

MARCH 8, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: stgeorgepd@aol.com

THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



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.

IN THE IMAGE & LIKENESS

As the One True God, our Savior knows the soul of every person in the world. In today's Gospel passage we heard how He knew Nathaniel, for whom He said: "See a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit." (St. John 1:48). Indeed, in this way, Nathaniel understood that Jesus is God, Who knows the heartbeat of each one of us.

God took on the "image" of Man, who is created in the Image and Likeness of God. This reality is expressly made evident by way of the Holy Icons, the Restoration of which we commemorate to-

ay. Our "Life in Christ" (i.e., our spiritual life) is a way of living in which we dedicate everything about ourselves to the glory of God. As such, it is a lifestyle that is an image of the Heavenly life with God, even though we live in this present world.

Bishop Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Church in the Americas once wrote the following: "The icon is based not only on the Incarnation of the Son of God but also on His Resurrection. Without Christ's Resurrection the icon would not be a representation of transfigured life, but only a commemorative painting. This

Continued on page 2

THE CORONAVIRUS & HOLY COMMUNION – Indeed, it is wise to follow the proper, physician-directed guidelines for protecting ourselves from the coronavirus. Given this, let us not forget that we are summoned to approach Holy Communion with *faith* and with *love*. We must have faith in Christ our True God, Who cured all maladies and He even raised the dead. Christ our God is truly the Physician of our souls and bodies – and it is His Very Body and Blood that we receive through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

It is truly a miracle that clergy (bishops, priests, deacons) have not contracted any illnesses from hundreds of people who receive Holy Communion, who knowingly or unknowingly harbor some disease. All clergy completely consume Holy Communion at every weekday and Sunday Liturgy *after* everyone in church has received the Sacrament. In addition, priests on a weekly basis give Holy Communion to hospital patients stricken with everything from pneumonia to HIV. Yet, every Sunday and weekday they are celebrating the Divine Liturgy with you "hale and hearty" year after year. We note that, down through the ages, there are examples of saintly priests who have administered Holy Communion to lepers in leper colonies and who never contracted leprosy.

Let us all, then, receive Holy Communion with faith! +FR. THEODORE



means that the icon brings God among us while it also raises us to the understanding of our life as participants in the life of God.” (“Journey to Pascha: ‘Sunday of Orthodoxy-The First Sunday of Lent,’” IOCC publication, pg. 2).

In his book, *Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*, Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, writes: *“Let the mind pray from the heart. Thus, gradually, we will become accustomed to prayer, and prayer will become a habit to us...When the Lord sees our endeavors, and sees that we seek Him and wish to be with Him in all eternity, then He will give us strength, and the heart then will dwell in our prayer. Then we will do our work while listening to the prayer in us.”*

The Holy Icons are vehicles for prayer. It is fitting, therefore, to begin the Lenten Season with a procession of Icons through which we are reminded that this is truly the season to pray. At the heart of prayer, however, there is the matter of our frame of mind. Prayer is not simply “positive thinking,” nor is it a “wish list,” that is based on our will, rather than on God’s Will. Prayer is less about asking our Lord to give us *things*, and more about asking to *be* the person that our Lord wants us to become. Prayer is the energy of our love for God and the people around us. In essence, prayer is energy on our part directed to Christ our God, which emanates from within our minds and souls. The fruits of prayer is the acquisition of Wisdom given through the Holy Spirit and the many gifts of the Spirit. Hence, the value of inner, contemplative, silent prayer is of primary importance in terms of navigating the many concerns and challenges in our lives.

The Holy Icons speak unspoken language of God’s love. They reflect the peace that is characteristic of a life in God’s Kingdom where there is no pain, or sorrow or sighing – where there is no anxiety or fear. It is the language we universally understand, because it is in our very nature to be able to comprehend it and it is within the power of our human nature to communicate this Divine language to those around us.

