

MARCH 18, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

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THE LADDER

ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

email:

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.

PRAYER AND FASTING

In his book, *Great Lent*, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann dedicates a section to the words of today's Gospel passage, spoken by our Savior: "This kind cannot be cast out but by prayer and fasting." (St. Mark 9:29). He notes that abstinence from food is not necessarily an Orthodox Christian practice, reminding us that people often abstain from food even as a form of political protest.

If we take into consideration the full depth and meaning of fasting, from the purely Biblical perspective, we note that

Adam and Eve were to abstain from eating the forbidden fruit. It was not a dietary issue at all. The fruit was the center-piece of Adam and Eve's temptation to be as gods, independent of the True God Who had created them. It was a matter of pride. By entertaining this temptation, they fell into *disobedience* of God and committed sin. "The results of Adam's failure are expulsion from Paradise and death." (pg. 93), as Fr. Schmemmann writes. Following His Baptism in the Jordan, our Lord subjected Himself to

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WHY IS OUR WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN ENTITLED THE LADDER?

It has always been the prayer that the weekly edition of our parish bulletin be more than a vehicle to inform people of parish events and activities, since, consistent with the very purpose of the Church, our events and activities are to encourage us to grow in understanding our Orthodox Faith and in applying the teachings of the Church ever better in our relationships with God and with one another. This life-time experience of *growing* in Faith and in knowledge of expressing love to one another is like going from one step to another in ascending a *ladder* that leads from earth to heaven. St. John of the Ladder composed a manual of instruction in the effort to grow spiritually, entitled *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. Every year, we commemorate his memory on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

In describing "Step 1" of this "ladder of growth," St. John speaks of the need to be afraid of our failure to love God. "I have seen people who were planning to steal and who were not afraid of being distanced from God, but who cancelled their plans upon hearing the barking of guard dogs. What the fear of God could not achieve was done by the fear of animals...I have seen people who blasphemed God and were not in the least perturbed by it and how these very same people, upon offending friends over some petty matter employed every effort -- made every sacrifice -- and gave every apology in order to regain their former love." (*Ladder of Divine Ascent*, pg. 53).



Στο βιβλίο του, *Η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή*, ο Πατήρ Αλέξανδρος Σμεμμάν κάνει μια ανάλυση σχετικώς με τα λόγια της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής, τα οποία είπε ο Θεάνθρωπος Χριστός: <Τουτο το γεγονός εν ουδενι δυναται εξελθειν ει μη εν προσευχη και νηστεια.> (Μαρκ.9: 29). Σημειώνει ότι η αποφυγή φαγητών δεν είναι αποκλειστικώς μια συνηθεια της Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας, αφού μας υπενθυμίζει ότι πολλοί αποφεύγουν το φαγητό ακόμη ως είδος πολιτικής διαματυρίας.

Εάν λάβουμε υπόψη το πλήρες βάθος και το νόημα της νηστείας από αποψη της Αγίας Γραφής, σημειώνουμε ότι ο Αδάμ και η Εύα έπρεπε να απέχουν τον απαγορευμένον καρπόν. Δεν ήταν καθόλου διαιτολογικό ζήτημα. Αυτός ο καρπός ήταν το κεντρικό θέμα του πειρασμού δια του οποίου ο Αδάμ και η Εύα επροσεπαθήσαν να γίνουν <θεοί,> ανεξαρτητοί από τον Αληθινόν Θεόν, ο οποίος τους εδημιούργησε. Ήταν θέμα εγωισμού και έπεσαν σε παρακοή της Εντολής του Θεού και ημαρτήσαν. Ο Σμεμμάν γράφει: <Το αποτέλεσμα της παρακοής του Αδάμ ήταν η απελαση του από τον παραδεισο.> (σελ. 93). Μετά το βάπτισμα Του στον Ιορδάνην, ο Χριστός υπεβάλε τον Εαυτόν Του σε νηστεία στην ερημό και ενίκησε τους πειρασμούς του Πονηρού. <Ο καρπός της νίκης του Χριστού είναι η καταστροφή του θανάτου και η εισοδος στον Παραδεισον.> (σελ. 93).

Η νητεία και η προσευχή είναι τα μέσα δια των οποίων υπακούομεν στον Θεόν ώστε να κατοικούμεν ψυχικώς στην παρουσία Του. Η παρουσία του Χριστού είναι η προστασία από κάθε μορφή κακίας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

a fast in the wilderness. Along with the fast, He overcame the temptations of the devil. *"The fruits of Christ's victory are the destruction of death and our return to Paradise."* (pg. 93).

Obedience to God is central to overthrowing evil. Fasting helps us to avoid distractions (such as care for our appetites) from the contemplation of God's love. Contemplation of God is yet another name for sincere prayer. Hence, fasting and prayer go together in every effort to find ourselves in the presence of God. The presence of our Lord is itself protection against evil. This is evident from the healing of the young man in today's Gospel passage, as our Lord expelled his demons. Demons are banished by the presence of God. The source of evil, therefore, is our own estrangement from God.

