

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

Sts. Cosmas and Damian

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.

"A MERCY OF PEACE"

Many are the blessings and gifts of God. God has given us knowledge and talents by which we perform miracles through science and technology. However, nothing confers any benefit unless it is used for God's glory. As a result, most of the problems that we face are created by means of our own hard-heartedness and negligence. As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, without love, "I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:5).

Love itself is a gift from God. It is

the only gift through which good comes into the world. It is the image of God in us. Love characterizes God, Who, "so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have life everlasting." (St. John 3:16) and everything that God does is good, as we read in the Book of Genesis (Chapter 1). Also, St. John emphasizes that God is love (1 John 4:16). Through love, we identify with Almighty God.

God's love is made evident when

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STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN

These Saints were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother St. Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries." And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

Sts. Cosmas and Damian were actually twins. Their mother, St. Theodota, eventually became one of our Church's great martyrs for the Faith. During the reign of Diocletian, she faced tremendous pressure from those around her to renounce her faith in Christ. Refusing to do so, she was accused of sorcery and she was threatened with torture. Her eldest son, Evodus, famously defended her, saying that Christians do not fear tortures, but fear being forsaken by God. With this, he gave inspiration to her twins, Cosmas & Damian.

Hymn for Unmercenaries Sts. Cosmas & Damian – "Sainted Unmercenaries and Wonder Workers, regard our infirmities; freely you have received, freely share with us."



Πολλές είναι οι ευλογίες και τα δώρα του Θεού. Ο Θεός μάς έχει δώσει γνώση και ταλέντα με τα οποία κάνουμε θαυμάσια έργα μέσω της επιστήμης και της τεχνολογίας. Ωστόσο, τίποτα δεν αποφέρει κανένα όφελος, εκτός αν χρησιμοποιείται για τη δόξα του Θεού. Ως αποτέλεσμα, τα περισσότερα από τα προβλήματα που αντιμετωπίζουμε δημιουργούνται μέσω της δικής μας «σκληροκαρδίας» και αμέλειας. Όπως έγραψε ο Άγιος Παύλος στους Κορινθίους, χωρίς αγάπη, «δεν κερδίζω τίποτα». (1 Κορινθίους 13: 5).

Η ίδια η αγάπη είναι ένα δώρο από τον Θεό. Είναι το μοναδικό δώρο μέσω του οποίου έρχεται το καλό στον κόσμο. Είναι η εικόνα του Θεού μέσα μας. Η Αγάπη χαρακτηρίζει τον Θεό, αφού προσευχόμεθα: «*Τον κόσμο Σου ούτως ηγάπησας, ώστε τον Υιόν Σου τον Μονογενή δούναι, ίνα πας ο πιστεύων εις Αυτόν μη απόληται, αλλά έχη ζωήν αιώνιον*». (Αγ. Ιωάννης 3:16) και ό, τι κάνει ο Θεός είναι καλό, όπως διαβάζουμε στην Αγίαν Γραφήν (Γεν.Κεφ. 1). Επίσης, ο Άγιος Ιωάννης τονίζει ότι ο Θεός είναι αγάπη (1 Ιωάννη 4:16). Μέσω της αγάπης, ομοιάζουμε με τον Θεό.

Πράγματι, ο Θεός μας εδημιούργησε για να είμεθα «εργαλεία της αγάπης Του», έτσι ώστε με την παρουσία μας με άλλους ανθρώπους στη ζωή μας φέρνουμε την αγάπη του Θεού, η οποία, «*συνχαιρεί την αλήθεια, πάντα στέγει, πάντα πιστεύει, πάντα ελπίζει, πάντα υπομένει. Η αγάπη ουδέποτε εκπίπτει*». (1 Κορ. 13: 8). Επίσης, η αγάπη του Χριστού είναι η «*ενέργια*» της εκτέλεσής της Θείας Λειτουργίας, και ακούμεν την εκφώνησιν: «*Αγαπήσωμεν αλλήλους ίνα εν ομονοία ομολογήσωμεν!*»
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

something is presented that helps toward the salvation of any human being. Indeed, God created us to be “tools of His love,” so that our presence will bring God’s love to those around us, finding ourselves, “*rejoicing in the truth; bearing all things; believing all things; hoping all things; enduring all things; for, love never fails.*” (1 Corinthians 13: 8).

