

OCTOBER 21, 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



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.

DO DEMONS PRAY?

"Pharaoh entreated, saying: 'May God take away from me this death' (Exodus 10:17) and he was heard. Similarly, when the demons asked the Lord not to cast them into the abyss, their request was granted (St. Luke 8:11). How much more then will a Christian be heard when such a person prays to be delivered from spiritual death?" ("Texts for the Monks in India," by St. John Karpathos, Philokalia, Vol. 1, pg. 315).

St. John noted that even the demons

about whom we heard from today's Gospel passage asked the Lord that they may not be destroyed. From this we learn that: 1) the demons confess the truth that Jesus Christ is the One True God, the Only-Begotten Son of God the Father. Yet, we allow them to deceive us so that we do not believe in God. 2) Their evil is evident: they do not want to be destroyed, but they take delight in seeing us destroyed so that we do not glorify God, worshiping them instead. 3) The demons are obedient to God.

Continued on Page 2

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE THROUGH WORSHIP

"The Bible has in part been shaped by the language and spirit worship. The Old Testament emerged as a holy book in the context of the people of God as a worshipping community. The ancient stories about the picture about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as well as those about the deliverance from Egypt; the desert wanderings & experience were often repeated by priests and at gatherings of worship. When the stories were later committed to writing, these and other portions of the Old Testament were collected, edited and often revised by priests at the Temple. The Old Testament became a "Bible" in close connection with the worship of Judaism.

The origins and development for the New Testament are similar. Both the Gospels and epistles are closely related to the worship and preaching of the early church. Whole books such as the first epistle of Peter and the book of Revelation are strongly liturgical. More frequently, individual passages have altered intimate affinities with the worship of the early church and are read like prayers. Think of the prayers in the early chapters of the Gospel of St. Luke; the Lord's prayer; many Christian hymns and epistles, as well as in the book of Revelation and the prayerful greetings and doxologies of St. Paul...

Finally the whole New Testament as a canon of 27 books was partly collected on the basis of what books were for decades read and the public worship of the ancient Church."

– Bread for Life: Reading the Bible, by
Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, pg. 83.



<Ο Φαραω εξήτησε, λεγοντας, Ας ο Θεος να μου αφαιρεσει αυτον τον θανατον. (Εξοδος 10:17) και ακουσθηκε. Ομοιως, οταν οι δαιμονες εξητησαν απο τον Κυριον να μην τους πεταξει στην αβυσσο, το αιτημα τους παραχωρηθηκε. Ποσο περισσοτερο, λοιπον, θα ακουσθει ενας Χριστιανος οταν προσευχεται να παραδοθει απο τον πνευματικον θανατον;>(<Συμβουλες Προς τους Μοναχους στην Ινδιαν, υπο Αγιου Ιωαννου Καρπαθου, Φιλοκαλια, Τομ. 1, σελ. 315).

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης εσημείωσε ότι ακόμη οι δαιμονες, περί των οποίων ακουσαμεν κατά το ανάγνωσμα του κατά Λουκάν Ευαγγελίου σήμερα, επαρακαλεσαν τον Κύριον να τους δώσει μέσον να αποφυγούν την καταστροφήν. Έτσι μαθαίνουμεν ότι: 1) οι δαιμονες μαρτυρούν ότι γνωρίζουν ότι, στην πραγματικότητα, ο Χριστός είναι ο Αληθινός Θεός, ο Μονογενής Υιός του Πατρός. 2) Η κακία τους είναι προφανής: δεν θέλουν να καταστραφούν, αλλά χαιρονται όταν βλέπουν ότι εμείς πεφτούμεν στην καταστροφήν για να μην δοξαζώμεν τον Θεόν και, συνεπώς, να λατρεύουμεν αυτούς. 3) Οι δαιμονες υπακούονται στον Θεόν γνωρίζοντας ότι ο Θεός έχει εξουσίαν ως Ο Δημιουργός, και ζητούν από τον Θεόν το έλεος Του.

