

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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.*

THE POWER OF THE HOLY CROSS

God so loves every person in the world that He has given us His Only-Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have life everlasting. These words are founded in the Bible. (See St. John 3:16).

The Holy Cross is the Symbol of God's love. Through the Holy Cross, Christ our God gave Himself entirely – Body and Blood – for the forgiveness of our sins. In this way, we comprehend God's love and great mercy. For, even to this day, the Holy Cross expels temptations and evil from us, if we freely choose to bless

ourselves and others with the Sign of the Cross as we pray.

The Sign of the Holy Cross carries with It the Divine Power of our Lord. It fulfills the prophecy of Moses from the Old Testament. When the Israelites were freed from the bondage of Pharaoh in Egypt, they wandered through the wilderness until they reached the Promised Land. The wilderness was host to poisonous snakes and the Lord instructed Moses to lift up a symbol of a golden serpent which carried the grace to save the Israelites from the deadly poison.

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ST. HELEN AND THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS-- St. Helen is the mother of St. Constantine the Great. In about the year 325, despite her advanced age, St. Helen, in great piety, endured the hardships of a long journey to Jerusalem in search of the Holy Cross. In an attempt to defile the site, known as Golgotha, where the Saving Passion had been suffered, Emperor Hadrian erected a temple to Aphrodite. The venerable Helen, however, had the temple destroyed and the very earth on which it stood removed. When the tomb, which had been so long concealed, was discovered, three crosses were seen buried near it.

All present believed that one of these crosses was that of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the other two were those of the thieves who were crucified with Him. Yet they could not discern to which of the three the Body of the Lord had been nailed, and had received the outpouring of His precious Blood. St. Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, resolved the question by having a lady of rank, who had been chronically suffering from disease brought in order to be touched by each of the crosses and thus discerned the virtue residing in that of the Savior. From the instant this Cross was brought near the lady, it expelled the disease, and made her whole. Consequently, Archbishop Macarius lifted the Cross up high, as the people cried out, "Lord have mercy!"



Ο Θεός αγαπά τόσο πολύ κάθε άνθρωπο στον κόσμο που μας έδωσε τον Μονογενή Υιό Του, ώστε όποιος πιστεύει σε Αυτόν να μην χαθεί, αλλά να έχει ζωή αιώνια. Αυτές οι λέξεις βασιζονται στη Αγ. Γραφή. (Βλ. Άγιος Ιωάννης 3:16).

Ο Τιμιος Σταυρός είναι το Σύμβολο της αγάπης του Θεού. Μέσω του Τιμίου Σταυρού, ο Χριστός ο Θεός μας έδωσε τον εαυτό Του εξ ολοκλήρου - Σώμα και Αίμα - για τη συγχώρεση των αμαρτιών μας. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο, κατανοούμε την αγάπη και το μεγάλο έλεος του Θεού. Διότι, ακόμη και σήμερα, ο Τιμιος Σταυρός διώχνει τους πειρασμούς και το κακό από εμάς, αν επιλέξουμε ελεύθερα να ευλογήσουμε τον εαυτό μας και τους άλλους με το Σημείο του Σταυρού καθώς προσευχόμεθα.

Το Σημείο του Τιμίου Σταυρού φέρει μαζί Του τη Θεία Δύναμη του Κυρίου μας. Εκπληρώνει την προφητεία του Μωσέως από την Παλαιά Διαθήκη. Όταν οι Ισραηλίτες απελευθερώθηκαν από τη σκλαβιά του Φαραώ στην Αίγυπτο, περιπλανήθηκαν στην έρημο μέχρι να φθάσουν στη «Γη της Επαγγελίας.» Η έρημος φιλοξενούσε δηλητηριώδη φιδιά και ο Κύριος έδωσε εντολή στον Μωσή να σηκώσει σύμβολο χρυσού φιδιού που έφερε τη χάρη να σώσει τους Ισραηλίτες από το θανατηφόρο δηλητήριο. Ο Σταυρός του Χριστού έχει ακόμη περισσότερη δύναμη από ό,τι είχε το σύμβολο του Μωσέως με το χρυσό φίδι, γιατί θεραπεύει το δηλητήριο του πειρασμού και της αμαρτίας, θεραπεύοντας την ψυχή του ανθρώπου προς ζωήν αιώνιον. Ας προσκυνήσουμε τον Τιμίο Σταυρό του Χριστού και ας δοξάσουμε την Ανάστασή Του!

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The Cross of Christ has even more power than that of Moses' symbol of the golden serpent, because It cures the poison of temptation and sin, healing one's soul. The Cross also carries the power of Christ our God to guide us in living a life-style that leads us and others to His Eternal Kingdom.

