

MARCH 25, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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

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THE LADDER

THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755
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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.

OBEDIENCE BEYOND LOGIC

With the celebration of the Annunciation to the Ever-Virgin Mary today, we can emphasize two important points that relate to our personal lives today: 1) The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives; 2) The “womanhood” of the Most Holy Theotokos and Her role in our lives.

First, the third article of the Nicene Creed proclaims our faith that “*For us and for our salvation, He [Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who is of the same essence with the Father] came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin*

Mary and became Man.” These words affirm the basic truth that God *works with us* for our salvation. In turn, we are to *work with God*. Working with God is a life-time life-style for each person born into the world and the results of working with God is that human beings become “bearers of the Holy Spirit” in terms of attitude and behavior. Put in succinct terms, Vladimir Lossky, in his book, *In the Image and Likeness of God*, writes, “...The work of the Spirit serves that of the Son, for it is by receiving the Spirit that human persons can bear witness in

Continued on page 2

THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF GREECE – The common denominator of freedom for Americans and Greeks is that of religious freedom. Compared to the American quest for religious freedom, the quest of the Greek people had with it 400 years of Christian martyrdom - a Christian martyrdom that was no different than that observed in the Middle East today. In the face of the death of many Christians (whom we call today, Neo-Martyrs of the Orthodox Church) and in the face of the vast number of church temples which were forcibly closed by the Ottoman Turks, the Greek people preserved their Orthodox Christian Faith against all odds. It is only fitting that churches were opened in order to praise the Holy Mother of God on a day dedicated to Her role in all of human history - that day being March 25, 1821, the Feast of the Annunciation.

In America, as well as in Greece today, we now have the opportunity to keep our churches open. Let us not let the secular mentality of our age do what the Greek people did not allow the Ottoman Turks to do -- which is to close our churches through lack of faith and loose living. Let us honor the fallen heroes of religious freedom -- both American and Greek -- by living the Orthodox Christian life-style of prayer, fasting and community worship. Let us together partake of the grace of the Holy Spirit through participation in the Sacraments.
+FR. THEODORE



Καθως εορταζουμεν τον Ευαγγελισμον της Θεοτοκου σημερα, ας τονισουμεν δυο σπουδαια θεματα τα οποια επειραζουν την προσωπικην ζωην του καθε ανθρωπου της σημερινης εποχης: 1) τον ρολον του Αγιου Πνευματος, και, 2) την <γυναικειαν φυσην> της Θεοτοκου και τον ρολον της στην σημερινην μας ζωην.

Πρωτον, στο <Πιστευω> ομολογουμεν οτι ο Χριστος ειναι ο Θεος — *Φως εκ Φωτος* — ο Οποιος <δια ημας τους ανθρωπους και δια την ημετεραν σωτηριαν> κατεβηκε απο τον ουρανον και ενσαρκωθηκε <εκ Πνευματος Αγιου και Μαρίας της Παρθενου> και εγινε ανθρωπος. Αυτα τα λογια εκφραζουν την αληθειαν οτι ο Θεος *εργαζεται μαζι μας*. Επομενως, εμεις *εργαζομεθα μαζι με τον Θεον* οπως εκανε η Θεοτοκος. Η *συνεργασια* μας με τον Θεον ειναι ενας ισοβιος τροπος ζωης. Κατα αυτον τον τροπον θα ειμεθα <Πνευματοφοροι> σε ολες τις υποθεσεις μας. Ο θεολογος, Vladimir Lossky, γραφει στο βιβλιο του, *Εις Εικονα και Ομοιωσιν του Θεου*: <...*Το εργον του Αγιου Πνευματος υπηρετει προς το εργον του Χριστου, αφου ειναι με το να παραλαβει το Πνευμα ο ανθρωπος γινεται μαρτυς της θεοτητος του Χριστου. Ο Υιος εγινε σαν εμας δια της ενανθρωπησεως...εμεις γινομεθα σαν Αυτον, ο Οποιος μεταδιδει την θεοτητα Του στον καθεναν κατα ιδιαιτερον τροπον.*> (σελ. 109).

Δευτρον, η δικαιοσυνη της Θεοτοκου εχει μεγαλυτερη αξια απο την δικαιοσυνην αλλων, επιδη η υπακοη της προς τον Θεον ειναι υπακοη αγαπης μεχρι σημειον που ειναι παραδοξη και παραλογη. Για αυτον τον λογον ειναι η Μητερα ολης της ανθρωποτητος.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

consciousness to the divinity of Christ. The Son has become like us by the incarnation; we become like Him, Who communicates the divinity to each human person in a particular way." (pg. 109). The living experience of "co-workership" with God is evident in the life of the Ever-Virgin Mary, Who was called to be the Birth-Giver of God in the flesh. In this, She has opened the way for each human being to do as She has done: to give birth to Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit in *our* being and, "through us, to impart His Body and Blood, to all [His] people," as is said during the Liturgy. This is the message of the "Icon of the Platytera."

