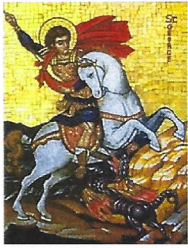


DECEMBER 18, 2022



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:

74-109 Larrea St.

Palm Desert, CA.92260

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 - Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 1: 1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and

Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of Sheal'tiel, and Sheal'tiel the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen genera-

Continued on the next page ----->

Gospel Passage, Continued

tions. Now, the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His Mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is

conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'uel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Liturgical Notes for Today

Entrance with the Gospel: **1) 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 to You: 'Glory to You O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'" /Οτε κατήλθες...; **2)** "Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame, the three holy youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls." /Μεγάλα τα της πίστεως...; **3) 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 Παρθένος σήμερον...

THE POWER OF FAITH

As we heard today, St. Matthew gives the genealogy of our Savior beginning from Abraham. Abraham is the father of all people who have faith in God. As a result of his faith, he was obedient to God's Commandments, and because of his obedience, many blessing came upon the people who followed him, about whom we read in the Bible. Faith in God reveals the true Person of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, having taken upon Himself our flesh, is both God and Man. In His birth into the world, our faith turns into the knowledge of God's love for all people in every generation at all places.

Faith is the foundation of love; love is the foundation of goodness. Through faith, we have hope, and with hope we have the motivation to want to move mountains. As God answers our faith with His power, "mountains" that stand before us in life are indeed moved. While this sounds like a lot of theology, I know that everyone is aware of how faith in God has made a real difference in their lives. There have been times when, as St. Basil notes in the Divine Liturgy attributed to him, when God has shown that He is able to "make the wicked become good."

With the birth of Christ in the world (the Incarnation), we understand that the purpose of His ministry is to grant forgiveness to all -- and in so doing, allow us, with His love, to create His Kingdom on earth. Let us have faith that God forgives our sins;* let us have faith that God truly loves you and me and each individual around us and will allow us to know our worthiness despite our mistakes, provided we seek His Will in all that we do. Yes, we are worthy of God's miracles, bringing us true joy! +FR. THEODORE
*For forgiveness of sins through the Sacrament of Holy Confession, make an appointment with Fr. Ted any time.

Όπως ακούσαμε σήμερα, ο Άγ. Ματθαίος δίνει τη γενεαλογία του Σωτήρος μας ξεκινώντας από τον Αβραάμ. Ο Αβραάμ είναι ο πατέρας όλων των ανθρώπων που έχουν πίστη στον Θεό. Ως αποτέλεσμα της πίστεως του, ήταν υπάκουος στις Εντολές του Θεού, και λόγω της υπακοής του, πολλές ευλογίες ήλθαν σε όσους τον ακολουθούσαν, περί των οποίων διαβάζουμε στη Αγίαν Γραφή. Η πίστις στον Θεό αποκαλύπτει το αληθινό Πρόσωπο του Κυρίου ημών Ιησού Χριστού, ο Οποίος, όντας Ενσαρκωμένος, είναι και Θεός και Άνθρωπος. Κατά τη Γέννησή Του στον κόσμο, η πίστη μας μετατρέπεται σε γνώση της αγάπης του Θεού για όλους τους ανθρώπους σε κάθε γενεά σε όλα τα μέρη της γης.

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα ----->

Η πίστη είναι το θεμέλιο της αγάπης - η αγάπη είναι το θεμέλιο της καλοσύνης. Μέσω της πίστεως, έχουμε ελπίδα, και με ελπίδα έχουμε το κίνητρο να θέλουμε να μετακινήσουμε βουνά. Καθώς ο Θεός απαντά στην πίστη μας με τη δύναμή Του, τα «βουνά» στη ζωή μας μετακινούνται. Αν και αυτό ακούγεται σαν πολλή θεολογία, ξέρω ότι όλοι γνωρίζουν πώς η πίστη στον Θεό έχει κάνει πραγματική διαφορά στη ζωή τους. Υπήρξαν στιγμές που, όπως σημειώνει ο Άγιος Βασίλειος στη Θεία Λειτουργία του, ο Θεός έδειξε ότι είναι σε θέση να «ποιεί τους πονηρούς αγαθούς».

