



AUGUST 7, 2022

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

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 Kon-

taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or-
der

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 LADDER

PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"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 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

THE TRANSFIGURATION - Yesterday, we celebrated the **Transfiguration of our Lord**. This event is recorded in the Gospel of St. Matthew 17:1-8. From this passage we know that Jesus took His three foremost disciples, Sts. Peter, John, and James, and ascended Mt. Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light and there appeared with Him the Prophets, Moses and Elias. Their appearance with Jesus showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, to where he had been taken up while yet alive. They then heard the Divine Voice from a brilliant cloud, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "*This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him*" (Matt. 17: 5).

--Taken in part from our Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org



Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1)** *"By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the Myrrh-bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy."* (Tone 7)/Κατελυσας τω Σταυρω...**2)** *"You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You."* (Transfiguration hymn)/Μετεμορφωθης εν τω ορει Χριστε ο Θεος.../**3)** Hymn for St. George; **4)** Kontakion Hymn: *"You were transfigured on the mount O Christ our God and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified they may understand Your voluntary passion and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father."*

BAPTISM & DEFENDING OUR FAITH

At the beginning of his First Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul speaks about Holy Baptism. He reminds us that Baptism in Christ is itself Baptism in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism, then, is based on the faith that God, our Father, loves us so much that He gave His Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins and that Jesus Christ is present with us every day through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is in this Faith that we are baptized. We are not baptized in any other name, nor for any other reason.

The Orthodox Christian Church has preserved this Sacred Apostolic Tradition, which is actually the Tradition of the Life of the Holy Spirit in the world from generation to generation. As such, the life in the Holy Spirit for Orthodox Christians is a *divine reality*. There is no such thing as an "alternative reality," in which the Bible or the Church exist in some "bubble," and must be "brought up to date" with the times. Truth and reality are never "out of date." To believe so is to break with reality and, breaking with reality is a form of mental illness. The Sacraments of the Orthodox Church are to be offered to God by us as a daily life-style that is aglow with the Light of Christ. The Sacraments are not meant to be vehicles for pressing our personal agendas, nor means for enhancing our own self-image.

It a world in which multiple doctrines and philosophies are all treated as somehow being of equal value, as if there is "only one God, but not necessarily the God of the Bible," our salvation depends on our willingness to actually live to love the God of the Bible, Who is Jesus Christ. Let us keep on learning about our Orthodox Christian Faith so that we can live according to our Faith, and so that we can, subsequently, defend our way of life, as did the Saints of our Church throughout the many generations.

+FR. THEODORE

Προς την αρχή της Πρώτης προς Κορινθίους Επιστολής του, ο Άγ. Παύλος ομιλεί για το Άγιο Βάπτισμα. Το Βάπτισμα εν Χριστώ είναι Βάπτισμα εις το Όνομα του Πατρός και του Υιού και του Αγίου Πνεύματος για να δοξάζουμεν τον Θεό. Δεν υπάρχει βάπτισμα σε άλλα ονόματα ή για άλλους σκοπούς.

Η Ελληνο-Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία έχει διατηρήσει αυτήν την Ιερά Αποστολική Παράδοση, που είναι στην πραγματικότητα η Παράδοση της Ζωής του Αγίου Πνεύματος στον κόσμο από γενιά σε γενιά. Ως εκ τούτου, η «εν Αγίω Πνεύμα ζωή» για τους Ελληνο-Ορθοδόξους είναι μια *θεική πραγματικότητα*. Δεν υπάρχει τέτοιο πράγμα όπως μια «εναλλακτική πραγματικότητα», στην οποία η Αγία Γραφή ή η Εκκλησία υπάρχουν σε μια «χώρα φαντασίας» και πρέπει να «ενημερωθούν» σύμφωνα με τις σημερινές νοοτροπίες. Η αλήθεια και η πραγματικότητα δεν είναι ποτέ «παρωχημένες». Το να πιστεύει κανείς έτσι σημαίνει ότι έπαθε μια ρήξη από την πραγματικότητα και, η ρήξη από την πραγματικότητα είναι μια μορφή ψυχικής ασθένειας. Τα Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας μας πρέπει να προσφερθούν στον Θεό από εμάς ως ένας ολόκληρος τρόπος ζωής που λάμπει από το Φως του Χριστού. Τα Μυστήρια δεν προορίζονται να είναι οχήματα για να πιέσουμε τις προσωπικές μας ατζέντες, ούτε είναι μέσα για να ενισχύσουμε την «εικόνα» του εαυτού μας.

