

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

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THE LADDER

THE SUNDAY AFTER 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.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

St. Paul wrote to the Galatians: *"I no longer live. Yet, it is Christ Who lives in me."* (Galatians 2:19).

Orthodox Christians do not consider themselves to be simply "an existence", as is the life of plants and animals. Human life has a divine purpose and destiny. When God created man, *"He breathed in his face and he became a man with a living soul."* (Genesis 2:7). As a result, the destiny of all humans is to live forever in

the Kingdom of God.

However, sin separates us from God, and, consequently, that which is before us is death itself. Through Christ's death upon the Cross, however, Christ *"devastated it"*, as today's Resurrection Hymn states. For us to avoid sin and death, we need to be united to Christ. This unity is made a reality for us by means of the Holy Sacraments – Baptism, Confession, and Communion. As much as we participate in the Divine Sacraments

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THE CHANTING OF "LORD, HAVE MERCY" & THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Today is the Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which is commemorated on September 14th every year. The celebration of the Orthros and the Divine Liturgy on September 14th includes the Procession of the Holy Cross to the center of the church in front of the Holy Altar. This Procession is marked with repeated chants of "Lord, have mercy," which is also the common short prayer of the Church heard after the liturgical petitions at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. The Tradition of liturgically chanting "Lord, have mercy" was part of the event surrounding the original Exaltation of the Holy Cross by the clergy and the faithful of the 4th Century.

In 326 A.D. when St. Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) arrived at Golgotha where Jesus was crucified with two robbers, she found that the pagan Emperor Hadrian had built a temple to the goddess Aphrodite in order to desecrate the holy site of our Lord's crucifixion. She destroyed both the statue of Aphrodite and the temple; in so doing she uncovered the place where the True Cross was buried. A sickly woman touched the Cross and was miraculously healed. In addition, according to Tradition, the Cross was covered with the fragrant basil plant, which was absent from the crosses of the two robbers. As the Cross of our Lord was lifted up, the faithful cried out: "Lord, have mercy!"



Ο Άγιος Παύλος εγραψε στους Γαλατας: <Χριστώ συνεσταυρωμένω ζώ δε ουκετι εγω. Ζη δε εν εμοι Χριστος.> (Γαλατας 2:19).

Ο Ορθόδοξος Χριστιανός δεν θεωρεί την ζωή του να είναι απλώς <μια υπαρξίς> όπως ζουν τα φυτά και τα ζώα. Η ζωή του ανθρώπου έχει θείαν σκοπόν και προορισμόν. Όταν επλάσε ο Θεός τον άνθρωπον <ενεφύσησε εις τους μυκτήρας αυτού πνοήν ζωής, και εγείνεν ο άνθρωπος εις ψυχήν ζωσαν>. (Γεν. 2:7). Επομένως, ο προορισμός του ανθρώπου είναι να ζή αιωνίως στην Βασιλείαν του Θεού.

Ομως, η αμαρτία χωρίζει τον άνθρωπον από τον Θεόν και, συνεπώς, αυτό το οποίο παρουσιάζεται στον άνθρωπο είναι ο θάνατος. Διά του θανάτου του Χριστού, όμως, επάνω στον Σταυρόν, ο Χριστός εκαταστρέψε τον θάνατον.

Για να αποφυγή ο άνθρωπος την αμαρτιαν και τον θάνατον, χρειάζεται η ενώσις του ανθρώπου με τον Χριστόν. Αυτό πραγματοποιείται διά των Μυστηρίων του Αγίου Βαπτισματος, της Θείας Εξομολογήσεως, της Θείας Κοινωνίας. Όσο συμμετεχούμεν στα Αχραντά Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας αποκτούμεν την θείαν χάριν του Ιδιού Θεού και Σωτήρος μας Χριστού, ώστε δια μέσων των πράξεων μας, των διαλογησμών μας, η αγάπη του Χριστού φανερώνεται σε άλλους. Κατά αυτον τον τροπον ο Σταυρος του Κυρίου ζωοποιηται στην καθημερινήν μας ζωή – στις ψυχές μας και στις καρδιές μας – και αληθευεται αυτο το οποίο εγραψε ο Άγιος Παύλος: <Ζώ δε ουκετι εγω. Ζη δε εν εμοι Χριστος.>

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

of the Church, we acquire the divine grace of our God and Savior Christ Himself so that by means of our thoughts and actions, Christ's love is made evident to others. In this way, the Cross of Christ becomes alive in our daily lives—and that which St. Paul wrote becomes true for us: *"I no longer live. Yet, it is Christ Who lives in me."* Given this, true humility is defined by allowing Christ to direct our thoughts and deeds.