+FR.THEODORE

Ως ο μόνος αληθινός Θεός, ο Χριστός γνωρίζει την ψυχή του κάθε ανθρώπου του κόσμου. Στην σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπήν, ακούσαμε πώς εγνώρισε τον Ναταναήλ, για τον οποίον είπε, «*Ιδε αληθώς Ισραηλίτης εν ω δόλος ουκ εστι.*» (Ιωαν. 1.48). Μάλιστα, κατά αυτόν τον τρόπον, ο Ναταναήλ καταλάβαινε ότι ο Ιησούς είναι ο Θεός, Ο Οποίος γνωρίζει τον καρδιακό παλμό του κάθε ανθρώπου.

Ο Θεός ανέλαβε την «εικόνα» του ανθρώπου, ο οποίος είναι πλασμένος εις την εικόνα και την ομοίωσην του Θεού. Αυτή η πραγματικότητα είναι έντονα εμφανής δια μέσου των αγίων εικόνων, την αναστύλωση των οποίων μνημονεύουμεν σήμερα. Η «εν Χριστώ» ζωή του ανθρώπου είναι τρόπος ζωής αφιερωμένη προς δόξαν Θεού. Ως εκ τούτου, είναι τρόπος ζωής που είναι εικόνα της επιουρινίου ζωής, ενώ ζούμεν μέσα σε τούτον τον επίγειον κόσμον.

Ο Επίσκοπος Νικόλαος της Ρουμανικής Ορθοδόξου Αρχιεπισκοπής στην Αμερική γράφει: «*Η εικόνα βασιζεται όχι μόνο στην ενσάρκωση του Υιού του Θεού, αλλά και στην Ανάστασή Του. Χωρίς την Ανασταση του Χριστού η εικόνα δεν θα ήταν μια αναπαράσταση της μεταμορφωμένης ζωής, αλλά μόνο μια αναμνηστική ζωγραφική. Αυτό σημαίνει ότι η εικόνα φέρνει τον Θεό μέσα μας, ενώ μας δίνει και την κατανόηση της ζωής μας ως συμμετέχοντες στη ζωή του Θεού.*»

Η Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή είναι μια ευκαιρία να ενισχύσουμε την πίστη μας και με αυτόν τον τρόπο να αφιερώσουμε τη ζωή μας στον Χριστό όπως ακριβώς έκαναν οι άγιοι.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

EPISTLE -Rom. 13:11-14; 14:1-4
Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the

man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

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

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

Verse 1-- The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty; the Lord clothed and girded Himself with power. And He established the world, which shall not be moved.

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

Verse 2- Who shall tell the mighty deeds of the Lord, who shall make all His praises heard?

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

Verse 3- Let those redeemed by the Lord say so, whom He redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

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- Let them give thanks to the Lord for His mercies and His wonders to the sons of men. Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people and praise Him in the seat of the elders.

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

Verse 2 - The eyes of the Lord are on those who hope in His mercy.

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

Verse 3 - To hear the groaning of those bound, to set free the sons of the slain.

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

Doxa Patri ke Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei... *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

ANTIPHON III- *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Ton synanarchon (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 The Sunday of Orthodoxy: *Tin achrandon eikona Sou... (We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offences, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.)*

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 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: *Ti ypermacho... (O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.)*

Instead of "Axion Estin,": *Epi Si Cheri ke Charitomeni.... See the English translation on page 135 of our Divine Liturgy books ("In you, O woman full of grace...)*

GOSPEL- Mt. 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not

be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. "



The Memorial Luncheon today is sponsored by **Bernice Shaheen**.

