

DECEMBER 4, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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– 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— Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 13: 10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR** — St. Barbara's father had commanded that a private bath-house be erected. In his absence, Barbara had three windows put in it, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, instead of the two originally intended. She also inscribed the Sign of the Cross into the marble floor. When her father returned, she declared that Jesus Christ is God and Savior. Her father, a worshiper of idols, then betrayed her to the prefect of the province, Martinianus, who demanded that she renounce her faith in Christ and worship the customary idols. She refused to worship idols and St. Barbara held true to her Christian faith. Martinianus sentenced her to death for treason. Her father carried out the sentence, beheading her on December 4, 267.



### Liturgical Notes for Today

Entrance with the Gospel: **1) Hymn:** "O Most Merciful One, You came from on high and condescended to Your three-day burial to save us from our passions. You are our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to You." / Εξ υψους...; **2)** "Let us honor the holy Barbara, who with the aid of the Cross as her weapon, she crushed the snares of the enemy and was rescued from them like a bird." / Βαρβαραν την αγιαν...; **3)** "You are a guide of Orthodoxy and a teacher of piety and modesty, a luminary of the world, the God-inspired pride of monastics. O wise John, you have enlightened everyone by your teachings. You are a harp of the Spirit. Intercede to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls." / Ορθοδοξίας οδηγε.. **4) Hymn for St. George.** **5) Kontakion Hymn:** "Today the Virgin comes to the cave to ineffably give birth to the eternal Logos. Harkening to this, rejoice, O Universe, and with the angels and shepherds glorify Him, the God before all ages, Who willed to be beheld as a young child." / Η Παρθενος σημερον...

#### DIVINE LOVE vs. THE LAW

Watching the news all day gives us a good idea about all the laws of today's governments, including our own. Certainly, while we should be aware of the laws of our land, we are called to embody God's Love and to express It to everyone without exception -- "whether Jew or Greek; free or slave; male or female" (Galatians 3:28). At the same time, condoning sin and evil is not an expression of God's Love.

From today's Gospel passage, Christ our God, our Divine Lawgiver, teaches us that God's Love is the Law that we must follow if we seek salvation rather than destruction, because human laws are too often subjected to human interpretations and abuses, based on the motivations of those who try to enforce them. In addition, there have been many laws throughout the history of the world, as there are in the present, which even challenge the sanctity of human life, often even justifying war. Finally, it's hard to enforce laws when hypocrisy exists, as in the case of the Pharisees. Finally, the law, by its very nature, doesn't forgive us. But, the Law of God's Love is mercy and forgiveness through our Savior, Jesus Christ, through Whom we can be forgiven and we can forgive others, which is the greatest of all gifts.

St. Barbara, whom we commemorate today, lived a life-style in the grace of the Holy Spirit, tangibly reflective of Divine Love, Who is Jesus Christ our God. Our Lord displayed true Love when He cured the bent-over woman on the Sabbath, even drawing rebuke from the Pharisees. As soon as she was cured, she stood up straight and praised God, and, with this, we are reminded that, through the Woman (the Holy Theotokos) all of humanity is "straightened" and can now praise God. +FR. THEODORE

Η προσοχή μας στις καθημερινές ειδήσεις (δηλ., στα «νέα») όλη την ημέρα μας δίνει μια καλή ιδέα για όλους τους νόμους των σημερινών κυβερνήσεων του κόσμου – και της δικής μας κυβερνήσεως, επίσης. Βεβαίως, ενώ πρέπει να γνωρίζουμε τους νόμους του τόπου μας, καλούμεθα να ενσαρκώσουμε την Αγάπη του Θεού και να την εκφράσουμε σε όλους τους ανθρώπους γύρω μας ανεξαιρέτως (ειδε: Γαλ. 3:28). Ταυτόχρονα, η αποδοχή της αμαρτίας και του κακού δεν είναι έκφραση της Αγάπης του Θεού.

