

MARCH 11, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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

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THE LADDER

THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



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.

THE TWO TREES & THE "LETTERS"

C.S. Lewis' book, *The Screwtape Letters*, provides a vision of various methods used by the Evil One to tempt us. Indeed, every day there stands before us the Tree of the Garden of Eden and the "Tree" of Golgotha, which is the Holy Cross. The tree from which The Cross is made is "the Tree" of the new Paradise, which is itself the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Behind the Tree of Eden hides Satan. He is the one who brought temptation to Adam and Eve to taste the fruit of the tree which gives physical and temporary

pleasure. On the other hand, there is the Tree of Golgotha, upon which is nailed Christ our God, Who offers the fruit of Eternal Life—His Most Holy Body and Blood.

The Third Kathisma of today's Orthodox Service expresses the "sermon" of the Church in saying, "Of old the Tree of the garden stripped us, and by its taste, the enemy brought us death. Now the Tree of the Cross, which bears the garment of life for all humanity, is planted on earth..."

The one tree was used to deceive
Continued on page 2

SERVICE OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

As the choir sings the hymn: "Holy God" for the Great Doxology, the priest, holding the decorated tray with the Holy Cross, processes around the church to the solea, to a table especially set upon which the tray with the Holy Cross is to be set. The priest circles the table three times before placing the Holy Cross on the table. After which, he says:

"Wisdom! Arise!"

The priest then censes around the table, singing with the choir the following hymn **three times**: "Soson Kyrie ton laon Sou... (*Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to Your faithful over every evil and, by Your Holy Cross, protecting Your great order.*)"

The priest and deacon then make prostrations (making the Sign of the Cross). They make prostrations each of the **three times** that they, together with the choir, sing the following hymn: "Ton Stavron Sou proskinoumen." (*We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.*)"

After this, the priest and deacon assume their positions to begin the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the priest blesses the faithful with Holy Cross, while hymns for the veneration of the Holy Cross are chanted by the chanters.



Ο C.S. Lewis, εγραψε βιβλιον με τιτλο: <Επιστολές Προς τον *Screwtape*, μεσα στο οποιο περιγραφει διαφορους τροπους με τους οποιους ο Πονηρος προσπαθει να πειραζει τον ανθρωπον. Μαλιστα, καθε ημερα εχουμεν μποστα μας το <δενδρον της Εδεμ> και <το δενδρον> του Γολγοθα – το οποιο ειναι ο Τιμιος Σταυρος. Το δενδρον απο το οποιο εγινε ο Σταυρος ειναι <το Δενδρον> του Παραδεισου, και ο Παραδεισος ευρισκεται στην Εκκλησιαν του Χριστου.

Πισω απο τον δενδρον της Εδεμ κρυβεται ο Σατανας. Εκεινος εδωσε τον πειρασμον στον Αδαμ και στην Ευαν να δοκιμασουν τον καρπον του δενδρου που χαριζει φυσικην και προσωρινην απολαυσιν. Απο την αλλην μεριαν, υπαρχει το Δενδρον του Γολγοθα, επανω στο Οποιο κρεμμεται ο Θεανθρωπος Χριστος, ο Οποιος προσφερνει τον καρπον που χαριζει την Αιωνιον Ζωην –το Παναγιο Σωμα και Αιμα Του.

Θυμαμαι το ρητον ενος καθηγητης της θεολογιας, που ελεγε: <Η ελευθερια μας δοκιμαζεται καθε ημερα...Η θα εφαρμωσουμεν τις Εντολες του Θεου, η θα Τις απορριψουμεν παραμενοντας αιχμαλωτοι κατα διανοιαν σε χωριον μακρυα απο την Χαριν του Θεου...> Δηλαδη, η θα διαλεξουμεν τον καρπον του Σταυρου, η τον καρπον του πειρασμου, ο οποιος αποτελειται αποκλειστικως απο φαντασιες.

Το 3ον Καθισμα του Ορθου εκφραζει το κηρυγμα της Εκκλησιας: <Εν παραδεισω μεν το πριν, ξυλω εγυμνωσεν, επι τη γευσει ο εχθρος εισφερων νεκρωσιν, του Σταυρου δε το ξυλον, της ζωης το ενδυμα ανθρωποις φερων, επαγη επι της γης...> +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

humanity; the other Tree was used to save humanity. Either we will choose the fruit of the Holy Cross, or we will choose the fruit of temptation, which is comprised exclusively of *fantasies*.

Fantasy is the main element comprising the very existence of the Tree of Eden, which is why God commanded Adam and Eve to stay away from it. In general, *The Screwtape Letters*, echo in part the writings of our Saints, who warn us to stay away from -- even to *run* from -- temptations, because falling to temptations, separates us from God and causes death. In his book, C. S. Lewis, in a satiric fashion, reveals the "letters" written by the Evil One (going by the name "Screwtape") to one of his lieutenants, giving instructions on how to deceive people, primarily through their *pride*, which is quite often the birth place of *fantasy*.

