



AUGUST 27, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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74-109 Larrea Street
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Tel: (760) 568-9901
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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—1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Liturgical Notes for Today

1. Entrance with the Holy Gospel: *“Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord, by his Mighty Arm, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death, and become the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy.”*/Ευφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια...
2. *“Since you are a deliverer of captives...”* [Hymn of St. George]/Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ελευθερωτῆς...
3. **Kontakion:** *“In Your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of corruption and death. And so Your people, free of guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: ‘The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, Who nourishes our life.’”*/Ἰωακείμ καὶ Ἀννα ονειδιομοῦ...

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

The words “humility” and “pride,” as I understand it, can only be defined in the context of God’s presence. Today’s Gospel passage reminds us, *“With God, all things are possible.”* (St. Matthew 19:26). I find myself too often offering excuses for my mistakes, but not often enough giving thanks to God for helping me do things right. This shows a lack of humility. “Humility” is defined in Orthodox Christian terms as, “Without God, we can do nothing.” “Pride” is defined in these terms as, “Without God, we can do anything.”

When we talk about what we can and cannot do, we have to mean doing things that are *good*, because God is good. God does not help us to do evil, because God did not create evil. When the saints of our Church defined “evil,” they defined it as a “nothing,” because evil destroys things and brings about nothing. Thus, what we create without God leads ultimately to nothing. We talk about our pride in technology, for example, but where is it leading? There is speculation that artificial intelligence may rule the world. Like Nebuchadnezzar's statue, which he created in his own image and forced people to worship it, are we not on the verge of worshipping our technology, which we create in our own image? Without the Wisdom of God, where will our technology lead us? To destruction? To oppression?

An image of humility is found in the Person of Christ, Who humbled Himself for our salvation. Another image is in the person of St. Paul, who, being aware of his sins, considered himself to be the least of the Apostles – the least among the followers of Christ. Like St. Paul, let us be aware of our own faults, and humbly thank God for all things good, for without God, we have nothing. +FR. THEODORE

Οι λέξεις «ταπεινοφροσύνη» και «υπερηφάνεια», ὅπως το καταλαβαίνω, μποροῦν να ορισθοῦν μόνο στο πλαίσιο της παρουσίας του Θεοῦ. Η σημερινή περικοπή του Ευαγγελίου μας υπενθυμίζει: «Με τον Θεό, ὅλα εἶναι δυνατά». (Αγ. Ματθαῖος 19:26). Εὐρίσκομαι πολύ συχνά να προσφέρω δικαιολογίες για τα λάθη μου, ἀλλὰ ὄχι αρκετά συχνά για να ευχαριστήσω τον Θεό ὅταν με βοηθᾷ να κάνω τα πράγματα σωστά. Αυτό δείχνει ἔλλειψη ταπεινοφροσύνης. Η «ταπεινοφροσύνη» ὀρίζεται σύμφωνα με τους Ἐλληνορθόδοξους ὀρους ὡς «Χωρίς Θεό, δεν μποροῦμε να κάνουμε τίποτα». Η «υπερηφάνεια» ὀρίζεται με αὐτούς τους ὀρους ὡς, «Χωρίς Θεό, μποροῦμε να κάνουμε τα πάντα».

Ὅταν ομιλοῦμε για το τι μποροῦμε και τι δεν μποροῦμε να κάνουμε, εννοοῦμε το να κάνουμε καλό, γιατί ο Θεός εἶναι καλός. Ο Θεός δεν μας βοηθᾷ να κάνουμε το κακό, γιατί ο Θεός δεν εδημιούργησε το κακό. Ὅταν οἱ ἅγιοι της Ἐκκλησίας μας ὀρισαν το «κακό», το ὀρισαν ὡς «το τίποτα», γιατί το κακό καταστρέφει και δεν ἐπιφέρει τίποτα. Ἐτσι, αὐτό που δημιουργοῦμε χωρίς Θεό δεν ὀδηγεῖ πουθενά – δηλαδή στο τίποτα. Μιλάμε για την υπερηφάνια μας που ἔχουμε την τεχνολογία μας, για παράδειγμα, ἀλλὰ πού ὀδηγεῖ; Υπάρχουν κάποιες σκέψεις ὅτι η *τεχνητή νοημοσύνη* θα κυβερνήσει τον κόσμο. Ὅπως το ἄγαλμα του Ναβουχοδονόσορα, το ὀποῖο εδημιούργησε κατα την εἰκόνα του και ἀνάγκασε τους ἀνθρώπους να το προσκυνήσουν, δεν εἴμεθα στα πρόθυρα να λατρέψουμε την τεχνολογία μας, την ὀποῖα δημιουργοῦμε κατα την εἰκόνα μας; Χωρίς τη Σοφία του Θεοῦ, πού θα μας ὀδηγήσει η τεχνολογία μας; Στην καταστροφή; Στην καταπίεση και σκλαβιά;

Συνέχεια στην ἐπόμενη σελίδα – – – >

Μια εικόνα ταπεινοφροσύνης ευρίσκεται στο Πρόσωπο του Χριστού, που εταπεινώσε τον εαυτό Του για τη σωτηρία μας. Μια άλλη εικόνα είναι το πρόσωπο του Αγίου Παύλου, ο οποίος, έχοντας επίγνωση των αμαρτιών του, εθεωρούσε πως ήταν ο ελάχιστος ανά μεταξύ των Αποστόλων – ο ελάχιστος ανά μεταξύ των οπαδών του Χριστού. Ας μιμηθούμε τον Άγιο Παύλο. Ας έχουμε επίγνωση περί των δικών μας ελαττωμάτων και, με ταπεινοφροσύνη, ας ευχαριστήσουμε τον Θεό για όλα τα αγαθά, γιατί χωρίς τον Θεό δεν υπάρχει τίποτα. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **William George Barringer (3 years)**, the beloved husband of **Louise Dobbs Barringer**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **William George Barringer** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Louise Dobbs Barringer**. MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, August 29th.....BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Fasting day)
Orthros- 8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./ Bible Study-11:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is “just around the corner!” We look forward to welcoming our Sunday School parents and students on Sunday, September 10, 2023. See attached “Sunday School Supplement.”
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** – The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Chapter has donated **\$500.00** to the **Greek Orthodox Mission on Maui, Hawaii**. The Maui WildFire Relief Fund donation will assist Orthodox families on Maui who suffered loss.
- **AHEPA** – Post **Saturday, September 30, 2023** on your calendars and plan to attend the **AHEPA “Dinner Night Out”** celebrating the New Ecclesiastical Year, which begins every year on September 1st. See enclosed flyer. Proceeds to benefit AHEPA scholarships and philanthropic efforts.
- **ST. GEORGE “BELL ACROSS AMERICA EVENT”** – On **Sunday, September 17th**, we will mark the 236th anniversary of the Signing of the United States Constitution which is commemorated annually by the **“Ringing of the Bells” across America at 1:00 PM (PST)**. Our St. George Church was chosen and agreed to be the location for this bell ringing event sponsored by the **Daughters of the American Revolution** local Cahuilla Chapter, of which two of our St. George parishioners are members! We invite our St. George family to participate! See the attached flyer!
- **OCTOBER SPIRITUAL RENEWAL** – The following is being scheduled during the month of October this year, along with our weekly Bible Study group meetings held on every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. (unless otherwise posted):
 1. **Wednesday evening Bible Study**, with commentary related to Orthodox worship– Every Wednesday evening, beginning on **October 11th, at 6:30 p.m. (in-person and on Zoom)**.
 2. **Re-Imagine Orthodoxy** – Question and Answer format on basic Orthodox Christian teachings and liturgical life at 10:00 a.m.– 12 noon (in-person and on Zoom) on Saturdays, **October 7th, November 11th, and December 2nd**. – Topics will be: “Orthodox Teaching regarding the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ our God’ and ‘Life after Death’” (October 7th); “Worship: Orthodox Hymns, Icons and Readings” (November 11th); “Parish Ministries” (December 2nd).
 3. **St. George Fall Spiritual Retreat - Saturday, October 28th**. Fr. Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church in Riverside, California, and founder of Patristic Nectar Publications will be our speaker on the theme, “*The Theotokos, Mother of the Light*.” It will be a two-part presentation: 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Luncheon will be provided. Q and A to follow at 2:30 p.m. Plan to join us! See enclosed flyer!



**“THE
THEOTOKOS,
THE MOTHER
OF THE LIGHT”**



Father Josiah Trenham is the Pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church, Riverside, California and he is the founder and director of Patristic Nectar Publications.

**ST. GEORGE
FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT
Saturday, October 28, 2023
Father Josiah Trenham, Guest Speaker
10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260
At will donation: \$15.00 (Lunch included)**

R.S.V. P. to: St. George Fall Spiritual Retreat:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea St.

Palm Desert, California 92260

Telephone; (760) 568-9901/ email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Or, contact Fr. Theodore Pantels, pastor, St. George Greek Orthodox Church:
Telephone: (760) 880-5869

ST GEORGE'S 2023-2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL THEME



**“GROWING
TOGETHER
IN CHRIST”**

**“I am the vine, you are the
branches. He who abides in Me,
and I in him, bears much fruit; for
without Me you can do nothing.”**

John 15:5

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
RESUMES ON
SEPTEMBER 10TH**



REGISTER YOUR CHILD

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES. CALL OR TEXT EITHER

Fr Ted Pantels 760-880-5869 or Mrs. Athena Snarskis 219-313-6940



**Don't worry about anything.
Instead pray about everything.
Tell God what you need.
And thank him for all He has done.
Amen. - Philippians 4:6**



**"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
- Matthew 19:14**

Welcome Back Sunday School Families!

