

JANUARY 13, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)

Email: [stgeorgepd@aol.com](mailto:stgeorgepd@aol.com)

# THE LADDER

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY

## TEARS OF BAPTISM

*"Repent! For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"* (St. Matthew 4:17). There is no other sacrifice that is acceptable to God than our repentance. King David, the Prophet and Saint, tell us, *"A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humbled heart God will not despise..."* (Psalm 51:17).

Repentance is the change of our way of thinking and our entire way of behavior. This change is also our sincere turning away from anything that is evil and to-

wards all that is pleasing to God. In other words, repentance means that we change our entire way of behavior so that we live a life *in Christ's love*. Consequently, through a life that is lived with love for our Savior, we live in the here and now as Jesus, the Most Holy Theotokos and all the Saints lived in their time.

Hieromonk Maximos Aghioritis wrote the following in his book, *Guide to Salvation*: *"Repentance concerns the inner change of a person!..."*

*Continued on Page 2*

## EXPLANATIONS:

## REPENTANCE

*"Repentance, which accompanies faith, is a total about-face. The word in Greek literally means to change one's mind, or more generally, to turn around. Repentance is a radical change of one's spirit, mind, thought, and heart, a complete reorientation of the whole of one's life (to the love of God). It is the necessary first step in the way of the Lord. It is accompanied by the confession of sins and the act of baptism (St. Matthew 3:6) and is followed by a life filled with fruits worthy of this change (St. Matthew 3:8)."* -Taken from *Orthodox Study Bible*

## TEMPTATIONS

Following His Baptism in the Jordan, Jesus was "led up ty the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." He faced 3 temptations that are central causes of many other temptations: 1) **Faith in God over material concerns**. That "Man shall not live by bread alone." Jesus rejects this temptation, showing us to pursue God's Will rather than worldly appetites and passions. We discipline our bodies so that we can enrich our lives with God's love, rather than possessions. 2) **Carelessness**: "throwing ourselves down." Temptations come on their own; but, we should never intentionally expose ourselves to danger in order to test the Lord. To do so is to tempt the Lord. 3) **Power & Glory**. God's Kingdom is Eternal Life in His glory. Kingdoms of the world are temporary, driven by pride and strife, which make people prey to the devil's many evils. +FR. THEODORE



## 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.

<Μετανοείτε! Ηγγικε γαρ η Βασιλεία των ουρανών.> (Ματθ. 4:17). Δεν υπάρχει άλλη θυσία πιά δεκτή παρά από την μετάνοιαν του ανθρώπου. Το λέγει ο Προφήτης Δαυΐδ: <Θυσία τω Θεώ πνεύμα συντετριμμένον, καρδίαν συντετριμμένην και τεταπεινωμένην ο Θεός ούκ εξουδενώσει...> (Ψαλ. 50:17).

Η μετάνοια είναι η αλλαγή των σκέψεών μας και της ολόκληρης συμπεριφοράς μας. Αυτή η αλλαγή είναι επίσης η πραγματική μεταστροφή μας από ό,τι είναι κακό και προς όλα τα οποία συμφωνούν με το θέλημα του Θεού. Δηλαδή, η μετάνοια σημαίνει ότι αλλάσσουμε την ολόκληρη συμπεριφοράν μας ώστε να ζούμεν την <έν Χριστώ> ζωήν. Συνεπώς, διά της <έν Χριστώ> ζωής ζούμεν όπως εξούσαν εδώ σε αυτόν τον κόσμο ο Ιησούς, η Παναγία και όλοι οι άγιοι.

Ο Ιερομόναχος Μάξιμος Αγιορείτης έγραψε στο βιβλίο του: *Οδηγός Σωτηρίας*, ως εξής: <Η μετάνοια αφορά την εσωτερική μεταστροφή, ενώ χρησιμοποιήθηκε και η λέξη επιστροφή, η οποία αναφέρεται στις πράξεις, που επιβάλλει μία αλλαγή στην πρακτικήν συμπεριφοράν.> (σελ. 179).