Second, Her righteousness was superior to others in that Her obedience to God is that of authentic love for God, to the extreme that it was obedience beyond human logic. Metropolitan Ierotheos of Nafpaktos writes, "[It was obedience] to God for an event to occur which was odd and beyond human reason. Thus, Her obedience to God's Will was an utter subjection of Her own logic to the Will of God." (*Major Feast Day of the Lord*, pg.29). She was (and is) a Virgin not only in the physical sense, but also in the sense that She was not tainted by the affairs of a fallen world. It was through Her "virgin spirit," that Her conversation with the Angel Gabriel is so meaningful. In Her Purity, She discerned the Will of God, making Her the Mother of humanity. Her discernment was made evident, not by doubting God, but by pondering at "what manner of greeting" She was given by the Angel, asking "how" it would happen for Her, since "She knew no man." The "how" question was couched in Her willingness to do only what God wants. She showed a complete reversal of the spirit of Eve, who heard the voice of temptation and failed to discern its spirit. The Ever-Virgin Mary is the model for monasticism and marriage, both of which are expressions of love for God.

Her role in our lives today provides a guiding message to a world embroiled in the "battle of the sexes." The words of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann in speaking about Holy Marriage are poignant with respect to the *loving* obedience to God's Will shown by the Ever-Virgin Mary: "She accepted to be what from all eternity all of creation was created to be: the temple of the Holy Spirit, the humanity of God...In accepting this nature, She fulfilled the womanhood of creation...the world [finds its restoration and fulfillment in the Church]. And it is in Mary -the Woman, the Virgin, the Mother - in Her response to God, that the Church has its living and personal beginning." (*For the Life of the World*, pgs. 83-84). The Ever-Virgin's Motherhood, makes way for our human-hood (which includes *manhood*) to be divine in Christ. In being the Mother of God, She is the Birth-Giver of our salvation.

+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 – O God, give Your judgments to the King, and Your righteousness to the King's Son. Let the mountains raise up peace for Your people and the hills in righteousness.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."*

Verse 2 – Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God.

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

Verse 3 – The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it, "I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins."

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: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1 – And He shall come down like rain on the fleece, like raindrops falling on the earth. The Most High sanctified His tabernacle.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O thee imas sarkotheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 – God will come openly. He is our God, and He shall not be silent.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who was incarnate for us, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 – In His days, righteousness and abundance of peace shall flourish, until the moon is removed.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O thee imas sarkotheis, 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...)*

THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III – *His name be blessed unto the ages and remain before the sun; all tribes of the earth shall be blessed in Him; all the Gentiles shall bless Him; the earth shall be filled with His glory.*

Entrance Hymn: *Evangelizesthe imeran ex imeras to sotirion tou Theou... (Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God, save us, O Son of God Who arose from the dead; we sing to You, Allelouia.)*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Tou lithou sfrighisthendos [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 the Annunciation: *Simeron tis sotirias imon to kefaleon... (Today is the summary of our salvation, and the revelation of the age-old mystery. For the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace. Therefore, let us join him, and cry aloud to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace! The Lord is with you.")*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *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 – 2: 11-18 / Gospel – St. Luke 1: 24-38

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated today - pages 5-80 in our Divine Liturgy books

--Instead of "Axion Estin": *"O earth, announce the good tidings of great joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God. Now let no uninitiated hand approach the living Ark of God to touch it. Rather let believers' lips sing out in exultation the Angel's salutation unceasingly to the Theotokos and cry out: Rejoice, Maiden full of grace! The Lord is with you."*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Nick Krespis in memorial for his beloved mother, Argyro Krespis

****NOTE ABOUT COFFEE-** Coffee will not be available until after the end of the Divine Liturgy when the “antidoron” is distributed. **To all:** Please do not disgrace the Liturgy over your want for coffee. See Fr. Ted only for any questions regarding this issue.

