



AUGUST 28, 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 9:2-12

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 18:23-35

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST -- Tomorrow, **August 29th**, we commemorate the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. This event is recorded in the Gospel of St. Mark 6:14-29. In his ministry, St. John called all people to repentance. In this, he told King Herod that it was unlawful for him to marry his brother's wife., Herodius. As a result, Herod arrested St. John. However, when Herod celebrated his birthday with many dignitaries in attendance, Herodius' daughter pleased his guests very much. After promising to give her even half of his kingdom, Herodius's daughter consulted with her mother, who then asked for the head of St. John the Baptist. In response to this request, Herod had St. John beheaded.

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **William George Barringer (2 years)**, the beloved husband of **Louise Dobbs Barringer**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **William George Barringer** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Louise Dobbs Barringer**. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** *"When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then the light of Your divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, 'Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'"* / Οτε Κατήλθες...; **2) Hymn for St. George.** **3) Kontakion Hymn:** *"In Your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of corruption and death. And so Your people, free of guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: 'The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, Who nourishes our life.'"* / Ιωακείμ και Αννα ονειδισμοῦ .

FORGIVENESS IS NOT JUST A WORD

The priest, during the Sacrament of Holy Confession, takes on the image, by analogy, of the king in today's Gospel passage, who, in turn represents God. Like the king, the priest is responsible to pray for the forgiveness of our sins and for our rebirth in the love of Christ our God through repentance. The power of this Sacrament is in our willingness to forgive ourselves and others, and, by doing so, to give glory to our Lord.

Few of us have been humiliated, disrespected, beaten and led toward death like our Savior, Who yet from the Cross said, *"Forgive them; for they know not what they do."* While Christ wants repentance and salvation, we, however, who have been baptized with the promise to reject evil and to join Christ, too often want punishment and suffering, instead. Our repentance in this matter requires that we forgive with love, which means that whatever mercy we want for ourselves, we should seek it for others. Either we forgive and seek salvation for ourselves and our fellow human being, or we hold grudges, often seeking revenge. Revenge, however, always seems to be tainted with hatred.

St. John Chrysostom has words for us all in this regard. *"God requires two things from us: both to condemn ourselves for our sins, and to forgive others -- and the former for the sake of the latter, that it may become easier [to forgive as God forgives]. For one who considers one's own sins is more indulgent of his or her fellow-servant, and, therefore, does not forgive only with the lips, but from the heart. Let us not thrust the sword into ourselves by being revengeful."* ("Homily 61: On the Gospel of St. Matthew," by St. John Chrysostom, *Nicene & Post Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 10, pg. 380 [English translation offered by Fr. Ted]). St. John warns us that anger causes us to lose sight of God, and, thus, the adage is true: *"that revenge only leads to two graves."* Therefore, we must be careful with what we do with our lives...Good things only happen when we dwell in the Spirit of God's forgiveness.

We have the words and examples of many saints who have demonstrated the ability to forgive and the power of God's love in doing so. Through spiritual counsel and by heart-felt participation in the Holy Sacraments of our Church, we will all come to know that forgiveness is not just a word that we say, but it is the Person, Who is Christ, Who truly saves us from ourselves.

+FR. THEODORE

Ο ιερέας, κατά τη διάρκεια του Μυστηρίου της Ιεράς Εξομολογήσεως, παίρνει επάνω του την θέση, αναλόγως, του βασιλέου στη σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ο οποίος με τη σειρά του αντιπροσωπεύει τον Θεό. Όπως ο βασιλεύς, έτσι και ο ιερέας είναι υποχρεωμένος να προσευχηθεί για τη συγχώρεση των αμαρτιών μας και για την αναγέννησή μας στην αγάπη του Χριστού μέσω της μετάνοιας. Η δύναμη αυτού του Μυστηρίου έγκειται στην προθυμία μας να συγχωρήσουμε τους άλλους και, κάνοντας αυτό, να δοξάζουμε τον Θεό.

Λίγοι από εμάς εγελάσθηκαν, εχλευάσθηκαν, εξυλοκοπήθηκαν και θανατώθηκαν όπως ο Σωτήρας μας, που ακόμα από τον Σταυρό μας συγχωρεί όλους. Ενώ ο Χριστός θέλει μετάνοια και σωτηρία, εμείς, όμως, που έχουμε βαπτισθεί με την υπόσχεση να απορρίψουμε το κακό και να ενωθούμε με τον Χριστό, πολύ συχνά θέλουμε την τιμωρία και καταδίκη των συναδέλφων μας, αντί να συγχωρούμε τους συναδέλφους μας και να επιζητούμε το όφελός των.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος μας λέει ότι ο Θεός απαιτεί δύο πράγματα από εμάς: να καταδικάζουμε τον εαυτό μας για τις αμαρτίες μας και να συγχωρούμε τους άλλους -- και το πρώτο για χάρη του δεύτερου, ώστε να γίνει ευκολότερο να συγχωρούμε όπως ο Θεός συγχωρεί.

Έχουμε τα λόγια και τα παραδείγματα πολλών αγίων που έχουν επιδείξει την ικανότητα να συγχωρούν, ώστε να λάμψει η δύναμη της αγάπης του Θεού στη ζωή των. Μέσω της πνευματικής συμβουλής και της εγκάρδιας συμμετοχής στα Ιερά Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας μας, θα μάθουμε όλοι ότι η συγχώρεση δεν είναι απλή λέξη, αλλά το Πρόσωπο του Χριστού, που πραγματικά μας σώζει από τον εαυτό μας.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE ends this Wednesday, August 31st. Contact Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 to confirm delivery time for items to be brought to our parish hall. Non-perishable food items whose expiration dates have not expired, as well as clothing in reasonable condition are welcome. A **\$40 donation** will provide a **food box** filled with staples **for a family of four**. Make check payable to "Ladies Philoptochos." Enclosed is a copy of the "Food Drive" flier that is available in our parish hall.

PARISH CHANGE OF ADDRESS -- Beginning this **Thursday, September 1, 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*

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, August 29th.....THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 30th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

NOTE: Fr. Ted will be away from Wednesday, August 31st - Friday, September 2nd, 2022 in order to participate in the funeral services of Mr. Vasilios Antonopoulos, the beloved father-in-law of Fr. Ted and Presvytera's daughter, Anastasia Antonopoulos. The funeral services will take place at the St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Elk Grove, California on Thursday, September 1st. Please feel free to contact him at (760) 880-5869 for spiritual support in the event of dire emergency.

OUR ST. GEORGE PARISH DIRECTORY will be available on **Sunday, September 11th**. We want to thank all of our parishioners who participated in this effort and who helped in meeting the needs required for publication.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

As we enter the month of September 2022, we share our St. George **Parish Master Calendar**. Below are the dates and events scheduled for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. Please consult our parish office or Fr. Ted with regard to baptism and wedding requests for the months ahead.

August 31, 2022 – The last day to give toward our August Philoptochos Food & Clothing Drive

Saturday, 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 for Parish Spiritual Renewal for 2022-2023; Philoptochos “Socktober” Drive Begins.

Saturday, October 8, 2022–St. George joins 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

Sunday, November 13, 2022 - Fall General Assembly (date to be confirmed)

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, January 8, 2023 – Philoptochos Vasilopita

Saturday, January 21 or 28th – AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference

February 12, 2023 - Outreach Sunday

February 18-19, 2023 – St. George Greek Festival

Monday, February 27, 2023– Great Lent Begins

Saturday, March 18, 2023 – St. George Parish Lenten Retreat

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - Spring General Assembly (date to be confirmed)

Saturday, April 9– Sunday, April 16, 2023 – Holy Week and Pascha

Saturday, April 22, 2023 – St. George Golf Tournament at Desert Willow Golf Resort, Palm Desert, CA

Sunday, April 23, 2023 – St. George Feast Day