Η μετάνοια συνδέεται με την συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών. Ο Άγιος Νείλος λέγει στον καθέναν: <Να ζητάς στην προσευχή σου να σου χαρίση ο Θεός πολλά δάκρυα μετανοίας, γιά να μαλακώση η αγριότητα της ψυχής σου. Μόνον έτσι θα ξεπλυθής προστά στα μάτια του Θεού και θα συγχωρηθής.> (Εμπειρίες Κατά την Θ. Λειτουργίαν, υπό Πρωτ.Στεφάνου Αναγνωστοπούλου, σελ. 422).

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

...a change that relates to one's deeds and which requires a change in one's whole practical behavior." (pg. 179). Such practical behavior begins within our souls. St. Neilos would tell each of us the following: "When you pray, ask God to give you tears of repentance so that the hardness of the anger in your soul can soften. Only in this way will you be washed clean in the sight of God and you will be forgiven." (From Fr. Stephanos Anagnostopoulos, *Experiences from the Divine Liturgy*, pg. 422). Not at all "tears of self-pity," these "tears of repentance" are the beginning of a new life with Christ. It is our "second baptism," also known as the "tears of baptism," following our Baptismal Sacrament. We call to mind these "tears of baptism" on this Sunday following the Baptism of Christ.

Our challenge today is to face two factors that seem to make it hard for us to repent of sins: 1) the belief that sin does not exist; 2) the notion that people cannot change.

If we were to generally describe the *soul* of today's society, many would suggest that there are no sins; people simply have "disorders." But our disorders and illnesses are often caused by sinful ideas and concepts, which are devoid of the knowledge of God's love. Such things as, anger and bitterness are not commonly thought of as sins; but, they have nothing to do with God and, therefore, are commonly found to be the causes for harmful, violent acts. To pretend that sin does not exist is to be truly naïve.

The idea that "people cannot change" is false. The Church is made up of many Saints who were at one time sinners. With God's grace, Saints overcame physical weaknesses and passions; they overcame the limitations of poverty and unpopularity and they inspired many to worship Christ and to perform deeds of kindness to God's glory. People *can* repent!

Therefore, repentance is not only an innate, God-given human *ability*. It is an *opportunity*, for us in humility to allow God's energies to overcome our weaknesses so that we no longer live in darkness and the shadow of death, but in the Kingdom of Heaven.

+FR. THEODORE

"Jesus came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea in the regions of Nebulun and Naphtali, that it be fulfilled that which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, Light has dawned.' From that time, Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" – St. Matthew 4:13-17

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

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

*Verse 1—: In the exodus of Israel from Egypt, the house of Jacob. Judah became His sanctuary.*

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

*Verse 2- The sea saw them and fled, the Jordan turned back.*

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

*Verse 3— What is it to you, O Sea, that you fled, and to you, O Jordan, that you turned back?*

*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. Amen.*

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

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

*Verse 1- I have loved, because the Lord shall hear the voice of my supplication. For He inclined His ear to me, and in my days I shall call upon Him.*

*Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O en Iordhani ipo Iannou vaptistheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

*Verse 2 - The pains of death surrounded me; the dangers of Hades found me.*

*Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who was baptized in the Jordan by John, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

*Verse 3 - The Lord is merciful and righteous, and our God has mercy.*

*Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O en Iordhani ipo Ioannou vaptistheis, 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: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let all who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

*Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Ex ipsous katilthes [Tone 8]....(From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure, three days in the tomb that we may be, released from passions in this world, You Who are our res-urrection and our life. Glory unto You O Lord.)*

*Hymn for Theophany: En Iordhani vaptizomenou... (As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.)*

*Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of Kings, bearer of trophies are you O Great Martyr George. Intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

*Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: Epefanis simeron ti oikoumeni... (You appeared today to us on earth, O Master, and Your light was signed on us who cry aloud to You and say \* with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable).*

**READINGS-** Ephesians 4:7-13 / Gospel St. Matthew 4: 12-17

**Communion Hymn –** Enite ton Kyrion... "Praise the Lord..." page 64 in our Divine Liturgy books.



**MEMORIAL** - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Jan Pawlowicz (40 days)**, the beloved father of **John Pawlowicz...** and also for our beloved sister in Christ our God, **Jean Chronis-Kuhn (40 days)**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Jan Pawlowicz** and **Jean Chronis-Kuhn** and may He grant peace and comfort to their families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** - We need Coffee Hour sponsors for January and February. See Pat Dalkas. Our next general Meeting will be on Friday, January 25 at 11:30 a.m. It's on Friday this month due to the food preparation schedule for the Festival. We will discuss the 2019 budget and take a vote.

