

FEBRAURY 11, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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

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THE LADDER

MEATFARE SUNDAY (JUDGMENT SUNDAY)

Mailing Address:

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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.

PRAYER MUST TURN TO ACTION

During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy we hear all of the beautiful petitions and prayers which involve our daily lives. Indeed, we are obligated to perform deeds that are required for our prayers to become reality! For example, when we pray for health, it means that we actively take care of our own health and we work for the care of other people's health.

As the Divine Liturgy continues, following the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, when they become the Precious Body

and Blood of Christ, we hear this: *"Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your Holy Church, and who care for the poor and send Your mercy upon us all."* Parallel to this, in the Liturgy of St. Basil, we pray for the preservation of marriages and the youth; we pray for widows, orphans, those in captivity, etc.

In other words, we pray for all those about whom Christ spoke in His parable, as we heard during today's Gospel reading. However, prayer is not only a matter of words; it becomes a

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THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THIS SUNDAY'S THEME – The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love. But, so that we do not put our confidence in this alone and live carelessly, thereby squandering upon sin the time given us to work out our salvation, and death suddenly snatches us away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of all humanity, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his or her deeds.

It is the aim of our Saints, by bringing to mind the Day of Judgment, to rouse us from carelessness and to do the work of virtues. In addition, the theme of this Sunday is intended to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even on the coming Sunday of Cheesefare, which is also known as Forgiveness Sunday, we commemorate Adam's exile from Paradise --which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now. Failure to do good works is a sin, for which we need to seek forgiveness and correct ourselves accordingly. With this in mind, it is clear that today is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

– Adapted from our Archdiocese: www.goarch.org



Κατα την τελετην της Θειας Λειτουργιας, ακουμεν ολες τις ωραιες αιτησεις και προσευχες οι οποιες σχετιζονται με την καθημερινη ζωην μας. Μαλιστα, επιβαλλεται σε εμας να πραξουμεν αυτο για το οποιο προσευχομεθα! Παραδειγματος χαριν, οσο προσευχομεθα <υπερ υγειας>, επιβαλλεται σε εμας να προσεξουμεν την δικην μας προσωπικην υγειαν και την υγειαν των συνανθρωπων μας.

Καθως τελειται η Θεια Λειτουργια, ακουμεν: <Υπερ πλεοντων, οδοιπορουντων, νοσουντων, και αιχμαλωτων και της σωτηριας αυτων, του Κυριου δεηθωμεν>. Μετα που αγιαζονται τα Τιμια Δωρα και μεταβαλλονται σε Τιμιον Σωμα και Αιμα Χριστου, ακουμεν: <Μνησθητι, Κυριε, των καρποφορουντων εν ταις αγιας Εκκλησιας και μεμνημενων των πενητων και επι παντας ημας τα ελεη σου εξαποστειλον>. Αναλογως, στην Θ. Λειτουργιαν του Μ. Βασιλειου, προσευχομεθα για συζυγους, νεους, ορφανους, αιχμαλωτους, κ. τ.λ.

Με αλλα λογια, προσευχομεθα για ολους περι των οποιων ομιλησε ο Χριστος μας στην παραβολην Του την οποιαν ακουσαμεν κατα το αναγνωσμα της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης. Αλλα, η προσευχη δεν γινεται μονον με τα λογια, αλλα πραγματοποιειται με τα εργα μας (με σκοπο να δοξαζωμεν τον Χριστον) και με την δυναμιν του Χριστου.

Γιατι προσευχομεθα για αλλους; Διοτι στο προσωπο του συνανθρωπου μας βλεπομεν το Προσωπον του Χριστου: <εφ οσον εποιησατε ενι τουτων των αδελφων Μου των ελαχιστων, εμοι εποιησατε>.

(Ματθ. 25: 40)

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

reality by virtue of our actual efforts (with the motive of glorifying God) and by virtue of the power of Christ Himself.

As we pray during the Divine Liturgy (and in our personal prayers) for the sick, suffering, captives, etc., we are to call ourselves to action at the same time. This is *living the Liturgy*, as long as we perform our charity for the glory of God. *"The Church does not ignore the needy...The acts of charity are the basis of the Judgment of God. The Orthodox Church should intensify Her efforts to assist the needy."* (*The Heavenly Banquet*, by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis, pg. 93).

Why do we pray for others? Because in the face of our fellow human being we are to see the Face of Christ: *"In as much as you have done this to even the least of My brethren, you did it unto Me."* (St. Matthew 25: 40). Orienting ourselves to Christ in this way helps us to chase away anger and hatred from our hearts.

