

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com



THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

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.*

PSALM 50 & THE PUBLICAN

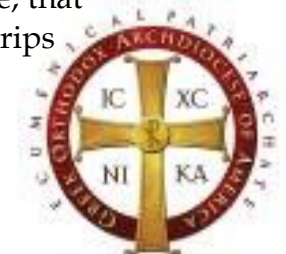
“And the publican stood afar off and would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying, ‘Have mercy on me a sinner.’ I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.” (St. Luke 18: 13-14). The “other” is the Pharisee who “prayed about himself,” listing all of his good qualities and thought of himself as being a better person than the “lowly” publican.

From this parable of our Savior, we find the basis for the well known *Jesus Prayer*: “*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.*” These are

the same words as those used by the Publican. Furthermore, the simple prayer, “*Lord have mercy*” is said repeatedly in the liturgical life of our Orthodox Church. In fact, what I consider to be the “*Psalm of Repentance,*” Psalm 50 is read or chanted at almost every Church Service. On Sundays it is read twice—once during Orthros (when it is usually chanted) and again during the Divine Liturgy, by the priest as he censes the Holy Icons and the faithful. The appeal for God’s mercy is the underlying theme of

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THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE—The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jewish People. They were known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Our Lord Jesus in His parable of the Publican and the Pharisee signified a person like the Pharisee, and a sinner like the Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church has been to set aside the next three weeks (four Sundays, including today) before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This is called the “*Triodion Season*” and calls us to contemplate the approaching season of Great Lent. This is a time when the virtue of humility is emphasized as being the foundation for all our spiritual efforts. By appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, we are taught through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that pride and self promotion drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips us of all his virtue, and flings us far away from God. It is through the repentance and contrite prayer after the example of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness and raises one up to the greatest heights.



«Καί ο τελώνης... ἔτυπεν εἰς τό στήθος αὐτοῦ, λέγων, ὁ Θεός... ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ αμαρτωλῷ.» (Λκ. 18:13). Ο Φαρισαῖος, ὁμως, <επροσευχόταν περί του εαυτοῦ του,> και ανέφερε τα καλά του χαρίσματα. Εθεώρησε τον εαυτόν του ως ἕνας που εἶναι καλύτερος ἀπό τον <χαμένον> Τελώνην.

Από αὐτήν την παραβολήν του Χριστοῦ, ὑπάρχει η βᾶσις γιά την γνωστήν ευχήν: <Κύριε, Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, Υἱέ Θεοῦ, ἐλέησόν με ο αμαρτωλός.> Εἶναι σχεδόν τα ἴδια λόγια του Τελώνου, σύμφωνα με την παραβολήν του Κυρίου. Η απλή ευχή, <Κύριε ἐλέησον> επαναλαμβάνεται συνεχώς κατα τις εκτελέσεις των Θ. Ακολουθιών της Εκκλησίας.

Μάλιστα, ο 50ος Ψαλμός τον οποίον θεωρώ ως <ο Ψαλμός της Μετανοίας> αναγινώσκειται ἢ ψάλλεται κατά την εκτέλεσην του Ὁρθρου και της Θ. Λειτουργίας. Αρχίζει ο 50ος Ψαλμός με τα ἴδια λόγια του Τελώνου: <Ελέησόν με ...> και ο ολόκληρος Ψαλμός συνεχίζει με την γενικήν αίτησιν προς τον Κύριον: <ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ αμαρτωλῷ >. Ο 50ος Ψαλμός περιγράφει τον Τελώνην, ο οποίος <οὐκ ἤθελεν οὐδέ τους ὀφθαλμοῦς εἰς τόν οὐρανόν ἐπάραι, ἀλλά ἔτυπεν εἰς τό στήθος αὐτοῦ, λέγων, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ αμαρτωλῷ.> (Λκ. 18:12).

Περιγράφει, μάλιστα, ο 50ος Ψαλμός την ἀρετήν της ταπεινοφροσύνης. Η ταπεινοφροσύνη εἶναι η οδός προς την μετάνοιαν, συνεχίζοντας προς την αἰώνιον ζωήν, ἀφου επιτρέπει την χάριν του Ἁγίου Πνεύματος να μας ἀγιάσει. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Psalm 50, which is echoed with words of the Publican, "Have mercy upon me."

