

SEPTEMBER 19, 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

SUNDAY AFTER 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.

## WE SING HYMNS FOR THE CROSS

Over the forty-day period from August 6th, with the commemoration of our Lord's Transfiguration, to September 14th, when we commemorate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we hear special Katavasies Hymns during the Orthros Service, which draw our attention to the prophecies from the Old Testament in reference to the significance of the Holy Cross for us today.

The first "Katavasia" refers to Moses' outstretched hand with his staff causing the Red Sea to part so that the Israelites could flee from Pharaoh's slavery. Bibli-

cal scholars commonly refer to the staff as a "walking stick," and, as such it was made from wood. The hymn implies that the wood from the tree is the Wood of the Holy Cross. The hymn speaks of Moses' staff being used to deliver the Israelites from the bondage of slavery as a prophesy of the Cross of our Savior being used to deliver humanity from the bondage of sin and death.

The second "Katavasia" refers to the staff of Aaron, who assisted Moses in the Exodus. Aaron's staff blossomed, establishing a priesthood for the peo-

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## WHY DO WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS?

Making the Sign of the Holy Cross over ourselves is not to be done in the hopes of our own "good luck." Rather, it is of the greatest benefit to us to understand that the Sign of the Cross is a prayer asking for the Grace of the Holy Spirit to help us "commit ourselves and one another and our whole lives to Christ our God." Unless we truly want to commit ourselves to God, why else would the Grace of His Holy Cross be given to us?

Following Christ is a matter of love. The world entices us to betray our Lord, as in the case of Judas, who pursued the 30 pieces of silver. Imaginations from demons hold up deceptive thoughts luring us to reject Christ. In addition, our own inner weaknesses, such as passions for material goods and cares for self worship, like greed, gluttony, and glory, etc., offer their temptations, as well.

Fighting these temptations is a matter of acquiring virtues involving our will power, along with our strength and endurance. This fight itself is what is meant in our Savior's words to "take up our cross" in order to follow Him. The Sign of the Holy Cross is to be used in prayer for us to overcome our fallen nature and to bring peace and love to us all.

+FR. THEODORE



Κατά τη διάρκεια των σαράντα ημερών από τις 6 Αυγούστου, που εορτάζουμε την Μεταμόρφωση του Κυρίου, έως τις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, όταν εορτάζουμε την Υψωση του Τιμίου Σταυρού, ακούμε ειδικούς ύμνους στην ακολουθία του Ορθρου που λέγονται «Κατάβασεις,» οι οποίες τραβούν την προσοχή μας στις προφητείες από την Παλαιά Διαθήκη οι οποίες ομιλούν περί της σημασίας του Τιμίου Σταυρού και την σημασίαν Του για εμάς σήμερα.

Η πρώτη «Κατάβασις» αναφέρει το απλωμένο χέρι του Μωυσέως με την ράβδο διά της οποίας έκανε την Ερυθράν Θάλασσα να χωρίσει ώστε οι Ισραηλίτες να φύγουν από τη σκλαβιά του Φαραώ. Οι θεολόγοι που μελετούν την Παλαιά Διαθήκη σημειώνουν ότι η ράβδος εχρησιμοποιούνταν συνήθως ως «μπαστούνι» και, ως εκ τούτου, ήταν κατασκευασμένο από ξύλο. Ο ύμνος υπονοεί ότι το ξύλο από το δέντρο είναι και το ξύλο του Τιμίου Σταυρού. Ο ύμνος ομιλεί για τη ράβδο του Μωυσέως που χρησιμοποιήθηκε για να απελευθερώσει των Ισραηλίων από τη σκλαβιά του Φαραώ ως προφητεία του Σταυρού του Σωτήρος μας που χρησιμοποιείται για να απελευθερώσει την ανθρωπότητα από τη σκλαβιά του θανάτου.

