

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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# THE LADDER

## Mailing Address:

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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.

## THE GARMENT

*"The king...saw a man who was not wearing his wedding garment and he said to him, 'Stranger, how did you enter here not having a wedding garment?'"* (St. Matthew 22:12). These are the words of Christ our God, as He expressed one of His many parables to His Disciples. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, 25: 1-13, we read about another of Christ's parables according to which He explained His Parable of the Ten Virgins to His Disciples. As with the parable which we heard today, Christ describes the eternal Kingdom of God as

an unending, joyful wedding festival, in which the guests must have prepared themselves, as much by having the proper garment, which is made from our efforts to live a life of Christian virtues.

This garment is that of our baptism in Christ, which means that we believe in the True God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Through our faith in God, we fully commit ourselves to God, living in accordance with His Will. A life dedicated to God is a life

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**"ALL WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST!"** Orthodox faithful hear these words chanted during worship services held throughout every year. Not only are they chanted at every Baptism service, they are chanted during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in observance of several feast days as a year rolls along. According to these words, we understand that Holy Baptism is the "garment" that joins us with Christ in the kind of loving bond that is analogous to the love between a bridegroom and a bride in the Sacrament of Marriage, where a man and a woman are joined together to be *one flesh*. The oneness is an intertwining of lives filled with hopes, dreams, goals, setbacks, challenges and joys -- all of which are shared in oneness in the effort to save the souls of parents themselves and their children, giving glory to God.

This oneness with God has been (and is still) accomplished by the Incarnation of the Only-Begotten Son of God the Father, Jesus Christ. In that God wears our human flesh, we, in turn, wear God's grace given by the Holy Spirit, Who constantly reveals the Son of God to us. Major feast days of the Church which underline for us this oneness with God -- and at which these words are chanted (in place of the Trisagion Hymn) -- are: Epiphany, Commemoration of St. John the Baptist, Holy Saturday, Easter, Bright Week, Pentecost & Christmas.

+FR. THEODORE



<Ο βασιλευς ...ειδεν εκει ανθρωπον ουκ ενδεδυμενον ενδυμα γαμου, και λεγει αυτω, εταιρε, πως εισηλθες ωδε μη εχοντας ενδυμα γαμου;> (Ματθ. 22:12). Αυτα ειναι τα λογια του Χριστου Θεου καθως εξηγησε μια απο πολλες παραβολες Του στους Μαθητας Του. Στο κατα Ματθαιον Ευαγγελιο, 25: 1-13, διαβαζουμεν και αλλην παραβολην του Χριστου κατα την οποιαν εξηγησε στους Μαθητας Του την Παραβολην των Δεκα Παρθενων. Οπως με την παραβολην την οποιαν ακουσαμεν σημερα, ο Χριστος περιγραφει την αιωνιον Βασιλειαν του Θεου ως μια ατελειωτη χαρουμενη εορτη γαμου στην οποιαν πρεπει να προετοιμασθουν οσοι ειχαν προσκληθει να εχουν το σωστο ενδυμα γαμου, το οποιο εχει τις ασκησεις μας των Χριστιανικων αρετων.

Το ενδυμα αυτο ειναι το ενδυμα του βαπτισματος, το οποιο σημεινει οτι πιστευει ο ανθρωπος στον Αληθινον Θεον, ο Οποιος ειναι ο Πατηρ, ο Υιος και το Αγιο Πνευμα. Δια μεσου της πιστεως μας στον Θεον, παραδιδωμεν την ζωην μας εντελως στον Θεον, ζωντας συμφωνα με το Θελημα Του. Μια ζωη αφοσιωμενη στον Θεον ειναι μια ζωη των αρετων, οι οποιες αντανακλουν την αγαπην του Θεου. Με λιγα λογια, το <ενδυμα> ειναι η εναρετη ζωη του ανθρωπου, ο οποιος εχει ενωθει με τον Θεον. Μαλιστα, η ενωσις αυτη αντιπροσωπευει τον γαμον μεταξυ ανθρωπου και Θεου. Αυτη η ενωσις γινεται οταν ζουμεν καθε ημερα με σκοπον να ειμεθα προετοιμασμενοι να μεταλαβουμεν την Θ. Κοινωνιαν, δια μεσου της οποιας ο Χριστος ζει <εν ημιν.>  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

of virtues which reflect God's love. In other words, the "wedding garment" is one's virtuous way of life in that he or she has been united with God. Indeed, this unity represents the wedding between us and God. This unity is achieved as we live every day for the purpose of being prepared to partake of Holy Communion by which Christ lives in our souls.

Our "garment" represents the *newness* of life with Christ our God. In essence, it is the garment of our baptism in Christ, to Whom we are joined; for, Christ is our Bridegroom and we are, as His Church, the Bride. Individually, we make up the collective "Bride" of our Lord. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann explains, "*The meaning of this 'newness of life' is manifested when the newly baptized person is clothed, immediately after baptism, in a white garment. It is the garment of a king. Man is again king of creation. The world is again his life, and not his death, for he knows what to do with it. He is restored to the joy and power of true human nature.*" (Sacraments and Orthodoxy, pg. 91).

There are certain feast days of the Church throughout the year when we chant "*As many as have been baptized in Christ, they have put on Christ*" in place of the Trisagion Hymn ("*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One...*"). Each of these feast days calls to mind that Christ our God abides in our souls and we abide in Him. In abiding in God, we "wear" God in our mentality; our world-view; our temperament; our personality. As such, it is no longer us who live, but Christ within us Who lives, to paraphrase St. Paul. (Galatians 2:19). Regardless of our individual personality traits, we see from our Lord's Saints that, in Christ's love, we can acquire general personality traits that compare to those of Christ and the Holy Mother of God -- traits that give way to the virtues of patience, forgiveness, empathy, and kindness. These traits provide levels of peace both for those who acquire them, as well as for those people with whom they interact. The "peace from above," for which we pray comes from God Who grants these personality traits to those who seek them.

This is the Sunday prior to next Sunday which is the "Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross." Our "wedding garment" is the sum of our responsibilities toward God and others that we endure for Christ as we follow Him into the Everlasting Kingdom. Among our own crosses are the temptations, illnesses, and challenges that we encounter in our fallen world. As such, those who have not taken up their crosses to follow Christ do not share in the wedding feast, because they have no garment made from the fabric of living a virtuous life.

+FR. THEODORE

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

**Verse 3**— The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.

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

**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."*

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

**Verse 1**— 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 Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin.** *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

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**ANTIPHON III**— This is the day the Lord 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 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 God that He may save our souls.)*

**Kontakion Hymn:** *Ioakim kai Anna oneidhismou... (Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.")*

**READINGS:** Epistle:- 2 Corinthians 1: 21-24; 2:1-4 / Gospel: St. Matthew 22: 2-14

**Axion estin...**

**Communion Hymn:** *Enite ton Kyrion.... (page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books)*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coffee Hour: Mila Karabuva

**PHILOPTOCHOS** -- Mark your calendars for our next **General Meeting**. It will be on **Monday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m.** The meeting will be in the Church Hall. We will have a light lunch with a donation of \$5.00 and a meeting afterward. Are you interested in sponsoring a Coffee Hour? Check the bulletin board for available Sundays in September and October. See **Pat Dalkas**.

**SAVE-THE-DATES--OCTOBER 13th: METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO GALA CELEBRATING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR HOLY METROPOLIS**. Where: **Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa, Huntington Beach, CA**. Time: Reception at 6:00 p.m./ Dinner at 7:00 p.m. for more details, check out the flier posted on our parish bulletin board and/or contact Fr. Ted.

**ALSO... THE GREEK FESTIVAL HOSTED BY ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA** (See Fliers in our parish hall).

**OCTOBER 27th: 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 Dixson**. A donation will be made to the St. George Church/Philoptochos.

**NOVEMBER 3rd: A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER DINNER** for the victims of the Wildfires in Greece and locally, as well our fellow Coachella Valley residents in need of food and clothing.

**NOVEMBER 11th: AHEPA Veterans Day Program**

**NOVEMBER 18th: AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon at Towne Center Café.**

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, September 3rd.....Philoptochos Board Meeting - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 4th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 5th....AHEPA Meeting at Andy's #4, Indio - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 8th.....THE NATIVITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Orthros-8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

*"Then Jesus said to those who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.'" (St. John 8: 31-32)*

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**

**THANKSGIVING  
LUNCH**

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

**SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**



# **Town Center Cafe**

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

**\$25.00**

**Children \$12.00 *under 12***

PHILOPTOCHOS



**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](http://www.ahepa528.org) or mailed to:**

**AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund**

**PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735**

**[contact@ahpepa528.org](mailto:contact@ahpepa528.org)**

*Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online [ahpepa528.org](http://ahpepa528.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!*