

OCTOBER 28, 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

FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD



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.

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

From today's passage from St. Luke's Gospel, we come to know about two of Christ's miracles: 1) the cure of the woman suffering from a hemorrhage, and, 2) the resurrection from the dead of Jairus' daughter. By virtue of these two miracles, we understand that Christ is True God, Who has authority in all of creation. The Church emphasizes this in Her funeral prayers, in these words: "*O God of all spirits and of all flesh, Who trampled down death and destroyed the devil, giving*

life to Your world..."

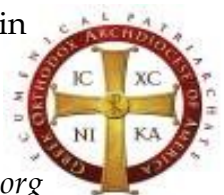
Last Sunday, we saw that Christ is the God "over all spirits." Dark spirits "obey" Christ out of fear, because they know that He has the authority to destroy them. It is a kind of obedience which of "the laws of nature," by which every thing "obeys" in relation to the energies of the other things which exist all around it. The obedience to God by the Saints is obedience based on love for God. The fear of God from the point of

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THE CELEBRATION OF THE "DAY OF 'NO'" -- IN GREEK: "OXI!"

The **Protection of the Mother of God** is a Feast day of the Church celebrating the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the tenth century. At the end of his life, St. Andrew of Constantinople (of Russian descent), with his disciple St. Epiphanius, along with a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of Her relics were kept. These relics were Her robe, veil, and part of Her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century. Following Her appearance, barbarian forces threatening this city were mysteriously scattered, no longer posing a threat.

In recent years, the Feast of the Protection is celebrated in thanksgiving for the deliverance of the Greek nation from the Italian invasion of 1940. These events are commemorated in Greece in a national holiday known as "Ochi Day" or "No Day," referring to the response of the Greek leader Metaxas to Mussolini's ultimatum. In recognition of this, and because of the many miracles of the Holy Virgin which were reported by Greek soldiers during the Greco-Italian War of 1940-1941, the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece elected in 1952 to observe the Feast day on October 28. The observance includes the chanting of a Doxology incorporating hymns recognizing the Protection of the Theotokos over the faithful, as well as the kontakion "Champion Leader." --Taken from: www.orthodoxwiki.org



Απο την σημερινην περικοπην του εκ του Λουκαν Ευαγγελιου, γνωριζομεν δυο θαυματα του Χριστου: 1) η αναρρωσις της αρρωστης εν ρυσει αιματος γυναικος, και, 2) η αναστασις της θυγατρος του Ιαιρου. Δια των θαυματων αυτων καταλαβαινουμεν οτι ο Χριστος ειναι ο αληθινος Θεος, ο Οποιος εχει εξουσιαν σε ολην την δημιουργιαν. Το τονιζει η Εκκλησια στην ευχην της κηδειας: <Ο Θεος των πνευματων και πασης σαρκος, ο τον θανατον καταπατησας τον δε διαβολον καταργησας και ζωνη τω κοσμω σου δωρησαμενος...>

Την περασμενην Κυριακην, ειδαμεν οτι ο Χριστος ειναι <Ο Θεος των πνευματων.> Τα σκοτεινα πνευματα <υπακουονται> στον Χριστον απο φοβο, διοτι εξουρουν οτι εχει εξουσιαν να τους καταστρεψει. Ειναι ενα ειδος υπακοης <των νομων της φυσεως,> συμφωνα με τους οποιους καθε πραγμα <υπακουεται> στις <ενεργιες> των αλλων πραγματος που υπαρχουν ολο γυνω. Η υπακουη των Αγιων προς τον Θεον ειναι ειδος υπακοης βασισμενη στην αγαπη για τον Θεον. Ο φοβος του Θεου απο την αποψη των Αγιων ειναι φοβος που στηριζεται απο την αγαπην και, εν τουτοις, δειχεται δια μεσου της ταπεινοφροσυνης. Ο φοβος του πιστου Χριστιανου εκφραζεται στα λογια μιας ευχης της Θ. Λειτουργιας: <Εν ταις λαμπροτησι των Αγιων Σου, πως εισελευσομαι ο αναξιος; Εαν γαρ τολμησω συνεισελθειν εις τον νυμφωνα, ο χιτων με ελεγχει,...Καθαρισον, Κυρε, τον ρυπον της ψυχης μου και σωσον με, ως φιλανθρωπος.> Δια της ευχης αυτης, εκφραζουμεν τον <σεβασμιον φοβον> της ταπεινοφροσυνης, που συνδεεται με την αρετην της αγαπης.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

of view of the Saints is a fear *in humility* supported by love. This “humble fear,” is expressed the “Communion Prayer:” “*Into the brightness of Your Saints, how can I who am unworthy enter? If I dare to enter the bridal chamber, my garment will accuse me, for it is not a fitting wedding garment...Cleanse me, Lord, from the filth of my soul and save me, O Merciful One.*” This prayer reflects the “humble fear” which is tied to love and which allows our Lord to heal the body and soul.