Με τη Γέννηση του Χριστού στον κόσμο (δηλ., την Ενσάρκωση), καταλαβαίνουμε ότι ο σκοπός της διακονίας Του είναι να χαρίσει συγχώρεση σε όλους -- και με αυτόν τον τρόπο, να μας επιτρέψει, με την αγάπη Του, να δημιουργήσουμε τη Θεϊκή Του Βασιλεία εδώ στη γη. Ας έχουμε πίστη ότι ο Θεός συγχωρεί τις αμαρτίες μας.* Ας έχουμε πίστη ότι ο Θεός αγαπά αληθινά εσάς και εμένα και κάθε άτομο γύρω μας και θα μας επιτρέψει να γνωρίζουμε την αξία μας παρά τα λάθη μας, υπό την προϋπόθεση ότι αναζητούμε το Θέλημα Του σε ό,τι κάνουμε. Είμεθα άξιοι των θαυμάτων του Θεού, μέσω των οποίων θα νιώσουμε πνευματική αγαλίαση! + ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

*Για άφεση αμαρτιών μέσω του Μυστηρίου της Ιεράς Εξομολογήσεως, κλείστε ραντεβού με τον π. Θεόδωρο όταν θέλετε.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Please feel free to make an appointment with Fr. Ted this week for the Sacrament of Holy Confession

Tuesday, December 20th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 23rd.....ROYAL HOURS OF CHRISTMAS - 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 24th.....EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (Eve of Christmas)
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 25th.....THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (Christmas Day)
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - The Election of candidates for service as members of the Parish Council was held last Sunday, December 11, 2022. The following candidates were elected to serve on the Parish Council beginning in January 2023 (listed in alphabetical order): **Nick Krespis, Deborah (Debbie) Pousen, and Pete Snarskis**. We express tremendous gratitude to our Lord for the services of **Nicoletta (Becky) Allen** and **Tony Dalkas**, who completed their term of office this year. We look to a future time when they would again serve as Parish Council members.

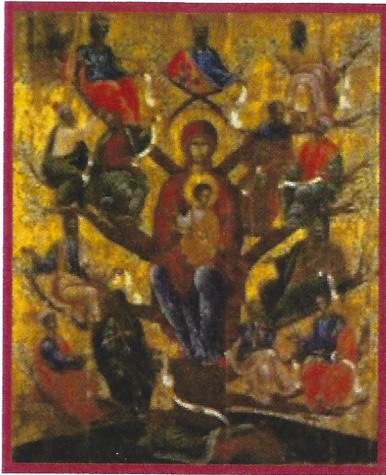
SUNDAY SCHOOL-- Our Sunday School Christmas program will take place in our parish hall today following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **The theme this year is: "Christmas Around the World"**. Each student individually or as a family will share how different countries celebrate Christmas. Please contact **Presbytera Petula** or **Mrs Athena** if you haven't signed up to participate yet!

--**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!

PHILOPTOCHOS - Our **Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale** will be held **today, following the Sunday School Christmas Program** in our parish hall. Koulourakia: \$10 per dozen; Baklava: \$24 per 8 pcs.; Sweet Bread/Vasilopita: \$20 per 2 lb. loaf. See enclosed flyer.

AHEPA - **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.

Sunday before Nativity



December 18

Reading

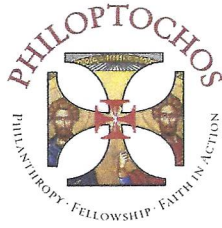
On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.

Apolytikion of Sun. before Nativity

Second Tone

Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers O Christ our God, save our souls.

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



St. George Ladies Philoptochos
Holiday Bake Sale



Koulourakia - \$10.00 per dozen

Baklava - \$24.00 per 8 pcs.

Sweet Bread/Vasilopita - \$20.00 per 2 lb. loaf

Pick-up dates: Monday, December 12th
Sunday, December 18th

Thank You for supporting our Philoptochos Chapter!
Merry Christmas!



*Join AHEPA Chapter 528
for a Greek Island Dinner*



January 28th, 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 /