In today’s Gospel passage we hear of the “great chasm” that existed between poor Lazarus and the rich man. The “great chasm” is the chasm that exists between the self-centeredness of the rich man and the virtue of our Lord’s love. Indeed, it is only Christ’s love that “bridges” that chasm. Christ’s love is the “energy” in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, as we hear the call: “*Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess.*” Hence, with Christ in our midst, the chasm that would exist between God’s goodness and our sins is overcome through the mercy of forgiveness in this present life of ours.

In the bond of Christ’s love among us, we are both *recipients* of our Lord’s mercy and we are *givers* of His mercy. It is *this mercy in Christ’s divine Love* that is, at the same time, *our sacrifice to God!* We chant aloud, “*A mercy of peace and a sacrifice of praise*” and the Eucharistic Prayer of the Liturgy is read, thanking God for His great mercy, which is ultimately His gift of allowing us to participate in the Grace of the Holy Spirit through the Holy Sacraments. The Grace of the Holy Spirit imparts the *gift of wisdom* so that our decisions in life can be consistent with God’s Will, which leads us to peace in our own personal lives – and, through us, to peace in the world.

The short Liturgical hymn, “*A mercy of peace and a sacrifice of praise*” has a deep meaning. The Greek words “*eleos*” and “*elaios*” mean “*mercy*” and “*oil*” respectively. “*Elaios*” (oil) is a symbol of peace and mercy, dating back to Noah and the Flood, when the dove brought back an olive branch in its beak as a sign of reconciliation – peace between God and Man. (The olive branch yields *olive oil*). In essence, then, we offer to God acts of mercy as our “*peace offering*.” Such an offering is a *sacrifice of love*, through which praise is given to God – a *mercy of peace and a sacrifice of praise*.

+FR. THEODORE

BIBLE STUDY–Tuesday, November 3, 2020 –10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Bible Study Meeting by clicking on the following

link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86247146688?pwd=UVpsZmx0cHNtaFhrd3QzZVo2ek42QT09>

Meeting ID: **862 4714 6688**

Passcode: **898242**

Or, using your cell phone, call: 1 669 900 6833 and dial in the Meeting ID and Passcode numbers.

We will be studying the following passage: [Hebrews 2:2-10](#) and [St. Luke 8:41-56](#).

NOTE: When unable to attend Church Services in person due to state regulations regarding the Coronavirus or personal illness, follow the Divine Liturgy through live-streaming provided by various Archdiocese parishes at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.



“Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Blessed are You at Your throne of the glory of Your Kingdom, seated above the Cherubic angels, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

“Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen”

EPISTLE - 1 Cor. 12:27-31; 13:1-8

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in

purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.' "

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the soul of **Mounira Rassi**, beloved sister-in-law of **Abraham Rassi**. **Mounira Rassi** passed to our Lord on October 21st in Lebanon. **Maunira Rassi** is the beloved wife of **Abraham Rassi's** brother, **Elias Rassi**, who passed to our Lord four years ago. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Mounira Rassi** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Abraham Rassi**, and his entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

Today.....Sunday School via “zoom” - 11:30 a.m.
 Sun. School Staff Meeting- 3:00 p.m. - “zoom” format
 Tuesday, November 3rd.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. — “zoom” format
 Saturday, November 7th.....ST. RAPHAEL (at St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms: Orthros -9:00 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-10:00 a.m. — partial in-person attendance allowed. Call (760) 408-6116)

NOTE: If anyone has a casitas or a 1-bedroom apartment to rent out, please call our church office at: (760) 880-5869, or (760) 568-9901.

Merry Christmas



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 or give to Tina Veroulis in the office. We would appreciate the return of the form by December 1, 2020

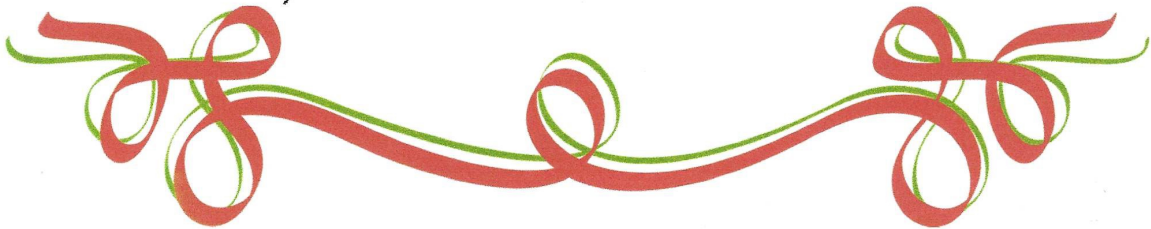
Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Deadline: December 1, 2020



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert

Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA 92261

Philoptochos Make A Difference Day Food Drive



Faith Forward, Families Forward, Food Drive

We are continuing to help local families in need for the holidays by donating non-perishable food to "The Narrow Door" food bank.

