

DECEMBER 2, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: stgeorgepd@aol.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.

ENLIGHTENMENT FROM GOD

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom in his book entitled, *Living Prayer*, wrote the following about the blind man of today's Gospel passage: "He had used every human means to be able to see, but the blind man still remained blind. When Christ God appeared, he cried out with all of his soul, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'... [In the same way we also reach the point of despair sometimes after we have tried, according to our own imperfect opinion, "everything."]

"If we turn ourselves toward God, realizing that only God remains, we have come to the point where we will say, 'I trust in You. I place my whole soul and my entire life into Your hands,' then our despair will lead us to faith.

"Despair is conducive to a new spiritual life when we have the courage to go deeper and farther, realizing that we have not despaired of the final victory, but of the means that we have used to reach it. Then we start on a brand new way. God can bring us back to one of the means that we

Continued on Page 2

A DAILY MORNING PRAYER

In the Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Christian Church, prayer is central to everything that we do. Looking through one of the "official" Orthodox Christian prayer books used by the laity, as well as by monks and nuns, entitled *The Prosefchitarion* (Pro-sef-hee-ta-rion = "The Prayer Book"), we find this prayer to start off our day every day:

"O Lord, at every hour and in all places enlighten me to do all things that are well-pleasing to You. Grant me to greet the coming day in peace; help me in all things to rely upon Your Holy Will. Bless all of my dealings, and also all those who find themselves in my midst. Teach me to treat everything that happens throughout this day with peace of soul and with faith in You, so that, with firm conviction, I will accept that Your Will governs all. Guide my thoughts and feelings so that in all that I do and say I may lead others to know Your love and glory. Let me not forget that You will be with me in all unforeseen events, knowing that Your Will is to be done. Teach me to act with courage and with wisdom so that I may not embitter or embarrass anyone. Give me the strength to endure the fatigue of this day in the unseen warfare against temptations and deceptions that arise. Direct my will so that it is Your Will. Teach me to pray. Pray Yourself within me. This I ask in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen."



Ο Μητροπολιτης κ.κ. Αντωνιος Μπλουμ (Metropolitan Anthony Bloom) εγραψε περι του τυφλου ανθρωπου της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης στο βιβλιο του, *Η Ζωντανη Προσευχη*, τα εξης: <Καθε ανθρωπινη συσκευη ειχε δοκιμασθει, αλλα ο τυφλος παρεμεινε τυφλος. Οταν παρουσιασθηκε ο Χριστος, εκφωνισε με ολην του την ψυχη, <Ιησου, Υιε Δαυιδ, ελεησον με!>...Καθε σπιθα της ελπιδος που ειχε επιβιωσει στην ψυχη του ξαφνικα εγινε μια φωτια, μια φωτια απο καυστικη ελπιδα. [Κατα τον ιδιον τροπον εμεις επισης φθανουμεν στο σημειον της απελπισιας μερικες φορες οταν εχουμεν κανει κατα την γνωμην μας <τα παντα>].

<Εαν στραφουμεν προς τον Θεον, γνωριζοντας οτι μονον ο Θεος παραμενει, εχουμεν φθασει στο σημειον που να λεμε, <Εμπιστευομαι σε Σενα. Δεσμευομαι στα χερια σου την ψυχην και ολη μου την ζωην.> τοτε η απογνωση θα μας οδηγησει προς την πιστην.

<Η απελπισια ειναι ευκαιρια για μια νεα πνευματικη ζωη, οταν εχουμεν το θαρρος να παμε βαθυτερα και μακρυτερα, συνειδητοποιωντας οτι δεν ειμεθα απελπισμενοι περι της τελικης νικης, αλλα στα μεσα που εχουμεν χρησιμοποιοησει για να την φθασουμεν. Στην συνεχειαν, ξεκιναμεν με πολυ νεον τροπον. Ο Θεος μπορει να μας φερε πισω σε ενα απο τα μεσα που εχουμεν ιδη δοκιμασει, αλλα που, με τον Θεον, ισως θα μπορεσουμεν να χρησιμοποιησουμεν με επιτυχια. Πρεπει παντοτε να υπαρχει συνεργασια μεταξυ Θεου και ανθρωπου και τοτε ο Θεος θα δωσει την νοημοσυνη, την σοφιαν και την δυναμην ωστε να κανουμεν το σωστο και να επιτουμεν τον σωστο στοχον.> (σελ. 47 και 49-50). +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

have already used, but now, together with God, we might use with success. There must always be a synergy between us and God - and then God will give us the intelligence; the wisdom; the power to do what is right and to accomplish the right goal." (pgs. 47 and 49-50).