**GREEK FESTIVAL** - The time for final preparations for our **2019 Greek Festival** has arrived. Please see the enclosed the "Volunteer for the Festival" Form. It is also very important for all of us to begin securing sponsorships and ads for our 2019 Greek Festival. The "Sponsorship & Ad Form" will be included in our *Ladder* over the next few weeks. **The deadline for submitting sponsorships and ads for our 2019 Festival is: January 15, 2019**, to allow time for printing our Festival program. **Tomorrow, preparations for the 2019 Festival begin!**

**NEW CHURCH CARPET** – Our new church carpet was installed this past week (as you notice). Special thanks to God for those who have donated in the past for this project to be accomplished at this time.

**PRAYER FOR LIFE - Friday, January 18th - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** A peaceful prayer service with Christians from the various churches of our vicinity will be held at the Planned Parenthood facility on San Jacinto Drive in Rancho Mirage. Please see the flier posted on the bulletin board in our parish hall.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY** - Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, January 20th**. 2019 Stewardship Pledge Cards will be made available to all members of our St. George Palm Desert Parish for 2019. Stewardship is a matter of supporting the ministry of our Church through participation in the Holy Sacraments and through sharing God's bountiful blessings for the salvation of others.

**AHEPA - Super Bowl Party: February 3rd.** See flier in our parish hall.

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 15th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 17th.....ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT  
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.

Friday, January 18th.....ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT  
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

*A Blessed and Happy New Year to one and all!  
The Ladder for January 2019 is  
lovingly sponsored by:  
The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society*

**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.**

# Volunteer for the Festival

February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

## What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.



Please sign up to volunteer in the church hall after liturgy on any Sunday. You may also complete the information on the back and leave it with Jim Christopoulos or Father Ted. Finally, you may email or call Jim at [goofy\\_328@yahoo.com](mailto:goofy_328@yahoo.com) (note “\_” between goofy and 328) or 760-902-8460. God bless!

For those of you who are unable to volunteer, but want to help support the festival, you may want to consider “sponsoring” a shift. For a donation of \$60, you can sponsor a paid worker. If interested, please see Jim or Father Ted.

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Festival Volunteer Form

Friday & Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

»Name: \_\_\_\_\_

»Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ »Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

»Availability (Please check all that apply):

Set Up Prior to Festival \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday 2/16: \_\_\_\_\_ 10:30-3:30 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:15-8:15

Sunday 2/17: \_\_\_\_\_ 10:30-3:30 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:15-8:15

Tear Down Following Festival \_\_\_\_\_

»Please check off all areas that you would like to volunteer (we will try to place you in one of these areas, if possible).

Area	Chairperson(s)	Check if Interested
Set-up/Tear down	Doug Lyons	
Front Gate	Lou & Penny Karagianis	
Back Gate	Jim Christopoulos	
Greek Store	Rhonda Latkovic	
Kafenio	Tbd	
Kids Area	Melissa Hawkins	
Loukoumathes	Krisann Kontaxis	
Bars	Nick Krespis	
Dinner Line	Tasia Richards	
Gyros	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Cooking	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Appetizers	Jim Christopoulos	
Yiayia's Attic	Chris Deleganis	
Accounting/\$ Run	Nick Kaperonis	
Kitchen/Food Run	George & Stacy Argyros	
Pastries	Lula Valissarakos	
Parking Lot Carts	Jim Christopoulos	



# SAINT GEORGE 2019 GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP & AD PROGRAM

**Event Dates: Sat. & Sun., February 16th - 17th, 2019**

Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

Attached is my check in the sum of:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship/Ad Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsorship/Ad Choices Available:

Sponsorship Levels: (includes full color ad on outside back of Festival Program, Sponsorship listing on Festival Website, festival admission tickets, & goody bag)

**Gold Sponsor Level - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 1000**

**Silver Sponsor Level - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 500**

Advertising Choices: (includes black & white ad inside Festival Program, listing on Festival Website)

**Corporate - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 300**

**Personal - 2-line message with name ----- \$ 150**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

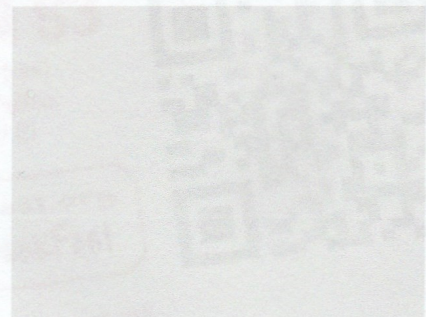
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 4755  
Palm Desert, CA 92261  
Phone: (760) 568-9901  
Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)  
Fax: (760) 568-9492

Print personal ad below:



**Absolute DEADLINE for Copy: January 20th, 2019**

Electric submission of camera ready corporate logos & names are accepted in most formats.

GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · LOUKOUMADES ·

GREEK CHICKEN · MOUSAKA · SPANAKOPITA · DOLMADE · PASTICHIO · GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · DOLMADES

GREEK CHICKEN · MOUSAKA · SPANAKOPITA · DOLMADE · PASTICHIO · SOULYAKI · BAKLAVA · DOLMADES · GYROS



- AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD
- HEAVENLY PASTRIES
- GREEK FOLK DANCERS
- OUZO · RETSINA · METAXA
- ART & SOUVENIRS
- RELIGIOUS ITEMS
- CHURCH TOURS
- KIDZ ZONE
- FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



**EL PASEO COURTESY CARTS** available for festival attendee pick up & drop off. Route along El Paseo from San Pablo to Portola & church festival entrance.

**ADDITIONAL PARKING AVAILABLE** at Washington Charter School, and Hope Luthern Church & Spiritual Center.

**SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED.**



We are pleased to provide assistance to anyone requesting it. If you need help, please ask.

Saint George  
Greek Orthodox Church

*Proudly presents the*

23<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# GREEK FESTIVAL

in Palm Desert, CA

**Saturday & Sunday**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**11am to 8pm**

on the Church Grounds

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, CA


**(760) 568-9901**

*Experience Authentic Greek Food  
Devour Heavenly Pastries  
Dance to live Greek music, and  
**Be Greek for a Day!***

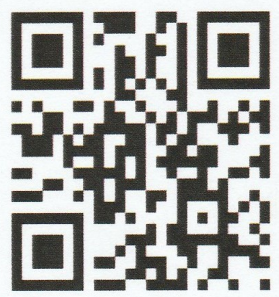
**ADMISSION \$3**

(Children 12 & under free)  
Active Duty Military, Police,  
Fire & EMT Free w/ ID

[www.PDGreekFest.org](http://www.PDGreekFest.org)  



 PDGreekFest



GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · LOUKOUMADES ·





# AHEPA 528 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL

## SUPER BOWL PARTY



### FUN FOR EVERYONE

We will have doors open at 2pm.

Game starts at 3:30 pm

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

74109 Larrea St Palm Desert, CA 92261

\$20 Donation requested

Refreshments and fun provided!



<https://www.facebook.com/AHEPA528/>

Livestream after each Quarter to announce winner!

\$10 pool squares available


Donate online, [AHEPA528.ORG](http://AHEPA528.ORG)

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or donate online

Scholarship awards benefit members of

Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

  
**SUPER BOWL**  
**FEB 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019**

**\$20 DONATION**

*and you get*

- 1 Square in the Football Pool
- Refreshments
- Appetizers
- Live Game
- Cash Prizes

**\$10 pool square\***

*\*After first donation*

**REFRESHMENTS  
AND FUN  
PROVIDED!**



**PLEASE SEE BROTHERS  
WYNN STORTON,  
HARRY LOUKATOS OR  
NICK KRESPIS  
FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

[CONTACT@AHEPA528.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@AHEPA528.ORG)

**760.832.2825**