

**FEBRUARY 27, 2022**

**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

MEATFARE (JUDGMENT) SUNDAY

## 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.

## THE IMAGE OF GOD

As the celebration of the Divine Liturgy begins, a set of petitions is intoned by the deacon (or priest) asking our Lord for heavenly peace. For Orthodox Christians, heavenly peace means that we dwell in God's love. Hence, God made us so that we have peace within ourselves in return for our love for others. The set of petitions as the beginning of the Divine Liturgy is related to our peace with God. We experience God's love as inner peace, through

which we can bring salvation to our fellow human beings: the people of our Church (laypersons and clergy); the citizens of our country; the sick; the travelers and those captivated by their own flaws, as well as those held captive by outside forces. We pray for peace in the world, and for everyone around us.

Prayer and care go hand-in-hand. Without prayer, we cannot properly provide loving care to others with as much dedication as we would offer to

*Continued on page 2*

## THE REASON FOR WHICH TODAY'S GOSPEL PASSAGE IS READ

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.

It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren.

The **Kontakion Hymn** for today is this: *"O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just."*

-Taken from our Archdiocese website: [www.goarch.com](http://www.goarch.com)



Σε όλη τη σημερινή περικοπή από την Πρώτη Επιστολή του Αγίου Παύλου προς Κορινθίους, καθώς και στη σημερινή περικοπή από το Ευαγγέλιο του Αγίου Ματθαίου, το θέμα είναι αυτό της ειλικρινούς φροντίδας και αγάπης για τους άλλους ως αντανάκλαση της αγάπης μας για τον Θεό. Ο Άγιος Παύλος μας υπενθυμίζει ότι το να τρώμε ή να μην τρώμε δεν είναι το κύριο ζήτημα όσον αφορά τη νηστεία. Το σημαντικό είναι η σχέση μας με τον πλησίον μας στην επιθυμία μας να ενωθεί μαζί μας στην αγάπη του Χριστού. Στην παραβολή Του, ο Ιησούς μας υπενθυμίζει ότι δεν είναι θέμα επισκέψεως στον άρρωστο, ή ρούχα για γυμνούς, ή το να ταϊζουμε τους πεινασμένους που από μόνο του έχει σημασία. Σημασία έχει *το γιατί* δίνουμε στους συνανθρώπους μας. Δεν δίνουμε για να μπορέσουμε καπως να χειραγωγήσουμε τους άλλους, ή για να μας έχουν μεγάλη εκτίμηση. Δίνουμε επειδή θέλουμε να αγαπάμε τον πλησίον μας, ώστε αυτός (ή αυτή), μαζί με εμάς, να μπορεί να κατοικεί στην Αιώνια Αγάπη του Θεού.

Πλησιάζουμε στον Χριστό με μεγάλο δέος και σεβασμό, γνωρίζοντας ότι πρόκειται να κληρονομήσουμε την Αιώνια Ζωή Του, έχοντας, ωστόσο, επίγνωση ότι μπορεί να μην αξίζουμε μια τέτοια κληρονομιά αν διαλέξουμε τον δικό μας δρόμο αντί του δρόμου του Θεού. Καλούμεθα να πλησιάσουμε τον Χριστό με καρδιές γεμάτες πίστη και αγάπη για τον Χριστό τον Θεό μας. Η προσευχή και η νηστεία είναι τα πρώτα βήματα στην εκπαίδευση για να προσφέρει κανείς τον εαυτό του προς όφελος και τη σωτηρία του άλλου, που είναι η εικόνα του Θεού. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

our Lord Himself. Throughout today's passage from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, as well as today's passage from St. Matthew's Gospel, the theme is that of sincere care and love for others as being the reflection of our love for God. St. Paul reminds us that eating or not eating is not the main issue with regard to fasting. The important thing is our relationship with our neighbor in our desire for him or her to join us in loving and worshiping Christ. In His parable of the "sheep and the goats" Jesus reminds us that it is not an issue of visiting the sick; clothing the naked, or feeding the hungry that by itself matters. What matters is *why* we give to our fellow human beings. We do not give so that we can manipulate others in some way, or to be held in high esteem. We give because we want to love our neighbor so that he or she, along with us, can dwell in God's Eternal Love.

We draw near to Christ our God with great awe and respect, knowing that we stand to inherit His Eternal Life, being aware, however, that we may not deserve such an inheritance if we choose our way over God's way. This is why we should fear being in an unworthy spiritual state when seeking entrance into our Lord's Kingdom.

We are summoned to draw near to Christ with hearts filled with faith in, and love for Christ our God. Prayer and fasting are the first steps in training to give of one's self for the benefit and salvation of the other person, who is the image of God.

FR. THEODORE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE PROCLAIM "AXIOS!" FOR HIS GRACE, BISHOP SPYRIDON

Last Sunday, **His Grace, Bishop Spyridon** received the **2022 Metropolitan Anthony Humanitarian Award** from **His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros** at the Divine Liturgy during the Metropolis of San Francisco Greek Folk Dance Festival in Phoenix. "**AXIOS!**" is a Greek expression meaning **Most Worthy!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Today Sunday School will meet in the church. Fr. Ted will speak about the liturgical vestments of; the priest, and the deacon. Circle Friday, April 15th on your calendars to join us for our Sunday School Lenten Retreat. More details to follow.

**AHEPA** --AHEPA 528 Chapter is organizing a **group screening** for the movie *Man of God*, to be shown in theaters on a one-time basis. The movie is about the life of our beloved **St. Nectarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworker**. Members of our parish are joining together to see this movie at the **Century Theater at the River on Monday, March 21, 2022. Showtime is 7:00 p.m.**; we want to **assemble** as a group at the theater at **6:30 p.m.** See **Wynn Storton, Fr. Ted**, or any AHEPA member today!