Psalm 50 speaks to issue of judgment. The Pharisee considered it to be his right to judge others, in essence saying, "I am not a sinner, "not even like this Publican!" The Publican, on the other hand, accepted that only God is the One Who is right in judging others, as spoken in Psalm 50: "...That You may be justified in Your words and overcome when [even] You are judged. (v. 6). It is because only Christ our God is the Righteous Judge that the Publican seeks His mercy. For, if it were not that our God is the True Judge, there would be no need to seek mercy from Him at all.

The judgment of God is that the Pharisee is condemned; the Publican is saved. While the Pharisee passed judgment on himself as one who is not a sinner, the Publican acknowledged the need for God's mercy because he is a sinner.

The Publican provides the picture of humility. Humility is, in fact, the one virtue by which we can acquire God's mercy. With this, we find the comparison between the Publican and King David, the author of Psalm 50. The Psalm is composed from a humbled heart, saying, in essence, "I have sinned!... Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit away from me." (v.11-13). The road to repentance and on to salvation, then, is paved by our humility, since the Holy Spirit can work in us only if we are humble. In turn, the only gift that we can ever give to Christ our God is our heart-felt humility. Psalm 50 tells us so: "If You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit – a broken and humbled heart God will not despise." (v. 18-19).

Today is the beginning of a liturgical season of the Church which is called "The Triodion." It is a season forecasting the beginning of Great Lent. It is a time for us to remind ourselves of the virtue of humility before Christ and to seek His mercy, with the same fervor as that expressed in Psalm 50 and which is characterized by the Publican. We need our Lord's mercy: 1) to forgive us of our sins, and, 2) to guide our thinking so that we avoid evil and do all things that are good to God's glory.

+FR. THEODORE

"You must continue in all things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

– 2 Timothy 3: 14-15

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: Ton synanarchon Logon [Tone 5]... (*Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.*)

Hymn for St. Theodore of Tyre: Meghala ta tis pisteos ... (*Faith can accomplish great things! Because of its power, the Holy Great Martyr Theodore rejoiced in the midst of flames as if he had been in refreshing water. Burned by the flames, he was offered to the Holy Trinity as delightful bread. Through his supplications, O Christ God, have mercy on us.*)

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: Fariseh-ou feeghomen ipsighorian... (*Let us flee the Pharisee's exalted parlance; let us learn the Publican's humble demeanor, and with sighs unto the Savior cry out and say, "To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord."*)

READINGS: EPISTLE—2 Timothy 3: 10-15 / GOSPEL—St. Luke 18: 10-14

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

"Above all else,
guard your heart, for
it is the well-spring
of life" Proverbs 4:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is asked to enjoy our St. George Greek Festival today

PHILOPTOCHOS - In the next three weeks we have the following activities: **Swing & Hop** on El Paseo on **Saturday, February 23**; our **General Meeting** on **Monday, February 25** at **11:30** with guest speakers **Father Ted** and **Rhonda Latkovic**, and on **Saturday, March 9** at **12:00** noon will be our **Membership Tea and Lunch**. Save the dates. If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Hour, please see **Pat Dalkas**.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The Altar Flower Bouquets offered today for the glory of God were donated by:

-Ms. Annette Lewis -Eternal rest for my husband 'Skip Lewis...'Our love began with once upon a time, and ended with happily ever after; two hands, two hearts, two souls...one love!"

*-Shared bouquet - - Ms. Melissa Hawkins - In memory of Theodore & Helen Atsales.
Ms. Mariya Dunkel - In loving memory of Josie Palmer.*

FESTIVAL - Tomorrow evening all those who have volunteered to work for the success of our Greek Festival are invited to the annual Festival Appreciation Dinner at our parish hall at 6:00.p.m. **We need volunteers to help with packing up from the Festival, starting tomorrow.**

SWING & HOP—Support our Philoptochos – and, at the same time, our entire St. George parish by visiting the **Philoptochos booth** at the **“Swing and Hop” event on El Paseo on Saturday, February 23rd** from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STREET LIFE – We are continuing the effort to receive clothing – coats, blankets, jackets, sweaters, socks, for the homeless. Items that were donated last week were distributed to the homeless in Indio last week. This week, plans are to distribute needed clothing items to the homeless in Palm Springs. Please continue to donate these kind of clothing items over the weeks to come, since we are facing cold weather at this time.

