

NOVEMBER 25, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: stgeorgepd@aol.com



THE LADDER

ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR

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.

WORSHIP & THE WAY OF LIFE

For us to properly understand the words of St. Paul the Apostle addressed to the Galatians, we must see the purpose of the law in relationship to one's belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Savior. The law protects us from wrongs, but in as much as we are united with Christ, He Himself protects us from wrongs and from evil and, *in addition*, He guides us to all things that are good—i.e., the truly great things of His Kingdom. The law is given only to work-

ers who are responsible to do the work that is desired from them by their rulers. However, Christ recreated us through His Resurrection from the dead. We are “image and likeness” of God.

It is for this reason that our human worth and dignity are not accomplished by the law. They are gifts from God Who became Man in order to save us from death. We share in His Eternal Life because He adopted us. That is why St. Paul wrote, “*Those*

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ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR –The Holy Great Martyr Catherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, St. Catherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity.

The Roman Emperor Maximian happened to visit Alexandria for a pagan festival, which was especially splendid and crowded. During this time, the saint was preaching the Gospel of the One True God and with wisdom exposed the errors of the pagans. In order to convince her to worship the emperor's false gods and to show the superiority of pagan wisdom, the emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers of the Empire to dispute with her, but she got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. St. Catherine was then apprehended and taken to Maximian. Refusing to renounce Christ, she was taken to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on a meshing wheel, they urged that she renounce the Christian Faith and offer sacrifice to the gods. St. Catherine steadfastly confessed Christ and she herself approached the wheels; but an angel smashed the instruments of execution. Having beheld this wonder, the Empress Augusta, along with 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ in front of everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian subsequently ordered that St. Catherine be beheaded.

--Excerpts from “St. Catherine the Great Martyr:” from - <https://oca.org>



Για να καταλαβαίνουμε όπως πρέπει τα λόγια του Αποστόλου Παύλου προς τους Γαλατάς, είναι αναγκη να γνωρίσουμε τον ρόλο του νομού σχετικώς με την πίστιν του ανθρώπου ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός και Σωτήρ μας. Μας διαφυλάττει ο νομός από τον κακό, αλλά όσον ειμεθα ηνωμένοι με τον Σωτήρα μας Χριστόν, ο Ιδιός μας διαφυλάττει και από το κακό και, *επισής*, μας οδηγεί προς το καλό – δηλ., όλα τα αγαθά της Βασιλείας Του.

Ο νομός δίδεται μόνον σε εργατές οι οποίοι είναι υποχρεωμένοι να υπηρετούν στις επιθυμίες των αρχόντων των. Αλλά, ο Χριστός μας ξανα-έπλασε δια μέσου της Αναστασεως Του εκ των νεκρών. Ειμεθα <εικόνα και ομοίωσιν> του Θεού. Ειμεθα τέκνα του Θεού. Για αυτόν τον λόγο, η ανθρωπινή αξία μας και η αξιοπρέπεια μας δεν ερχονται από έργα του νομού. Είναι τα θεία δώρα του Θεού ο οποίος έγινε άνθρωπος για να μας σώση από τον θάνατον. Ειμεθα τα τέκνα Του διότι μας υιοθέτησε. Για αυτόν τον λόγον, ο Άγιος Παύλος εγραψε: <Όσοι γάρ εις Χριστόν εβαπτισθητε, Χριστόν ενεδυσασθε.> (Γαλ.3:27).

Ειμεθα τέκνα του Θεού, αφού μας το ειπε ο Ιδιός ο Χριστός. Τέκνα του Θεού είναι οι ειρηνοποιοί και οι ελεημόνες (Ματθαιού [5:9] και Λουκά [6:35]). Συνιστά ο Χριστός στους πιστούς να επικαλούμεν τον Θεόν, λέγοντας <Πατήρ ημών> (Ματθ. 6:9).

Ας τιμούμεν πάντοτε τον Κύριον δια πράξεων αγάπης και της θερμής προσευχής κα λατρείας μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

who have been baptized unto Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27). Our Savior declared that we are children of God. As such, we are peacemakers and workers of charity as brothers and sisters. (See St. Matthew [5:9] and St. Luke [6:35]). Our brother/sister-hood is expressed by Christ, Who encourages us to call upon God, saying, "Our Father" (St. Matthew 6:9).

Unity with Christ fulfills the law and much more. The young man of today's Gospel passage was satisfied that he followed the law. However, that is not enough! What is required is our love. Love is not only a matter of giving to others; it is, according to St. John Chrysostom, a matter of truly following Christ Who is to be glorified by our giving not only of material things, but of spiritual blessings, as well. (See *Orthodox Study Bible*, footnote for Matthew 19:21). With this in mind, we understand that worship and life go hand-in-hand.

