

NOVEMBER 24, 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

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.

PROPER GIVING

Over the past several years studies indicate that we were made by our Creator to follow Christ - that it is in our biology. A few years ago a post from *Psychology Today* pointed out the following: "A 2007 study published in the *Journal of Science* found donating to a charity activates neural activity in areas of the brain that are linked to reward processing." (*Psychology Today*, Nov. 22, 2017, "Giving is Good for You"). In his book, *Medicine, Religion, and Health*, Herold G. Koenig cited a study, saying,

"Helping others was significantly correlated with better mental health, even after controlling for age, gender, stressful life events, income,..." (pg. 143).

So, in reference to today's Gospel passage, when Jesus asked the ruler of the synagogue to give to the poor and to follow Him, it was a request made on the basis of divine love for this man. The Creator knows what is best, because we were created to give and to follow Christ our God and Savior.

Therefore, while we are "wired" by
Continued on page 2

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD OF SABBAOTH" -- During the Divine Liturgy, just before the Holy Gifts are sanctified and become the very Body and Blood of Christ our God, the Prayer of Thanksgiving is read, in which God is praised and we offer thanks for all that has been accomplished for our salvation...even though He is "surrounded by thousands of Archangels and tens of thousands of Angels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring with their wings." This part of the Divine Liturgy is taken directly from the Bible.

In his Epistle to the Hebrews, St. Paul notes that liturgical worship is not only done on earth, but is done in Heaven ("Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven..."). In other words, the earthly place of worship is to be a "a copy and shadow of the heavenly things" (Hebrews 8:5). In the Book of Revelation, St. John the Evangelist writes: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" and he heard the same Angelic hymn that the Prophet Isaiah heard: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 4:8 and Isaiah 6: 1-3).

The hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy" is sung just prior to the consecration of the Holy Gifts, because Holy Communion is our personal encounter on earth and at the same time in Heaven with the True God of the Old and New Testaments, Who is Jesus Christ our Savior.
+FR. THEODORE



Πολλές ψυχολογικές έρευνες δείχνουν σήμερα ότι ο Δημιουργός μας εδημούγησε έτσι ώστε να ακολουθήσουμε τον Σωτήρα μας Χριστόν, διά Του Οποίου γνωρίζουμε την ψυχική μας ανάγκη να προσφέρουμε έργα αγάπης στους συνανθρώπους μας.

Όπως ακούσαμε από την σημερινήν περικοπήν εκ του κατά Λουκάν Ευαγγελίου, ο Χριστός επαρεκάλησε έναν πλούσιον άνθρωπον να δώσει τα υπάρχοντά του στους πτωχούς και να Τον ακολουθήσει. Διά μέσου αυτού του ανθρώπου, ο Χριστός ζητά από τον καθέναν μας να Τον ακολουθήσουμε, διότι εάν τα έργα μας δεν σχετίζονται με το κίνητρο της ευχαριστίας μας προς τον Θεόν, κινδυνεύομεθα να κάνουμε <καλά έργα> για λάθος λόγους, μολυσμένους με την υπερηφάνειαν.

Ενα παράδειγμα <δικαίας δωρεάς> είναι ο Άγιος Νικόλαος, τον οποίον θα μνημονεύουμε τις 6 Δεκεμβρίου. Εδωσε με μυστικό τρόπον τεράστιες ποσότητες από τα πλούτη του με τον σκοπόν ότι οι δέκτες των δώρων του θα αισθανόνταν ότι τα δώρα ερχόνταν αποκλειστικώς από τον Χριστόν. Στην ουσίαν, όμως, ο,τι έδωσε ο Άγιος Νικόλαος το έδωσε στο <πνεύμα> να <μην εξεύρει το αριστερό χέρι το τι κάνει το δεξί,> έτσι ώστε να τιμήσουν όλοι τον Χριστόν, παρά αυτόν.

