

**MARCH 4, 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

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



## 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.

## GOOD PEOPLE & GOOD DEEDS

As in science or math, spiritual life has its axioms, too: 1) good people do good deeds; 2) good people are those who have a relationship with God Who *alone* is Good; 3) God's goodness is a lasting goodness and is not temporary. It is prayer that develops our relationship in God's Love and God's Will for all people to partake in His Eternal Life.

Axioms are a statement of truth. With regard to the Orthodox Christian lifestyle, the axioms about good people - i.e., the Saints - take their beginning

from the way of life of the Holy Apostles, who, as "good people" performed the good works of God.

In commemorating St. Gregory Palamas today, we are reminded of this Holy Tradition of the Church, since he was so valiant in defending it during his life time in the 14th Century. He defended the truth about the relationship between prayer and the human participation in the uncreated energies of God.

By "prayer," St. Gregory spoke of the

*Continued on page 2*

## THE MESSAGE OF THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

"As shown by the healing of the Paralytic, **faith** is an indispensable condition for salvation. Faith is collective as well as personal, for the faith of the paralytic's friends helped in his healing (vs. 2). Three signs of Jesus' divinity are shown: 1) He knows the secrets of hearts (1 Kings 16:7); 2) He forgives sins, a power which belongs to God alone; and 3) He heals by the power of His word.

Note that the purpose of Christ coming into the world is to **forgive sins**, freeing humanity from its bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing, for, as the scribes correctly noted, **God alone** can forgive sins (vs. 7). Therefore, the **easier** task (vs. 9) is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals this man in order to draw people to God, Whom they **glorified.**" – See *Orthodox Study Bible, pages 1283 and 1332*

*All of the miracles performed by our Savior inspired people to give glory to God. They did not express pride for having any special privilege.*



Οπως με την επιστημη και τα μαθηματικα, η Ορθοδοξη πνευματικη ζωη εχει τα αξιωματα της: 1) οι καλοι ανθρωποι κανουν τα καλα εργα, 2) ο καλος ανθρωπος ειναι εκεινος ο οποιος εχει σχεση με τον Θεον, ο Οποιος ειναι ο *Μονος Καλος*, 3) Η καλωσυνη του Θεου ειναι αιωνιος και οχι προσωρινη. Η προσευχη αναπτυσσει την πνευματικη σχεση μεταξυ ανθρωπου και Θεου, ετσι ωστε γνωριζει ο ανθρωπος την αγαπην του Θεου και την Θελησιν Του προς την συμμετοχη ολων στην αιωνιον Βασιλειαν Του.

Αξιωματα ειναι εκφρασεις περι αληθειας. Συμφωνα με την Ορθοδοξη πνευματικην ζωην, τα αξιωματα περι καλων ανθρωπων περουν την αρχη τους απο την Αποστολικην Παραδοσην, αφου οι Αποστολοι, ως <καλοι ανθρωποι,> εκαναν τα καλα εργα του Θεου.

Καθως μνημονευουμεν τον Αγ. Γρηγοριον τον Παλαμα σημερα, υπενθυμιζουμεν τον εαυτον μας περι της Αγιας Παραδοσεως της Εκκλησιας μας, αφου ηταν ο ιδιος τοσο αφοσιωμενος προς την υπερασπισην της Ορθοδοξιας στην εποχην του. Εδιδασκε την αληθειαν περι της σχεσεως μεταξυ της προσευχης και την ανθρωπινην συμμετοχην στις ακτιστες ενεργειες του Θεου. Ο Αγ. Γρηγοριος ομιλουσε περι της προσευχης <εντως της ψυχης>—δηλ., την <ησυχην> προσευχην, η οποια λεγεται *ησυχασμος*. Με το Ονομα του Ιησου Χριστου παντοτε στον νουν του ανθρωπου, ο ανθρωπος εχει το <μεσον> δια του οποιου εξαφανιζονται οι πειρασμοι και οι κακες φαντασιες. Η προσευχη του <Ονοματος> του Χριστου ειναι: <*Κυριε Ιησου Χριστε, Υιε του Θεου, ελεησον με ο αμαρτωλος!*>  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

*prayer of the heart*—inner prayer — that is, “silent” prayer (“silence,” in Greek is *hēsychia* —hence, the word, *hesychasm*). With the Name of Jesus Christ constantly in our minds and thoughts, we have the means by which temptations are extinguished and evil imaginations are destroyed. The prayer “of the Name” is called “The Jesus Prayer,” and it is: “O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

Through unceasing prayer, we thus allow Christ to enter our thoughts and illumine our souls, and we stand able to experience the uncreated energies of Christ as did the Saints of the Church. The Saints proved to be co-workers with our Lord in the working of miracles for the glory of God and the salvation of others. The uncreated energies of God are comprehended in the Uncreated Light of Christ, as was experienced by the Apostles at the event of His Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. Our Savior told His Apostles and followers: “*You are the light of the world.*” (St. Matthew 5:14). However, this “light” is, in fact, the Light of Christ, Who is the True Light.