Through Christ (and in Christ) we are truly brethren. The Lord said to those who were blessed: *"Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* The use of the word "inherit" means that our *destiny* is to be with God forever, because we are *sons* and *daughters* of God – allowed to an *inheritance*. Experiencing the joy of God's Kingdom begins in the here and now through worship and prayer with and for others.

Learning to pray in our thoughts throughout the day requires resolve on our part; yet, resting our daily thoughts on prayer scatters the demons of hatred, stress and anger. *"If anyone harms me, I have only to think, 'How sweet is the "Jesus Prayer": 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me' and the injury and the anger alike pass away and I forget all...I thank God that I now know the meaning of those words that I heard in the Epistle reading: 'Pray without ceasing.'" [1 Thessalonians 5:17] (Way of the Pilgrim, pg. 17-18).*

As much as prayer is a means to ask God to help make good things happen, it is also the means for us to listen to God speaking in our souls so that we ourselves can be the vehicles for many kinds of good deeds.

+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, Deno Mastarakos, Atlas Palos, Matthew Gray, Tasso Zambaras (*Many of the faithful on our 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, 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."

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-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."

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 – This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Efrenestho ta ourania [Tone 3]...(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.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis...(As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you. O great martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *Otan eltheis o Theos...(When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.)*

READINGS: Epistle - 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 / Gospel – St. Matthew 25:31- 46

Axion Extin.

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion (Praise the Lord, pg. 64 in the Divine Liturgy Books)

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour – Given in loving memory of Mary Mitsios

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **Mary Mitsios (40 days)**, the beloved mother of **Adam Mitsios**. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to Mary Mitsios and may He grant peace and comfort to **Adam Mitsios** and the entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Happy Valentines Day. We hope you will celebrate with your family and friends. We want to thank all the parishioners who bought our Bake Sale goodies last Sunday. The enjoyable treats were made by our Philoptochos members. We need Sponsors or Hostesses for Coffee Hour on March 18 and 25 and in April. See **Athena Snarskis and Pat Dalkas**.

2018 FESTIVAL – **Our annual Greek Festival is only one week away!** In our parish hall, please find the 2018 Volunteer for the Festival Forms. See **Jim Christopoulos** in the parish hall today to sign up as a volunteer for this year’s St. George Greek Festival. He will also notify people about where they will be working for the Festival, especially if they already do not have an assigned job. Note: in our parish hall, please find **Festival fliers to be distributed throughout the community**. Finally, enclosed **please find a map** showing the **parking lots** that are available for Festival Parking. Volunteers are asked to park at Washington Charter School and a shuttle will be provided for arrival to the Festival and return to your car. Shuttles and transportation for volunteers will be provided as needed even after 9:00 p.m. on both days.

YIAYIA’S ATTIC – Yiayia’s Attic is gathering treasures for the Festival’s “Yiayia’s Attic” Booth. Call **Becky Allen** at (760) 699-5439 for details and/or questions. Items may be brought to our parish at any time.

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS ART EXHIBIT - Mark March 17, 2018 on your calendars from now and plan to bring your relatives, friends and neighbors to a fabulous art show, exhibiting the paintings of **Nicholas Kontaxis**, at the Heather James Fine Art Studio at 45188 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. Details are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

LEMONS NEEDED - We need lemons for the Festival. Contact Lula Valissarakos to make arrangements to donate lemons needed for the appetizers.

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, April 14th is the date set for our annual St. George Golf Tournament.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, February 12th.....Preparations for the Festival -9:00 a.m

Tuesday, February 13th..... No Bible Study (Festival preparations)

Thursday & Friday 14th-16th...Final set-up preparations for Festival (volunteers needed)

Saturday, February 17th.....SATURDAY OF SOULS – Orthros-7:45 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.
2018 St. George Greek Festival – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Next Sunday, February 18th.....Orthros- 7:45 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

2018 St. George Greek Festival – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: *Great Lent begins on February 19th. There are many inspiring messages posted on our Archdiocese websit: www.LENT.GOARCH.ORG, which explains the spiritual outlook of life that is part of the Lenten season.*

The Ladder for February 2018

is sponsored by:

Annette Lewis in loving memory of her beloved husband, Skip Lewis

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.



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
74109 Larrea St

GREEK FESTIVAL
PARKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS



Map data ©2018 Google 200 ft

* VOLUNTEERS - PLEASE PARK
AT WASHINGTON CHARTER SCHOOL
BOTH DAYS SAT. & SUN.
COURTESY CARTS WILL RUN
BETWEEN 10:00AM & 9:00PM
TO SHUTTLE YOU TO & FROM
THE CHURCH.
THANK YOU!