Τα κίνητρά μας προέρχονται από μέσα από το πλαίσιον της πίστεώς μας και της αγάπης μας για τον Χριστόν. Διά της πίστεως και της αγάπης μας εν Χριστώ τα έργα που είναι για τους ανθρώπους αδύνατα είναι στην πραγματικότητα δύνατα επειδή <τά αδύνατα παρά ανθρώποις δυνατά παρά τῷ Θεῷ.> (Λκ. 18:27).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

our Creator to be charitable, we would be foolish to assume that our ability to give is the result of our own greatness. There is wisdom in our Lord's request for the ruler to "follow Him." Through this ruler, Christ our God asks each of us to follow Him. At the same time, unless our giving is related to the motive of giving thanks to God in all that we do, we are in danger of giving for the wrong reasons, tainted with pride.

An example of "righteous giving" is St. Nicholas, commemorated on December 6th. He gave vast amounts of his wealth in secret, because he wanted to have recipients of his charity assume that their gifts were strictly from Christ our God. His "secret" was finally exposed by the poor father of 3 daughters who, had they not received ample monies, would have been lured into a life of sin, rather to marry honorably. St. Nicholas, among many Saints (St. Nectarios, for example), gave in the spirit of "the left hand not knowing what the right hand does," so that, instead of themselves being honored, people would honor Christ.

Yet another example for us to follow is that of St. Paul. His personal encounter with the risen Christ was a blessing for which he would be forever grateful and which is expressed as the divine love defined in his First Epistle to the Corinthians (13: 4-8). It is a love, as St. Paul says, that "does not seek its own" -- and, consistent with this understanding, we hear the words of St. Paul today from his Epistle to the Ephesians: "By grace you have been saved through faith; and it is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2: 6-10).

As Thanksgiving and Christmas loom into our future this year, let us remember to live for Christ in every aspect of our lives, so that our material "gift-giving" is not undermined by self-serving motives. Pure motives come only from our willingness to follow Christ with love based on faith which says, that, while many things may be impossible for us, "they are possible with God." (Luke 18: 27).

+FR. THEODORE

"The little children were brought to Jesus that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. And Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'"

– St. Matthew 19¹³⁻¹⁴

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

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

Verse 1--Great is the Lord and exceedingly praiseworthy.

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

Verse 2- Glorious things were said concerning you, O city of God. God is known in her palaces.

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

Verse 3- As we heard, so we saw.

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, soston*

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

Verse 1- The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His holy place.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall go in through it.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who Arose from the dead; we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - Holy is Your temple, wondrous in righteousness.

Refrain: *"Soston 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- *The rich among the people shall entreat your favor. All her glory as the King's daughter is within, adorned and embroidered with golden tassels. The virgins behind her shall be brought to the King.*

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 seek-ing 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. Lord we give glory to You.)*

Hymn for the Presentation of the Theotokos... *Simeron tis evdhokias Theou... (Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.")*

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 : *O katharotatos nah-ohs... (The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she.)*

EPISTLE— Eph. 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Ladder for the month of November 2019 was sponsored by:

Eve Meek

ANNOUNCEMENTS



AHEPA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON -- following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at **Towne Center Café**. Everyone is invited to join in fellowship. See enclosed flier.

PHILOTOCHOS – Don't forget to make **your reservation for the Dec. 7th Christmas Party at Palm Valley Country Club**. Deadline is this week, Wednesday, Nov.

27th! The **"Baby Bottle" Drive** to assist Birth Choice of the Desert continues this **Sunday through December 1st**. Please place a check or cash in one of the baby bottles and deposit it in the white basket in the church hall. Thank you for supporting this local pro-life, non-profit organization.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD -- Enclosed find the **"St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Form."** Contact **Tina Veroulis** to be included. **Deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 26th**.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS --To all parishioners: If you have an interest in participating in the Altar Flower program between now and the end of our Altar Flower season (May 2020), please act now, as there are only five available spaces -- **February 16, 2020** (1 bouquet); **March 1, 2020** (2 bouquets) and **May 31, 2020** (1 bouquet). If you are interested in sharing a date with someone, that is also an option. See **Louise Dobbs Barringer** in the parish hall to sign up. **December payments are now due. Many blessings to all.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM -- This year for our Christmas program we will be doing a pageant, **"The Christmas Story,"** held on **Sunday, December 15, 2019** in church directly following the Divine Liturgy. We are estimating it to be about 15- 20 minutes with our angelic Choir accompanying us!