Ας συνεχίσουμε να μαθαίνουμε την Ελληνο-Ορθόδοξη πίστη μας για να ζούμε σύμφωνα με την πίστη μας και για να μπορούμε στη συνέχεια να υπερασπισθούμε τον τρόπο ζωής μας, όπως έκαναν οι Άγιοι της Εκκλησίας μας από γενιά σε γενιά.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Helen Dilberakis (3 months)**, beloved mother of **Anastasia Dilberakis** and **Sophia Dilberakis**. Also, today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Haig Khatchaturian (1 year)**, the beloved son of **Emma Khatchaturian**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Helen Dilberakis** and **Haig Katchaturian** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Anastasia Dilberakis, Sophia Dilberakis** and **Emma Katchaturian** and their entire families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

UPDATED PARISH DIRECTORY - Many blessings to the many parishioners who have returned their Parish Directory Participation Forms. **Last minute submissions are acceptable -- however, we will be “going to press” in the very near future.** On the Participation Form each parishioner may indicate if he or she does not want to be listed, or only wants a phone number listed and/or email address listed. **Please contact our parish at: 760-568-9901 or pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com** for more information regarding participation in our upcoming new parish directory.

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS -- A **Welcome Committee** is in the process of being formed. Already, two of our parishioners have joined! This is important as we prepare for the **New Ecclesiastical Year**. Visitors and new parishioners are to be welcomed into the life of our parish. This includes introducing them to our parishioners and visiting with them during our “coffee hour.” We would also like them to receive our parish **Welcome Packets**, with information about the Greek Orthodox Faith and the life of our St. George parish.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, August 8th - Last day of Philoptochos Food Pantry (See enclosed flier) /Paraklisis -6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 9th. - Bible Study -10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 10th - Paraklisis - 6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 12th - Paraklisis - 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Evening, August 14th - Great Vespers - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, August 15th - THE DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
Orthros -8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy - 9:30 a.m.

SPECIAL NOTE & “SAVE THE DATES”

SPECIAL NOTE: *PARISH CHANGE OF ADDRESS* Beginning in **September 2022**, our parish Post Office Box 4755 will no longer be in use. **Regular postage mail** will be delivered to our **new parish mail box** with all mail being addressed to:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea St.

Palm Desert, California 92260

SAVE THE DATES!

St. George Greek Festival - February 18-19, 2023--Our **2023 St. George Greek Festival** is scheduled to be held on **Saturday, February 18, 2023** and **Sunday, February 19, 2023**. More details are to follow. Plan from now on volunteering time, treasure and talent for the success of our Greek Festival!

St. George Golf Tournament - April 22, 2023--On **Saturday, April 22, 2023**, our annual **St. George Golf Tournament** will be held at **Desert Willow Golf Resort** in Palm Desert. We are grateful for the great number of golfers who participated in our tournament this past year. Let us each do our part to continually make our St. George Golf Tournaments a great success!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

OUR PARISH MASTER CALENDAR 2022-2023 IS TAKING SHAPE! – As we enter the months of August and September 2022, we find the St. George Parish Master Calendar for 2022-2023 taking shape. Below are the dates and events being scheduled in August through December 2022. Please consult our parish office or Fr. Ted with regard to baptism and wedding requests for the months ahead.

Monday, August 8, 2022-Sunday, August 14, 2022 – Fasting Season in honor of the Holy Theotokos

August 8, 2022 – The last day for this season of our Philoptochos Food & Clothing Drive

August 21, 2022- Sunday School Renewal With Open Arms (following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy)

Sunday, September 17, 2022- Philoptochos Hygiene Kits & Food Boxing for the Hungry

Sunday, September 18, 2022 – Chanters, Readers and Choir Members: Introductory Session (following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy).

Sunday, September 25, 2022 – Sunday School Begins

Sunday, October 2, 2022 – St. George Parish “Coffee Hour” Open Meeting on Parish Life for 2022-2023; Philoptochos “Socktober” Drive Begins.

Saturday, October 8, 2022-St. George Participation in “Paint El Paseo Pink” Walk for cure of breast cancer.

Sunday, October 16, 2022 – “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church” Sunday

Saturday, November 12, 2022 – St. George Parish Fall Retreat

Saturday, December 3, 2022 – Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon, Holiday Party

Sunday, December 18, 2022 -- Sunday School Christmas Program (following celebration of D. Liturgy)

Saturday, December 31, 2022- AHEPA 528 New Year’s Eve Dinner

SUNDAY SCHOOL RENEWAL WITH OPEN ARMS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2022

We look forward to sharing our **Sunday School “Renewal Program”** on **Sunday, August 21st** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Study Materials & Sunday School lesson structure will be introduced. All parents, grandparents and children are welcome. Lunch will be provided.