SEPTEMBER 10th - Sunday School Class resumes today!

EACH STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL TAKE HOME GIFT TODAY!

Join us in welcoming back our Sunday School students and their families to an exciting year we have planned with our 2023-2024 theme **“GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST”**. Our relationships with our family, friends and communities are important to our mental and physical health, but, even more so is our spiritual health. Through the many examples in the bible and of our saints we begin to experience and understand from right and wrong and that forgiveness is in the light of God’s love. Our prayer life starts growing and we start showing others love and respect and loving God unconditionally.

SEPTEMBER 17TH - Sunday School Outreach Project for Homeless after the Divine Liturgy. Also we will be celebrating American Veterans Constitution day with Philoptochos.

SEPTEMBER 24TH and OCTOBER 1ST - FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY (CLASSES NOT HELD)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SESSIONS - Will be held once a month, as last year. We’ve dedicated a set schedule of the 2nd Sunday of each month in hopes to provide families opportunities to plan and grow in their commitment to not only Sunday school but also church attendance along side their other family activities. Much planning from our volunteer teachers goes into preparing to assure each student has proper books, lessons, activity supplies and even the amount of food when lunch is provided.

OUTREACH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES -We’ve added another Sunday each month, that will vary, so we can actively participate, grow, experience and discover ways to use our talents and passions to help disciple others in God’s faith, hope and love for all. We’ve been participating with our St George Philoptochos in their many community initiatives, on a local and national level. Last year we packaged many Hygiene kits, wrote personalized cards for each bag with messages of God’s love and our prayers for them; folded over 400 pairs of socks and helped at THE NARROW DOOR to sort and package donated food items that is distributed to those families in need in the Coachella Valley.

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY – Other Sundays of the month where classes are not held. This provides families the opportunity to plan and attend the Divine Liturgy, maybe even bring a friend, and come, see and learn with all your senses and prepare your heart, mind and body to receive the Holy Eucharist. We have a few varieties of children Divine Liturgy books if you are interested let us know.

MEET OUR TEACHERS – Each month we will highlight one of our volunteers. We have two classrooms and two small groups. Our roster has 27 students and 16 families.

Returning this year for Preschool – 2nd grade is **Alexandra Pappas and Angela Tsiamagos** who answered our prayers last year and volunteered to teach. The children enjoy their enthusiasm, story telling and both have the sweetest voice! We are blessed to have you both!

Elementary to High School group (yes that’s a big range in age, but it works for now) we are so blessed to have **Presb. Petula Pantels** helping our students and families. She has been my right hand in planning lessons, ordering supplies, lunch setup, cleanup etc. The children love her knowledge especially of the bible, the saints and is always eager to help out anywhere! **Julia Hays and Emily Kayalogou** are a tremendous gift to our class group in energetically keeping the lessons and projects in order and moving along while encouraging discussions. Much needed for this age group! We are blessed to have you also!

NOTE: Due to Archdiocese Youth Protection Policies, anyone who has not had a background check or completed the online training...may not go into the classroom and interact with the children, However, if you would like to complete the training (takes about one hour), please contact Fr Ted or myself, Athena Snarskis. Once you complete the training, the Archdiocese notifies us, and you will be able to remain in the classroom and assist the teacher (s) as needed.

God Bless!

Mrs. Athena Snarskis, Sunday School Coordinator

If you ever have any ideas, suggestions or are interested in becoming a volunteer for our Sunday School program please let us know. Contact Fr Ted Pantels at 760-880-5869 or Mrs. Athena Snarskis, Sunday School Coordinator at 219-313-6940. -

**"I am the vine, you are the
branches. He who abides in
Me, and I in him, bears much
fruit; for without Me you
can do nothing."**

John 15:5

Bells Across America Event!



*You're invited to help us celebrate the 236th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution!
Please join us in the annual Bells Across America bell ringing event to kick off Constitution Week on Sunday, September 17th, 1:00 PM!*

Refreshments and light snacks will be served after the bell ringing!

Location:

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74109 Larrea St.
Palm Desert, CA*



Bell Tower



SEPTEMBER 30th 2023

DINNER



Night Out

AHEPA Chapter 528 invites you

Please, join us for a dinner night out
cooked by your local AHEPA Chapter 528 brothers.
Vegetarian Yemista with traditional sides
Donation of \$25.00 requested, beer and wine available
At St. George Church, Palm Desert, CA. Seating at 5:30pm



\$25

ahepa528.org

RSVP at contact@ahepa28.org / Bill Rellos Chair; 818.371.7995
Chapter 528 President, Wynn Storton; 760.832.2825

All proceeds benefit AHEPA Scholarships and Philanthropic projects