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the following servants of our Lord: In loving memory of **Wedad Rafeedie** and **Doris Holmes**, beloved mother and sister of **Bernice Shaheen**, grandmother and aunt of **Michele Tasoff**, grandmother and mother of **Lori & Tim Holmes** and **Lynn Baba**, grandmother of **Katelyn Baba**. In loving memory of **George Tcharos**, beloved husband of **Emiliy Tcharos (3 years)**. In loving memory of **Sotiri Soumalis (40 days)** uncle of **Tasia Richards**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS – The Pan-Orthodox Vesper Service celebrating the Sunday of Orthodoxy will be hosted by the St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox parish in Thousand Palms, California **this evening** at 6:00 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS - Today is the final deadline to RSVP is you are planning to attend the annual **Philoptochos membership luncheon** scheduled for this **Saturday, March 14th, 2020 at 11:30 AM**. Please see **Tina or Rhonda** after church today. We can provide driving directions and/or offer assistance if you need transportation to the luncheon....Our Philoptochos group was the “Business Angel” sponsor at **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission last Monday, donating \$500.00** to sponsor all the meals served on that day. In addition, several volunteers from our church joined in to serve the noon luncheon to 150 people. **We have planned another "Volunteer Monday at CVRM" for March 30th, 2020**. Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the church hall if you are interested in being a volunteer. The time **commitment is from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM** (approximately). See **Rhonda Latkovic** for more details.

STEWARDSHIP - Receiving Stewardship now as the 2020 year is still beginning will go far in helping to meet the economic needs of our parish going forward.

MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN- Next **Sunday, March 15th**, we will dedicate our new **Memorial Wall Fountain** which has been installed at the corner of our church office edifice opposite the Memorial Wall.

AHEPA – Applications for the **AHEPA Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship** are available online at: www.ahepa528.org, where information is also posted regarding offering donations for this scholarship fund. Applications must be sent in by **April** so that awards can be granted on **AHEPA Sunday in May**.

PARISH HALL – Any future decorative donations for the church hall must be presented and approved by the Decorating Committee of our Parish Council. See or call **Becky Allen** at (760) 699-5439.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Today, Mary 8th.....Pan-Orthodox Vespers – 6:00 p.m. at St. Raphael

Monday, March 9th.....Philoptochos Board Meeting- 11:00 a.m.

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

Wednesday, March 11th.....Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy - 6:00 p.m.
Parish Council Meeting- 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 12th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, March 13th.....Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m.
Salutation Service (Second Stanza) - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 14th.....Philoptochos Membership Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. (see enclosed flier)

SERVICE OF THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY ICONS

Following the conclusion of the Doxology, the altar boys and those participating in the Procession, with Icons, fans and candles, proceed in a counter-clockwise direction, stopping at four stations as the faithful chant: *"Your undefiled icon we venerate Lord, asking for forgiveness of all our faults, O Christ our God; for of Your own will You were pleased to ascend in the flesh upon the Cross to deliver those You created from the bondage of the foe. Wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry to You: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, now that You have come to save all the world."*

At the first station, the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the health and salvation of all Orthodox Christians. The priest concludes with: *"For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind and to You do we give glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever and to the ages of ages."* The faithful then chant the above hymn again.

At the second station the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the Eternal Life and blessed memory of our sacred forefathers and relatives. The priest concludes: **"For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Repose..."** The faithful then chant the above hymn again.

At the third station the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the safe-keeping of our Church clergy and lay leaders, parents, grandparents and relatives. The priest concludes with, *"For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind..."* The faithful then chant the above hymn again.

At the fourth station the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the safe-keeping of our Church and our general community. As before, the priest concludes with, *"For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind..."*

The Priest then reads the Synodikon Statement, as the faithful follow along:

"As the Prophets beheld; as the Apostles have taught; as the Teachers have dogmatized; as the Universe has agreed; as grace has shown forth: As Truth was revealed; as falsehood has been dissolved; as wisdom has presented; as Christ awarded: Thus we declare; thus we assert; thus we preach Christ our True God, and honor His Saints in words; in writings; in thoughts; in sacrifices; in churches; in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshiping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord, and on the other, honoring them as true servants of the same Lord of all and offering them the proper veneration. This is the Faith of the Apostles; this is the Faith of the Fathers; This is the Faith of the Orthodox. This is the Faith which has established the universe. Furthermore, to these messengers of piety, with brotherly and fatherly love and reverence, in glory and honor of piety for which they fought, we praise and cry out: of all the defenders of Orthodoxy, pious kings, most holy Patriarchs, bishops, teachers, martyrs, confessors, Eternal be their memory." The faithful respond; Memory Eternal; Memory Eternal; Memory Eternal".