That Christ our God *voluntarily* went to the Cross for us is the act that is founded in the virtue of *love*, which can only be expressed through the virtue of *humility*. Our Church describes the life of Christ in the world as "Extreme Humility." Our gratitude to Christ is expressed by our *obedience* to the Commandments – obedience being also the fruit of humility. Ironically, rather than showing gratitude to God through obedience, we find ourselves being most of the time *disobedient* to God, justifying this under the name of "freedom." As a result, we create our own difficulties, living "soap opera" kind of lives with conflicts and intrigue...and, as a result of this, we all seem to be living in a largely unhappy world.

As it has become common for people to turn to counselors and therapists, the words of one noted psychologist should catch our attention: *"We all desire to have good relationships, and we all desire to use our talents and abilities in ways that make a contribution. God has given us more than enough opportunities to do all of this. He has given us all kinds of relationships through which we can love and serve each other and He has delegated the work of the whole earth to humans to accomplish."* (*Secret Things of God*, by Dr. Henry Cloud, pg. 185). Having said this, he notes on a clinical basis that healing is achieved by virtue of the *way* we are to follow Christ: 1) Take delight in the Lord; 2) understand that what we want is not necessarily best for us, and, 3) that for which we pray must also be that for which we work with God.

Taking delight in the Lord gives birth to our faith, and, with faith in God, we accept the reality that God knows what is best for us. Finally, it is with faith that we can do God's work in obedience. If we turn to God in obedience with love, we will find that by following our Lord, He will carry our crosses as His own.

+FR. THEODORE

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.'"

---St. Mark 8:34-35

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

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

Verse 1— O God, my God, hear me; why have You forsaken me? The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation.

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

Verse 2- O my God, I will cry out by day, but You will not hear me

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

Verse 3- But You dwell among the saints, O praise of Israel.

Refrain: *" Tes presveies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."*

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

Verse 1- O God, why have You rejected us to the end? Remember Your congregation You acquired from the beginning.

Refrain: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, O sarki stavrotheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 -This Mount Zion, where You encamped.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3-God is our King before the ages; He worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Refrain: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, O sarki stavrotheis, 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..." ("O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God... pg.)*

ANTIPHON III - *The Lord reigns; let the peoples be angry. The Lord is great in Zion, and He is exalted. Let them give thanks to Your great name.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton (Tone 7)... (O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.)*

Hymn for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: *Soson Kyrie ton laon Sou... (Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to Your faithful over their adversaries and preserve Your commonwealth through the power of Your Cross.)*

Hymn for St. Euphemia: *Lee-ahn efranas tous Orthodoxous... (To the Orthodox, you brought elation; the unorthodox, you brought humiliation, O Euphemia the beautiful virgin of Christ. For, what the Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Synod decreed well as dogma, you ratified. Pray to Christ our God, O glorious Martyr, fervently entreating Him to grant us His 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 ipsotheis en to Stavro... (You Who was lifted up upon the Cross voluntarily, O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions upon Your new community to which You gave Your Name. Cause our faithful rulers to be glad in Your power, granting them victories over their adversaries. And may they have You as an ally and peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.)*

READINGS: EPISTLE – Galatians 2: 16-20/ GOSPEL – St. Mark 8: 34-38;9:1

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion... (We praise the Lord from the heavens; we praise Him in the highest. Alleluia)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **James Demetriou (1 year)**, the beloved uncle of **Robert Demetriou** of Ojay, California and **John Demetriou** of Gardenville, Nevada. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to the servant of God **James Demetriou** and may He grant peace and comfort to his nephews, **Robert Demetriou** and **John Demetriou**.
MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

PHILOPTOCHOS - Did you receive your invitation in the mail for **The Metropolis of San Francisco Gala**? If not, see the flyer in the Ladder. This year it will be at the **Hyatt Regency in Huntington Beach**. They are honoring Dr. and Mrs. Kallins. The date is **Saturday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m.** If you are interested in attending this event you may want to carpool. Coffee Hour sponsors are needed for December. Thank you to all who have donated to the Coffee Hour this year.

