

MAY 23, 2021

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 PARALYTIC

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.

SIN & PARALYSIS

“Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ my God, let not these Holy Gifts become a judgment against me because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of both soul and body, and as an earnest of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God, to place in Him the hope of my salvation.” (Liturgikon, Narthex Press).

The above is one of the Communion Prayers read during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. While we may be unworthy according to our own frailties, it is Christ Who makes us worthy, provided that we seek to acquire a pure soul, which, in turn sanctifies the body. St. Cyril of Jerusalem, in his *Mystagogical*

Catechesis, IV, writes that when we partake of Holy Communion, “We come to bear Christ in us, because His Body and Blood are distributed through our members and, in this, according to the blessed Apostle Peter, we become partakers of the Divine Nature.”

To “sin no more,” means that we do not act contrary to God’s Loving Commandments. It requires that we live carefully according to the wisdom and love of Christ our God. We should fear committing sin more than any other thing, because, through sin “anything worse” will befall us (as our Lord said to the par-

Continued on page 2

THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC & THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

“What is it then that [the figure in this passage underlines]? A baptism was about to take place, one of much power, and the greatest of gifts, a baptism that purged all sins, and made people alive rather than dead. These things are foreshadowed, as it were, in a picture of the circumstances by the Pool by the Sheep’s Gate, and by many other situations...

“First there’s water which purges the stains of our bodies...Just as the sun’s beams give light every day, but are never exhausted, nor is their light decreased by providing such an abundant supply, so, and much more so, is the power of the Spirit in no way diminished by the numbers of those who enjoy it. And this miracle was performed so that, on learning that it’s possible to heal the diseases of the body by water, and having become accustomed to this over time, people should believe more easily that it can also heal the diseases of the soul.”

--Taken from a Homily by St. John Chrysostom. Ref.: <https://myocn.net/sunday-of-the-paralytic-4/>



«Δέσποτα φιλόνηρωπε, Κύριε Ιησοῦ Χριστέ, ο Θεός μου, μη εἰς κρίμα μοι γένοιτο τὰ ἅγια ταῦτα δια το ἀνάξιον εἶναι με, ἀλλὰ εἰς κάθαρσιν καὶ ἁγιασμόν ψυχῆς τε καὶ σώματος καὶ εἰς ἀρραβώνα μελλούσης ζωῆς καὶ βασιλείας. Ἐμοὶ δε το προσκολλάσθαι τῷ Θεῷ ἀγαθόν ἐστί, τίθεσθαι ἐν τῷ Κυρίῳ τὴν ἐλπίδα τῆς σωτηρίας μου.»

Τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ εἶναι λόγια μιάς εὐχῆς πρὸς πνευματικὴν προετοιμασίαν γιὰ τὴν Θεῖα Κοινωνία κατὰ τὴν ἐκτέλεση τῆς Θεῖας Λειτουργίας. Ἐνὼ εἶναι δυνατόν νὰ εἰμεθα ἀνάξιοι σύμφωνα με τὶς ἀνθρώπινες ἀδυναμίες μας, εἶναι ὁ Χριστός, ὁ Ὁποῖός μας καθιστᾷ ὡς ἄξιοι. Ἀρκεῖ μόνον νὰ Τον ἀκολουθήσουμε. Με αὐτὸν τὸν τρόπο, ἀποκτούμε τὶς δυνάμεις τοῦ Θεοῦ μεσῶ τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος.

Ὁ Ἅγιος Κύριλλος Ἱερουσαλήμων, στὸ ἔργο του με τίτλο, *Μυσταγωγικὴ Κατήχηση*, τομ., IV, γράφει ὅτι ὅταν μεταλαμβάνουμε τὴν Θεῖαν Κοινωνίαν, «*Ἀναλαμβάνουμε τὴ θεϊκὴ φύση Του, ἐπειδὴ τὸ Σῶμα καὶ τὸ Αἷμα Του ἔρχονται μέσα στὴν ψυχὴ καὶ στὸ σῶμα μας καὶ, κατὰ αὐτὸν τὸν τρόπο, σύμφωνα με τὸν Ἀπόστολο Πέτρο, 'γινόμεθα συμμετέχοντες στὴν Θεῖα Φύση.'*»

Ἡ ἀμέλεια, ἡ παραμέληση, ἡ στενοχώρια... ἐπιηρεάζουν τὴν ευημερίαν μας. Πρέπει, λοιπόν, νὰ ἀποφύγουμε τὴν ἀμαρτία, γιὰτὶ ἡ ἀμαρτία μας παραλύει πνευματικά. Εἶναι ἀνάγκη νὰ ζοῦμε προσεκτικὰ σύμφωνα με τὴ σοφία καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ Ὁποῖός Ἀνεστήθηκε «*ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι ζῶν χαρισάμενος.*»
+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

alytic of day's Gospel passage). Sins bring upon us dire consequences, which bring about internal turmoil, holding us back from our true potential. In many ways, sin brings about spiritual and emotional paralysis. If we would have the prayers of the Holy Sacraments echoing in our minds and souls constantly, we would become more and more careful of our thoughts, motives, and feelings so as not to commit sins and, therefore, live and move with a peaceful mind and conscience.

The event from today's passage of St. John's Gospel symbolizes the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. This Sacrament enlivens us so that we can enliven others throughout the world. Through Holy Baptism, Christ our God grants to us the abilities to perform small and great miracles unto salvation and the glory of God. Hieromonk Maximos the Areiorite writes, "*In the end, Baptism is the fountain of life, because it imparts to us the Spirit of God.*" (*Guide to Salvation*, pg. 72).

Christ has opened the door to salvation through repentance -- Holy Confession being our "second Baptism." For this, we are eternally grateful, as we express through the prayer of our Divine Liturgy, saying, "*To all who seek it, You [O Lord] grant wisdom and understanding; You do not spurn the sinner, but have set repentance as the way of salvation.*" (*Prayer of the Trisagion, Liturgikon, Narthex Press*). Let the words of this prayer resound in our hearts so that we can always be encouraged to pick ourselves up and keep on trying to do all things for God's glory and for the salvation of others. Let's never despair; let's always repent!

God continues to bless us in many ways. This is how we know that we are forgiven so that we can grow in His divine grace. Indeed, we will eventually find ourselves "paralleling" the works and ministry of Christ our God, just as, in answer to St. Peter's prayer (Acts 9: 32-42), Aeneas was healed and Tabitha was raised from the dead.

+FR. THEODORE



"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 -- Acts 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL -- St. John 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' " They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Adele Gallade (40 days)**, the beloved mother of **Ken Hoffman**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Adele Gallade** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Ken Hoffman**. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

Monday, May 24th.....Choir Practice -1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. (Acts 11:19-30)

*Next Sunday, May 30th.....*Our parish choir members will gather to sing the Divine Liturgy in the same way by which they sang the Lamentations on Holy Friday Evening. We look forward to continued participation from our parish choir members in this format over the next few months.

Also...Next Sunday: "Coffee Hour" will be held in the parish hall, following local and CDC guidelines for safety.

88th Birthday Celebration for Emily Tcharos

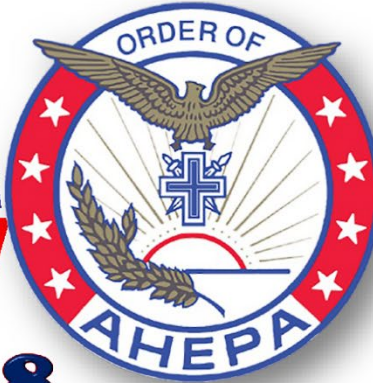
6/6/21

St. George Church Hall after
Divine Liturgy on Sunday
(light refreshments & cake will be
served)

Please bring a birthday card or note that we
can present to Emily from as many of us as
possible! If you cannot attend, drop off the
card at the church office before June 6th.



AHEPA SUNDAY CHAPTER 528



Founded December 17, 2003

2021

Chapter Officers



PRESIDENT -
Wynn Storton, PSG
760.832.2825
VICE PRESIDENTS -
Nick M. Krespis
Nicholas M. Latkovic
SECRETARY -
Pete Peterson
TREASURER -
Kyriakos Seraphim
CHAPLIN -
Fr. Ted Pantels
VETERANS CHAIR -
Pete Peterson
CHAPTER MEMBERS
Peter Agriostathes
George Argyros
Dimitri P. Biehl
Panagiotis Bousiotis
Ernie J. Cox
Lou G. Karagianis
Bill Karalis
George V. Karkaletsis
Gus M. Kurupas
Harry Loukatos PCP
Ramsay Seikaly
Symeon Seraphim
Haig Shannazarian
Jack Shannazarian
Dr. Stephen R. Steele
Alexander W. Storton
Frank P. Tracadas
Derrick Villanueva

Christ is Risen! Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society.

