

AUGUST 22, 2021

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260**

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THE LADDER



Mailing Address:

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**– 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.*

THE TWO WAYS

The foundation of both the Church and the individual human being is Christ. St. Paul writes, *“God’s Spirit dwells in you.”* (1 Corinthians 3:17). St. John Chrysostom, in *“Homily 8: On 1 Corinthians,”* understands these words from St. Paul to apply to the Church as a community, as well as to any member of the Church, individually.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of both the Church as a whole and the spiritual life of the individual. What we do with that foundation is a matter of our God-given Free Will. We can choose to build virtues upon that foundation, or we can choose

to build vices. Virtues come by way of prayer and doing good works; vices come by way of rejecting God and by committing sins. Virtues heal the soul and maintain its health, uniting it all the more with Christ. Virtues also maintain the unity of the Church. Vices damage the soul and cause it to die, separating it from Christ. Vices bring disunity to the Church.

Codex Hierosolymitanus is preserved at our Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople (Istanbul). It contains a complete version of *The Didache*. The word “didache” is a Greek word,

Continued on page 2

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL – On what basis will your children and grandchildren make decisions in life? Will they make their decisions after praying for our Lord’s guidance? Will they find examples for their lives from the lives of the Saints? How will they handle their failures and mistakes, as well as their successes? We look forward to a meeting with Sunday School parents to be scheduled in the very near future. We hope everyone will attend!

Parental involvement is crucial. The goal of Sunday School is to provide a template for acquiring Orthodox Christian values. This template is shared by their fellow-students in Sunday School and it is to be re-enforced in the home, because 45 minutes a week in Sunday School class cannot compete fully with hours and days of regular school life and peer group ideals.

This year especially we appeal to parents and grandparents of our Sunday School children. Here are a few things that are needed; 1) bring children to church & Sunday School every Sunday; 2) be involved with their Sunday School homework; 3) provide constructive suggestions for on-going improvement of our Sunday School program.



Το θεμέλιο τόσο της Εκκλησίας όσο και του μεμονωμένου ανθρώπου είναι ο Χριστός. Ο Άγιος Παύλος γράφει: «*Το Πνεῦμα του Θεού οικεί εν υμίν.*» (1 Κορινθίους 3:17). Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος, στην «*Ομιλία 8: Περί της Πρώτης Επιστολής Αγ. Παύλου Προς τους Κορινθίους*», καταλαβαίνει το νόημα της εν λόγω φράσεως του Αγ. Παύλου να είναι ότι ο Ιησούς Χριστός είναι το θεμέλιο τόσο της Εκκλησίας στο σύνολό της όσο και της πνευματικής ζωής του ατόμου. Μπορούμε να επιλέξουμε να αποκτήσουμε αρετές απο αυτό το θεμέλιο, ή να επιλέξουμε να κάνουμε έργα της κακίας. Οι αρετές έρχονται μέσω προσευχής και ενάρετων έργων. Οι κακίες έρχονται μέσω της απορρίψεως του Θεού και των αμαρτιών μας. Οι αρετές θεραπεύουν την ψυχή και διατηρούν την υγεία της, ενώνοντάς την ακόμα περισσότερο με τον Χριστό. Οι κακίες βλάπτουν την ψυχή και την κάνουν να πεθαίνει, χωρίζοντάς την από τον Χριστό. Η κακία επίσης φέρνει τη διχονομία στην Εκκλησία.

