

MARCH 20, 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

THE LADDER

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



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.

IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

As we heard from today's Gospel passage, the healing of the paralytic revealed the Divine Grace of Christ. His healing energies are uncreated powers of His Divine nature. The uncreated Grace of God is known as Divine Light, which revealed the Divine nature of Christ on Mt. Tabor. St. Gregory Palamas (whom we celebrate today), once said, *"The energies of God can be called light...In that God reveals Himself and makes Himself known through His energies ...He is Light, which pertains to the Age*

when we shall see God face to face." (*The Vision of God*, by Vladimir Lossky, pg. 130).

Prayer brings us closer to the Light of Christ. To have Christ dwelling in our minds is a continual effort, which St. Paul called, "the good fight." As such, this kind of spiritual effort is not popular today. Those who try to follow the Christian way of life regarding prayer, worship, and making good moral decisions, are often ridiculed for being "too holy." Especially our
Continued on page 2

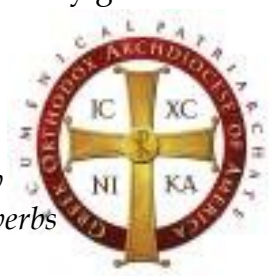
ANALYZING TODAY'S GOSPEL PASSAGE

As shown by the healing of the Paralytic, faith is an indispensable condition for salvation. Faith is collective as well as personal, for the faith of the paralytic's friends helped in his healing (vs. 2). Three signs of Jesus' divinity are shown: 1) He knows the secrets of hearts (1 Kings 16:7); 2) He forgives sins, a power which belongs to God alone; and 3) He heals by the power of His word.

Note that the purpose of Christ coming into the world is to forgive sins, freeing humanity from its bondage. Forgiving sins is a greater power than physical healing, for, as the scribes correctly noted, God alone can forgive sins (vs. 7). Therefore, the easier task (vs. 9) is to grant physical healing. Though Christ is fully God and holds the authority to forgive, He condescends to those gathered and heals this man in order to draw people to God, Whom they glorified." – See *Orthodox Study Bible*, pages 1283 and 1332

All of the miracles performed by our Savior inspired people to give glory to God.

Proverbs - "Do not despise the instruction of the Lord, neither grow weary of His reproof. For, whom the Lord loves, He instructs." (Proverbs 3:11-12)



Η θεραπεία του παραλυτικού καθώς ακουσαμεν απο την αναγωγή της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής, αποκάλυψε τη Θεία Χάρη του Χριστού. Οι θεραπευτικές Του ενέργειες είναι άκτιστες δυνάμεις της Θεϊκής Του φύσεως. Η άκτιστη Χάρη του Θεού είναι γνωστή ως το Θείο Φως, το οποίο αποκάλυψε τη Θεία φύση του Χριστού στο όρο Θαβώρ. Ο Αγ. Γρηγόριος ο Παλαμάς (τον οποίον εορταζουμεν σημερα), ειπε, «Οι ενέργειες του Θεού μπορούν να ονομαστούν Φως...Καθώς ο Θεός αποκαλύπτεται και γίνεται γνωστός μέσω των ενεργειών Του...Είναι Φως, που αφορά την Εποχή κατά την οποία θα δούμε τον Θεό κατά πρόσωπο.» (*Vision of God*, by Vladimir Lossky,σελ. 130).

Η προσευχή μας φέρνει κοντά στο Φως του Χριστού. Το να κατοικεί ο Χριστός στο μυαλό μας είναι μια συνεχής προσπάθεια, την οποία ο Αγ. Παύλος ονόμασε «ο καλός αγώνας». Ωστόσο, μια τέτοια προσπάθεια δεν είναι δημοφιλής σήμερα. Όσοι προσπαθούν να ακολουθήσουν τον Χριστιανικό τρόπο ζωής όσον αφορά την προσευχή, τη λατρεία και τη λήψη ηθικών αποφάσεων, συχνά γελοιοποιούνται ως «υπερβολικά άγιοι».

Μάλιστα, όσοι είναι άγιοι γνωρίζουν πλήρως τις ατέλειές τους σε σύγκριση με την τελειότητα του Θεού. Αυτή η επιγνώση είναι που τους κάνει ταπεινούς, αλλά και ευγνώμονες για την αγάπη του Θεού. Σε αυτήν την ευγνωμοσύνη η προσευχή είναι μια χαρούμενη προσωπική σχέση με τον Δημιουργό. Καθώς τιμούμε την μνήμη του Αγίου Γρηγορίου Παλαμά σήμερα, τον γνωρίζουμε ως τον πρωταθλητή της εσωτερικής προσευχής της καρδιάς.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

youth, who are in the process of defining their identity, are challenged in this regard -- trying to "fit in," when their devotion to Christ is often perceived by others as an obstacle to their livelihood.

In truth, those who are holy --i.e., the Saints -- are fully aware of their imperfections when compared to the perfection of God. This is why they are humble, yet joyfully grateful. As we commemorate St. Gregory Palamas today, we come to know him as the champion of sincere inner prayer of the heart. He would say that what prayer is for the soul, air is for the body. Such prayer can be described as an on-going awareness of the presence of Christ our God, influencing our attitudes; our moods; our motives, and our actions. This on-going awareness of the presence of Christ constitutes unceasing prayer, through which we participate in His uncreated energies which not only transform our personalities (making us Godlike), but which bring about miracles of healing and enlightenment, strengthening our love for God and neighbor, including our nearest neighbors who are our parents; our spouses and our children. Prayer and worship bring us into unity with the Divine energies of Christ. Unity with our Lord's energies is the foretaste of our salvation.

Truly, it is not too early to begin training our children to pray and to live the spiritual life of our Holy Church by bringing them to church every week and bringing the Church to them at all times by way of following up at home about their Sunday School lessons, as well as by discussing with them the purpose of prayer and our Orthodox Christian morality. In this way, this year's Lenten season can certainly prove to be a positive turning point in their lives.

+FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for **Martha "Josie" Desnoyers**, the beloved mother of **Martha Stithem** and **Frank & Jared Barboza**. She served as a dedicated member of our parish Philoptochos Chapter and also as one of our St. George Ushers and Greeters. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Martha "Josie" Desnoyers** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Martha Stithem** and **Frank & Jared Barboza**, as well as to all the members of the family. MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Today we will hold our parish **Spring General Assembly** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to the participation of all of our parish members who are up-to-date with their 2022 St. George Stewardship Pledge.

MAN OF GOD

Tomorrow is the showing of the movie, *Man of God* about the life of **St. Nectarios of Pentapolis**. Tickets are currently sold out. Those who have tickets are encouraged to be at the Century Theater at the River tomorrow evening around 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. showing.

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 1:10-14; 2:1-3

"In the beginning, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

GOSPEL - St. Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so

that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

WEEKDAY CALENDER

Monday, March 21st.The movie *Man of God* (the life of St. Nectarios of Pentapolis)--at the Century Theater at the River in Rancho Mirage - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22nd.....Bible Study - 10:00 p.m.
(Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86784450454?pwd=MFJQOVJKVjBTUFJoMnRQOVduenA4Zz09>)

Wednesday, March 23rd....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 24th.....Great Vespers - 6:30 p.m.

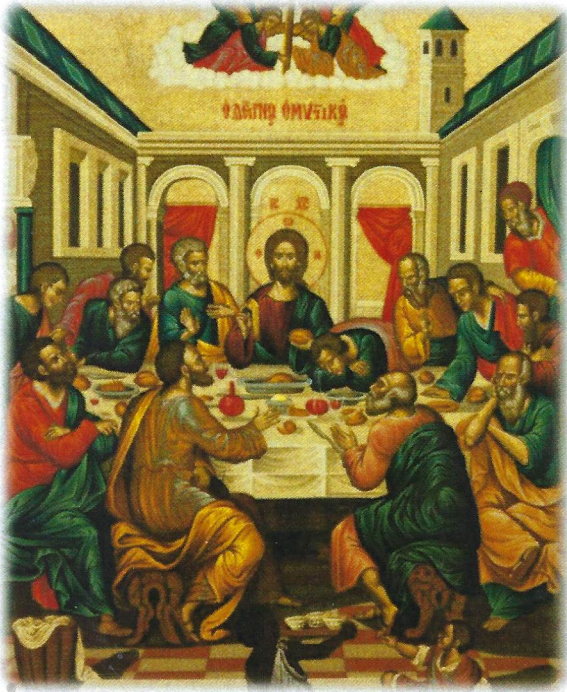
Friday, March 25th.....ANNUNCIATION TO THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. / Salutations (3rd Stanza) - 6:30 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS - Philoptochos General Meeting Mon., Mar. 28th, 11:30 am lunch, 12:00 pm meeting. Our guest speaker will be **David Ramirez, Operations Mgr. with The Narrow Door.**

CHANTERS & READERS - Many thanks to God for those who have volunteered to be readers for our Church Services throughout Lent. In addition, those who want to learn to chant the hymns of Orthros and other special services of the Church are encouraged to contact Fr. Ted. We thank God for the help of **Fr. Michael Pallad** of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Peoria, Arizona for creating CDs to help those who want to learn.

ST. GEORGE PARISH RETREAT- RSVP by Friday, March 25th to attend our parish retreat on April 2nd. See enclosed flier.

ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT -- Saturday, April 30,2022. Now is the time for golfers to register to participate in the tournament and for all of us to gather items for the silent auction.



**ST. GEORGE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
APRIL 2ND & 3RD, 2022**

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 -

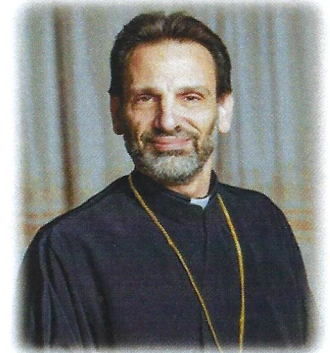
ORTHROS - 8:30 A.M./ DIVINE LITURGY - 9:30 A.M.

(St. George Greek Orthodox Church)

"THE DIVINE LITURGY: THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN FLOURISHING"

**SPEAKER: FR. PHILIP ZYMARIS, THD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LITURGICS
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

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



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

TO: PDSAINTEGEORGE@GMAIL.COM

760.568.9901 [HTTPS://WWW.GO-STGEORGE.ORG/](https://www.go-stgeorge.org/)

REGISTRATION: \$20 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

NAME _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

OR PAYPAL LINK BELOW

[HTTPS://WWW.PAYPAL.COM/CGI-BIN/WEBSOCR?CMD=_S-XCLICK&HOSTED_BUTTON_ID=MBEUBAVL2F66S](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MBEUBAVL2F66S)

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: IN MEMO, WRITE: "PARISH RETREAT."

MAILING ADDRESS:

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PO BOX 4755
PALM DESERT CA 92261

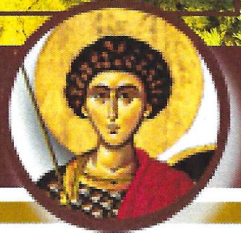


PAY BY PAYPAL WITH ABOVE QR



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 30, 2022 | 12:30 PM Shotgun Start | Desert Willow Golf Resort



ENTRY INFORMATION

Saturday, April 30, 2022

- \$185 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 12:30 PM Shotgun Start at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 5:00 PM Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00 PM Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

INDIVIDUALS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Individual Player(s) ___ (# of Players) x \$185 \$ _____

Tee Sponsorship(s) ___ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____

Traditional Greek Dinner ___ (# of Dinners) x \$45 \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAMES

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

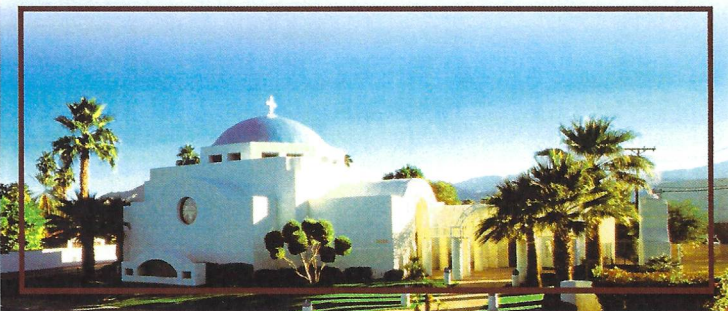
Sign up online at www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form to:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261



What We Need:

Canned

Soups;

Vegetables;

Rice;

Beans;

Peanut Butter



Food Pantry Donations

St. George Ladies Philoptochos

Donations To Benefit:

The Narrow Door, an Indio-based non-profit committed to helping families in need and the homeless.

When: March 28th - April 11th

Where: Parish Hall

*Meet David Ramirez, Operations Mgr. for the Narrow Door on 3/28/22 @12:00 pm, Guest Speaker Philoptochos General Mtg.

