

**AUGUST 8, 2021**

**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT**

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

**Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)**

**Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **BEING GOOD EXAMPLES**

St. Paul instructs us, by way of his Epistle to the Romans with these words: *“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him.”* (Romans 15:1-2).

Anyone in today’s world would ask, “Why bother trying to ‘bear with the failings of the weak?’” St. Paul offers three reasons: 1) by helping our fellow human being for his or her good, (“leading to edification”), we can begin to live in harmony with one another in the spirit of Christ-like love. (Romans 15:2); 2) We follow the guidance of Holy Scripture

and the Tradition of the Apostles, thereby edifying ourselves in the process. (See: Romans 4-5), and 3) we live with hope in Christ’s love and mercy, teaching others to have faith.

As to how we are to bear the failings of the weak, we are to humble ourselves, knowing that we are also weak and that without Christ, we can do nothing. It is *with* Christ that we can *empathize* with others, which means that we are able to place ourselves in the position of another in order to better understand him or her and, therefore, we can pray with

*Continued on page 2*

**PRAYER FOR THE END OF THE WILDFIRES IN GREECE** – His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos has asked us to pray for the end of the devastating wildfires in Greece. Therefore, with the petitions at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, the following will be added: *“For a rapid end to the fires in Greece, for comfort to the victims and their families, eternal rest to those who have perished, and strength to the firefighters and those who bring aid and relief, let us pray to the Lord.”*

At the Liturgy, after Holy Communion, the following prayer will be read: *“Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy... O Lord Our God, Whose peace surpasses all understanding and Whose grace and mercy abound, send down your Holy Spirit to comfort those who are suffering in mind, body and spirit as a result of the devastating fires in Greece. We ask that You stretch forth Your mighty hand during this time of uncertainty, steadying us by Your love, compassion and peace. Grant strength to those who are fighting these fires, calm the winds, and open the heavens so that rain may pour forth and cease further destruction. We especially ask for Your blessings and protection upon all those who have fled their homes, that they may be spared injury, and that their homes may be preserved. May You also grant peaceful repose to those whose lives have been lost, as well as comfort to those who are grieving. For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give Glory, to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Ο Άγ. Παύλος μας διδάσκει, μέσω της Επιστολής του προς τους Ρωμαίους με τα εξής λόγια: «Οφείλομεν δε ημεῖς οἱ δυνατόι τὰ ασθενήματα τῶν αδυνάτων βαστάζειν καὶ μὴ εαυτοῖς ἀρέσκειν καὶ ἕκαστος ἡμῶν τῷ πλησίον ἀρεσκέτω εἰς τὸ ἀγαθὸν πρὸς οἰκοδομήν.» (Ρωμ. 15: 1-2).

Ο καθένας στον σημερινό κόσμο θα ερωτούσε: «Γιατί να προσπαθήσουμε να «βαστήσουμε» τις αδυναμίες των αδυνάτων;» Ο Άγ. Παύλος προσφέρει τρεις λόγους: 1), βοηθώντας τον συνάνθρωπό μας για το καλό του, «οδηγώντας προς οικοδόμηση,» μπορούμε να αρχίσουμε να ζούμε αρμονικά μεταξύ μας στο πνεύμα της «εν Χριστῶ» αγάπης. (Βλέπε: Ρωμαίους 15: 2), μπορούμε να ακολουθούμε την καθοδήγηση των Αγίων Γραφών και την Παράδοση των Αποστόλων προς κάθε ψυχικό καλό. (Βλέπε: Ρωμαίους 4-5), και 3), για να ζούμε με ελπίδα στο έλεος του Χριστού, διδάσκοντας στους άλλους να έχουν πίστη.

Διδάσκουμε τους άλλους περί της αγάπης του Κυρίου με υπομονή και κατανόηση, *παραδειγματίζοντας* παράλληλα τη ζωή της προσευχής. Η υπομονή είναι μια αρετή με την οποία «περιμένουμε» τους άλλους να γίνουν υγιείς στην ψυχή τους, ενώ, ταυτόχρονα, προσευχόμεθα για αυτούς - και η συμπεριφορά μας πρέπει να δείχνει το πνεύμα της προσευχής μας.

Αν θέλουμε ειδικά την νεολαία, να αγκαλιάσει την Ορθόδοξη μας Πίστη, θα πρέπει να είμεθα *παραδείγματα πίστεως* στον Χριστό, υπομονετικοί μαζί τους, καθώς όμως τους καθοδηγούμε προς το καλό.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

and for the other person as if it were that we pray for ourselves for God's love and mercy.