Από τη σημερινή περικοπή του Ευαγγελίου, ο Χριστός -- ο Θεός Νομοθέτης -- μας διδάσκει ότι η Αγάπη του Θεού είναι ο Νόμος που πρέπει να ακολουθήσουμε εάν επιζητούμε τη σωτηρία και όχι την καταστροφή, επειδή οι ανθρώπινοι νόμοι υπόκεινται πολύ συχνά σε ανθρώπινες ερμηνείες και καταχρήσεις, με βάση τα κίνητρα αυτών που προσπαθούν να τα εφαρμόσουν. Επιπλέον, υπήρξαν πολλοί νόμοι σε όλη την ιστορία του κόσμου, όπως υπάρχουν και σήμερα, που αμφισβητούν ακόμη και την ιερότητα της ανθρώπινης ζωής, συχνά δικαιολογώντας ακόμη και τον πόλεμο. Μάλιστα, είναι δύσκολο να εφαρμόσει κανείς νόμους όταν υπάρχει υποκρισία, όπως με την περίπτωση των Φαρισαίων. Τέλος, ο νόμος, από τη φύση του, δεν μας συγχωρεί. Όμως, ο Νόμος της Αγάπης του Θεού είναι έλεος και συγχώρεση μέσω του Σωτήρος μας, Ιησού Χριστού, μέσω του Οποίου μπορούμε να συγχωρηθούμε και να συγχωρήσουμε τους άλλους. Αυτό είναι το μεγαλύτερο από όλα τα χαρίσματα.

Η Αγία Βαρβάρα, που την τιμούμεν σήμερα, αντανakλούσε απτά τη Θεία Αγάπη, ο Οποίος είναι ο Ιδιος ο Χριστός, ο Οποίος εθεράπευσε τη σκυμμένη γυναίκα. Μαζί με αυτήν, την Αγ. Βαρβάραν και την Θεοτόκον, υψώνουμε τους εαυτούς μας ψηλά για να δοξάζουμε τον Θεό. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ



## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, December 5th.....Festival Meeting – 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 6th .....ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA  
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study-11:00 a.m.  
Thursday, December 8th.....Parish Council – 2:00 p.m.  
Friday, December 9th.....ST. ANNA, THE MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Saturday, December 10th.....Philoptochos Holiday Party – 11:30 a.m at Sun City.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS** – Parish Council Candidacy Forms are still **available** for those who would like to become candidates for election to the Parish Council for 2023. Candidates must be baptized/chrisdated members of the Orthodox Christian Faith; if married, married according to the Rites of the Orthodox Christian Church; a member of the St. George parish of Palm Desert, with up-to-date stewardship commitments, and a regular participant in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and worship of the Orthodox Christian Church. **Today is the Deadline** for submission of the Parish Council Candidacy Forms.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** – Elections for candidates to serve as members of the 2023 St. George Parish Council will be held **next Sunday, December 11th**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

**PHILOPTOCHOS: HOLIDAY PARTY** - The RSVP deadline for the **Philoptochos Holiday Party** is today, Sunday Dec. 4th! Please contact **Tina Veroulis** or **Rhonda Latkovic** if you plan on attending our party scheduled for **Saturday, December 10th**. We have a great party planned and we invite everyone in our community to attend!

-- **PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS GIFT BASKETS** - The **Holiday Gift Baskets** project for our shut-ins is planned for **Wednesday, December 14th**. Time frame approximately **10-11:30 am** for prep & wrapping and then **11:30-1 pm for delivery** to the home. Volunteers are needed for both tasks. Please contact Rhonda Latkovic to volunteer. Thank you!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday, Dec 18th** - **Presbytera Petula** has been working hard organizing the **Christmas program this year "Christmas Around the World"**. Each student will select a country and present individually or as a family in the hall after the Divine Liturgy! Please contact Presbytera Petula or Mrs Athena if you haven't chosen or received your country!

--**Starting January 15th, 2023** - We will be returning to having Sunday School sessions each Sunday! Thank you to **Alexandra Pappas** (Emily Tcharos' niece) and **Emily Kayaloglou** (Angeliki Trapatsas' Yiayia) in joining **Presbytera Petula** and **Mrs Athena** each Sunday this year! Fr Ted along with Deacon Euthym will also be making visits to each classroom!

**GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS** - **Today**, our Greek Folk Dance lessons will be held in our parish hall following the conclusion of our Sunday School classes. We will coordinate with the parents to help provide lunch for our students. For more details, please contact Fr. Ted.

### AHEPA:

– **AHEPA Chapter 528 -Tuesday, December 13th, 6:00 p.m.** at our parish hall. This will be an **Open House Christmas Party** for our Chapter, bringing friends, potential members, and family. We have a lot to be thankful for this year.

– **January 28, 2023...Join AHEPA Chapter 528 for a Greek Island Dinner at Desert Willow Golf Resort** in Palm Desert. **R.S.V.P. by January 16, 2023. \$75 per person.** See enclosed flyer.



# *Philoptochos Christmas Party*



**12/10/22 11:30 AM**

**Sun City Clubhouse**

**38180 Del Webb Blvd, Palm Desert**

*Please Join Us! Bring a Friend!*

Luncheon Price \$45.00 per person includes:

Appetizers, buffet luncheon with tri-tip steak & baked fish, salad, potatoes & rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, & bread plus a surprise dessert along with a sheet cake. (coffee, iced tea & water included.) \*Vegan or vegetarian meal option is available.

***Cash Bar! Music! Hostess Gift! Raffle!***

\*\*\*\*\*  
I am attending: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

I am bringing a guest: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
Total Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: (Cash) \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a: Vegan Meal/Vegetarian Meal (circle one)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**RSVP by December 4th**

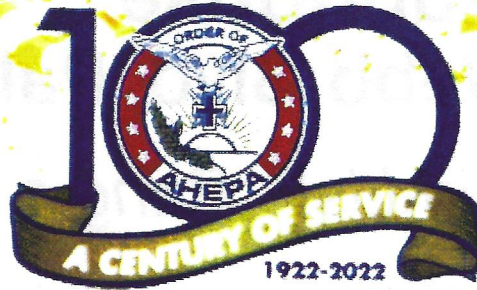




# CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 – AHEPA 528 CHRISTMAS PARTY at our parish hall at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Party for our AHEPA Chapter – Open House! Bring friends, potential members, and family!



## Join AHEPA Chapter 528 for a Greek Island Dinner



**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Desert Willow Golf Resort**

**38995 Desert Willow Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260**



**No host Cocktails 5pm, 6pm Dinner / Cocktail Attire Preferred**

**RSVP Required by 01/16/2023**

**\$75.00 per person**

**Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ Qty \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payable to: AHEPA CHAPTER 528**

**42-215 Washington St A-154 Palm Desert, CA 92211-8031**

**contact@ahempa528.org - 760.832.2825**

**Website payments - ahempa528.org/event**

**First Course - Greek Salad / Romaine Lettuce, Olives, Feta, Cucumber,  
Roasted Bell Peppers, Roasted Tomatoes, and Lemon Dressing.**

**Entree - Duet Plate / Lamb Chop and Chicken Satay Served with Rice and  
Roasted Vegetables.**

**Dessert - Family-Style at Tables / Caramelized Apple Tarte, Baklava.**

**Beverages - Freshly Brewed Coffee & Iced Tea Service. No-Host Bar.**

**/Following AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference /**

Desert Willow





# Christmas "Unwrapped"

A fast-paced three-part mini series  
on the theology, history,  
and traditions of the Christmas season  
with Father Angelo Maginas

Monday evenings  
7:30-8:30 pm via Zoom  
Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12

Register at:  
[Orthodoxy.com/Register](http://Orthodoxy.com/Register)