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.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, February 18th.....Appreciation Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 21st.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 23rd.....Swing and Hop on El Paseo- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Ladder for February 2019 is lovingly sponsored by:
Harry Psaltis

*“In memory of my first friends: Stephen Geotas,
George Tcharos, Pasquale (Pat) DiLuzio &
George Flessas”*

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

ST. GEORGE
LENTEN PARISH SYMPOSIUM:

“LIFE AFTER DEATH: INQUIRE WITHIN”

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

-- THE NATURE & PRACTICE OF THE
HOLY SACRAMENTS IN DAILY LIVES

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

AT:

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

MORE DETAILS & INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

St. George Memorial Wall & Garden Name Plaque

INSTRUCTIONS:

Print this form and supply the information requested.

This form is to be used when making a Saint George Memorial Wall & Garden donation in honor of a deceased relative. For a donation of \$175.00, the name of the person or person(s), i.e. husband & wife, for whom the memorial donation is made will be placed on a 2 1/2 inch by 10 inch bronze plaque. Each plaque will be etched with the words "Memory Eternal" and with the deceased persons first & last name(s) only and mounted on the Memorial Wall & Garden bronze wall.

MEMORIAL DONATION IS MADE IN THE NAME OF:

(Print name(s) as you want on the plaque)

DATE OF DEATH: _____

DONATION IS FROM:

(Name of person making the donation)

*(Name & address of person(s) to whom acknowledgement is to be sent)

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE of person submitting form:

To make your donation, you can do one of the following:

- Fill out the form and either choose to drop off the form and payment to the church office or mail the form and payment to: Saint George Orthodox Church, P.O.Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261. You may pay for your memorial donation by check or credit card.
- Check # _____
- Cash \$ _____
- Credit Card Info:

Type _____ Number _____

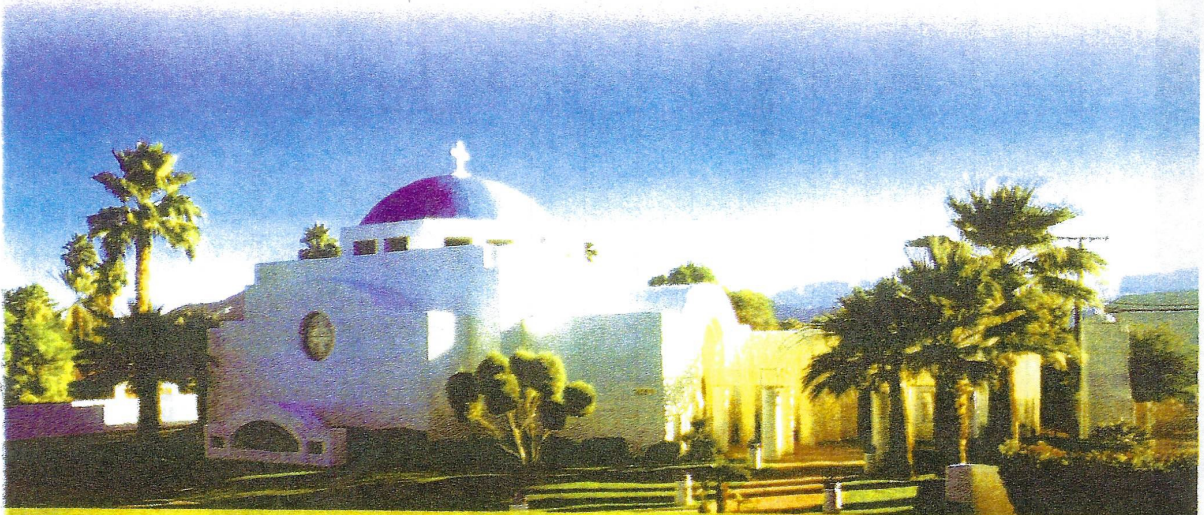
Expiration Date _____ CCV _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Example of Plaque:

