

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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 SIGN OF FORGIVENESS

Let us turn back to the Old Testament – in particular, to the Book of Numbers: *“The people spoke against God and against Moses, saying, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt? To die in the desert?... Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them and they bit the people and many Israelites died...And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a serpent and mount it upon a pole; anyone who is bitten can look upon it and live...’”* (Numbers 21: 4-9).

This is a telling description of our own relationship with God. Sometimes we become ungrateful for all of God’s bless-

ings and we turn away from God. As a result, we commit sins, and death is the fruit of their poison. The golden serpent of Moses was then a sign of God’s forgiveness. As is evident from today’s Gospel reading, the “serpent in the wilderness” was a prototype of God’s real deed of forgiveness for all of humanity. Christ Himself said, *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.”*

Through Christ’s death upon the Cross, forgiveness was granted to

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THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS -- Yesterday, September 8, 2018

STS. JOACHIM AND ANNA - Today, September 9, 2018

Saints **Joachim and Anna** are the parents of the Theotokos, the grandparents of Jesus Christ. Their feast day is celebrated on September 9, following the Nativity of the Theotokos, which is celebrated on September 8. According to the ancient Tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Sts. Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Nathan (Matthan) and Mary, his wife.

The Theotokos is regarded by the Church as “The Ladder” which brings heaven down to earth (through the birth in the flesh of Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, our Savior) and earth up to heaven (through our desire to be united with Christ). Throughout our lives on earth, we strive for the Kingdom of God by following the humble example of obedience to God’s Will, personified by the Theotokos Herself.



Όταν οι Ισραηλίτες εβρισκονταν στην ερημο, ο Κυριος ειπε στον Μωυση να φτιαξει εικονα φιδιου και να την θεσει σε στηλο, ετσι ωστε οποιος ειχε δαγκωθει απο ενα δηλητηριωδες φιδι να θεραπειθει. Αυτο το γεγονος ειχε ως μια προφητεια του Σταυρου. Για αυτο, Ο Χριστος ειπε: <Καθως Μωυσης υψωσε τον οφιν εν τη ερημω, ουτως υψωθηναι δει τον Υιον του ανθρωπου, ινα πας ο πιστευων εις Αυτον μη απολυται αλλα εχη ζωην αιωνιον> (Ιωαν. 3:14). Επανω στον Σταυρον ο Χριστος εχαρισε συγχωρηση των αμαρτιων στην ολοκληρη ανθρωποτητα και στον καθεναν μας, προσωπικως.

Ισως, εινα δυσκολον να κατανοησουμε την μεγαλην σημασιαν του Σταυρου και την σχεσιν την οποιαν εχει με το Μυστηριον της Θειας Κοινωνιας και την δικην μας γενικην διανοησιν. Λοιπον, ας αναφερω εναν στοιχον εκ των γραπτων του θρησκευτικου ποιητου, Ι. Π. Θεοδωροπουλου, καθως ευρισκεται στο βιβλιο του, *Κατηχητικη Μουσα*: <Αληθεια, εχεις νοωσει βαθεια σου το μυστηριο της Θειας Ευχαριστιας – την φρικτη και απεριγραπτη αυτη θυσια; Την ωρα που τελειται το μυστηριο, τα ιδια τα Χερουβειμ και τα Σεραφειμ παρευρισκονται στην Αγια Τραπεζα σκεπαζοντας τα προσωπα τους απο φοβο και σεβασμο, οι δε ουρανιες δυναμεις, μαζι με τον αρχιερεαν, τους ιερεις και διακονους, προσευχονται για σενα, για ολους τους αμαρτωλους, ενω το Αιμα του Χριστου χυνεται απο την αχραντο Πλευρα Του μεσα στο Αγιο Ποτηριο. Συλλογησου την ιεροτητα της στιγμης, στασου με σεβασμο, προσευχησου.> (σελ. 37) +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

all of humanity and to each of us individually.