In this message of our Lord, the use of candles became a part of our Holy Apostolic Tradition. The candle is used at our Baptisms to represent that we are the “light” of the world *from* The True Light of the world — Christ. This candle is our Easter candle; our wedding candles; the candles that we light upon entering church. The “theology” of the candle is consistent with St. Gregory Palamas’ defense of our Faith. An unlit candle is the image of something “paralyzed” - paralyzed, like the paralytic in today’s Gospel. Upon being “lit” by Christ in Baptism, His Light is now in us and we carry His Light to all that we meet. Light is great energy. Once our souls are “on fire” with Christ, we can produce eternally good works. The candle is an analogy of our Orthodox spiritual teaching. The wick carries the flame, like our souls burn with the Light of Christ. The candle “sacrifices itself,” like we are to give of ourselves in order to illumine those around us. Like the candle gives heat, we are to warm people’s hearts. Good things happen when the candle is lit, just like good things are done by good people.

The candle also is an image of the Trinity: One God (a single flame) in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (light, heat and energy). This is the candle of the Sacraments: Baptism, Marriage, Unction, and the Liturgy. It is the candle celebrating of our Lord’s Resurrection. We see this candle now during Great Lent in the Presanctified Liturgy as the priest exclaims: “*The Light of Christ, illumines all!*”

+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, Atlas Palos, Matthew Gray, Tasso Zambaras (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/serious illness*).

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: Angelike dynameis... [Tone 6]...(When the Angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your Pure and Sacred Body for You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You, Who arose from the dead, O Lord, we give glory to You.)

Hymn for this Sunday: Orthodoxias o Fostir...(Beacon of Orthodox belief, the strong support of the Church and her teacher inspired by God, you are the ornament of monks, the unassailable champion of theologians, O Gregory the Wonder-worker and the boast of Thessalonica, the messenger of grace. Forever earnestly entreat for the salvation of our souls. )

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: Ti Ypermacho...(O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.)

READINGS: — EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:10-14;2:1-3 / GOSPEL: St. Mark 2: 1-12

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated. Continue following along in our Divine Liturgy books through the Great Entrance and up to the Nicene Creed (pgs. 26-44). After "It is proper and right" (pg. 44), turn to pages 125/126 and follow the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great — pages 126-142. Following the exclamation, "By the grace, mercy and love..." turn back to page 62 to follow the remaining celebration of the Liturgy.

NOTE: Everyone is to sing with the choir, as well as to read together aloud the Creed; the Lord's Prayer and the Communion Prayers.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Coffee Hour: Linda Petalas and Susan Clark**

**PHILOPTOCHOS – Today, please contribute to our special tray which is being passed for Autism.** Our next **Board Meeting** will be **tomorrow, Monday, March 5 at 11:00 a.m.** Don't forget our **Membership Lunch** will be **this Saturday, March 10 at 11:30 a.m. at Susan Clark's home.** See the enclosed flier! Make your reservation today at the Philoptochos table. See **Linda Petalas and Pam Zaverdas.**

**NICHOLAS KONTAXIS ART EXHIBIT - On Saturday, March 17, 2018** the art work of **Nicholas Kontaxis** will be **on exhibit** at the **Heather James Fine Art Studio** at 45188 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. Details are posted in the enclosed flier. (Those receiving the email version of *The Ladder*, may view some of Nicholas' art work by clicking online at: [https://www.nicholaskontaxis.com/.](https://www.nicholaskontaxis.com/))

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Sunday, March 18th** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM – On Saturday, March 24th** our **Sunday School students** will be going to **Shield's Date Farm** to participate in a spiritual tour of the "Stations of the Cross" display. **Deacon Euthym** will lead the tour, offering the Orthodox Christian teachings pertaining to Holy Week. For details and information, contact **Jim Christopoulos**, our Sunday School superintendent.

**MARCH 25th – The Feast Day of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day**, the Philoptochos will be offering a special project to raise money in honor of our sister in the Lord, **Argyro Krespis** (whose 6 month Memorial is on that day). Argyro dedicated her life to provide needs for children's hospitals in Greece. In honor of **Argyro Krespis**, it will be our honor to raise money for needy children in our local area.

**SATURDAY OF LAZARUS – On Saturday, March 31**, everyone is invited to help prepare the palm crosses for the observance of Palm Sunday (April 1). As the palm crosses are being prepared a very brief talk entitled "Prayer: Be Still and Know that I am God" will be presented, followed with a "Question and Answer Session" hosted by Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym, who will address any questions regarding our Orthodox Faith and the Orthodox Liturgical practices related to Holy Week. Also, Those who want to bring palm branches from their homes are encouraged to do so.

**PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON – Sunday, April 1, 2018.** See the enclosed flier.

**SAVE THE DATE: The 2018 St. George Golf Tournament – Saturday, April 14, 2018.**


**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- Tuesday, March 6th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 7th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy- 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 8th.....Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.  
Parish Council Meeting- 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 9th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 9:00 a.m.  
3rd Salutations – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10th..... Philoptochos Membership Lunch – 11:30 a.m.  
Vespers- 5:00 p.m.

*The Ladder for March 2018*  
is sponsored by:  
*Emily Tcharos in loving memory of her beloved*  
*husband: George Tcharos*

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.





*You are cordially invited  
to attend the  
**St. George Philoptochos**  
Membership Luncheon  
March 10, 2018*

*11:30 a.m.*

*At The Home of Susan Clark  
38398 Red Cedar Drive,  
Palm Desert, CA 92211*

*Please R.S.V.P. to*

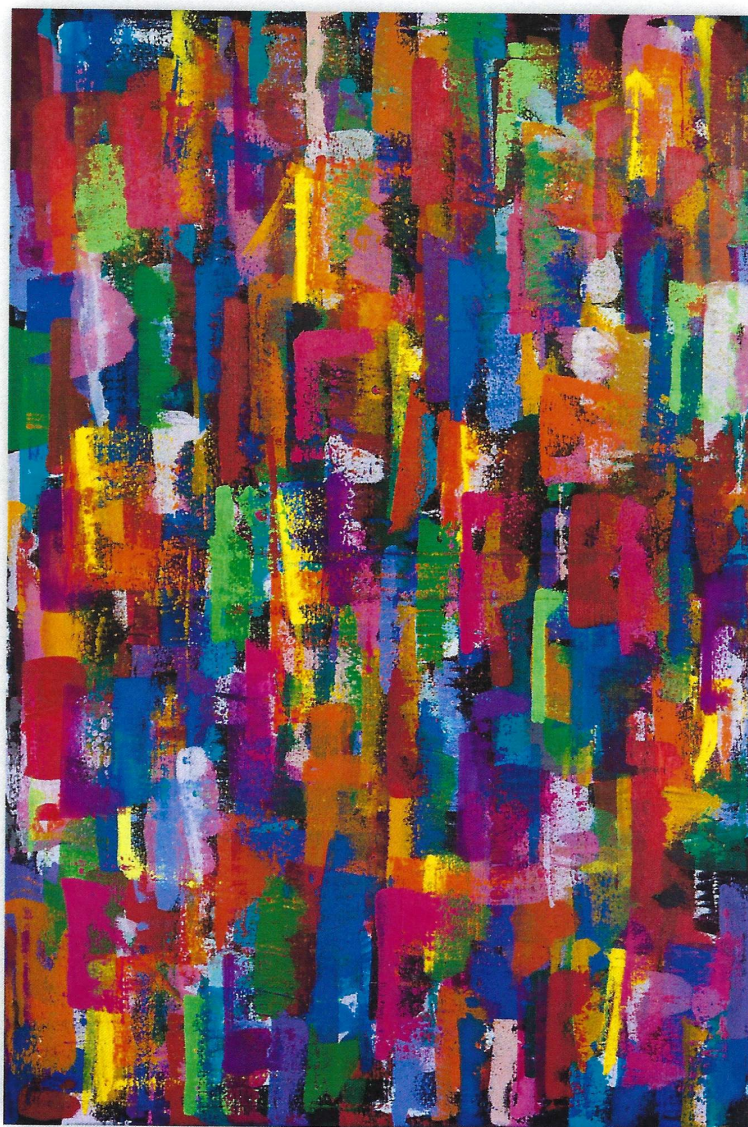
*Pam Laverdas 847-814-0299 [pamzav@yahoo.com](mailto:pamzav@yahoo.com)*

*Linda Petalas 219-765-6979 [jlpet@att.net](mailto:jlpet@att.net)*

*Directions to Susan's Home: Go to  
Sun City off of Washington St. to gate.  
Turn left at the first street after passing  
the gate.*

*Susan's phone: 760-668-1329*





# NICHOLAS KONTAXIS

HEATHER JAMES  
FINE ART

MARCH 17, 2018

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

Check out Nicholas Kontaxis' Art work by clicking on this website: <https://www.nicholaskontaxis.com/>



ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PALM DAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 1, 2018

Dear Parishioners

Once again, our Parish Community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will hold its annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this meaningful holiday celebration.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person. We would appreciate your support. Please enclose your payment with this form made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to P.O. box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to the office. The deadline is MARCH 26, 2018.

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_