Memory Eternal
o (first & last name(s) of deceased) o

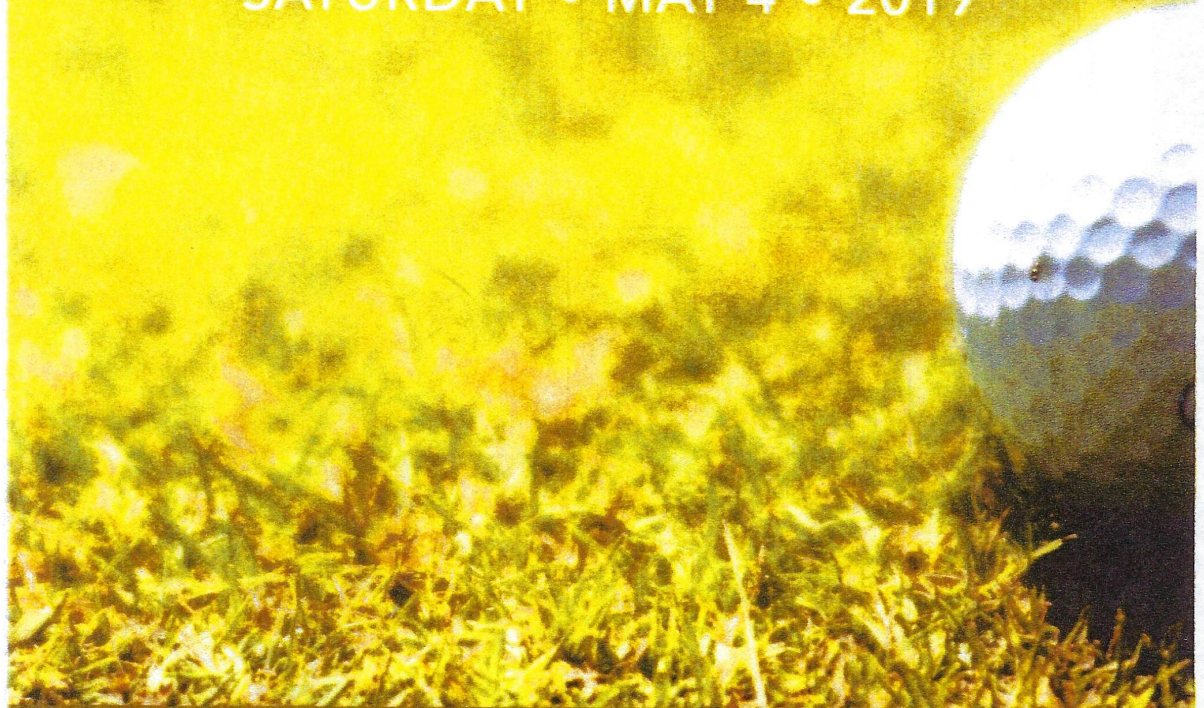
*Any questions, please contact Rhonda Latkovic at (760) 610-1598 or r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY • MAY 4 • 2019



DESERT FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

111 DESERT FALLS PARKWAY • PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

FOR INFO CALL: 760-568-9901

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Date & Time
 Saturday, May 4, 2019
 11am Registration
 12 noon Shotgun Scramble Format

Entry Fee
 \$175 includes golf and dinner

Entry Deadline
 April 26, 2019

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
11 am	Registration & Raffle
12 noon	Shotgun Start / Scramble Format
5 pm	Social Hour / Appetizers St. George Greek Orthodox 74109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260
6 pm	Traditional Greek Dinner / Dance

Hole in One
 Sponsored by Unicars Honda



Payment
 Entry Fee due by April 26, 2019
 Pay by credit card or check.

Contact
 760.568.9901
 gargyros@verizon.net

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

INDEX

PLAYER NAME(S)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Individual Player(s) _____ (# of players) x \$175 \$ _____

Tee Sponsorship (s) _____ (# of sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____

Traditional Greek Dinner _____ (# of dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Donation _____ \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Registration deadline:
 Friday, April 26, 2019

Pay by credit card or make checks payable to:
 St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Send check and registration form to:
 PO Box 4755 Palm Desert, CA 92261