The Priest continues: *"We today, entreating God that we be instructed and strengthened by their exploits and struggles and teachings for piety unto death, and praying to become imitators of their Godly life unto the end, may we prove worthy of all these requests by the compassion and grace of Christ the Great and First Arch-Priest and our True God; through the intercessions of our Most Glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the God-like Angels and all the Saints, Amen."*

Then all the faithful chant: *"Who is so great a God as our God! You are the God Who works wonders."* This stanza is repeated after each of the following verses: – "You have made known Your power to the nations." – "And I said: Now I began to understand; this is a change in the work of the right hand of the Most High." – "I remember the works of the Lord; for I will remember Your wonders from the beginning."

Then, the faithful together read the Creed on page 42 of our Divine Liturgy Books.

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great begins.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Festival Gross Sales + Vendor & Advertising Income
 January through December 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4600 · Special Event Income		
4700 · Festival Income		
4701 · Advertising	8,505.00	3,400.00
4702 · Booth Fee	11,500.00	10,250.00
4703 · Cash Donation		
4703.1 · Church Tours	874.00	724.15
4703.3 · Festival Workers Donation	1,110.00	1,855.00
4703.4 · Photo Booth	428.00	302.53
4703.5 · Yia Yia's Corner	2,806.50	1,189.65
4703 · Cash Donation - Other	1,643.00	2,176.00
Total 4703 · Cash Donation	<u>6,861.50</u>	<u>6,247.33</u>
4704 · Food Sales		
4705 · Loukoumathes	6,703.10	5,274.15
4706 · Grill Sales	62,872.20	48,509.58
4708 · Dinner Sales	40,643.30	29,969.90
4709 · Pastries	25,234.00	18,690.00
4710 · Appetizers	5,132.35	4,408.25
4713 · Festival Late Sales - Food	0.00	1,449.00
Total 4704 · Food Sales	<u>140,584.95</u>	<u>108,300.88</u>
4715 · Coffee & Bar Sales		
4717 · Greek Coffee	2,908.00	1,980.00
4718 · Bar Sales		
4718.1 · Courtyard Bar	6,588.50	3,824.55
4718.2 · Parking Lot Bar	14,560.22	9,992.11
4718 · Bar Sales - Other	422.00	273.00
Total 4718 · Bar Sales	<u>21,570.72</u>	<u>14,089.66</u>
Total 4715 · Coffee & Bar Sales	<u>24,478.72</u>	<u>16,069.66</u>
4720 · Greek Store	7,105.08	6,319.55
4730 · Greek Festival Entrance Fees		
4730.1 · Back Gate	4,185.00	2,893.00
4730.2 · Front Gate	14,922.00	12,147.85
Total 4730 · Greek Festival Entrance Fees	<u>19,107.00</u>	<u>15,040.85</u>
4735 · Kid's Games	2,280.00	2,136.65
Total 4700 · Festival Income	<u>220,422.25</u>	<u>167,764.92</u>
Total 4600 · Special Event Income	<u>220,422.25</u>	<u>167,764.92</u>
4800 · Sunday School Income		
4803 · Donations from Greek Festival	2,405.00	1,327.00
Total 4800 · Sunday School Income	<u>2,405.00</u>	<u>1,327.00</u>
Total Tentative Unaudited Income	<u>222,827.25</u>	<u>169,091.92</u>

Nick A Kaperonis
 Treasurer

MARCH
14



**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
PLEASE JOIN US!**

Kontaxis Residence

Sat. Mar. 14th at 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Address: 38225 Vista Del Sol, Rancho Mirage (see map on back)

**RSVP - BY PHONE OR EMAIL TO TINA OR RHONDA
BY MARCH 4TH, 2020**

tel.: Tina 409-431-9516 or Rhonda 714-875-4661

email: tveroulis@aim.com, r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com

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