Η δεύτερη «Κατάβασις» αναφέρει την ράβδο του Ααρών. Η ράβδος του Ααρών άνθισε καθιερώνοντας μία ιεροσούνη για τους ανθρώπους στην οδόν προς τη χώρα του Ισραήλ. Αυτό είναι προφητικό για τον Τιμίο Σταυρό του Κυρίου μας, ο Οποίος άνθισε σε όλο τον κόσμο ως Σημείον ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Αρχιερέας για τη σωτηρία όλων των ανθρώπων πάντοτε.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ple leading to the land of Paradise. This is prophetic of our Lord's Holy Cross, Which blossomed throughout the world as a Sign that Christ is the High Priest for the salvation of all people always.

The references in our Orthodox hymnology to Moses and Aaron carry the message that Christ our God is the Fulfillment of the Old Testament, Who brings us Eternal Salvation through His Cross. The foretaste of God's Kingdom is experienced by way of our repentance of sins and our "co-workship" with our Lord in imparting His Divine Love to all people throughout the world. This is exactly what our baptismal crosses mean: we die to sin and we live for Christ our God.

As a co-worker with God, Moses prefigures the relationship that each one of us is to have with God. Indeed, our Lord could have parted the Red Sea all by Himself. But, He chose to work with and through Moses. Our Lord chose to use the hands and staff of Moses as His own. When Moses raised his hands, our Savior made things happen that were contrary to the way that He created the natural world. Miracles happened. The lifting up of Moses' hands was so important, that in defense against the armies of Amalek, Aaron and Hur rushed to help Moses keep his hands raised up, forming a "prefigure" of the Cross.

The Sign of the Cross conveys the power of our Lord, through our outstretched hands, giving our Lord's blessings both to ourselves and to our fellow human beings. This is why we anoint the faces and hands of our faithful with the forgiving and healing Oil of the Holy Sacraments of Chrismation and Holy Unction.

+FR. THEODORE

### SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School begins today.

- 1) The Service of the Blessing of Waters (Agiasmo) will take place following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy today.
- 2) All parents, grandparents and Godparents are 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."

– "Christian education has the power to mold the souls of youth into good souls of leaders of tomorrow who do good deeds in the pursuit of great rewards for the souls of all."

– Anonymous



*“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 2:16-20

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GOSPEL — St. Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Tuesday, September 21st...Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. (in-person & “Zoom.” “Zoom” link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81329951397?pwd=NTJlK0ppVUc5R2ZtZzBFcTBWVTUvdz09>.)

Wednesday, September 22nd...Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. (in-person & “Zoom.” “Zoom” link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>.)

Saturday, September 25th.... ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

AT: Desert Willow Country Club, Palm Desert, CA

Shot-gun start – 12:30 p.m.

Awards Banquet

AT: St. George parish hall – Social Hour – 5:00 p.m.

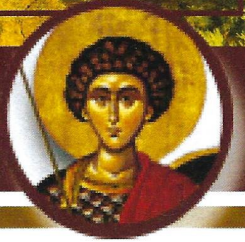
Traditional Greek Style Dinner – 6:30 p.m.





# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

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



## ENTRY INFORMATION

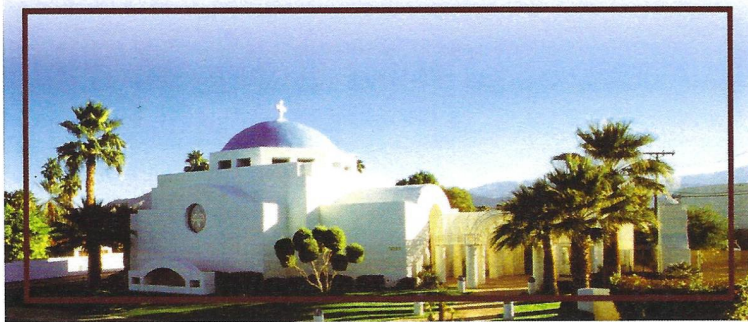
Saturday, September 25, 2021

- \$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