

JANUARY 28, 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

THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE

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.*

HOW DO WE COME TO CHURCH?

From today's Gospel passage we understand that there are two kinds of religion, according to which people live in the world. One kind is that of "pride," as it is typified in the person of the Pharisee. The other kind is that of "humility," as typified in the person of the Publican.

Most of us, myself included, along with many clergy and laity, thank God that we go through life with various comforts. But, in reality, we should thank God because, *"He has done all things until He has brought us to His future Kingdom,"*

as is expressed in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Through this liturgical prayer we know the truth that our salvation is based on Christ our God, Who gives to each of us His great mercy. To the extent that we realize that we sin and that we are not perfect people as is Christ, we realize the need for Christ's mercy - as the Publican said, *"O God, have mercy on me a sinner."* (St. Luke 18:13).

Do we attend Church services as did
Continued on page 2

WE ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES WITH THE SPIRIT OF HUMILITY

The only way that we can participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, both as clergy and as laypersons, is with the spirit of humility. Due to limitations of space, we can point to only two places during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy where the virtue of humility is particularly emphasized: 1) **During the Prayer said with the Hymn, "Holy God, Holy Mighty..."**, we follow the words of the priest, saying, *"[Lord]...You do not overlook the sinner, but You have established repentance as the way of salvation. You have enabled us Your lowly servants to stand...before the glory of Your Holy Altar..."*. 2) **Before partaking of Holy Communion**, we pray: *"I believe and confess, O Lord, that You are the Son of the Living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first."*

This is the frame of mind with which we are to enter church. It is uniquely Apostolic! While St. John Chrysostom inserts these words into our mouths as we prepare to receive Holy Communion, they were first written by St. Paul: *"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the first."* (1 Tim. 1:15).

According to St. Symeon the New Theologian, *"Self-accusation before God is something that is very necessary for us; and humility of heart is extremely advantageous in our lives, above all at the time of prayer."* (Philokalia)

+FR. THEODORE



Απο την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην περικοπην αντιλαμβανουμεν οτι υπαρχουν δυο τυπους θρησκευων, κατα τους οποιους ο ανθρωπος ζει στον κοσμον. Ο ενας τροπος ειναι <ο τροπος του εγωισμου,> οπως τυπωνεται στο προσωπον του Φαρισαιου. Ο αλλος ειναι <ο τροπος της ταπεινοφροσυνης,> οπως τυπωνεται στο προσωπον του Τελωνου.

Οι περισσοτεροι απο εμας (ακομη εμεις οι κληρικοι) ευχαριστουμεν τον Θεον επιδη περναμεν την ζωην μας με διαφορες ευκολιες. Αλλα, στην πραγματικοτητα, θα επρεπε να ευχαριστησουμεν τον Θεον επιδη <παντα [εποιησε] εως ημας εις τον ουρανον [ανηγαγε] και την Βασιλειαν [Αυτου] την μελλουσαν [εχαρισε],> οπως τονιζεται στην εκτελησην της Θ. Λειτουργιας.

Δια της λειτουργικης ευχης αυτης, γνωριζουμεν την αληθειαν οτι η σωτηρια μας βασιζεται στον Θεανθρωπον Χριστον, ο Οποιος, δινει στον καθεναν το μεγαλο ελεος Του. Οσο γνωριζουμεν οτι αμαρτανουμεν και δεν ειμεθα τελειοι ανθρωποι οπως ειναι ο Χριστος, τοσο εχουμεν αναγκην το ελεος του Χριστου – οπως το ειπε ο Τελωνης: <Ω Θεος...ελεησον με ο αμαρτωλος!> (Λκ. 18:13).

Εκκλησιαζομεθα οπως <εκκλησιασθηκε> ο Φαρισαιος, η οπως <εκκλησιασθηκε> ο Τελωνης; Καθως εισερχομεθα στην λειτουργικην εποχην του Τριωδιου, ας μιμηθουμεν τον Τελωνην ψυχικως, ωστε να ενωθουμεν με τον Θεανθρωπον Χριστον δια της συμμετοχης μας στα Αχραντα Μυστηρια. Δια της ταπεινοφροσυνης ομολογουμεν οτι εχουμεν αναγκην να ζει ο Χριστος μεσα στις ψυχες μας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

the Pharisee, or do we come to worship with the attitude as that shown by the Publican? As we enter the liturgical season of the Triodion, we would do well to imitate the Publican in spirit so that we can unite ourselves with Christ our God through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Through humility we confess that we need Christ to dwell in our souls. The absence of humility suggests that we have no need of Christ our God.

The very words of these two personalities speak volumes as to their outlook toward God; toward the world; and toward themselves. According to the Pharisee, God should only be concerned with him and with no one else. As a result of this mind-set, the relationship between him and God is akin to a "bargain" with God. His "thanksgiving" expression to God has the feeling of a "transaction:" the Pharisee's good status is *owed to him* because of his fasting twice a week and tithing. Conversely, we would think that by not fasting and tithing, God would not give him such good status. To some extent, this kind of thinking is shared by many of us. At the same time, this kind of thinking is far from that shared by the Saints of the Church. Hence, it is a mind-set that makes us starkly not Orthodox Christians at all.

The outlook of the Publican is that which is commonly shared by the Saints and which, therefore, is expressive of the "mind" of the Church. Accordingly, all things are a matter of our Lord's infinite mercy and not only that of our own powers. St. Basil the Great, in the Divine Liturgy attributed to him, places the following prayer in our mouths: "*Most Holy Master, we also, Your sinful and unworthy servants, whom You have graciously permitted to minister at Your Holy Altar, not through our own righteousness (for we have not done any good deed on earth), but through Your mercies and bounties,...now draw near..." Thus, we confess that any good deed is truly the work of Christ done *through* us, as His ministers, and, like the Publican, we are constantly inclined to commit sins.*

But, is this really our prayer? Most of us - and I say us - do not come to Church services regularly with this mind-set. Instead, we are constantly tempted to resemble the Pharisee, being more concerned with our status in the community, as long as we are not considered among the sinful people of the world - and we think, "thank God for that!" But, real progress in our personal lives, as well as in the life of our parish, lies in developing the mind-set of the Publican - aware of the need for mercy from Christ our God...and aware of our non-being without His mercy. This mind-set is one of humility - and humility is our sacrifice to God, which then gives way to the divine gift of peace within us and among us. It is, as is sung during the Liturgy, "*A mercy of peace and a sacrifice of praise.*" The *sacrifice* is our *humility*.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Spiro Canakis, Chris Panopoulos, Deno Mastarakos (*Many faithful on the 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, soson 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, soson 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: *"Soson 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: *"Soson 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: *"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...)*

ANTIPHON III- *This is the day the Lord has made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn - *Tou lithou sfraghisthendos [Tone 1]...((The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding watch oe'r Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose. And unto all the world did you give life whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that you are the Giver of Life. Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; glory unto Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.))*

Hymn for St. George— *Os ton echmaloton 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— *O mitran parthenikin aghiasas... (You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity .)*

READINGS: *Epistle— 2 Timothy 3: 10-15 / Gospel— St. Luke 18:10-14*

Communion Hymn— *Enite ton Kyrion.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Kalitsa Xitco

PHILOPTOCHOS - Next Sunday, February 4 is GO RED FOR WOMEN. The American Heart Association designates this day to increase awareness and help prevent heart disease; the number one killer of American women. Metropolis Philoptochos is asking us to please wear RED to support this cause. We also have a special treat on February 4 - Super Bowl Sunday! We will be having a Bake Sale with our members bringing their favorite desserts. We will sell them at Coffee Hour. If you are going to a Super Bowl Party, you will have a dessert already made. The money we raise will go towards our local charities. SAVE the date. (See the enclosed flier.) Our Membership Lunch will be on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 11:30 p.m. Traditionally, we have had the Membership event at one of our member's home. If you would like to hostess our lunch this year, please see Linda Kallis or Linda Petalas.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS – Enclosed, 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.