The "right goal" is to do the Will of God. Fr. Anthony Coniaris, in his book, *Introducing the Orthodox Church*, offers these words from Arnold Toynbee: "There is a pendulum of greatness. Its movements are two: Jesus withdraws into God's presence through prayer, then returns strengthened and renewed to do God's will." (pg. 189). This is exactly our action through our personal prayers and our correct participation in the Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy enlightens us and empowers us to do God's Will. The blind man of today's Gospel provides us with an example of this. After receiving his sight from our Lord, he became His disciple. As we are illumined through prayer and worship, we are to do likewise doing God's Will for others. For, indeed, the whole meaning (or "goal") of wellness in our lives is to do good deeds for others unto salvation and for God's glory.

If we study the Divine Liturgy closely, we note that, following the Nicene Creed, the priest calls the faithful to prayer as individuals "in community:" "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you...Let us lift up our hearts...Let us give thanks unto the Lord." In the prayer that follows, the priest gives thanks to our Lord on behalf of the faithful for, "doing all things to bring us to heaven...for benefits seen and unseen and for the Liturgy...even though [He] is surrounded by Archangels and Angels; the Cherubim and the Seraphim..." By calling to mind our Savior's words at His Last Supper, we subsequently, by the descent of the Holy Spirit, partake of Holy Communion so that, we "go forth in peace" in order that God, through us, will grant "peace to the world... [giving] "every good and perfect gift from above," so that the Name of the Lord may be blessed from "this time forth and forevermore." In short, then, the purpose of prayer is for us to work with God so that good deeds are performed for others with the goal of having all people praise the Name of our Lord in His Eternal Kingdom.

+FR. THEODORE

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 4th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 5thFestival Meeting-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 6th.....ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

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

Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Parish Council- 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 8th-....Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
11:30 a.m. at Desert Horizons Country Club.

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."

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: Ote Katilthes pros ton thanatos [Tone 2]... (When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.)

Hymn for St. George: 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 our God that He may save our souls.)

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: Ee Parthenos simeron ... ((On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.)

READINGS: EPISTLE --Ephesians 6: 10-17 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 18: 35-43

Axion Estin, page 52 in our Divine Liturgy books

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord...), page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Matushka Gloria Lehman

PHILOPTOCHOS-We made cookies last week for our Christmas bake Sale. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us. **Tomorrow, Dec. 3** we start making bread working on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**. We need wrappers to package the bread loaves in the afternoon. Check with Tina or Pat for the afternoon time. We are having our

Annual Christmas Luncheon this Saturday, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Desert Horizons Country Club. If you still owe for your reservations, please pay Tina today. Plan on helping us on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 a.m. making Christmas Baskets for our home bound. We also need drivers to deliver the baskets. See **Rhonda**. Our Board Meeting will be tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

PARISH FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY-Next Sunday, December 9, 2018 is our 2018 Fall General Assembly. All who want to participate are to be members of the parish in good standing, with their 2018 Stewardship Pledge up to date.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS: Many blessings to those who donated the Altar Flower Bouquets to grace the Holy Altar today:

-Mrs. Pauline Latkovic - "In memory of my husband Nicholas, daughter Georgianne, and parents Nicholas & Georgia Zimis, all in my heart forever!"

-Mr. and Mrs. John S. Petalas - In loving memory John's mother Elini, and father Stavros, also, Linda's sister Jan Keen, may her rest be eternal!

FESTIVAL MEETING - Only a few months away from our annual St. George Greek Festival! Everyone is asked to join in the important **Festival Meeting** on **Wednesday, December 5, 2018** at our parish hall at **7:00 p.m.**

AHEPA CHRISTMAS DINNER - Make plans to join in the annual **AHEPA Christmas Dinner** on **Sunday, December 16th** at the **Towne Center Café**. Details can be found on the AHEPA Christmas Dinner fliers available in our parish hall.

COLORING BOOK MEETING – **Adult Coloring Session- December 14th @ noon** in the church hall. See flier.