From the Holy Cross, we are given the Body and Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Partaking of Holy Communion involves such a life-style. Holy Communion *is* Christ, Who Himself is the "medicine of immortality." Holy Communion and the Holy Cross mean the same thing to us: as God sacrificed Himself on the Cross for our salvation, we sacrifice ourselves by nailing our egos to the Cross and uniting ourselves to Christ through the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

From the Holy Cross, we are given the forgiveness of our sins. so that we can be united with Him in bringing salvation to every person in our lives and, generally, to the whole world. Forgiveness of sins is the same thing as being given Eternal Life. Hence, by forgiving others, we pray for their Eternal Life as much as we pray for our own. Thus, the Hymn of the Church that commemorates our Lord's Cross, is a prayer, asking our Lord to save and bless all His people as inheritors of His Kingdom, and we summon the power of the Holy Cross to conquer evil, which is the adversary of life given by God.

When St. Paul wrote, "*God forbid that I should boast except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.*" (Galatians 6:14), he meant that, because he had been justified by faith in Christ and what Christ accomplished on the Cross, he no longer had worldly cares. He knew that he belonged to Christ. We are summoned to become imitators of him. (1 Corinthians 11:1).

+FR. THEODORE

BIBLE STUDY -- This year two Bible Study sessions will be offered, beginning on this **Thursday, September 16th**. The session that has always been held on **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** with Fr. Ted will continue as always. However, **this Tuesday, September 14th, the Bible Study will take place at 11:00 a.m.** Another session will be held on **Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.** with Deacon Euthym. The "**Zoom**" **link for this Tuesday, Sept. 14th is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81329951397?pwd=NTJlK0ppVUc5R2ZtZzBFcTBWVTUvdz09>**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – **Sunday School begins next Sunday, September 19th**. All parents, grandparents and Godparents will be invited to a special meeting after Church Services today so that they can become familiar with the theme and curriculum for this new school year. Parental involvement is necessary for students to be prepared for their lessons. **Please register your children today!** Lessons will carry with them the theme of "**the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**"



"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 -- Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL -- St. John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Soultana Soumalias (6 months)**, the beloved mother of **Tasia Richards, Vasilios Soumalias, and Apostolos Soumalias**. Today's Memorial service is also for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Efstathios Michaels (5 years)**, the beloved son of **Eleni Michaels** and brother of **Stacy Argyros, and Michael Michaels**. Also included are prayers for the servant of God **Loezos Michaels**, the beloved husband of **Eleni Michaels** and father of **Stacy Argyros** and **Michael Michaels**. We pray also for the servants of God **Gregory Michaels** and his wife, **Ireni Michaels**, Gregory is the son of **Eleni Michaels** and brother of **Stacy Argyros** and **Michael Michaels**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and salvation to **Soultana Soumalias, Efstathios Michaels, Loezos Michaels, & Gregory and Ireni Michaels** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Tasia Richards, Vasilios and Apostolos Soumalias, and Eleni Michaels, Stacy Argyros, and Michael Michaels** and their families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

Monday, September 13th..... Philoptochos General Members Meeting
luncheon - 11:00 a.m./meeting - 11:30 a.m.
Great Vespers - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14th.....EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Bible Study - 11:00 a.m. (Note time change. See page 2 for "Zoom" information.)

Thursday, September 16th.....Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 18th.....San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Virtual Conference-9:00 a.m-12 noon

Sunday, September 19th.....Sunday School Begins



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

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



ENTRY INFORMATION

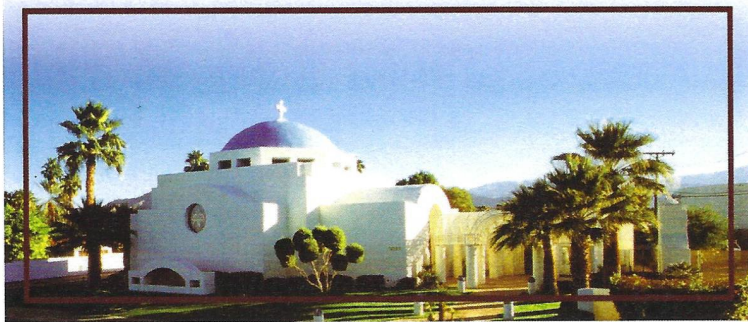
Saturday, September 25, 2021

- \$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



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

September 10, 2021

✠Poulcheria the Empress

Beloved in the Lord,

*“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*
Romans 15:13

This weekend we have two special opportunities worthy of prayer and remembrance. As pastors and ministers of your faithful congregations, I ask that you share this information with your communities and encourage their prayers and support of these two important observances for our church and nation.

The first is the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. This was a day that changed our world, and the enormity of this tragedy will forever be remembered. As we continue to pray for the lives of all those lost in these vicious attacks on our country, and the brave first responders who perished trying to save others, I ask that you **please offer a Memorial Service on Sunday, September 12 for the repose of the souls of all those who lost their lives on 9/11.**

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, this Sunday is also an opportunity to **speak to your congregation** about our beloved Scholé and all that Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology has meant to generations of clergy and lay leaders in our Archdiocese. Offering support – both financially and through prayer – for the only Greek Orthodox theological school in our Archdiocese is of the utmost importance for the future of our Church and the perpetuation of our faith.

Thanking you for sharing these two important messages with your congregations this Sunday, September 12, and for your continued faithful service in the Vineyard of Our Lord, I remain,

With Love in Christ,


✠Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco