

MARCH 3, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

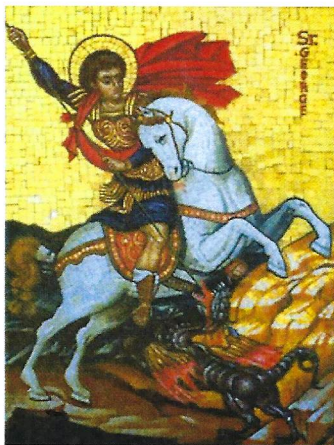
74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

MEATFARE SUNDAY



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.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

Two spiritually important points are found in today's Gospel passage: 1) In the face of our fellow human being we see Christ, and, 2) the basis of spiritual life is Christ's love, which is the foundation for every good deed. Indeed, those who have no love for our Lord have difficulty in comprehending the true nature of philanthropy, according to which people are to be fed spiritually *and* materially, because when one has spiritual help, the physical needs are readily addressed, as well.

In today's Gospel, the words of our

Lord serve to remind us about our identity as people of God: *"In so far as you did (or did not) do it for one of the least of these My brethren, you did (or did not) do it unto Me."* No matter what the circumstance or status in life, each person is in the *Image and Likeness of God*.

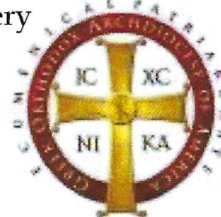
Because we are created in the Image and Likeness of God, we understand that all people in the world (in every place and in every age) are graced to know the meaning of love and the difference between virtue and evil. For exactly this reason we

Continued on page 2

TO LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES THEM

Christian love is the "possible impossibility" to see Christ in another man, whoever he is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a "good deed" or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself. For, indeed, what is love if not that mysterious power which transcends the accidental and the external in the "other"-- his physical appearance, social rank, ethnic origin, intellectual capacity-- and reaches the *soul*, the unique and uniquely personal "root" of a human being, truly the part of God in him? If God loves every man it is because He alone knows the priceless and absolutely unique treasure, the "soul" or "person" He gave every man. Christian love then is the participation in that divine knowledge and the gift of that divine love. There is no "impersonal" love because love *is* the wonderful discovery of the "person" in "man," of the personal and unique in the common and general. It is the discovery in each man of that which is "lovable" in him, of that which is from God.

--Taken from the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Website:
www.antiochian.org



Δύο σημαντικά θέματα παρουσιάζονται στην σημερινή Ευαγγελικήν περικοπήν: 1) το ίδιο πρόσωπο του Κυρίου ημών Ιησού Χριστού εμφανίζεται στο πρόσωπο του συνανθρώπου μας, και, 2) η πνευματική ζωή – δηλ., η ζωή <ἐν Χριστῷ> – είναι η βάση για κάθε καλό έργο. Μάλιστα, όσοι δεν αγαπούν τον Μονογενή Υιόν του Θεού, τον Ιησούν Χριστόν, έχουν δυσκολία να κατανοήσουν την αληθινήν φιλανθρωπίαν κατά την οποίαν τροφοδοτείται ο συνάνθρωπός μας ψυχικώς και σωματικώς, διότι όταν ο άνθρωπος έχει ψυχικήν βοήθειαν, ικανοποιούνται πιό εύκολα και οι σωματικές ανάγκες.

Επιδή είμεθα πλασμένοι <εις εικόνα καί ὁμοίωσιν> του Θεού, καταλαβαίνουμε ότι ὅλοι οι ἄνθρωποι του κόσμου (σε κάθε τόπο και στην κάθε εποχήν) έχουν την χάριν να γνωρίσουν την αγάπην και την διαφοράν μεταξύ αρετῆς και πονηρίας. Γιά αυτόν τον λόγον ακριβώς, δύνανται να πράξουν αγαθά έργα αγάπης ὅπως κάνει ο Θεός. Μάλιστα, τα πραγματικά έργα αγάπης έχουν δύο αποτελέσματα: 1) βοηθούν τον συνάνθρωπόν μας να ξεπλέξει, προς δόξαν του Χριστού, από ἄσχημην κατάστασιν, και, 2) γνωρίζει ο συνάνθρωπός μας ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός της αιωνίου αγάπης και σωτηρίας γιά ὅλον τον κόσμον.

Καλά έργα και προσευχή... ας προσευχώμεθα γιά το κάθε καλό γιά τον συνάνθρωπόν μας ὅπως προσευχώμεθα γιά το κάθε καλό γιά τον εαυτόν μας. <Θέλεις ἀγαπᾶ τόν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν.> (Ματθ. 22:39).
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

are able to freely, lovingly *choose* to do truly good deeds just as God does them. Indeed, acts of God's love have two outcomes: 1) they help our fellow human being out of difficulty, thereby giving glory to God, and, 2) our fellow human being learns that Christ is God, Who is the God of eternal love and salvation for all people.

It is important to remember the words of our Lord, "...You did (or did not do it) unto Me." These precise words mean that our actions are to be carried out as if we are offering them as a gift to God Himself. If our motive is truly to honor our Savior, then our plans and actions are done with an attitude of prayer. In prayer, we watch our thoughts to make sure that we are not falling into the temptation of "cutting corners" or manipulating others.

In one way or another - at one time or another - we are all "the least." Only pride misleads us into thinking that *others* are "the least" compared to us. Hence, charity begins with humility before our Savior. It is in spiritual humility that we can see that each person has the divine quality that is of Christ -- and it is with Christ that we learn to have empathy, patience and understanding.

Christ-like love is "self-emptying." In order to share this love with others in the spirit of serving our Lord, we must be willing to "climb out of ourselves" and put ourselves in the other person's situation and to go through their circumstance *with* them. Christ God, showed the supreme example of self-sacrificial love by *becoming one of us* through the miracle of His Incarnation, as St. Paul states, "[Christ] Himself suffered and has been tempted [and] He is able to help those who are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18). In this regard, we know that *God is with us, identifying* with us even in our own personal circumstances. As followers of Christ, we are called upon to do as Christ does -- to *be with* one another in the spirit of St. Paul, who gives us his own example: "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9: 22-23). These blessings are founded on our love for Christ our God, Whose love we have the honor of sharing with one another. In the true spirit of charity, we find ourselves *giving* to Christ and *being like* Christ at the same time. It is in the face of this reality that we actually do *need* each other!

+FR. THEODORE

"We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak... [by] sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ."

--1 Corinthians 8: 8-13

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

ANTIPHON I:

Verse 1: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name."

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

Verse 2: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards."

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

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

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

Chanter(s): "Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen".

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

ANTIPHON II:

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."

Response: "Soson imas Ie Theou, o Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si: Allilouia."

Verse 2: "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God."

Response: 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."

Response: "Soson imas Ie Theou, o Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si: Allilouia."

Chanter(s): "Doxa Patri ke Io, ke Ayio Pnevmati, ke nin ke ai ke is 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.*

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.)*

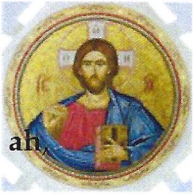
Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *Otan eltheis Oh Theos epi tis ghees meta dhoxeis... (When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.)*

READINGS: EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 8: 8-13; 9:1-2 / **GOSPEL** -- St. Matthew 25: 31-46

Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos): Axion Estin... (Divine Liturgy Book, Pg. 51)

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion (Divine Liturgy Book, pg. 64)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Constantine Zachariah (40 Days)**, the beloved husband of **Gabriella Zachariah** as well as for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God **Christine Athans Spiropoulos** and **Harry Scott Spiropoulos**, the beloved mother and brother of **Stella Elliston** (from Massachusetts). May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Constantine Zachariah, Christine Athans Spiropoulos** and **Harry Scott Spiropoulos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Gabriella Zachariah** and **Stella Elliston**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS-Today is the deadline to make your reservation for our Membership Luncheon this coming Saturday, March 9 at 12:00 noon. Sign up at the Philoptochos table. See Athena Snarskis or Rhonda Latkovic. We look forward to welcoming parishioners who may become new members. We need Coffee Hour sponsors for April and May. See Pat Dalkas.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS -- Following are the Contributions and Dedications for this Sunday, March 3, 2019:

- Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Stephanie McEvoy: *"In honor of our parents, Lloyd & Frieda Regas, and Ervin & Irene McEvoy. Also, Stephanies' sister Karen, and Peter's brother Alan!"*
- Ms. Kathy Amos: *"In loving memory of Dr. George Lambakis!"*

STEWARDSHIP- We thank all who have returned their **2019 Stewardship Cards**. We would like to remind those who have yet to return their Stewardship Cards for this year to please do so. The continued support from those who love our St. George parish is truly a blessing for all who seek our Savior's blessings throughout the year.

MEMORIAL WALL & GARDEN— Parishioners of St. George are encouraged to review the "Memorial Wall and Garden" participation form posted in our parish hall in order to join in the efforts to offer lasting tribute to family and relatives.

NEW SLIDING DOORS FOR OUR PARISH HALL - Our new sliding doors have been installed! With this upgrade, our parish hall and courtyard are greatly enhanced for future events.

ST.GEORGE PARISH LENTEN SYMPOSIUM - April 6, 2019. See enclosed flier.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 5th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 6th....."Let Your Voice Be Heard" - Prayer for Life at:
Sacred Heart Church-12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
AHEPA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 7th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 9th.....Philoptochos Membership Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.

*The Ladder for March 2019 is lovingly sponsored by:
Emily Tcharos*

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.

Please be our Guest for the
Philoptochos Membership Tea

When: Saturday, March 9th, 2019 @ 12:00 PM

Location: Saint George Church Hall

Wine Tasting

Luncheon

Music

Raffle

Fellowship

RSVP tel. 760.610.1598

Email: [r.s.fleminglatkovic@
gmail.com](mailto:r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com)



ST. GEORGE
LENTEN PARISH SYMPOSIUM:

LIFE AFTER DEATH: "INQUIRE WITHIN"

SYMPOSIUM INCLUDING TOPICS RELATED TO
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE & DISCIPLINE:

-THE NATURE & PRACTICE OF SACRAMENTAL LIFE IN
EVERYDAY LIVING-

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

AT:

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

PROGRAM:

10:00 A.M. - WELCOME AND MORNING PRAYER

10:30 - 11:30 - SPEAKERS: DEACON EUTHYM KONTAXIS, (ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, PALM DESERT), FR. DAVID KRUSE (ST. RAPHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, THOUSAND PALMS) & FR. ANDREW LESKO (ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, TEMECULA)

11:30 - SUMMARY AND REFLECTION

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. - LUNCH

1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - SYMPOSIUM (QUESTIONS & ANSWERS)

3:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. - VESPERS