We read in Genesis that the serpent said, "You will not die by death, ... but you shall be as gods." (3: 4-5). Satan wants to *deceive* us so that we find justification to disobey God, Who is the Author of Life. Plainly speaking, *without* God, there is death. Yet, the temptation to be as gods, appeals purely to our *pride*. Unchecked, it has led whole civilizations to embrace the motto of the Greek pagan philosopher Protagoras, who claimed, "Man is the measure of all things."

It follows that the nature of a temptation is that of deception by appealing to *ourselves*. Our pride blinds us to reality. We do not see the world *outside* of ourselves. The real world -i.e., the *whole truth* -- lies beyond our own limitations. The real world also includes the needs of other people and our responsibilities to provide sacrificial love. Above all, the real world includes the world of God's glory, which lies beyond our own mortality.

The "Tree" of the Cross bears the Gift of Discernment. Opposing the serpent's temptation for us to "be as gods," *without* God, the Holy Cross says: "You will not die, because you can be as gods *in union with* the True God." The Holy Cross is the *visual* Symbol offering humanity the *whole Truth*. It is the message of the Bible and the teaching of the Church, carrying with It the Gift of God's Wisdom.

The words of our Savior in asking us to "take up our cross," are explained by stating that "our cross" is the very consequence of going against the "prince" of this world. Instead of *pride*, our cross is *humility*. Instead of disobedience, our cross is *repentance* - the effort to be *obedient* to God. In this, we can follow Jesus to His Cross and Resurrection, since His Cross is both the expression of Extreme Humility, through which Divine Love is expressed, and It is the Door that opens for us every opportunity for repentance.

+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— O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. You gave a sign to those who fear You, so they may flee from the face of the bow.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."

Verse 2— You ascended on high, You led captivity captive; You received gifts for mankind, truly for the disobedient, so they may dwell there. The Lord God is blessed.

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

Verse 3— You give an inheritance to those who fear Your name.

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— All the ends of the earth saw the salvation of our God. Let us enter into His tabernacles; let us worship at the place where His feet stood.

Refrain: "Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 – But God is our King before the ages; He worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who is Risen from the dead, Alleluia."

Verse 3 – Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.

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.

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 - Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at the footstool of His feet. O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. And shepherd them, and raise them up forever.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Katelisas to Stavro Sou [Tone 7]...(You have destroyed death by Your Cross; You have opened Paradise to the thief; You have changed the lamentation of the Myrrh-bearers into joy; and You have commanded your Apostles to proclaim that You, Christ our God, have arisen, granting to the world the Great Mercy.)

Hymn for the Holy Cross: Soston Kyrie ton laon Sou ...(Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to Your faithful over adversaries and, by Your Cross, protecting Your Commonwealth.)

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 unasailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.)

Instead of "Aghios o Theos (Holy God)," we sing: "Ton Stavron Sou, proskinoumen, Despota. Ke tin aghian Sou Anastasin doxazomen." (We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.)

READINGS – EPISTLE: Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 1-6 / GOSPEL: St. Mark 8: 34-38; 9:1

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT (Following the Creed see pages 125/126 - 142 in our Divine Liturgy Books. After the exclamation, "By the grace, mercy and love..." turn back to pages 62-80.)

After Holy Communion: "Soston, Kyrie, ton laon Sou..."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: In memorial of George Tcharos

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **George Tcharos (1 year)**, the beloved husband of **Emily Tcharos** and father of **Nicholas Tcharos and Stephanie Kourakis**, as well as the grandfather of **Theo-haris and Alexander Tcharos and Jacob and Anisia Kourakis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **George Tcharos** and grant peace and comfort to **Emily Tcharos** and her entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our Easter Bake Sale will be on Sunday, March 25 and Sunday, April 1. See Order Form in this newsletter. The deadline for orders is March 19. Sign up to help make the bake goods with **Lula Valissarakos** and **Athena Snarskis**, our Co-Chairs. If you are interested in sponsoring a Coffee Hour, please see **Athena Snarskis** and **Pat Dalkas**.

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS ART EXHIBIT - This 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. See enclosed flier.

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. For details and information, contact **Jim Christopoulos**.

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). 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" with Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym.

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

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – The date for the Spring General Assembly has changed. There will be no General Assembly next week (as previously announced). The date for the Spring General Assembly is now set for **Sunday, April 15th**.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Note: Fr. Ted is scheduled to have minor surgery on Monday, March 12th. Below is the schedule for this week. (Please note the change from previously printed copies of this schedule.)

Thursday, March 15th.....Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.

Friday, March 16h..... Presanctified Divine Liturgy – 9:00 a.m.