Yet, the demands of society today require from us that our energies be poured into "things of the world." This is the basis of what is called *secularism*. At the same time, we all seek *spiritual* things, such as peace in the world through prayers and worship. It is difficult, however, to fulfill the demands of both *secularism* and *worship* at the same time. To this point, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann says, "*Secularism is, I submit, above all a negation of worship...It is a rejection of man's relation to God, to the world and to himself...*" (For the *Life of the World*, pg. 118). He continues to note that it is a rejection of our own confession said clearly during the Liturgy: "That it is meet and right to praise You; to bless You; to sing to You and to give thanks to You..."

As we find ourselves in the midst of the liturgical season of preparing for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, we are summoned to give thanks to God by sharing God's love and mercy with others. The Divine Liturgy teaches us: "Let us put aside all worldly cares so that we may receive the King of all," and, in this way, we experience our Lord's "mercy of peace" in our personal and community lives.

+FR. THEODORE

"The young man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.... The Lord said, 'What is impossible with men is possible with God.'"

-- St. Luke 18:20- 27

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

ANTIPHON I: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

Verse 1—Great is the Lord and exceedingly praiseworthy.

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

Verse 2—Glorious things were said concerning you, O city of God.

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

Verse 3— God is known in her palaces. As we heard, so we saw.

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

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— The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His holy place.

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

Verse 2—This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall go in through it.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3— Holy is Your temple, wondrous in righteousness.

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. Amin

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

ANTIPHON III-- *The rich among the people shall entreat your favor. All her glory as the King's daughter is within, adorned and embroidered with golden tassels.*

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 o'er 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 Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple: Simeron tis evthokias Theou...*(Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.")*

Hymn for St. Catherine the Great Martyr: Tin panefimon nymphin Christou imnisomen...*(Let us exalt the all-lauded bride of Christ, Holy Catherine, the guardian of Sinai, who is our helper and our support; for she silenced brilliantly the daintiest of the disrespectful with the knife of the Spirit. An now that she has been crowned as a Martyr, she seeks for all the Great Mercy.)*

Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton 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 katharotatos na-ohs tou Sotiros ...*(The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is She.)*

READINGS: EPISTLE -- Ephesians 4: 1-7 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 12: 16-21

Instead of "Axion Estin," Angelli tin Eisothon tis Parthenou...*(When they saw the Entry of the Virgin Maiden, the Angels were astonished, at how she entered with glory into the Holy of Holies. 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: * You, O pure and virgin Maiden, are truly superior to all.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Sarah (Sabah) Rassi (1 year)**, the beloved sister of **Abraham Rassi** and **George Rassi**. In addition, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Jasmine Rassi (21 years)**, the beloved daughter of **Abraham Rassi**, sister of **Linda Rassi-Gavin** and the niece of **George Rassi**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Sarah (Sabah) Rassi** and to **Jasmine Rassi** and may He grant peace and comfort to Abraham Rassi and his entire family. We also express sincere gratitude to **George Rassi**, who donated to our parish in memory of **Sarah (Sabah) Rassi** and **Jasmine Rassi** a beautiful icon of the **Virgin Mary**, which was made in Greece. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Tomorrow Nov. 26 we start baking for our annual Christmas Bake Sale. We need volunteers to scoop and roll dough and package the baked cookies. We will also do this on Tuesday. The more hands we have the faster the work will go. We start at 9:00 a.m. The Sale will be on Sunday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 16. There are no advanced orders. It's first come, first serve. If you cannot be at Church on those days, we will have extended hours for pick up on Mon., Dec. 10, Tues. Dec. 11, Thurs., Dec. 13 and Fri., Dec 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. **SAVE THE DATE: the Philoptochos Annual Christmas Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 8** at Desert Horizons Country Club. Pay for your reservation(s) today. See Rhonda, Athena or Tina at the Philoptochos table.

STREET-LIFE...FEEDING THE HOMELESS -- On Tuesday, November 20th, a multitude of St. George parishioners participated in helping to feed approximately 300 homeless people at Miles Park in Indio in working with the local **Street Life** organization. Many blessings to **Rhonda Latkovic** for organizing this event, and to the many who volunteered.

ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD -- St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Forms are available in our parish hall. We encourage everyone to consider sharing blessings of our Savior with their fellow parishioners. Tomorrow is the deadline.

PARISH FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY-Save the date: Sunday, December 9, 2018.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 27th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 29th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 30th.....ST. ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE

Orthros - 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

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 in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.

Philoptochos Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Desert Horizons County Club

44900 Desert Horizons Country Club

Indian Wells, CA 92210

(Off Hwy. 111 between Cook and El Dorado)

760-340-4646

R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 30, 2018 to:

Rhonda Latkovic, Athena Snarskis or Tina Veroulis

Make your check payable to Philoptochos

Family and Friends are invited

\$37.00 per person for a Pre-fixe Menu, no substitutions

Choice of: **circle number of choice** (both meals include salad, soft drinks, & dessert)

1. Petite Filet Steak, spinach mashed potatoes, vegetables
2. Seared Alaskan Cod, lemon, olive and white bean ragout and spinach

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____ Amount Total \$ _____



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

- Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline: December 3, 2018



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office - 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