Perhaps we find it difficult to understand the great significance of the Cross and its relationship to the Sacrament of Holy Communion and to our current mentality. Let me quote a stanza from the poetry of the religious poet, J.P. Theodoropoulos, from his book, *Musings in Catechism*: “Have you ever felt deep within you the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist – that amazing and indescribable sacrifice? At the moment at which the Sacrament is celebrated, the very same angels from the Orders of the Cherubim and the Seraphim are present at the Holy Altar, shielding their faces out of awe and great respect. The powers of heaven, along with the bishop, the priests and the deacons, pray for you; for all those who are laden with sin, since the Blood of Christ drips from His most pure Side from the Cross and into the Holy Chalice. Think about the great holiness of this moment. Live with respect for God and pray.” (pg. 37).

Remember the temptation offered by the serpent in the Garden of Eden? The serpent said, “You will not die, but you shall be as god...” (Genesis 3:4). The Cross is, on the other hand, the Symbol of Truth that contradicts the temptation of the serpent. The Holy Cross says, “You will not die, because you will be with God.” The Holy Cross of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ stands as the unifying message throughout the Bible – bringing together the Book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation, guiding us against the deception of the serpent and leading us to the truth of God’s love. Let us become aware of our thoughts and ideals so that we can compare them to the thoughts and ideals of our Lord’s Holy Gospel.

Let us bring *ourselves* to judgment so that we can turn to repentance, which is the synonym for “taking up one’s Cross” and following our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we make the effort to follow our Savior, He Himself guides us to His Kingdom through our fellowship with Him through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

+FR. THEODORE

“And the Lord said, ‘No one has ascended to Heaven but He Who came down from Heaven, that is, the Son of Man Who is in Heaven. And, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have Eternal Life. For God so loved the world that He gave His Only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have Life Everlasting.’” (St. John 3: 13-16)

NOTICE: The AED machine [defibrillator machine] donated by our St. George Ladies of Philoptochos has been delivered and is mounted at the corner on the wall leading towards the men’s restroom in our parish hall. For more information, contact **Athena Snarskis**.

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

ANTIPHON II: *"Soson 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: *"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 Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin. *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

ANTIPHON III— Here I shall dwell, for I have chosen her. The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. Holy is Your temple, wondrous in righteousness.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn — Angelike dynameis [Tone 6]...*(When the Angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your Pure and Sacred Body for You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You, Who arose from the dead, O Lord, we give glory to You.)*

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.)*

Hymn for the Entrance of the Theotokos: *Ee Ghenisis Sou Theotoke... (Your Nativity, O Theotokos, heralded joy to the whole universe, for from you arose the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He destroyed the curse and bestowed a blessing; He vanquished death and granted us Eternal Life.)*

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 — Galatians 2: 16-20 / GOSPEL – St. John 3: 13-17

Axion estin

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Steve Michaels (2 years)**, the beloved son of **Mrs. Eleni Michaels** and brother of **Mrs. Stacy Argyros**. Also included in today’s Memorial Service are: **Gregory Michaels** the beloved son of **Mrs. Eleni Michaels** and brother of **Mrs. Stacy Argyros and Mr. Michael Michaels**, as well as **Loizos Micheals**, the beloved husband of **Mrs. Eleni Michaels** and father of **Mrs. Stacy Argyros and Mr. Michael Michaels**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Steve Michaels, Gregory Michaels and Loizos Michaels**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Mrs. Eleni Michaels, Mrs. Stacy Argyros, Mr. Michael Michaels** and the entire family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Our General Meeting is tomorrow Monday, Sept. 10 at 11:30 a.m. We will have a light lunch (with a donation of \$5.00) and then we have our meeting. Are you interested in sponsoring a Coffee Hour? See **Pat Dalkas** and check the calendar on the bulletin board for available dates.

BOOKSTORE CLEARANCE SALE--Please visit our special bookstore clearance table in the church hall & browse through many one-of-a-kind books, icons, & misc. religious items. All we are asking is a small donation for the items you select. You pay what you want. Help us clean up our inventory so we can purchase new items for our bookstore. Thank you!

PATIO AREA SEATING ADDITION--Please check out our new outdoor **patio seating area**. We wish to thank two anonymous St George members for their gift of patio furniture. The Parish Council hopes our parishioners will enjoy this new area. We welcome your feedback!

FESTIVAL MEETING--The first 2019 Festival Meeting of the year: Wednesday, Sept. 12th at 7:00p.m.

