

OCTOBER 17, 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



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.*

HOW WE ARE DECEIVED

The Parable of the Sower, which we heard from today’s Gospel passage outlines the major factors at work to deceive us, through which we lose joy, peace and, ultimately, Eternal Life.

Following our God and Savior Jesus Christ brings us joy, peace, and Eternal Life. In order to follow Him, we must have faith; we must obey our Lord’s Commandments; we must give of ourselves with love. Those “things” that take us away from Christ are lack of faith; disobedience, and pride.

In accordance with our Lord’s Parable, the Word of God is the “seed” of Life itself. It is available to all people at all times and in all places, because our Lord is everywhere and His love pours out upon all.

Our Savior is very clear about what happens when the Word of God enters “infertile” souls. The seeds which fell along the pathways are in the souls that have been deceived by the devil. The devil sows doubt in our minds and hearts in order to counter the Word of God that is first planted in the innocence of our souls at birth.

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MOLDING GOOD SOULS -- One of the greatest accomplishments that one can achieve is to inspire another person to live with love for God and for God’s people throughout the world.

The souls of our children and grandchildren are pure. We have the opportunity to help fashion the souls of future saints of the Church. This takes effort on our part, collectively and individually. This effort goes beyond structured youth programs, however. It is daily effort lived in our homes, as well as in our encounters with each other in our social gatherings outside the home, such as in our parish; in our place of business, and at school events.

If we are to teach, we can only teach by example. If we truly love God and other people, regardless of race or nationality, even if others lack the ability to love, we can still show them and our youth the love of Christ our God in our conversations and actions, which means that we do not condemn others; we do not express superiority over others, or hate. We show love by praying for and helping others for God’s glory. If we fail to love, our repentance goes far in helping our youth understand that it is not okay to fail to do the Will of God, which is to love one another. If we pray, they learn to pray. If we confess our sins and repent, they will learn to do so, as well. If we forgive, they will learn to forgive. Our youth will have souls of “good soil,” yielding spiritual fruit. +FR. THEODORE



Η Παραβολή του Σπορέα, που ακούσαμε από την σημερινή Ευαγγελικήν περικοπή, περιγράφει τους κύριους «παράγοντες» που λειτουργούν για να μας εξαπατήσουν, μέσω των οποίων χάνουμε τη χαρά, τη γαλήνη και, τελικά, την Αιώνιον Ζωή.

Το να ακολουθούμε τον Θεό και Σωτήρα μας Ιησού Χριστό μας φέρνει χαρά, ειρήνη και την αιώνιο ζωή. Για να Τον ακολουθήσουμε, πρέπει να έχουμε πίστη για να υπακούσουμε στις Εντολές του Κυρίου μας. Πρέπει να προσφέρουμε προσευχές και έργα απο τον εαυτό μας με αγάπη. Αυτά τα «πράγματα» που μας απομακρύνουν από τον Χριστό είναι η έλλειψη πίστεως, η ανυπακοή, και η υπερηφάνεια.

Σύμφωνα με την Παραβολή του Κυρίου μας, ο Λόγος του Θεού είναι ο «σπόρος» της ίδιας της Ζωής. Προσφέρεται σε όλους τους ανθρώπους ανά πάσα στιγμή και σε όλα τα μέρη, γιατί ο Χριστός είναι παντού και η αγάπη Του εκτείνεται σε όλους.

Όταν οι «σπόροι» του Λόγου του Θεού πέφτουν σε καλές ψυχές ριζώνουν. Μια καλή ψυχή είναι αυτή που ζει καθημερινά με πίστη και ευχαριστίες στον Κύριο και Σωτήρα μας. Με την ευχαριστία του προς τον Κύριο, ο άνθρωπος είναι υπάκουος σε Αυτόν και, γιά να είναι υπάκουος, πρέπει να είναι αρκετά ταπεινός γιά να προσφέρει θυσιαστική αγάπη για τον Θεό και για τους άλλους. Με τέτοια αγάπη, βασισμένη στην ταπεινώση ενώπιον του Χριστού, οι εντολές του Θεού εκπληρώνονται. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο, ας εμπνεύσουμε τους άλλους ώστε να λατρεύουν τον Θεόν μας τον Ιησού Χριστό.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

As our souls are influenced by the world, they are inundated with tainted philosophies and ideals, as well as the general wickedness in the world. Our souls are then poisoned with unbelief. Instead of having faith in God, our faith is in science and the so-called “will of the people,” neither of which have ever yielded lasting peace and joy. We now live in an atmosphere fear due to lack of faith in God’s love.

