναζωογονησίς γίνεται δια
του Σωτήρος μας Χριστού. Μαλι-
στα, χωρίς την ενότηταν με τον
Σωτήρα μας, δεν υπαρχεί ζωή...ει-
μεθα χαμένοι, παραλυτοί, νεκροί.

Η ενωσίς μας με τον Θεάνθρωπον
Σωτήρα μας Χριστόν σημαίνει ότι
πεθαίνουμεν σύμφωνα με τις εγ-
κοσμίες και σαρκικές μεριμνες και
ζούμεν σύμφωνα με τις αρετές και
τις εντολές του Θεού. Ως εκ τούτου,
ο σκοπός των θαυμάτων τα οποία
εκτέλεσε ο Χριστός τα οποία διη-
γούνται στο Ευαγγέλιο (και τα
οποία εκτελούνται στο Όνομα Του)
είναι ακριβώς ο ίδιος σκοπός της
ίδιας μας ζωής: να δοξαζούμεν τον
Θεόν ώστε να προσελκύσουμεν
όλον τον κόσμον στην Βασιλείαν
των Ουρανών.

Απο το αναγνώσμα του κατά Ιω-
άννην Ευαγγελίου ακουσαμεν ση-
μερα το περιστατικό κατά το οποίο
ο Χριστός εθεράπευε τον παραλυ-
τικόν στην κολυμβήθραν <η επι-
λεγόμενη Εβαιρστί Βηθαισδά.>
Αυτό το περιστατικό συμβολίζει το
Μυστήριον του Αγίου Βαπτισμα-
τος. Το Μυστήριον του Αγίου Βαπ-
τισματος μας αναζωογονεί ώστε να
αναζωογονούμεν τον κόσμον. Δια
του Βαπτισματος, ο Χριστός χαρι-
ζει σε εμάς τις δυνάμεις να κάνου-
μεν μικρά και μεγάλα θαύματα
προς σωτηρίαν άλλων ανθρώπων
και προς δόξαν του Θεού. Γραφεί ο
Ιερομόναχος Μαξιμος Αγειορείτης:
<Το βάπτισμα, τέλος, είναι πηγή
νέας ζωής, διότι μας μεταδίδει το
Πνεύμα του Θεού.> (Οδηγός Σωτη-
ρίας, σελ. 72).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

throughout the world. Through Holy Baptism, Christ our God grants to us the abilities to perform small and great miracles unto salvation and the glory of God. Hieromonk Maximos the Areiorite writes, *"In the end, Baptism is the fountain of life, because it imparts to us the Spirit of God."* (Guide to Salvation, pg. 72).

Liturgically, we find ourselves in the season dedicated to thoughts of Baptism and Chrismation. In other words, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the dead, we participate in His death and Resurrection through Baptism. At the same time, we also receive the grace of the Holy Spirit through Chrismation. Our newness of life is granted by the Resurrection of Christ, while at the same time, our entire way of life in Christ is guided by the Holy Spirit. Understanding the implications of Baptism and Chrismation helps us to develop a mentality that is consistent with the love of God.

At the website: www.pravmir.com/, a website dedicated to "How to be an Orthodox Christian Today," Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's words are imparted to all of us as a reminder of the life-giving mission that we all have toward each other as a Church:

"To the extent that we live 'the life in Christ,' to the same extent, Christ our God imparts to us the powers to perform small and great miracles for the salvation of others. [The central concern in] the paralytic's words to Christ are: 'I have no man.' This is truly the cry of someone who has come to know the terrible power of human selfishness, narcissism. Every man for himself! Looking out for 'number one.' All of them, all that great multitude of blind, sick, paralyzed, are all 'waiting for the troubling of the waters;' In other words, waiting for help, concern, healing, comfort. But...each waits by himself, for himself. And when the waters are troubled, each throws himself forward and forgets about others...The whole of Christianity consists of breaking through terrible walls of self-centeredness, breaking through to that love which, in the words of St. Paul, God has 'poured into our hearts.' (Rom. 5:5). That is Christianity's new, eternal commandment and the context of the entire Gospel and all of our faith."

God's Love is the energy for life. Baptism is the Sacrament of life requiring us to love one another as Christ loves us. In a certain way, we are all "Godparents" to one another, commending one another to Christ our God. We are all God's family. Another way of saying this is that we are all the people of His Great and Holy Church.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Chris Panopoulos, Nicholas Kontaxis, Jean Chronis (*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—Shout to God all the earth. Sing now to His Name; give glory to His praise.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

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

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

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

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

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson"

ANTIPHON II: *"Soson 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.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2—That we may know His way on earth, Your salvation among all Gentiles.

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

Verse 3—Let the peoples give thanks to You O God; let all the peoples praise You. May God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth be in fear of Him.

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...)

HYMNS (during and after the Entrance with the Gospel):

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]

En Ekklesias evlogheete ton Theon ek pighon Israel...o Anastas ek nekron

Efrenestho ta ourania... (Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death and First Born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.) [Tone 3]

Os ton ehmaloton 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 God that He may save our souls.) [St. George]

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.)

READINGS: Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 / Gospel: St. John 5:1-15
The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Instead of "Axion Estin", "O Angelos evoh-a Keharitomeni...Symophonos, Parthene..."

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Sponsored by George Spanos

PHILOPTOCHOS – Thanks to all who supported our Dessert Bake Sale last Sunday. Our net was **\$462**. Our Chairpersons were **Athena Snarskis, Pat Dalkas** and **Linda Bozigian**. They did a great job coordinating, repackaging, and pricing the goodies. We need Coffee Hour Sponsors in May, June and July. Some of our parishioners have donated for the summertime as they are about to leave for the summer along with our Snow Birds. See **Athena Snarskis** and **Pat Dalkas**. We are still collecting for Membership Renewal. See **Linda Kallis** or **Linda Petales**.

AHEPA – Now is the time for college students to apply for the **AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship**. Every year scholarship awards from the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund** are awarded to deserving college students of our parish and community on AHEPA Sunday. This year, **AHEPA Sunday** will be observed on **May 20, 2018**. Please visit the AHEPA 528 website: www.ahepa528.org to download the Scholarship Application Form. Also, donations to this AHEPA Scholarship Fund are always welcome by contacting this website for more information. AHEPA members are asked to help **distribute flowers** in honor of **Mothers Day (May 13th)**. Finally, please note that the **May AHEPA 528 meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, May 2nd and 6:30 p.m.**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR TOM EVANS – THE AHEPA 528 brothers, as well as all St. George parishioners are invited to a celebration of life gathering at the **Old Spaghetti Factory** on **Thursday, May 3rd** to celebrate the life of **Tom Evans**. Please come by and pay respects to the family. Everyone is asked to gather at **6 p.m.** There will be a banquet menu available if you wish to stay for the meal. **Prayers in Memorial of Tom Evans and for peace and comfort for his family** will be led by **Fr. Ted at 6:30 p.m.**

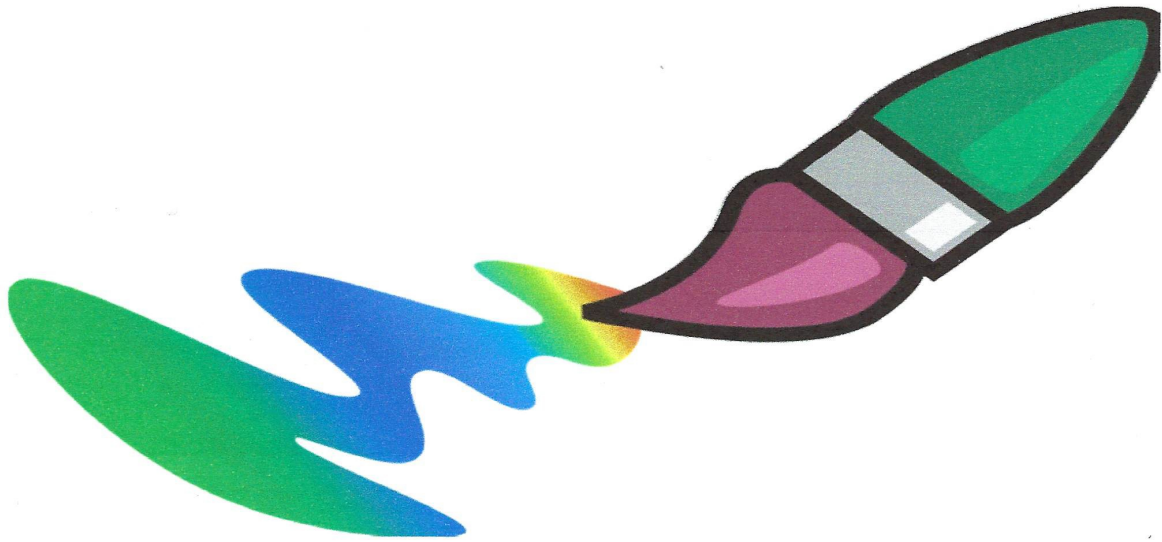
COLORING BOOK MEETING – **Friday, May 4, 2018 at 12:00 noon**. See the “Coloring Book Flier” posted in today’s *Ladder*. RSVP no later than this Tuesday.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, May 1st.....Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 2nd.....MID-PENTECOST
 - Orthros – 8:30 a.m.
 - Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.
 - AHEPA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 3rd..... Choir Practice -1:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 4th..... Coloring Book -12:00 noon
- Saturday, May 5th..... No Vespers

*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.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, MAY 4th @ 12 PM-2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By APR 29th to Rhonda Latkovic

We will have a “CINCO DE MAYO” theme for our luncheon & coloring session! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A raffle will be held. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!



Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape Ministry is dedicated to providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. This beloved ministry offers a compassionate and caring environment, exemplary of Christ's unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories.

"Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."
Matthew 18:5



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board cordially invite you to attend an

Agape Celebration of Love to benefit the Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry

Sunday May 6, 2018
Two o'clock

\$75 per person
Kindly respond by April 20, 2018

Newport Beach Country Club
1 Clubhouse Drive
Newport Beach, California



Register online at sfphiloptochos.org
For more information, please contact the Metropolis Philoptochos office at: 415-431-2600 or via email: office@sfphiloptochos.org.

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 1st 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: 2018 - Tom Evans,

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**