Bearing the failings of the weak does not necessarily mean "putting up" with them. "Putting up" is like "giving permission" for others to be irresponsible in any effort to grow spiritually, even enabling them to continue in their errors, implying that there is no hope.

"Bearing with them" is a matter of making the effort to *carry* them toward the good, (the Greek word "*vastahzeen*" is used). This is best done by providing an example as to how one who loves Christ our God *behaves*. St. John Chrysostom put it this way: "*If you are thoughtful about the salvation of others, set the defense of the Faith in their minds not by words, but by actions. For it is not by anything otherwise that anyone ever blasphemed God, but by the bad lives of evil men that there are thousands of blasphemies in every quarter.*" (See *Nicene & Post Nicene Fathers, First Series, Vol. 11; "Homily on the Epistle to the Romans,"* pg. 533).

We edify others in the love of our Lord by *being* patient and understanding, while *exemplifying* the life of prayer. Patience is a virtue by which we "wait" for others to become spiritually well, while, at the same time, we pray for them along the way – and our behavior needs to reflect the spirit of our prayer. Finally, patience in the effort to help those who sincerely seek spiritual blessings is in itself a message of hope. It is because we have hope for salvation that we are willing to be patient and "*carry*" them toward spiritual enlightenment.

If we want people today, especially the youth, to embrace our Orthodox Christian Faith, we are to *be examples* of faith in Christ, patiently bearing with them, as we *carry* them toward all that is good.  
+FR. THEODORE

### SAVE THE DATES

1. **Monday, August 16th...Helping those in need at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.** Contact **Ronda Latkovic** or **Fr. Ted** to volunteer.

2. **Saturday, September 25th...St. George Golf Tournament at Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert.** Items are needed for sale at our silent auction which will be held at the awards banquet. Contact **Fr. Ted** to arrange delivery of items at the church.



Please note that **registration for the golf tournament (\$175 per person**, which includes the green fees & awards dinner) and **reservations for the awards dinner** for non-golfers, (\$35 per person) can be made online at: <https://go-stgeorge.org/Events/Golf/>. The **awards dinner** will be a **Traditional Greek Dinner** with all the trimmings.



*"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 -- Romans 15:1-7

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL -- St. Mathew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Monday, August 9th.....Paraklisis – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10th.....Bible Study– 10:00 a.m.

**In-person at our parish hall and via "Zoom" at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86498724291?pwd=aVVFaUdIcHhqR2FwSXdBdGx6c3hYdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 864 9872 4291 / Passcode: 821010...One tap mobile: +16699006833**

Note: You may also join by entering: <https://zoom.us/join> in your computer search engine at the top left corner of your screen and then enter the Meeting ID: **864 9872 4291** &

Passcode: **821010** when prompted. You may also call in by cell phone at: 1 669 900 6833 and enter the herein noted Meeting ID number and Passcode.

Wednesday, August 11th....Paraklisis – 10:00 a.m. [Morning Service]

Friday, August 13th.....Paraklisis - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 14th – Great Vespers for the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos on  
Sunday, August 15th - 6:30 p.m.





# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 25, 2021 | 12:30 PM Shotgun Start | Desert Willow Golf Resort



## ENTRY INFORMATION

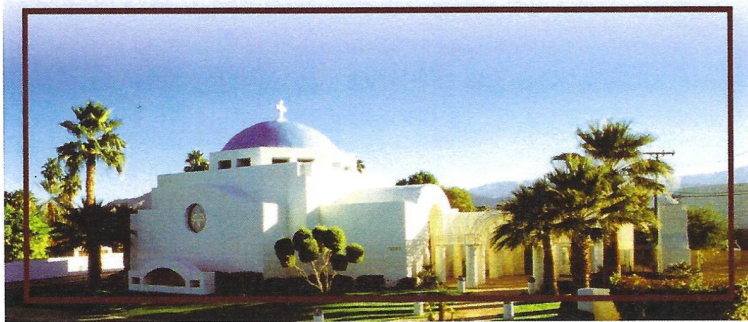
Saturday, September 25, 2021

- \$175 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 12:30 PM Shotgun Start at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 5:00 PM Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00 PM Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

## INDIVIDUALS AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s) \_\_\_ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Tee Sponsorship(s) \_\_\_ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Traditional Greek Dinner \_\_\_ (# of Dinners) x \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## EVENT REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAYER NAMES

1. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

Sign up online at [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge)  
Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form to:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261