The souls which are made of rock are those that take in God’s Word, but which assume that everything good happens by magic. The lack of one’s personal efforts of prayer and charity make for “shallow soils.” Accordingly, God is to be good to us no matter what we do, even if we sin against others due to our disobedience of His Commandments. The spirit of disobedience leads to one’s fall by giving in to temptations, which arise from lack of forgiveness and love.

Next, there is pride which chokes the love of God out of us. It is impossible to offer love, as long as we are infected with pride, because love requires the humility of our Savior. Pride gives way to greed, lust, hatred, and other such factors in the soil of one’s soul, through which the grace of God’s Word is extinguished.

Finally, where there are good souls, the Word of God takes root. A good soul is one that lives everyday with faith and thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior. In thanksgiving, one is obedient to our Lord, and, in order to be obedient, one must be humble enough to offer sacrificial love for God and others. With such love, God’s Commandments are fulfilled.

Of the many “accomplishments” of Holy Confession, one is to open our eyes to the kind of soul that we possess and to instill the desire to follow our Lord with faith. Through faith, we come to the knowledge of God’s love, and through love, we become humble and obedient to God’s Will. In this way, we can inspire others so they can worship our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

+FR. THEODORE

SUNDAY SCHOOL-- Beginning this **Sunday, October 17, 2021**, our parish choir director, **Annette Laskaris**, will be teaching hymns of the Divine Liturgy to our Sunday School students with the ultimate goal of establishing a **Jr. Choir** in our parish. We ask parents and grandparents to help our students in participating in these Church music lessons so that we can eventually, from time to time, hear the angelic voices of our Sunday School students singing some of the beautiful Church hymns as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

Next Sunday, October 24th, Sunday School students will join in a fun activity in which they will paint pumpkins in celebration of the harvest season. We are reminded to thank God for the food that is given to us as the earth's fruits are harvested and, in thanksgiving, to give to those in need. This **Pumpkin Painting** activity will take place **after** next Sunday's **Sunday School lessons**, from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



“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 — Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL — St. Lk. 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air

devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 19th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. (in-person and on “Zoom”) “Zoom” link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81329951397?pwd=NTJlK0ppVUc5R2ZtZzBFcTBWVTUvdz09>.

Parish Council Meeting – 4:00 p.m.

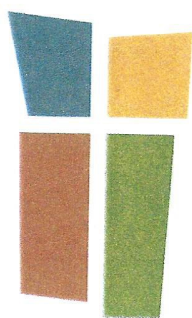
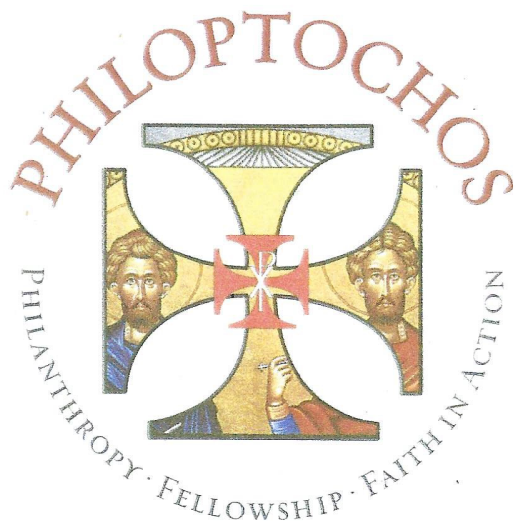
Wednesday, October 20th... ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALLONIA

Orthros- 8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (in-person and on “Zoom”) “Zoom”

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564> .

Thursday, October 14th...Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.



CVRM

“SOCKTOBER”

DONATION EVENT for the HOMELESS
October 3rd-24th

- Did you know that the number 1 needed clothing item for a homeless person is a pair of socks?
- Please help the St. George Ladies Philoptochos provide new socks to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for the in-program residents & homeless population in the east valley.
- Deposit new socks in the bins provided that are located in the church hall. Monetary donations can be made & we will do the shopping if you are not able.
- Both women & mens socks are needed in Casual or Dress styles. Please donate only new socks!