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.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – All parishioners that have signed up for the new Altar Flower Season during the months of October through December 2018, please submit your checks now to **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, or to the Administration Office. Make your checks out to St. George Church, and in the Memo Column just include Altar Flowers. and the month/date!

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.

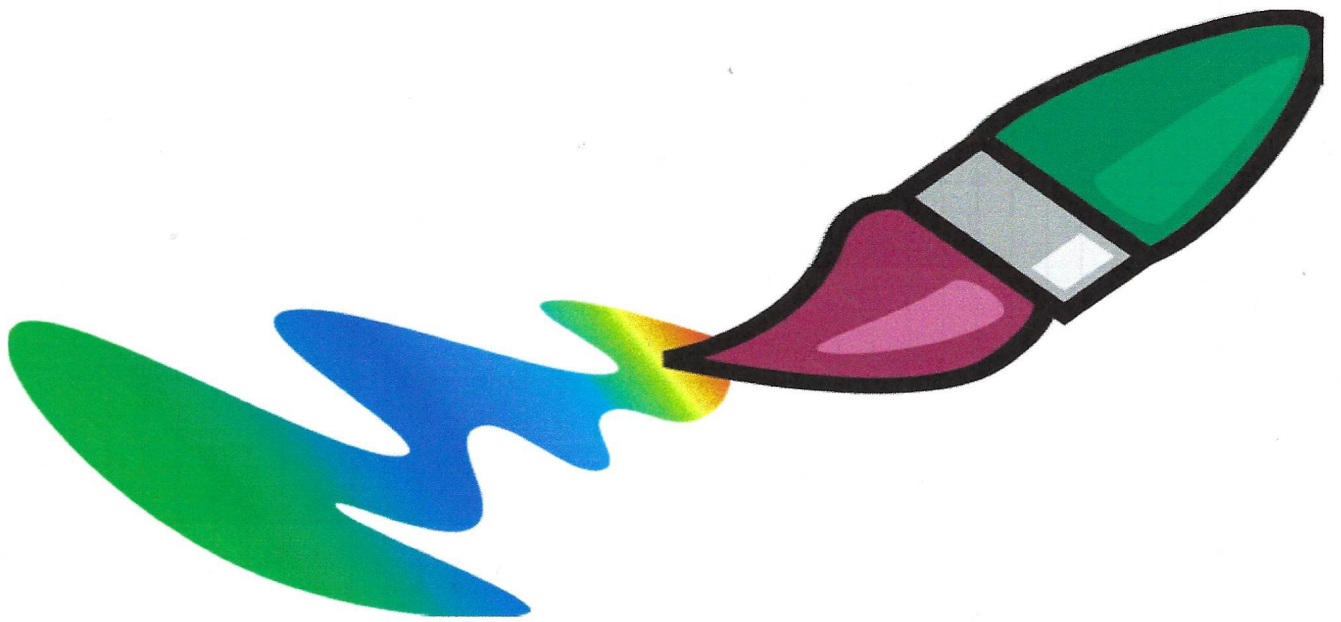
WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 18th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 20th.....Parish Council -2:30 p.m.

Friday, September 21st.....Coloring Book Group - 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.



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!

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



Hosted by Ann Dixon

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



Sheila Backus

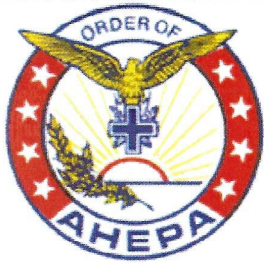


ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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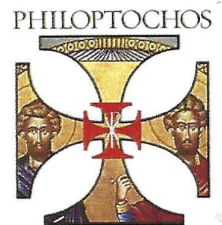
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

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@ahpepa528.org

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