ADULT COLORING LUNCHEON--Our first **adult coloring session** after taking a summer break will be held on **Friday, September 21st from 12:00-2:00 pm**. See enclosed flyer. RSVP by Sept. 16th to Rhonda Latkovic.

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.

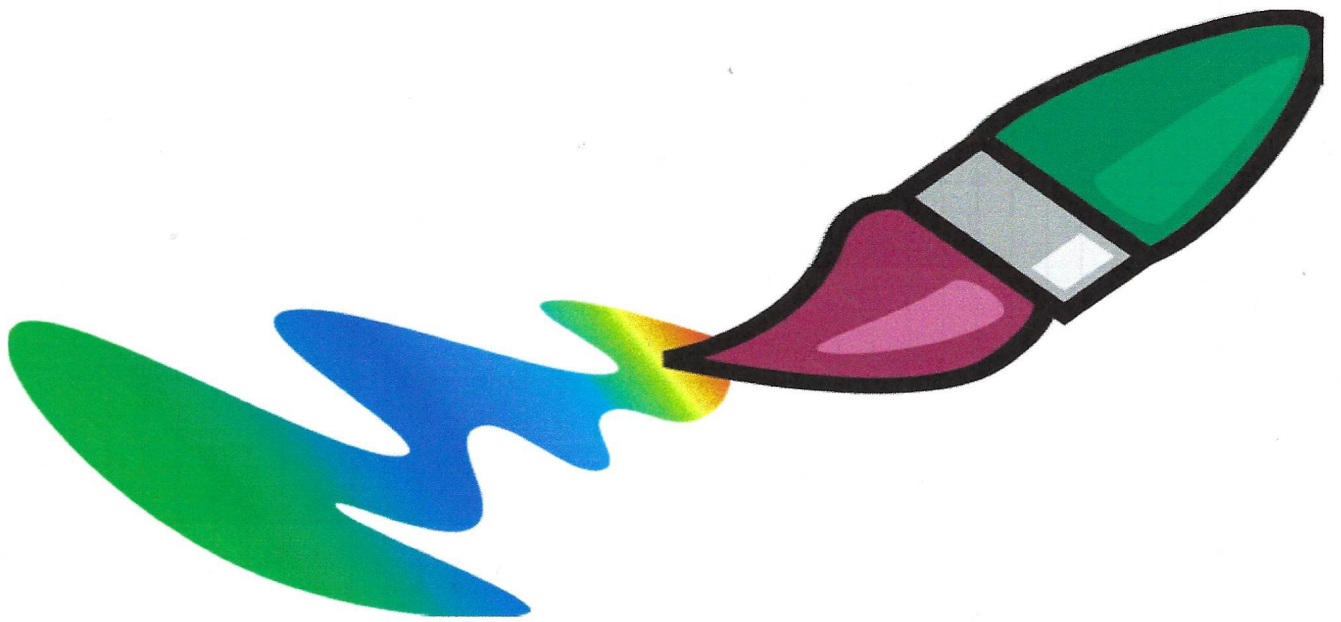
ALSO... THE GREEK FESTIVAL HOSTED BY ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA (See Fliers in our parish hall).

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 Dixon.** A donation will be made to the St. George Church/Philoptochos.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, September 10th.....Philoptochos General Members Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 11th.....No Bible Study
- Wednesday, September 12th.....Festival Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 14th.....EXALTATION OF THE HOLY & PRECIOUS CROSS (strict fasting day)
 - Orthros-8:30 a.m.
 - Divine Liturgy-9:30 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 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.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, September 21st @ 12 PM-2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By Sept. 16th to Rhonda Latkovic

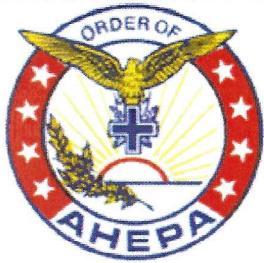
This will be our first luncheon & coloring session after the summer break! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A raffle will be held. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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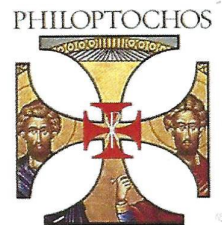
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

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@ahempa528.org

*Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online ahempa528.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!