

**JANUARY 27, 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

**COMMEMORATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

## **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.*

## **REPENTANCE MEANS PRAYER**

Our relationship with God and with others is related to prayer. In prayer we seek forgiveness, blessings, and wisdom from God. Through prayer we seek enlightenment from God so that we can forgive others and bless them with good deeds and proper advice in guiding them to a life of peace and well-being. Prayer is a matter of being in the presence of Christ our God. Indeed, as we find ourselves in His presence, we come to understand our need to change our ways: instead of being negligent and

self-centered, we become people who love God and others. This change is seen in our behavior – and our behavior, if it is sincere and consistent, changes our personality.

One of the best examples regarding this is found in the person of Zacchaeus. As soon as he found himself in the presence of Christ, he changed from being a ruthless tax collector into being an apostle of our Lord. In reality, he eventually became a bishop of the Church. As bishop, he lived the Lord's Prayer,

*Continued on Page 2*

## **COMMEMORATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

St. John Chrysostom served as Archbishop of Constantinople during the reign of Arcadius and Evdoxia. However, Evdoxia had committed adultery during her marriage to Arcadius. St. John Chrysostom called for her to repent and live a virtuous life. Instead, the Empress Evdoxia had him exiled from Constantinople. He departed this life in the village of Comana, Armenia in 407 A.D. When Emperor Arcadius passed away, his son, Emperor Theodosius II, arranged for his bodily remains (a.k.a. relics of a Saint) to be brought back to Constantinople approximately 438 A.D. (commemorated on January 27th every year). The crusaders of the 4th Crusade in 1204 had sacked Constantinople and took the relics of St. John Chrysostom to Rome, along with those of St. Gregory the Theologian.

The relics of both of these Saints were returned to Constantinople in a special ceremony with our Patriarch Bartholomew at the Vatican on November 27, 2004.



Οι σχέσεις μας με τον Θεόν και με άλλους συνδέονται με την προσευχήν. Στην προσευχήν αναζητούμεν την συγχώρηση, τις ευλογίες και την σοφίαν του Θεού. Διά μέσου της προσευχής επιδιώκουμεν την φώτισην του Θεού για να συγχωρήσουμεν άλλους, να <ευλογήσουμεν> άλλους με καλές πράξεις και με σωστές συμβουλές. Η προσευχή είναι θέμα παρουσίας του Θεού μας Χριστού. Μάλιστα, καθώς ευρισκόμεθα στην παρουσίαν Του, καταλαβαίνουμεν την ανάγκη να αλλάξουμεν τους τρόπους μας: αντί να είμεθα αμελής και <εγωκεντρικοί,> γινόμεθα άνθρωποι που αγαπούν τον Θεόν και άλλους. Αυτή η αλλαγή φαίνεται στην συμπεριφοράν μας – και η συμπεριφορά μας, εάν είναι ειλικρινής και συνεπής, αλλάζει την ολόκληρην προσωπικότητάν μας.

Ένα από τα καλύτερα παραδείγματα περί τούτου ευρίσκεται στο πρόσωπο του Ζακχαίου. Μόλις ευρέθηκε στην παρουσίαν του Χριστού, άλλαξε από το να είναι ένας αδικαστος τελώνης στο να είναι απόστολος του Κυρίου μας. Στην πραγματικότητα, έγινε ένας επίσκοπος της Εκκλησίας. Ως επίσκοπος, εξούσε την Κυριακήν Προσευχήν που λέγεται πριν μεταλαμβάνουμεν τα Άχραντα Μυστήρια.

Ο λόγος για τον οποίον απαγγέλλουμεν την Κυριακήν Προσευχήν πριν από την Θ. Κοινωνίαν είναι επειδή είναι μιά προσευχή που μας τοποθετεί στην παρουσίαν του Χριστού. Επίσης, αυτή η προσευχή μας καλεί σε μετάνοιαν.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

which we recite during the Divine Liturgy just before we partake of Holy Communion.

The reason for why we recite the Lord's Prayer before receiving the Holy Sacraments is because it is a prayer that places us before Christ and, in addition, this prayer calls us to repentance. The Russian Orthodox Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic once said, "*For Christ's presence is like that of some life-giving, scented balsam which restores health, enriches life and gives savor to the soul, the thoughts, the words of any person. In brief, distance from Christ means corruption and death, and closeness to Him means salvation and life.*"

Prayer itself is an act of repentance, because it turns our minds around. Sincere prayer helps us to look into our own souls so that we can grow closer to God. Through the Lord's Prayer, we are able to examine our souls. Specifically, we confess that God is our Father in heaven and that we should keep His Name holy, rather than to commit blasphemy; we confess that we are to be doing God's Will rather than our own self-centered will; we confess that we are to acknowledge our own weaknesses and failures, seeking forgiveness from God as we make the effort to correct our faults; we confess that we are to forgive others, rather than to hold grudges. Finally, we confess that we are to resist temptation and avoid evil (which recalls our Baptismal vow). The word translated as "evil" in English is *ponirhoes* in Greek, which technically means: "crafty and deceptive". We can use the Lord's Prayer as a guide to the Sacrament of Holy Confession.

Zacchaeus confessed his sin to our Lord: "*If I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will restore it four-fold.*" We are reminded by theologians of *The Orthodox Study Bible*: *By the word "if", Zacchaeus not only admits that this is a possibility, since this is how he did his work, but he implies that he will not dispute anyone's claims. Not only did he confess his sin, but he offered the penance to correct it.*" (pg. 1403). All of this occurred because he encountered Christ our God. As a result, salvation came to his house. Let us keep in mind that salvation comes to our houses and families in the same way.

+FR. THEODORE

***"I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart. In the council of the upright and in the assembly. Great are the works of the Lord, sought out in all things with regard to His Will; Thanksgiving and majesty are His work."***

--Psalm 111: 1-3

## 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: "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, soston 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: "Soston 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: "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 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 made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**Sunday Resurrectional Hymn:** *Ote Katilthes pros ton thanaton (Tone 2)...(When You descended to the realm of death, You, as Life Immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You, from the inner depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heavens did proclaim and cry out: O Life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.)*

**Hymn for St. John Chrysostom:** *Ee tou stomatos sou... (The grace that from your mouth shone forth like a torch illumined the universe. It deposited in the world the treasures at the absence of avarice. It showed us the height that is attained by humility. Now you instruct us by your words. Father John Chrysostom. Intercede with Christ God, the Word Himself, entreating Him to save our souls.)*

**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.)*

**Sunday Kontakion Hymn:** *O mitran aghiasas to toko Sou... (You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Give peace to our Nation in time of strife and empower our leaders, so loved by You, the only One Who loves humanity.)*

**READINGS: EPISTLE—**Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2 / **GOSPEL—** St. Luke 19:1-10

**Communion Hymn:** *Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the highest)...page 64 of our Divine Liturgy books.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Coffee Hour: Pam Zeverdas and Athena Snarskis

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – We need Coffee Hour Sponsors for February and March. Please sign up or see **Pat Dalkas**. We are still preparing food for the Festival. This week, we are making pastries. Plan on coming to help; we need everyone's help.

**SWING AND HOP** – Philoptochos booth at the Palm Desert social fair on El Pasea this **Saturday, February 2nd** from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Support our Philoptochos!

**FESTIVAL: YIAYIA'S ATTIC and PAPOU'S GARAGE**- We need your items for Yiayia's Attic. We take all sorts of household things. This year we have added Papou's Garage. We want tools, golf clubs and anything of value. Donations should be in good condition, clean and/or polished. If you have any questions, call chairperson **Chris Delegans** at 650-207-5254. **Volunteers are needed for the Festival. See the "Volunteer for our Festival Form" in our parish hall!**

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

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – January 28th, 29th, 30th – Festival Baking: Pastries will be prepared.

Tuesday, January 29th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 30th...THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

Orthros – 8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 31st.....Choir – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 2nd.....PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE

Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Swing & Hop at El Paseo – Philoptochos booth 1:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.

### THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS:

#### ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN and ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

These three Saints were hierarchs (i.e., bishops) of the Orthodox Church in the 4th Century. We commemorate them together on **January 30th** every year in order to remind the faithful of every generation to learn as much as possible about the Orthodox Christian Faith and to be ready to defend this precious Faith in the face of false teachings of the time.

In particular, the Three Hierarchs had learned about the popular philosophies of their age, which were influenced by ancient Hellenism. By understanding the ancient arts of rhetoric and logic, the Three Hierarchs turned these arts *against* those very philosophers who worshiped idols, instead of our Savior. The worship of Zeus, Apollo, Athena,

and other false gods have nothing in common with the message of the Gospel. Many philosophers, stoics and hedonists, of their time, would argue in favor of worshiping their false gods. To debate them—and win—the Hierarchs used their education in language, rhetoric and logic to convert these people to Christ our God. Above all, the Three Hierarchs spoke *the language of the Holy Spirit*, Who gave proper wisdom in their words.

We can celebrate the Feast Day of these Three Hierarchs by following their example of using education for God's glory, rather than for simple personal advantages, or to gloat over ancient glories. We can use education as a great tool in order to convert others to the Faith as did Sts. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, who saw education as a major tool to do God's Will for the salvation of others.

+FR. THEODORE

*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	



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

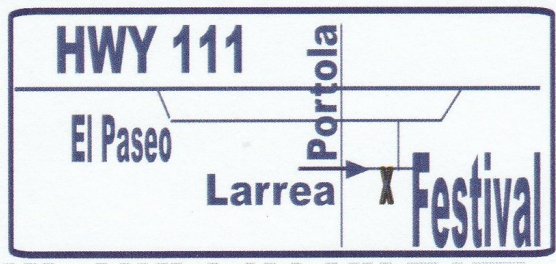
ART & SOUVENIRS

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

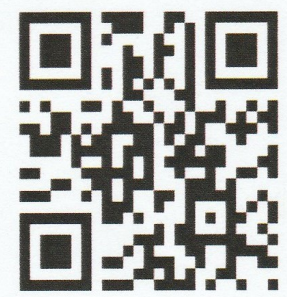
**(760) 568-9901**

*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)  
t f PDGreekFest



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# 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**