Η *Διδαχή* είναι ένα μικρό βιβλίο, που χρονολογείται γύρω στο 50 μ.Χ., και περιέχει τη διδασκαλία των Αγ. Αποστόλων, που παραδόθηκε στην Εκκλησία ως σαφής διδασκαλία του Χριστού. Λέγει ότι «*Είναι δύο δρόμοι, ο ένας προς την ζωή και ο άλλος προς τον θάνατο, και υπάρχει μεγάλη διαφορά μεταξύ των δύο.*» Ο δρόμος προς την ζωή είναι ζωή αρετών με αγάπη για τον Θεό και τον πλησίον. Ο δρόμος προς τον θάνατον είναι ζωή κακίας. Ας προχωρήσουμε στον δρόμον των εν Χριστώ αρετών και της ζωής. Κατα αυτόν τον τρόπον θα εμπνεύσουμε τους νέους να ασπασθούν την Ορθοδοξία.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

which means: The Teaching. It is a short book, dating at around 50 A.D., containing the teaching of the Holy Apostles, handed down to the Church as a clear teaching of Christ. The Gospels are quoted, but none of the Epistles are mentioned, suggesting that there was no complete New Testament, except for a few documents passed on from community to community.

The Didache starts out with these words: “*The are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways.*” The way of life is a life-style of virtues: 1) Love for God and neighbor; 2) abstention from lustfulness; 3) almsgiving; 4) avoidance from evil, the worship of idols, and anger; 5) pursuance of advice from saintly people; 6) prayer and confession of sins. Virtues unite us with Jesus!

The way of death is a life-style of vices, which oppose the virtues: 1) negligence of God and of others, which leads to harm; 2) hypocrisy, jealousy, lustfulness; 3) greed, unbridled ambition; 4) witchcraft, idol-worship, pride and anger; 5) persecution of good people; 6) blasphemy, falsehood, and on-going sinful behavior. Vices drown us!

Given these two ways, where do we find ourselves? Remember that, for God, there is no “middle-of-the-road;” we cannot serve God and mammon. Thus, our challenge will be to always seek Christ-like virtues, even in an atmosphere where virtue is often mocked and vice is more often applauded. Going forward in such an atmosphere, it is critical that we Orthodox Christians actually do try to *live* according to our Church’s teachings.

Our youth are watching to see if we are trying to “walk the talk,” by always showing them the love of God being expressed among us as a community, as well as welling from within each one of us as individuals. Doing so, we will also find our inner peace and give God’s blessing to all around us, being living temples of God.

+FR. THEODORE

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 24th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m. (in-person option)
We will study the Book of Genesis (1:1).

Zoom information:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86498724291?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86498724291?pwd=aVVFauUdIcHhqR2FwSXdBdGx6c3hYdz09)

[pwd=aVVFauUdIcHhqR2FwSXdBdGx6c3hYdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86498724291?pwd=aVVFauUdIcHhqR2FwSXdBdGx6c3hYdz09)

Meeting ID: 864 9872 4291 / Passcode: 821010

Saturday, August 28th.....Great Vespers – 6:30 p.m.
(Beheading of St. John the Baptist)

Sunday, August 29th.....Beheading of St. John the Baptist
(Day of fasting for Orthodox Christians)



"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 Corinthians 3: 9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 14: 22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go

before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 19, 2021. Registration forms will be sent out in the near future. This year especially, we are asking parents to take Sunday School seriously by bringing their children to class every Sunday and to follow-up on the class presentations and assignments. An underlying theme that will run along side the study of the Bible and the Holy Sacraments will be that of understanding Orthodox Christian virtues. Constructive suggestions are always welcome; but, parental involvement is needed.

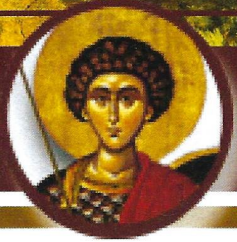
AHEPA 528 – AHEPA 528 will meet on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at our parish hall at 6:30 p.m. Following any Covid-19 updates, the plan for now is to have a light-dinner meeting.

YOUNG ADULT LEAGE CONFERENCE – Greek Orthodox Young Adults Labor Day are invited to attend the Young Adult League Conference, September 2-6, 2021 at Phoenix, Arizona – at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa: 5350 E. Marriott Drive. For details and information contact the Metropolis of San Francisco at: <https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/>



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
Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form to:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261