We have donated ONE TON of food so far! If you would like to assist with this November effort, we encourage you to drop off your food donations per the details below.

DROP OFF DATES: NOV. 8th & 9th ONLY

TIME: 10 AM - 1 PM

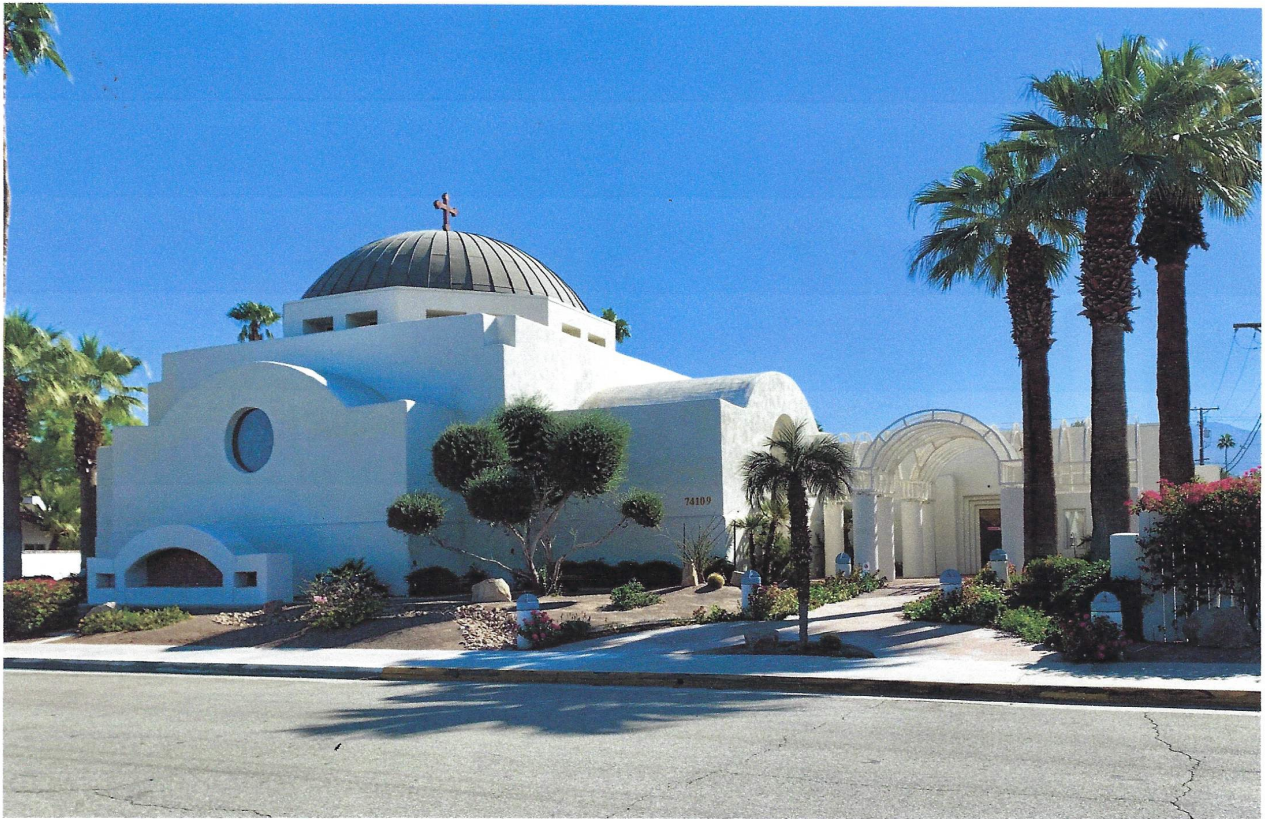
PLACE: St. George Church Hall (ring doorbell)

Needs.....

Peanut Butter; Spaghetti Sauce; Rice; Soup; Canned Vegetables; Canned Chili; Canned Beans; Pasta; Oatmeal; Cereal
(Please, NO GLASS containers and NO cans larger than 16 oz. size).

Questions? Or to arrange an alternate drop off day or time contact Rhonda Latkovic or Tina Veroulis.

*Each of you should give what you have decided
in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ST. GEORGE

Stewardship and Donations may be made on line at:

www.go-stgeorge.org

(select the Stewardship donate now button)