Παραξένο πράγμα, όμως, που οι δαιμονες πιστεύουν στον Θεόν μας Χριστόν, αλλά ο κόσμος δεν πιστεύει. Τραγικό πράγμα που οι δαιμονες κάνουν αιτήσεις προς τον Χριστόν, αλλά ο κόσμος δεν προσευχεται. Η προσευχή είναι μια σταθερή σχέση με τον Θεόν. Είναι η πηγή της αληθινής χάρας. Όπως ακουμέν σε έναν από τους λειτουργικούς Ύμνους της Εκκλησίας: <Γευσασθε και ιδετε ότι Χριστός ο Κύριος.> +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Knowing that God has authority as the Creator, they ask for His mercy. The obedience to God on the part of the demons is illustrated in the exorcism prayers that are read during the performance of the Sacrament of Baptism, in which the priest in the Name of Christ, commands demons to depart and never harm the one who is to be baptized. Furthermore, the priest and the candidate for baptism (or the godparents) rebuke the evil spirits in the Name of Christ in the act of blowing and spitting upon them. In the Old Testament, an example of the obedience of demons to God can be seen in the book of Job, where we read that God commanded the Evil One to spare the life of Job, and he obeyed (Job 1:12).

As it is, however, demons cannot repent. This is because they have forever rejected God's love and they seek glory for themselves rather than the glory of God. This is an integral part of their personalities: seeking self-glory rather than God's glory. We know this, because every temptation that comes upon human beings has this element behind it: self-glory/self-will vs. God's glory/God's Will. The choice for self over God is what casts demons from God's presence. *It is a choice we also often make for ourselves.* When we choose poorly, it is because we allow ourselves to be deceived; because our will is weak and/or because of our lack of faith. We cannot blame others.

God took on human flesh so that *we* can repent. The Incarnation of Christ joins our flesh to God's flesh and repentance is possible. Hence, we can only repent while living in the flesh here and now, since our flesh is the medium through which God can be joined to us and we can do God's work. Let us not wait until it is too late to repent! Through repentance, we gain a clear vision of God's Truth; we are strengthened by Christ and we gain power in faith. By choosing to give glory to God, we find our salvation.

The great irony of life is this: demons believe in God, but people do not. Demons pray, but people do not. Finally, while obedience to God is becoming less popular among people today, obedience to God can be seen even from demons. Conversely, if demons salute Christ as True God, so should we; if demons ask favors from God, so should we through prayer; if demons obey God, so should we. Believing that Christ is the True God, why not use the time that we have in this life to repent of any of our sins; to pray, and to get to know Him. As one of the Communion Hymns of the Divine Liturgy says, let us : "*Taste and see that the Lord is good!*"

+FR. THEODORE

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name."

St. John 20:31

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 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."

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."

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 This is the day the Lord has made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: To fedron tis anastaseos kirygma (Tone 4)... (When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)

Hymn for St. Hilarion: Tes ton dhakrion sou rhoh-es... (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 Hilarion, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.)

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: Prostasia ton Christianon ... (A Protection of Christians unshamable, Intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for You are good; Your loving help bring to us, who are crying in faith to You: Hasten now to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a Protection for all time, O Theotokos, for those who honor You.)

READINGS: EPISTLE— Galatians 2: 16-20 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 8: 26-39

Megalinarion: Axion Estin

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion (Praise the Lord)....pg. 64 in the Divine Liturgy Books

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Matushka Gloria Lehman

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Today we start selling tickets for the AHEPA Thanksgiving Lunch on Sunday, November 18. **Athena Snarskis** and her team will be selling tickets at the Philoptochos table. Members please volunteer to help us tomorrow, **Monday, Oct. 22 starting at 10:00 a.m. to make koukourakia to replenish our Memorial inventory**. We will bake and package in one day. Don't forget this Saturday, Oct. 27 we are having two presentations on Improve Your Health and Environment in the church hall at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Altar Flower Bouquets were offered to the glory of God today:

-In honor of Matthew Davis' birthday; favorite Biblical Scripture: 1st Chapter of St. John!

-Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fakinis: In loving memory of our two sons Doug, and Melvin, and our grand-daughter Jenifer.

Please note: There is one available date **April 7th (2019)** for the purchase of Altar Flowers, anyone that may be interested, sign Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall, or see **Louise Dobbs Barringer** for more information.