SHUT – IN BASKET PREPARATION & DELIVERY- December 12th @ 10:30 AM in the church hall. We need 10-12 volunteers to help prepare & deliver the baskets. Please see **Rhonda Latkovic** if you would like to assist.

PARISH BOOKSTORE NEW ADDITIONS – We have several books of poetry written by one of our parishioners, **Dr. John Manesis** available in our bookstore. Any of them would make a fine Christmas present for a loved one!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Plan to join us on **Sunday, December 16th**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR - See Page 2.

CORRECTION: *The Ladder* for all of **November 2018** was sponsored by **Alice Pulos**. Many blessings to Alice for her love for our parish and the support she offers for the publication of *The Ladder*.

The LADDER for December, 2018
is sponsored by
Rhonda & Nick Latkovic

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 in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.

Philoptochos Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Desert Horizons County Club

44900 Desert Horizons Country Club

Indian Wells, CA 92210

(Off Hwy. 111 between Cook and El Dorado)

760-340-4646

R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 30, 2018 to:

Rhonda Latkovic, Athena Snarskis or Tina Veroulis

Make your check payable to Philoptochos

Family and Friends are invited

\$37.00 per person for a Pre-fixe Menu, no substitutions

Choice of: **circle number of choice** (both meals include salad, soft drinks, & dessert)

1. Petite Filet Steak, spinach mashed potatoes, vegetables
2. Seared Alaskan Cod, lemon, olive and white bean ragout and spinach

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____ Amount Total \$ _____



CHRISTMAS SUPPER

\$35.00

Includes choice of Entrée, Salad, Desert and gratuity

Wed. 12/12/2018

6pm at

Norma's Italian Kitchen

42418 Bob Hope Dr, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

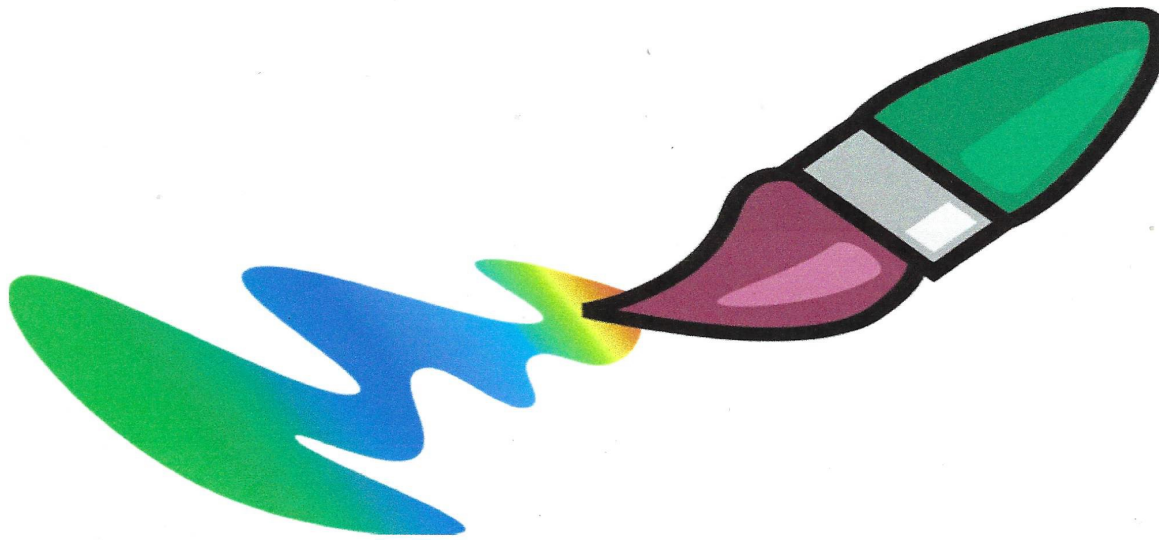
RSVP by 12/09

Ahepa528.org

Contact@ahempa528.org

Wynn @ 760.832.2825 *mobile/text*

528
CHAPTER



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, December 14th @ 12 PM-2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By Dec. 9th to Rhonda Latkovic

Our next luncheon & adult coloring session will be Friday, December 14th. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM. A raffle will be held. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Coloring supplies provided. We will be icing sugar cookies for the homeless for the Streetlife Christmas Dinners in Indio & Palm Springs. Please join us!