2020 GREEK FESTIVAL FLIERS--**"2020 Greek Festival Sponsorship/Ad Forms"** are available in our parish hall. Buying and/or selling **sponsorships and/or ads** for our **2020 St. George Greek Festival Program Book** will insure the success of our Festival.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, November 25th.....**ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR**
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 26th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m./ Adult Greek class-6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 28th.....**THANKSGIVING DAY** (office closed)

Saturday, November 30th.....**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE**
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

GOSPEL — Lk. 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Birth Choice of the Desert

maintains a

Pro-Life Agenda



CARING

We exist to be "A Voice of Love" for both mother and child in a time of need.

CONFIDENTIAL

All appointments and discussions are always confidential.

CHOICES

We offer education that assists women in making informed decisions regarding their pregnancies.

CURRENT SERVICES

- Pregnancy Testing & Advocacy Appointments
- Material Assistance from our Boutique

♥ HELP US KEEP OUR SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE! ♥

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In order to continue offering our services that aid mothers and save the unborn, we need your help!

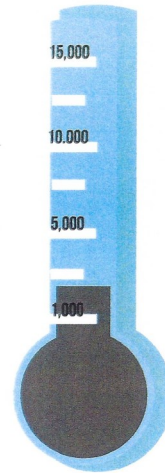
We need to raise \$25,000 by the end of the year. By holding a Baby Bottle Boomerang, you can help us get there!

Our goal is to become a Medical Clinic that offers:

- STI Testing
- Well Women Visits

Your gracious care that overflows from you allows us to be "A Voice of Love" in a time of need.

\$25,000!!!



BIRTH CHOICE OF THE DESERT

CONTACT US:

WWW.DESERTBIRTHCHOICE.COM (760) 895-4044



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

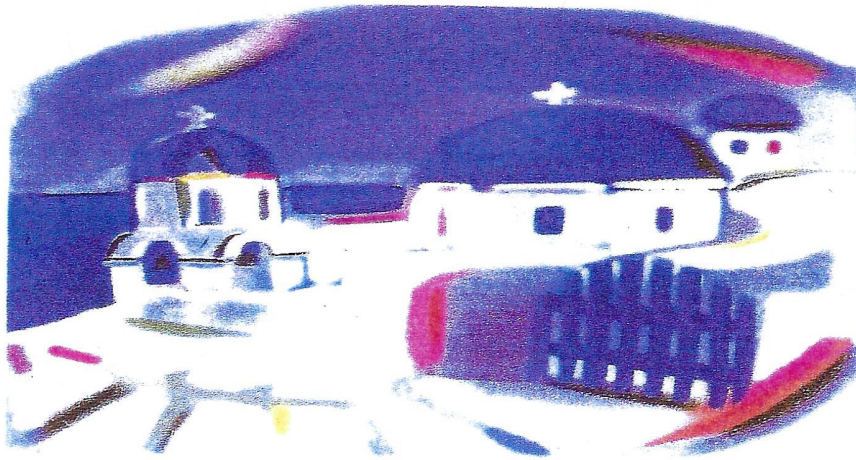
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline: **November 26, 2019**



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING



ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
LUNCH

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 24th, 2019

Town Center Cafe

44491 Town Center Way
Palm Desert, CA

\$25.00

Children \$12.00 *under 12*

Tickets can be purchased from 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@ahpea528.org

*Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online ahpea528.org
Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family*

Thank You for your Continued Support!

Philoptochos Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 7th, 2019 at 11:30 AM



**Palm Valley Country Club
39205 Palm Valley Dr.
Palm Desert, CA 92211**

R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 29th, 2019

Music
Cash Bar

Family and Friends are invited!

Raffle
Prizes

\$37.00 per person for the pre-fixe menu, no substitutions.

Choice of: circle your choice below *all meals include unlimited soft drinks, coffee, iced or hot tea, water, house salad, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetable, & chocolate mousse cake & ice cream dessert.

1. Chicken Marsala; mushroom sauce & fresh herbs
2. Roast Pork Tenderloin; shallot & cranberry sauce
3. Almond Crusted Sole; sun dried tomato & caper sauce
4. Pasta Tortellini; Alfredo sauce & parmesan cheese
5. Vegan

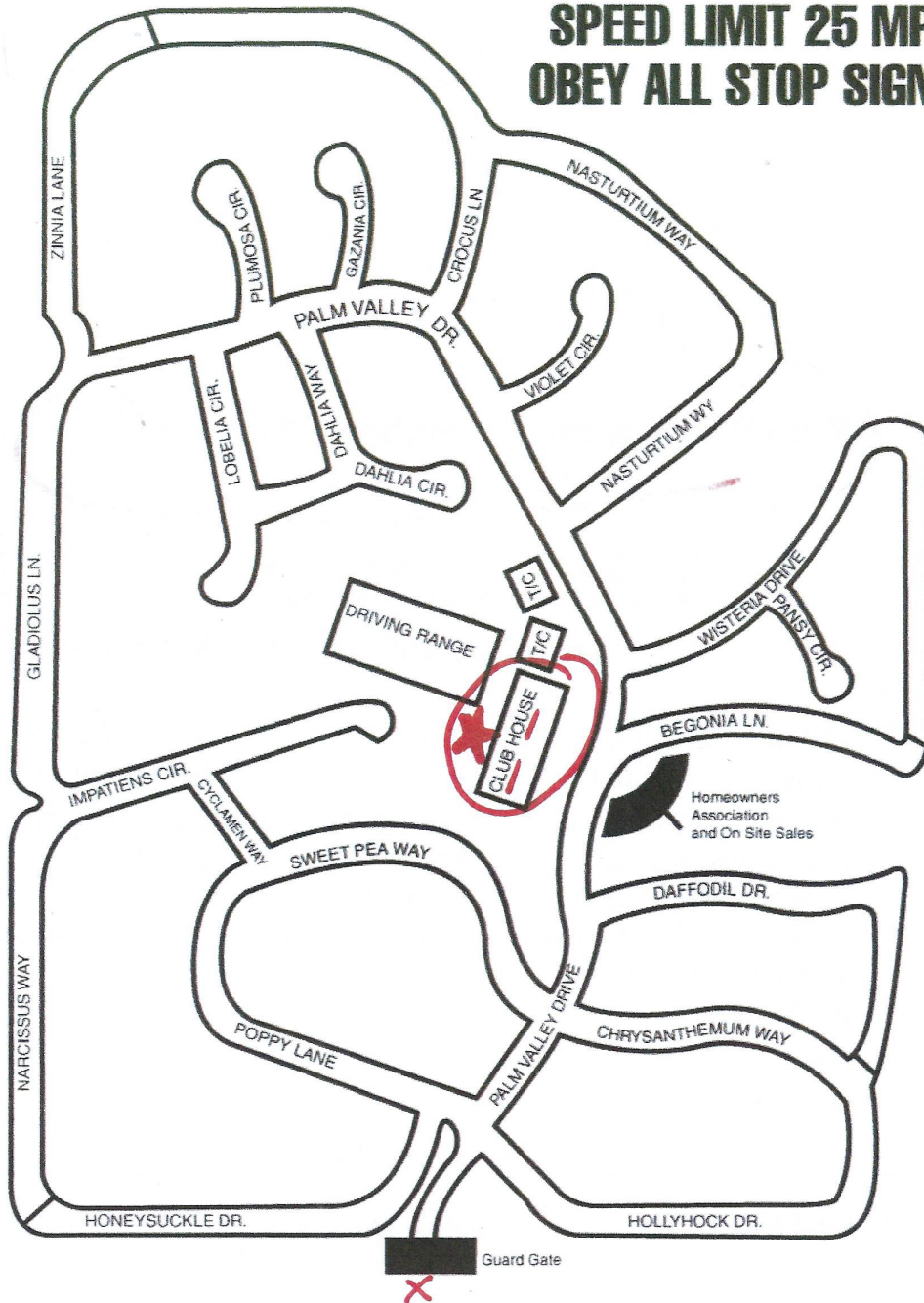
Name _____

Phone _____ Number Attending _____

Amount Paid Total \$ _____ cash or check payable to Philoptochos

PALM VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
39205 Palm Valley Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211
tel. (760) 345-2737

**SPEED LIMIT 25 MPH
OBEY ALL STOP SIGNS**



↑
Cook
↓

← Country Club Drive →

↑
Washington
↓



**SAINT GEORGE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy