

MAY 8, 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

THE HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN



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 ETERNAL NOW

The event at which the Myrrh-bearing Women went to anoint Jesus' Body at the tomb is itself a revelation about the reality in which each of us lives.

They certainly had a plan to go and anoint Jesus' Body. They prepared the ointments and they planned their timing. Their biggest worry was about the removal of the large stone that was placed over Jesus' tomb. Time and efforts to prepare the ointments and their

anxieties over how the large stone was to be moved were wasted. Our Lord had another plan. He was going to arise from the tomb alive, for He is the Author of Life. As many plans as we may have -- even our plans for serving God -- they are subject to change. God's plan supersedes ours -- and it is always a better plan.

It helps if we can see things from God's perspective of Eternity. We categorize our lives in terms of past, pre-
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STS. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA & NICODEMUS

Together with the Myrrhbearing Women today we celebrate the secret disciples of the Savior, Joseph and Nicodemus.

Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Saviour's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39).

Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).

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



Η περίπτωση κατά την οποία οι Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες επήγαν να χρίσουν το Σώμα του Ιησού στον τάφο είναι από μόνη της μια αποκάλυψη για την πραγματικότητα στην οποία ζει ο καθένας μας.

Το περιστατικό με τις Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες λέει κάτι για τις ατομικές μας ταυτότητες. Οι Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες ήταν «μυροφόρες» γυναίκες πριν να συναντήσουν τον Αναστημένο Κύριο. Μετά από αυτό, είναι οι Απόστολοι του Κυρίου, που εκήρυξαν την Ανάστασή Του. Και εμείς έχουμε την ταυτότητά μας σε αυτόν τον παροδικό κόσμο - πάντα αναρωτιόμεθα αν είμεθα «επιτυχημένοι» ή «αποτυχημένοι» ή «ισχυροί» ή «αδύνατοι». Στην πραγματικότητα, ωστόσο, αυτές οι «ταυτότητες» δεν έχουν καμία σχέση με το πώς μας ταυτίζει ο Θεός. Η αγάπη του Θεού για εμάς καθορίζει την ύπαρξή μας πέρα από τη γέννησή μας στον κόσμο και τον θάνατό μας όταν φεύγουμε από αυτόν τον κόσμο.

Για να παραθέσω τον Henri J.M. Nouwen: «Ακριβώς επειδή η αληθινή μας ταυτότητα έχει τις ρίζες της στην άνευ όρων, απεριόριστη αιώνια αγάπη [του Θεού], μπορούμε να ξεφύγουμε από τη θυματοποίηση από το «ρολόι» μας. Η ώρα του ρολογιού είναι ο χρόνος που έχουμε σε αυτόν τον κόσμο... Μπορεί να γίνει εμμονή, ειδικά όταν όλα αυτά που είμεθα συνδέονται με το ρολόι που συνεχίζει να χτυπά... Από την άποψη του Θεού, ο χρόνος του ρολογιού μας είναι ενσωματωμένος στη διαχρονική αγκαλιά του Θεού...» (Here and Now, [Kindle Edition]). Αυτή η διαχρονικότητα της αγάπης του Χριστού του Θεού μας είναι το Αιώνιο Παρόν της Αναστάσεώς Του. Σήμερα, πράγματι, είναι η ημέρα της σωτηρίας -- όπως σημειώνει ο Άγιος Παύλος (Β' Κορινθίους 6:2). +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

sent, and future. We have misgivings over the past and we have anxieties over the future -- and too often we forget that life is to be lived in the present. It is only in the present that we can repent of past sins; it is only in the present that we can express gratitude. What we do in our present moment has much to do with our Eternal Life.

This event involving the Myrrhbearing Women says something about our individual identities. The Myrrhbearing Women *were* "myrrhbearing" women before encountering the Risen Lord. After that, they *are* Apostles, who proclaimed the Resurrection. We too have our identities in this transient world - we are always wondering if we are "successful," or "failures," or, "powerful" or "weak." In truth, however, these "identities" have nothing to do with how we are identified by God. God's love for us defines our personhood as much more than being born into the world and, then, departing from it.

To quote Henri J.M. Nouwen: "*Precisely because our true identity is rooted in the unconditional, unlimited everlasting love [of God], we can escape being victimized by our 'clock-time.'* Clock-time is the time we have in this world...[It] can become an obsession, especially when all that we are is connected with the clock that keeps ticking...Looked upon from God's perspective, our clock-time is embedded in the timeless embrace of God..." (Here and Now, [Kindle Edition]). This timelessness of the love of Christ our God is the Eternal Now of His Resurrection. Now, indeed, is the day of salvation -- as noted by St. Paul (2 Corinthians 6:2). +FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of **Alexander Papadopoulos (1 year)**, the beloved son of **Dina Paplos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Arisen from the dead, grant Eternal life to **Alexander Papadopoulos**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Dina Paplos** and the entire family. MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

PHILOPTOCHOS - General Members Meeting, tomorrow, May 9th at Shields Date Garden Restaurant at Hwy. 111 in Indio - 11:30 a.m. Also, **Saturday, May 21st**...helpers are needed to box food for the hungry at the **Narrow Door Outreach facility**. For details, sign-up and contact Philoptochos President, **Rhonda Latkovic**.

AHEPA - The **May 2022 AHEPA 528 meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m.** A Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot physically attend. A chili supper will be served for those in attendance. Please RSVP. **AHEPA Sunday: Sunday, May 22, 2022**... a special program in our parish hall for college students receiving awards from the **AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund**.

We are grateful to God for the members of our AHEPA 528 Chapter honoring the women of our parish by presenting them flowers for this Sunday -- Mothers Day.

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 John 1:1-7

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

GOSPEL - St. Mark 15:43 - 16:8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and sum-

moning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

GOLF TOURNAMENT -- Our Golf Committee Chairman, **George Argyros**, expresses his sincere gratitude to all who helped and participated in making our 2022 St. George Golf Tournament a great success!

Items left over from the Golf Tournament are available in our parish hall today for purchase:

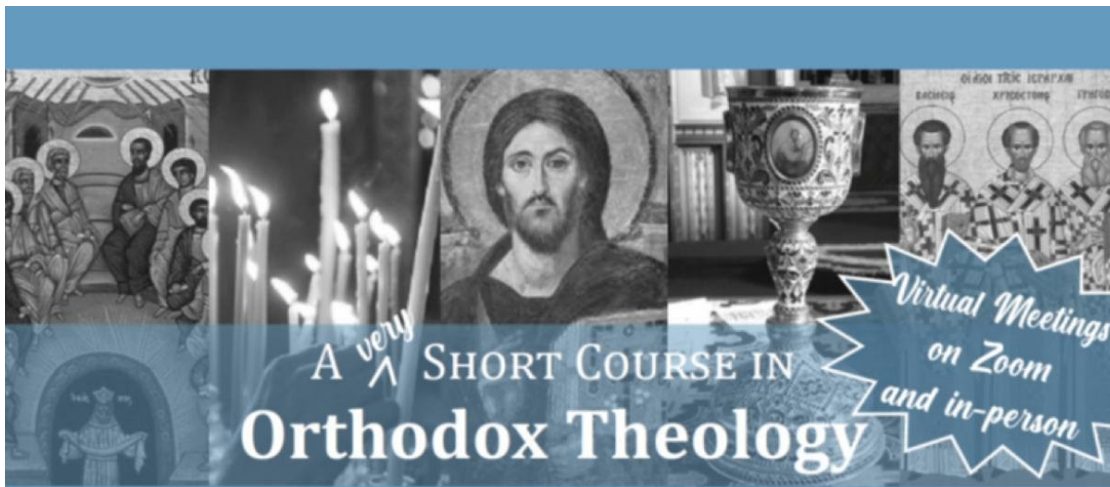
- Ouzo.....\$20 per bottle
- Olive Oil.....\$20 per can
- Wine (red and white).....\$15 per bottle

FR. TED TO BE AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS --- Fr. Ted has received the blessings of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos to take a few days vacation time this month.

He will be traveling to Charlotte, North Carolina **from Sunday evening, May 8th** to be with his grandchildren, and he **will return on May 19th**. On **Tuesday, May 24th**, he will travel to Sacramento for the High School graduation ceremony of his grandson, Vasilios Antonopoulos, and he will **return on Saturday, May 28th**.

Fr. Simeon Poptelecan will celebrate the Divine Liturgy here at St. George on **Sunday, May 15th**. **Fr. Ted** will be celebrating the **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Constantine & Helen on Saturday, May 21st**, as well as on **Sunday, May 22nd and May 29th**, and beyond.

In case of emergency, contact **Fr. David Kruse of the St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox** parish in Thousand Palms at: **(760) 408-6116**, or **Deacon Euthym**.



6 weeks beginning
WEDNESDAY
MAY 11
2022
7:00-9:00 PM
IN-PERSON
AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

The above flyer is an invitation to one and all to learn more about our precious Orthodox Christian Faith. To acquire more information and a link for online participation in this valuable 6-week course, contact our Holy Metropolis of San Francisco at: metropolis@sanfran.goarch.org, or call: (415) 753-3075. Registration online is available at: www.sanfran.goarch.org.