In today’s Gospel, we note that both the woman suffering a hemorrhage and Jairus approached Christ with the attitude shared in this the prayers of the Divine Liturgy. In both cases, great respect in humility can be seen -- the “fear” and “trembling” that surrounded the cure of the woman and the raising of Jairus’ daughter from the dead are associated with the acknowledgement of Christ’s authority over “all spirits and flesh” and over the *living* and the *dead* -- over the living, shown by the cure of the woman; over the dead, shown by the raising of Jairus’ daughter. Realizing God’s powers actually does make us humble. The obedience to God’s Will that comes from such humility gives way to the virtue of love and the value of having a purpose in life.

Manifesting God’s love *is* our purpose, because through God’s love, we save ourselves and others. No one embodies this message more than the Mother of God. Today we commemorate the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Mother of God, remembering that under Her Protection both Russia and Greece. Her Protection is seen through historic experiences, which have occurred through which the faithful of the Orthodox Church have been protected from deceptions, danger and destruction. The icon of the Platytera, which is positioned in nearly all Orthodox church edifices high behind the Holy Altar points to Her role in our salvation. The word “Platytera” means, “*more spacious than the heavens;*” for, indeed, the Mother of God brought into the world Christ God, the Creator of the universe and She presents Him to us as the Only Savior -- and Protector -- of our lives.

In Her humanity, She brings God’s divinity to us so that in *our* humanity, we can be one with *God’s* divinity. Her purpose is *our* purpose, and, as such, it is the very purpose of the Church. It makes sense, then, that Her image holding the Creator of the universe, Who has authority over all spirits and every flesh, as well as over the living and the dead, stands above the Altar, drawing us to Holy Communion so that, like Her, we can bring Christ into the world to bring healing and resurrection to all.

+FR. THEODORE

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and, if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may be glorified together.”

--Romans 8:16-17

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, 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."

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: "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."

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: *Ton synanarchon logon (Tone 5)... (Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

Hymn for the Feast of the Protection: *Tis Skepis Sou Parthena... (We sing the praise of the graces of your Protecting Veil, O Virgin, which like a light-bearing cloud you unfold beyond understanding, and you spiritually protect your people from every assault of their foe. For we have gained you as Protection and defender and helper, as we cry out to you: Glory to your mighty deeds, O Pure one; glory to your Protection; glory to your providence towards us, O Immaculate!)*

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—Hebrews 9: 1-7 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 8: 41-56

Megalinarion: Axion Estin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Tasia Richards

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Sign up for the AHEPA Thanksgiving Lunch at the Philoptochos table today. **Athena Snarskis** and her team are taking reservations. Also, on Monday, **November 12 is our General Meeting** and all parishioners are invited to hear **Dr. John Manesis** read from his new book. Part of the sales of his book will be given to Philoptochos. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to **Athena** or **Rhonda** so we know the amount of food to serve.

GOLF CART PARADE - El Paseo Golf Cart Parade Today at noon-Come & support our Saint George golf cart float at today's parade. Our cart entry is titled "**Hercules & Friends**" and we are participating in this Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce Event to help advertise our upcoming Greek Festival in February 2019. A big "THANK YOU" to all the "Super Heroes" that helped out with decorating the cart. **Rhonda Latkovic** served to organize this effort.

PET BLESSING EVENT - Our Pet Blessing Event is this **Saturday, November 3rd**-Please plan on bringing your pet to our Pet Blessing Event on Saturday at 9:00 AM. Our featured speaker is **Richard Waxman** of "**Paws & Hearts**" Animal Assisted Therapy. In addition, **Lynne Lockwood** of "**Loving All Animals**" will be in attendance to provide information about volunteering to be a "foster parent" for their organization.

NEW TABLE-CHAIR SETS- A sample of our new **parish hall table & chair sets** is available now in our parish hall. Please check it out.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT PRESENTATION - We would like to thank **Ann Dixson** for presenting yesterday's **Health & Wellness Expo** and our thanks to all who attended the event. We appreciate your support.

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**.

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.

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

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 30th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 1st.....STS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN
Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Friday, November 2nd.....Vesper Service at St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church - 6:00 p.m.
(Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at St. Raphael Church in Thousand Palms on Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 a.m.)

Saturday, November 3rd.....St. George Annual Pet Blessing Event - 9:00 a.m.

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.

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

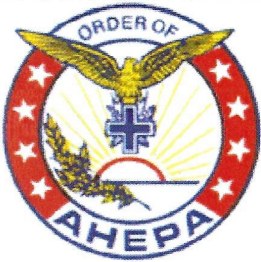
Where: St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74109 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA
ph. (760) 568-9901

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
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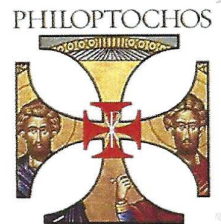
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

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