STEWARDSHIP - We would like to express our gratitude to those who have already made their 2018 Stewardship Pledge to St. George and have turned in their Pledge Card for this year. Our current total as of January 21, 2018 is 70 stewards with a total pledge of \$78,720. We are well on the way to making our Pledge Goal of \$120,000 for this year. Thank you!" -Stewardship Chairperson Rhonda Latkovic

AHEPA - AHEPA Chapter 528 members are invited to a “membership gathering” on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** We look forward to fellowship in enjoying the Super Bowl. During “half-time,” a review of AHEPA upcoming plans and projects will be provided to those in attendance. A donation of \$20 would be most generous in order to cover the costs of pizza and refreshments and to offer some support for the AHEPA Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund. See the enclosed flier.

YIAYIA’S ATTIC – It’s that time of year again! Yiayia’s Attic is gathering treasures for the Festival’s “Yiayia’s Attic” Booth. Please start organizing your donations now! Call **Becky Allen** at (760) 699-5439 for details and/or questions. Items may be brought to our parish at any time. We need men to volunteer to help move a desk that is being donated for “Yiayia’s Attic.” Contact Becky Allen to help with this need.

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. See the enclosed flier.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, January 29th.....Festival Preparations continue - 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 30th..... THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, February 2nd.....PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, February 3rd.....Vespers- 5:00 p.m.

*The Ladder for January 2018
is sponsored by:
Matushka Gloria Lehman*

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.

Volunteer for the Festival

February 17th & 18th 2018

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.



Please sign up to volunteer in the church hall after liturgy on any Sunday. You may also complete the information on the back and leave it with Jim Christopoulos, John Petalas, Rhonda Latkovic or Father Ted. Finally, you may call Jim at 760-902-8460. God bless!

For those of you who are unable to volunteer, but want to help support the festival, you may want to consider "sponsoring" a shift. For a donation of \$60, you can sponsor a paid worker. If interested, please see any of the people listed above.

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Festival Volunteer Form

February 17th & 18th 2018

»Name: _____

»Phone Number: _____ »Email Address: _____

»Availability (Please check all that apply):

Set Up Prior to Festival _____

Saturday 2/17: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

Sunday 2/18: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

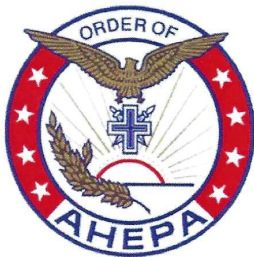
Tear Down Following Festival _____

»Please check off all areas that you would like to volunteer (we will try to place you in one of these areas, if possible).

Area	Chairperson(s)	Check if Interested
Set-up/Tear down	Doug Lyons	
Entrance	Lou & Penny Karagianis	
Greek Store	Rhonda Latkovic	
Greek Coffee	Tbd	
Kids Area	Melissa Hawkins	
Loukoumathes	Krisann Kontaxis	
Bars	Nick Krespis	
Dinner Line	Tasia Richards	
Gyros	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Lamb Chops	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Cooking	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Appetizers	Tbd	
Yiayia's Attic	Becky Allen	
Accounting/\$ Run	Nick Kaperonis	
Kitchen/Food Run	George & Stacy Argyros	
Pastries	Lula Valissarakos	



AHEPA 528 1st ANNUAL SUPER BOWL PARTY



FUN FOR EVERYONE

Game starts at 3:30 pm

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
74109 Larrea St Palm Desert, CA 92261


\$20 Donation requested

We will have doors open at 3pm.

BYOB - refreshments and fun provided!