Spiritual life, from the Orthodox Christian perspective, is a life of choosing the things of God over the things of Caesar. It is a life of inner peace that comes only by conquering emotions and imaginations that lead us into temptations and evil. For St. John of the Ladder, for example, such emotions include anger, despondency, resentment, neglect, lust. Self-control is key in avoiding evil born from temptations. What was obvious to those close to the demoniac of today's Gospel passage was that he was totally out of control. Having lost the ability to at least fight temptations, the demons took control of him leading him nearly to destruction by fire and water.

Spiritual life, from a non-Orthodox Christian perspective, is one of somehow *combining* things of God *with* things of Caesar. The idea often promoted by T.V. evangelists that a life of faith in God yields material benefits and success is not consistent with the experience of the Saints. Trying to combine materialism with spiritual life results in what Fr. Schmemmann calls "religion-less religion." Praying and fasting are not to be reduced to formulas in the effort to get God "on our side" in pursuit of material goods. Instead, prayer and fasting yield a joyful relationship with God, Who grants blessings of peace through a clear conscience in doing God's Will, as well as divine Wisdom, guiding us through the "ups" and "downs" of life.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle to our Church's mission of guiding humanity to genuine holiness in Christ our God is this contemporary "spirit" of "religion-less religion" -- the false union of the things of God with the things of Caesar. It is important to note that our Savior does not tell us that we must be poverty-stricken in order to overcome evil. Wealth is not itself a sin as long as we remember that it all belongs to God anyway. What Jesus *does* say is that evil is overcome by prayer and fasting.

+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*).

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 all that is 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: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

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."

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: *Ex ipsous katilthes [Tone 8]...(From on high You descended O Merciful Savior, You endured the grave for three days, that You might free us from sufferings. Glory to you Lord, our Life and our Resurrection.)*

Hymn for St. John of the Ladder: *Tes ton dakrion sou rho-ehs... (With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, 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 for this Sunday: *Ti Ypermachos...(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 – 6: 13-20 / Gospel – St. Mark 9: 17-31

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.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: In memorial of Bob Maverick

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Bob Maverick (1 year)**, the beloved husband of **Tomasine Maverick**, father of **Ed and Wayne Maverick**, grandfather of **Crissy Floyhar, Jessica Lagpacan, Christopher Cory and Nicky Maverick**, great-grandfather of **Koda, Alex, Zoi and Sophia**, brother of **Denise Scourletous** and uncle of **Gus Mavritsakis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Bob Maverick** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Tomasine Maverick** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our Membership Lunch was a success. Members brought their favorite lenten dishes and we sat outside in a spring garden setting created by Susan Clark, our hostess. Thank you to our Co-Chairs Linda Petalas and Pam Zaverdas. You can still renew your membership for 2018. See Linda, Pam or Tina. Next Sunday, March 25 we will be passing a tray in memory of Argyro Krespis. The money will be used for our new charity Boys and Girls Club of Indio. Our Easter Bake Sale forms are available on the coffee counter in the hall. Be sure to fill out your order form and pay by check or cash. Athena Snarskis and Tina Veroulis are collecting the forms today. The deadline for ordering is tomorrow Monday, March 19.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – The Spring General Assembly is scheduled for **Sunday, April 15, 2018.**

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" hosted by 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.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 20th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 21st.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 22nd.....Lenten Prayer Service of the Great Canon – 9:00 a.m.

Choir Practice- 1:00 p.m.

Friday, March 23rd.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.

Akathist Hymn - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 24th.....Sunday School excursion to Date Farm's "Stations of the Cross" -11:00 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.

PHILOPTOCHOS

EASTER BAKE SALE

Easter Bread & Koulourakia



The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Easter bread and koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Payments must be included with your order. and should be made no later than March 19. Orders can be given to Lula Valissarakos, Athena Snarskis or turned into the office. With shortage of help, we will not be making as many breads and koulourakia, so we are limiting the orders to 5 breads and 10 dz koulourakia per person.

PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, March 25 , 2018 (following the conclusion of Church Services)
Sunday, April 1, 2018 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



NAME _____

PHONE _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
Koulourakia	_____	\$6.00	_____
Easter Bread	_____	\$12.00	_____
Easter Bread with Egg	_____	\$13.00	_____
<u>Make checks payable to Philoptochos</u>		Total Amount	\$ _____



ST GEORGR 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.

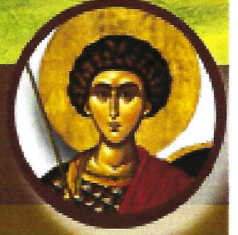
NAME _____

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**
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*