## 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”*

<p>EPISTLE - 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2</p> <p>Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.</p>	<p>those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."</p>
<p>GOSPEL - St. Mathew. 25:31-46 -</p> <p>The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to</p>	

### WEEKDAY CALENDER

Tuesday, March 1st.....“Social Tuesday,” beginning with Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and continuing with fellowship and luncheon. Zoom link for the Bible Study is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86784450454?pwd=MFJQOVJKVjBTUFJoMnRQOVduenA4Zz09>

Wednesday, March 2nd.....Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>

Saturday, March 5th.....SATURDAY OF SOULS /Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

**ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT -- Fr. Philip Zymaris, ThD**, professor of liturgics at **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology**, will offer two discussions related to the meaning of the prayers and hymns of the Divine Liturgy and the influence they are to have on our day-to-day way of life. We thank God for the efforts of our **St. George Philoptochos** for offering to prepare the luncheon for this morning/afternoon spiritual event. The complete schedule of the retreat will be provided in the very near future. Plan on joining us for this special and inspiring event. A donation of **\$20** is most appreciated. Please RSVP as soon as possible, since others from throughout our region are also interested in attending.

**WE NEED CHANTERS AND READERS!** As we prepare for our Lenten Services, which begin next week, those who have been sincerely trying to live an Orthodox Christian life-style as regular participants in the **Sacrament of Holy Confession** and would like to help with chanting some of the hymns of the church, or reading some of Scripture passages during the services are asked to see **Fr. Ted** or **Deacon Euthym**.



**ST. GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PARISH LENTEN RETREAT  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,**

**74-109 LARREA STREET, PALM DESERT, CA**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND - 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**(ST. GEORGE PARISH HALL)**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD - ORTHROS - 8:30 A.M. / DIVINE LITURGY - 9:30 A.M.**

**(ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH)**

**SPEAKER:**

**FR. PHILIP ZYMARIS, THD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LITURGICS**

**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX  
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

**CHURCH TOURS**

**Sat. April 2, 2022**

**12:30 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.**

**5:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

**"THE DIVINE LITURGY: THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN FLOURISHING"**

- "THE MEANING BEHIND THE LITURGICAL MOVEMENTS"
- "BECOMING CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM: THE PRAYERS, HYMNOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE AND ICONOGRAPHY THAT FORM US."

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**REGISTRATION: \$20 (INCLUDES LUNCH)**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**R.S.V.P BY: FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022**

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH. IN MEMO, WRITE: "PARISH RETREAT."**

ARIS  
SERVETALIS

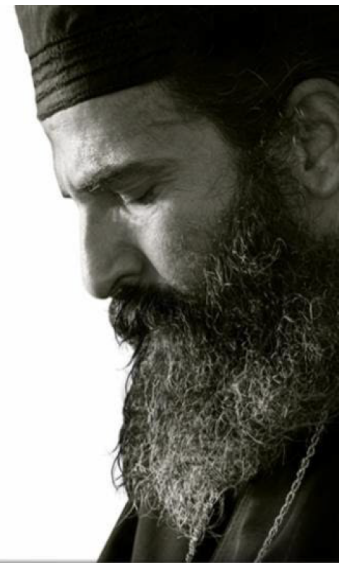
ALEXANDER  
PETROV

MICKEY  
ROURKE

# MAN OF GOD

IN SELECT MOVIE THEATRES  
MON. MARCH 21 ONLY

#MANOFGODTHEMOVIE



Coming to 800 theatres on March 21st as a one-night only

AHEPA 528 Chapter is organizing a group screening for the movie *Man of God*, which is scheduled to be shown in theaters on a one-time basis. The movie is an inspiring documentary about the life of our beloved St. Nektarios of Aigina, the Wonderworker. We are inviting all our St. George parishioners to become members of our group, joining together to see this movie at the Century Theater at the River on Monday, March 21, 2022. Showtime is 7:00 p.m.; we want to assemble as a group at the theater at 6:30 p.m.

WE BOOKED THE THEATRE SEATS AND SELLING TICKETS FOR  
**\$12.50 each seat**

*You will receive your ticket at time of purchase*

PLEASE JOIN AS GROUP TO CELEBRATE THIS MOVIE PREMIERE.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO *AHEPA CHAPTER 528*

## ***ABOUT MAN OF GOD***

Exiled unjustly, convicted without a trial and slandered without cause, St. Nektarios of Aegina's life was one of persecution and prosecution. A priest of the common people, St. Nektarios's popularity provoked the jealousy of the clergy in Alexandria and, as a result, he was defrocked and expelled from Egypt. In contrast to his religious "superiors", Nektarios cared for the poor, taught peasant girls to read and write, and performed miracles. Even his last moment on earth was used to help another: upon his death, Nektarios' undergarment was removed, and as it fell upon a paralyzed man in the hospital bed next to him, the lame man miraculously arose to walk. Nektarios was recognized as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1961, and his feast day is celebrated Nov. 9. The music for the film was composed by two-time French Cesar winner Zbigniew Preisner with special performance by Golden Globe winner Lisa Gerrard.

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*Announcements, continued:*

**ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT: SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022** -- This year's St. George Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at the Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert. As always, the awards banquet will feature the delicious Greek Dinner with all the trimmings. We thank God for the dedicated efforts of **George Argyros** and his committee for organizing this splendid event. Currently, we ask everyone to start in the efforts of assembling items for the silent auction that is to be featured at our golf tournament awards banquet. Bring items to our parish hall ... call Fr. Ted ahead of time to make sure someone is available to help bring your donated silent auction items into the parish hall. Registration forms for the golf tournament will be available the first part of next month.