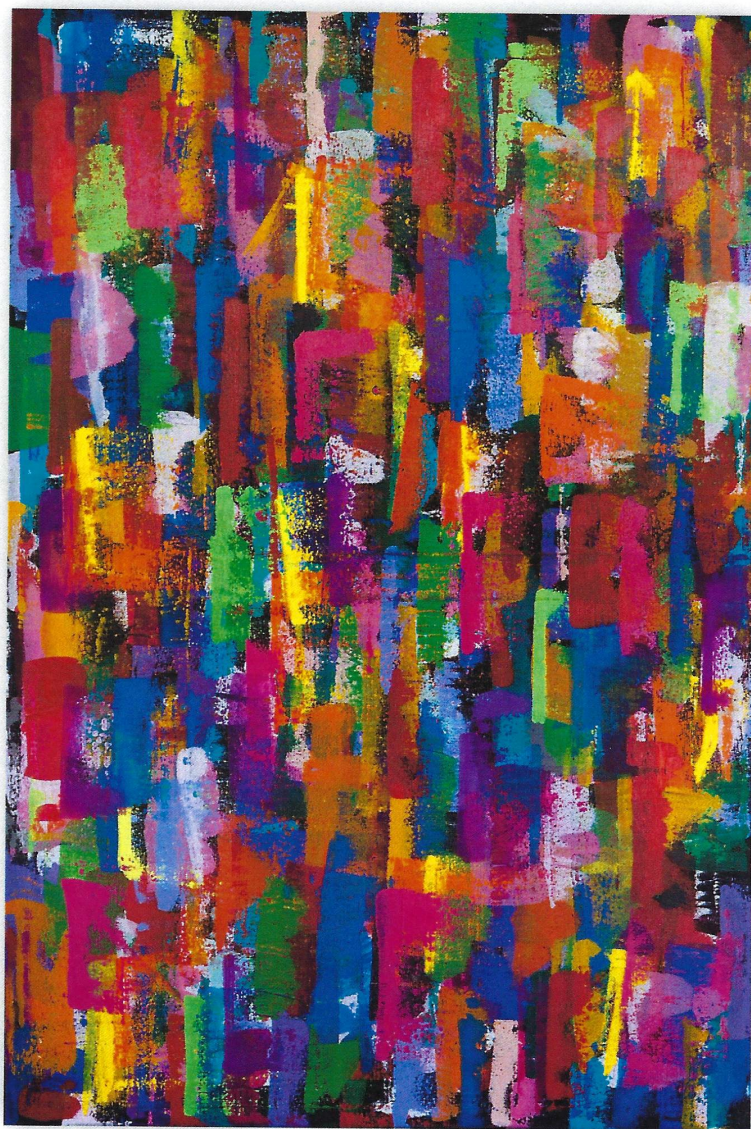
4th Salutations – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 17th..... The Nicholas Kontaxis Art Exhibit at Heather James Studion-4:30 p.m.

No Vespers

*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.



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.

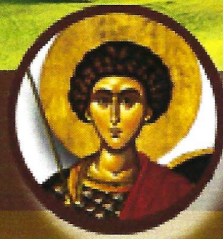
The cost for the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person. We would appreciate your support. Please enclose your payment with this form made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to P.O. box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to the office. The deadline is MARCH 26, 2018.

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AMOUNT _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 • 12:30PM SHOTGUN

ENTRY INFORMATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and awards dinner)
- 12:30pm Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 5:30pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:30pm Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

TEE SPONSOR - \$100

Package Includes: One Tee Sign

INDIVIDUAL AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s)
Saturday, April 14, 2018 ___ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s)
 ___ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek
Dinner | Saturday, April 14, 2018 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAME

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Saturday, April 7th**

Register Online: www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form To:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261



It's Time for the 2018 St. George Annual Golf Tournament

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Palm Desert,

*We are pleased to announce this year's golf tournament will take place on **Saturday, April 14th**. This is an important fundraiser for our church which allows us to continue to provide the teachings and worship of Orthodoxy in the Coachella Valley. We look forward to your participation!*

Golfing will again take place at Desert Willow Golf Club, one of the premiere courses in the Coachella Valley. Following golf, dinner will be served at the church hall. We will be serving a traditional Greek dinner with lamb right off the spit, Greek salad, spanakopita, loukanico, and other favorites, including, for dessert, galaktobouiko. Following the meal will be live Greek music to get your feet moving! For those who do not golf, we encourage you to join us for dinner and dancing. The more the merrier!

*The application is attached and has the details for golf, dinners and tee sponsorships. Please complete and return the form to the church no later than **April 7th with full payment** made out to St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The following are some important details.*

- *Men & women golfers welcome.*
- *No-host-bar*
- *Raffle and silent auction Saturday night.*
- *Create your own foursome or be paired up with other golfers.*
- *Specialty golf awards for golfing excellence or... sometimes because the ball just bounced in the right direction.*
- *Friends and family are welcome*

We hope to see you on April 14th

Here's to long drives and short putts and a whole lot of fun!

*George Argyros, Chairman
And the St. George Golf Committee*