MEMORIAL -Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Argyro Krespis (6 months)**,the beloved mother of **Nick Krespis; Gregory Michaels (6 years), Efstathios Michaels and Loizos Michaels**, the beloved brothers and father of **Stacey Argyros; Mary Manesis (1 year)**, the beloved mother of **John Manesis** and **Akrivoula Davis**, the beloved mother of **Bess Manesis**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Today, we will be passing a tray in memory of **Argyro Krespis**. Your donation will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Indio. Thank you for your support. We have one more day of baking for the Easter Bake Sale. **Please come tomorrow Monday, March 26 to help complete the bake goods that will be distributed on Palm Sunday, April 1.** If you are interested in sponsoring or hosting a Coffee Hour, please see **Athena Snarskis** and **Pat Dalkas**.

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

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS – **On Saturday, March 31**, everyone is invited to help prepare the palm crosses for the observance of Palm Sunday. “Question and Answer Session” with the theme: *“Be Still and Know that I am God*, will be hosted by Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym.

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

2018 ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT – Saturday, April 14, 2018. (Registration enclosed.)

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, March 27th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 28th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 29th.....Choir Practice- 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 30th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 31st.....SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
 - Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m./Palm Crosses-Religious Discussion -10:45 a.m.
 - Vespers- 5:00 p.m.

- HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:** Sunday, April 1 - Sunday, April 8
- Palm Sunday: Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./ Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.
 - Holy Monday: Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.
 - Holy Tuesday: Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.
 - Holy Wednesday: Presanctified Liturgy-9:00 a.m./ Holy Unction-6:30 p.m.
 - Holy Thursday: Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m./The Service of 12 Gospels-6:30 p.m.
 - Holy Friday:Holy Hours-9:00 a.m./Youth Retreat-10:30/Apokathilosis-12noon/Epitaphio-7:00pm.
 - Holy Saturday: Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m./ Preparation for the Resurrection Canon-11:00 p.m
 - Easter Sunday (Holy Pascha): Resurrection Service-12 midnight/ Divine Liturgy-12:30 a.m.
 - Agape Vesper Service-3:00 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.



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.

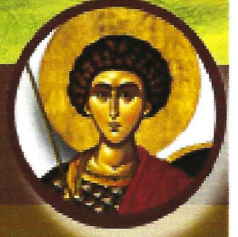
NAME _____

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*



TRANSLATION INTO GREEK OF THE FRONT-PAGE STATEMENT OF TODAY'S LADDER:

THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF GREECE

Η ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΙΑΣ

Ένα κοινό στοιχείο του αγώνα για την Αμερικανική και την Ελληνική ελευθερία είναι η κοινή αναζητήσιμη για θρησκευτική ελευθερία. Σε σύγκριση με την Αμερικανική αναζητήσιμη ελευθερία, η αναζητήσιμη για την θρησκευτική ελευθερία είχε μαζί της 400 χρόνια Χριστιανικού μαρτυρίου – ένα Χριστιανικό μαρτύριο που δεν ήταν διαφορετικό από αυτό που παρατηρούμε στην Μέση Ανατολή σήμερα. Μπροστά στον θάνατο αμέτρητων Χριστιανών μαρτύρων (τους οποίους αποκαλούμε σήμερα Νεομαρτυρές της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας) και μπροστά στον τεράστιο αριθμό ναών που εκλείσθηκαν βίαια από τους Οθωμανούς Τούρκους, ο Ελληνικός Λαός διατήρησε την Ορθόδοξη Πίστην του εναντίον σε όλες τις πιθανότητες. Αξίζει που οι Έλληνες ανοίξαν τους ναούς για να προσφέρουν επαιούς στην Θεοτόκον σε μια ημέρα αφιερωμένη στον ρόλο της προς την σωτηρία ολης της ανθρωπότητας — την 25η Μαρτίου, την εορτή του Ευαγγελισμού.

Στην Αμερική, όπως στην Ελλάδα σήμερα, έχουμε τώρα την ευκαιρία να κρατήσουμε τους Έλληνο-Ορθόδοξους ναούς μας να είναι πάντοτε ανοιχτοί. Ας μην αφήσουμε τον υλισμό και την αντι-θρησκευτική ατμόσφαιρα του σημερινού κόσμου να κάνουν αυτό που ο Ελληνικός Λαός δεν επέτρεψε στους Οθωμανούς Τούρκους να κάνουν — δηλαδή, να κλείσουν τους ναούς μας δια της απιστίας και της ασωτίας. Ας τιμήσουμε τους πεσόντας ήρωες της θρησκευτικής ελευθερίας – τόσο Αμερικανών όσο και Ελλήνων – που εφαρμόζαν τις διδασκαλίες της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας όσο εξούσαν στον επίγειον μας κόσμο – με προσευχή, νηστεία και την λατρεία. Μαζί, ας απολαύουμε πάντοτε την χαράν του Αγίου Πνεύματος μέσω της συμμετοχής μας στα Αγία Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