PAINT EL PASEO PINK WALK --We wish to thank all who either walked and/or donated towards The Desert Cancer Foundation's fundraiser this past weekend. Our thanks to **Father Ted Pantels, Lula Valissarakos, Georgia Saphazis, Olympia & Rod Fick, Pauline Latkovic, & Rhonda Latkovic**.

IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: You are cordially invited (please bring a friend). **When: Saturday, October 27, 2018; 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m.** Please **RSVP by October 22, 2018** by calling (760) 238-7185. **Hosted by: Ann Dixon**. A donation will be made to the St. George Church/Philoptochos.

CHURCH DOME – Our “dome restoration project” is ready to begin. Check out the outside south-east portion of our church dome to see how it will look in the near future.

PET BLESSING EVENT - Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 3, 2018** and plan to bring your dog or cat to our annual pet blessing event. See the enclosed flier.

AHEPA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON - Reservations will be taken beginning today for joining in the annual AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon at Towne Center Café on **Sunday, November 18th**. See enclosed flier.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 23rd.....ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE

Orthros-8:30 a.m. /Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./No Bible Study. Golf Cart decoration: 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 25th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, October 26th.....ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR

Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 27th.....Health and Environment Seminar - 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

*Next Sunday, October 28th.....Doxology for the National Holiday of Greece: “Ochi” (“OXI”) Day
Golf Cart Parade on El Paseo - 12 noon.*

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.

P.S.: PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD FORM!

Improve Your Health & Environment

You Are Cordially Invited (please bring a friend)

When: Saturday, October 27, 2018

10:00am and again at 1:00pm (choose time that is convenient for you)

Where: St. George Greek Orthodox Church Hall

74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260

The event is FREE, the information is priceless - Products will not be sold at the event

Special Guest: Sheila Backus, Health & Wellness Advocate

Refreshments Will Be Served

Please RSVP by October 22, 2018 by calling (760) 238-7185



The graphic features a green and white background with a large white letter 'A' shape. At the top right of the 'A' is a logo of a leaf with a drop. Below it is a logo for 'Oligo' with the text 'PROVEN. PROTECTED. PATENTED.' and 'powered by' above the word 'Oligo'. At the bottom left of the 'A' is a photo of Ann Dixon. At the bottom right of the 'A' is a photo of Sheila Backus.

Hosted by Ann Dixon

*A donation will be made to the
St. George Ladies Philoptochos*

Sheila Backus

PET BLESSING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 2018 @ 9:00 AM

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ANNUAL PET BLESSING

Please join us for our annual pet blessing event on Sat., Nov. 3rd, 2018 at 9:00 am in the back church courtyard at 74109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert. The blessing service will begin at 9:30 AM.

Our special guest is Richard Waxman, founder of "Paws and Hearts" Animal Assisted Therapy, a non-profit organization located in Palm Desert.

Animal Samaritans will be on hand with pets available for adoption. Anyone bringing a dog food donation (either canned or bagged) will be entered into a gift basket drawing.

Complimentary light refreshments & dog biscuits will be available for attendees. Selected Greek pastry items will be available for sale.

All pets must be on leash and supervised. Please join us! **RSVP by Oct. 30th to:**
pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

What: Pet Blessing Event

When: November 3rd, 2018 @ 9:00 am

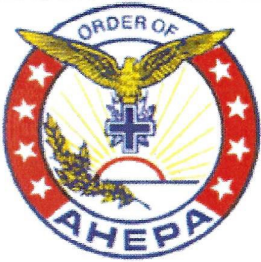
Where: St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74109 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA
ph. (760) 568-9901

**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**THANKSGIVING
LUNCH**

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

**SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 18th, 2018**

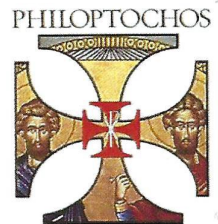


Town Center Cafe

**44491 Town Center Way
Palm Desert, CA**

\$25.00

Children \$12.00 *under 12*



Tickets can be purchased from Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

**All proceeds go to Fr. Theophilos Theophilos
Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Donations accepted at www.ahepa528.org or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

contact@ahepa528.org

*Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online ahepa528.org
Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family*

Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 11, 2018

Thank You for your Continued Support!



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