It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, as well as family and individual excellence to the community.

Although most of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

We would like to continue our support by making a pledge to expanding our chapter membership and to be a positive witness to our community.

AHEPA continues to monitor COVID-19 developments with concern and out of an abundance of caution for the community. The health, well-being, and safety of the community is our top priority.

AHEPA Chapter 528 will be holding next ZOOM meeting June 9th, 2021

Going dark for July and August, hoping to have physical meetings be September 8th 2021.

Email or call any brother on the above list if you wish to join in on the fellowship of brotherhood
ahepa528.org

Chapter 528 President Wynn Storton PSG
760.832.2825 / wynn@ahepa528.org

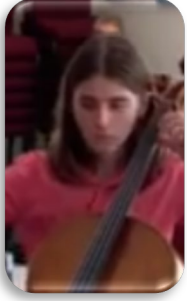
† Memory Eternal
2011 - Fr. Theophilos
2016 - Steve N. Pisanos
2016 - Steve Geotas
2016 - Stan Georgalakis
2017 - Robert Maverick

2017 - George Tcharos
2018 - Thomas Evans
2018 - JJ Richards, Sr.
2020 - Spiro Canakis
2021 - Nick Kyriacou
2021 - Chris Laskaris

IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF THESE DEPARTED
BROTHER'S TIES WITH THIS BROTHERHOOD.

Announcing the 2020 Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship finalists:

Symeon Seraphim (age 18) a Freshman attending Cal State University at San Bernardino, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Cello - Music Performance. Symeon plans to be a World Class Cello Soloist, seeking a Master's in Education and a California Teaching Credential. His GPA is an impressive 3.9% and his goal is to eventually obtain a Master's in music education, to give back as a music professor. His family are active members of St George and he and his father are both members of AHEPA 528. Although, Symeon was offered full scholarships to attend the University of Portland and the University of Redlands, he chose to attend CAL State San Bernardino to continue his studies under Ms. Esther Back, professor of Music and director of the CSUSB Ensemble. Although Symeon only picked up the cello when his family moved here from Cyprus, 3 years ago; Symeon excels in musical talent of the highest caliber and has been performing with the Cal State San Bernardino Cello Ensemble since High School. Where he has earned the position of the Principal Cellist o the ensemble. Symeon is scheduled to perform at the prestigious, Carnegie Hall in New York City, next month.



We are proud to present Symeon Seraphim, the Saint George Educational award, in the amount of \$1000.00.

Emmarie Shannazrian (age 17) is a graduating Senior at Palm Desert High School. She been accepted to Cal State San Marcos and will be attending in the Fall. Seeking a BA in Education, with plans to be an Elementary Teacher. Academically, she has made Honor Roll for all for years of High School with Perfect Attendance.



Emmarie participates in athletics as a 2019 National Tournament Winner for Volleyball Silver Bracket, a Varsity Swim Team Member, and a Varsity Track Team Player for PDHS. She also balances her time as a Student mentor with the PDHS Link Crew, planning school events & activities. While also involved with Aztec Impact- leadership, organizing rallies, school tours and monthly student award programs. She is also an Elementary school classroom intern practicing her teaching skills. Her extra-curricular activities include 10 years in Girl Scouts, 3 years serving as a historian and secretary in the Desert Sandblasters 4-H club and being a Day Counselor at the YMCA Childcare facility. Along with her family she has volunteered at the Palm Desert Greek Festival, for 10 years. Both her Father and Brother are members of AHEPA chapter 528.

We are proud to present Emmarie Shannazarian with the George Tcharos Educational Award, in the amount of \$750.00 towards completing her studies.

**Thank you to all who applied for the Fr. Theophilos Scholarship
We are immensely proud of each of these young students and the example they set for others.
AHEPA 528 is pleased to play a part in their education and their future. THANK YOU**



**Please help our students receive educational support.
Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donations accepted at
www.ahepa528.org
or mailed to: AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund
42-215 Washington St. A-154 Palm Desert, CA 92211-8031**