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or donate online
Scholarship awards benefit members
of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family
AHEPA528.ORG


SUPER BOWL
FEB 4TH 2018

\$20 DONATION

and you get

- 1 Square in the Football Pool
- Refreshments
- Appetizers
- Live Game
- Cash Prizes

\$10 pool square*

**After first donation*

**BYOB
REFRESHMENTS
AND FUN
PROVIDED!**



**PLEASE SEE BROTHERS
WYNN STORTON,
HARRY LOUKATOS OR
NICK KRESPIS
FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

**CONTACT@AHEPA528.ORG
760.832.2825**



GO RED for WOMEN BAKE SALE

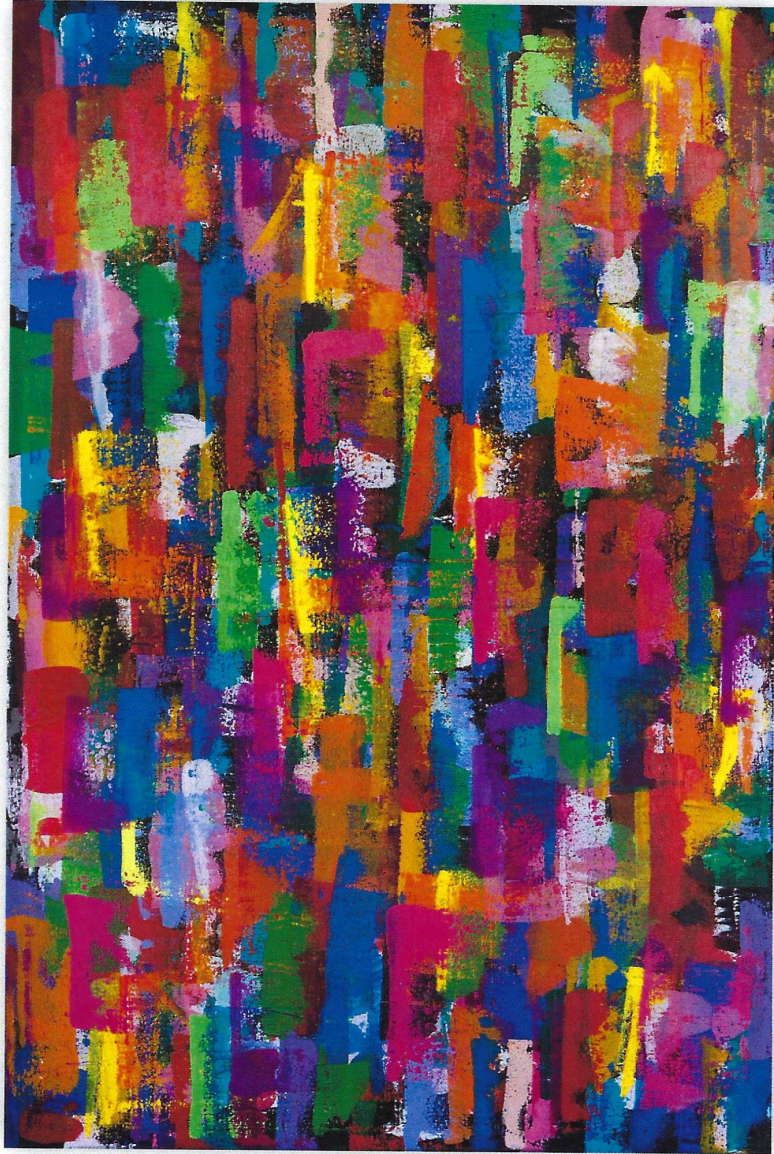
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 2018

*All proceeds will be used for the purchase of an AED Machine (Automated Defibrillator Machine).

Enjoy delicious tempting treats including cookies, cakes, pies, candy, & more! All homemade by the St. George Ladies of Philoptochos.

Pick up goodies for the Big Game on Sunday!

For more information or questions call Pam Zaverdas @ 847-814-4299.



NICHOLAS KONTAXIS

HEATHER JAMES
FINE ART

MARCH 17, 2018

4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.