



JANUARY 8, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT  
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Palm Desert, California 92260  
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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 --Ephesians 4:7-13**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**GOSPEL-- St. Matthew 4:12-17**

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY (THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD) --** This is the **Sunday After the Feast of Theophany.** John the Forerunner, who had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God to preach the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then, our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan to receive baptism, although He was the Master and John was but a servant. The Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a Dove, and the Voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that our Savior is the beloved Son of God. The Gospel passages describing this event are: St. Matthew 3:13-17; St. Mark 1:9-11; St. Luke 3:1-22). From this event the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity is revealed. Our Church gives us these words, reminding us of our enlightenment through Christ our God: *"You appeared to the world today, and ...You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."* -- Taken in part from: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



## Liturgical Notes for Today

Entrance with the Gospel:

- 1) **Entrance Hymn:** "O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will, He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection;" / Τον συναναρχον Λογον.
- 2) "Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved Son, and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You Christ our God, Who appeared and enlightened the world." / Εν Ιορδανη βαπτιζομενου...
- 3) **Hymn of St. George:** "Since You are a deliverer of captives..." / Ως των αιχμαλωτων ελευθερωτης...
- 4) **Kontakion Hymn:** "Today You appeared to the world, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us as in fuller understanding we sing to You: 'You came; You were made manifest, the unapproachable Light.' / 'Επεφάνης σήμερα..."

### BAPTISM & REPENTANCE: OUR RE-CREATION BY GOD

The Holy Trinity appeared when our Savior was baptized by St. John. The Father appeared through the Voice, saying, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased." (St. Matthew 3:17); the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a Dove, and Christ is God in the flesh. In the Book of Genesis, we know how God created us. We read: "And God said, 'Let Us make Man in Our Image, according to Our likeness.'" (vs. 26). Metropolitan Ierotheos of Nafpaktos notes, "Since the work of the Triune God is done in common, this is why the Holy Trinity participated in the creation of the human race." (The Major Feast Days of the Lord, pg. 113).

Holy Baptism is also the work of our Triune God. It is our *re-creation* – God's gift to us. Our *repentance* is our thanksgiving to God. Repentance begins with a *decision* to love God with all our soul. Beyond the decision, there is the *commitment* to do all that we possibly can to give glory to God in all that we think, do and say. The strength of our commitment is founded upon our *patience and faith* in God. Patience with others, as well as with ourselves, is an act of faith that in the fact that, in God's own way, "all things will work for the good to those who love the Lord." (Romans 8:28).

Let us never give up in efforts to repent of sins out of feelings of despair for our salvation! Such feelings are tricks of the devil. Psalm 114 holds a prophesy of Baptism, saying, "The Waters saw Thee, Lord, and they were afraid," and we exclaim, "The Jordan turned back!" These waters also represent our tears of repentance. As such, they are tears of love in the Grace of the Holy Spirit, as our Savior calls us to join Him in the heavenly life even while living in this present life, for He said, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (St. Matthew 4:17) +FR.THEODORE

Η Αγία Τριάδα εμφανίστηκε όταν ο Χριστός εβαφτίσθηκε υπό Ιωάννου του Βαπτιστού. Ο Πατήρ εμφανίστηκε μέσω της Εξ-Ουρανού Φωνής, λέγοντας: «Ούτος ἐστίν ὁ Υἱός Μου ὁ Αγαπητός ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα». (Ματθ. 3:17) -- τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα ἐφανίθη με τὴ μορφή Περιστεριῶν, καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς εἶναι ὁ Θεὸς κατὰ τὴ Σάρκα. Στὸ Βιβλίο τῆς Γένεσεως, γνωρίζουμε τὸν τρόπο με τὸν ὁποῖο μας ἐδημιούργησε ὁ Θεός. Διαβάζουμε τὰ λόγια τοῦ Θεοῦ: «Ποιήσομεν ἄνθρωπον κατ' εἰκόνα ἡμῶν, καθ' ὁμοίωσιν ἡμῶν.» (Γεν.1:26). Ὁ Μητροπολίτης Ναυπάκτου Ἱερόθεος σημειώνει: «Ἐφόσον τὸ ἔργο τοῦ Τριαδικοῦ Θεοῦ γίνεται ἀπό κοινού, γι' αὐτὸ ἐσυμμετεῖχε ἡ Αγία Τριάδα στὴ δημιουργία τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους». (Οἱ Δεσποτικὲς Ἑορτές, σελ. 113).

Τὸ Ἅγιο Βάπτισμα εἶναι ἐπίσης ἔργο τοῦ Τριαδικοῦ Θεοῦ μας. Εἶναι ἡ ἀναδημιουργία μας - τὸ δῶρο τοῦ Θεοῦ σὲ εἰς. Ἡ μετάνοιά μας εἶναι ἡ εὐχαριστία μας πρὸς τὸν Θεό. Ἡ μετάνοια ξεκινᾷ με τὴν ἀπόφαση νὰ ἀγαπήσουμε τὸν Θεὸ με ὅλη μας τὴν ψυχὴ. Πέρα ἀπὸ τὴν ἀπόφαση, ὑπάρχει ἡ δέσμευση νὰ κάνουμε ὅ,τι μπορούμε γιὰ νὰ δοξάσουμε τὸν Θεό. Ἡ ἀποφασιστικότητά τῆς δέσμευσεως μας βασιζέται στὴν ὑπομονή καὶ τὴν πίστη μας στὸν Θεό. Ἡ ὑπομονή με τοὺς ἄλλους, καθὼς καὶ με τὸν εαυτὸν μας,

Συνέχεια στὴν ἐπόμενη σελίδα - - ->



είναι μια πράξη πίστεως στην πραγματικότητα ότι, με τον τρόπο του Θεού, «*Τα πάντα συνεργούσι προς το αγαθόν εις τους αγαπώντας τον Θεόν*». (Ρωμ. 8:28).

Ας μην απελπιζόμαστε ποτέ για τη σωτηρία μας. Τέτοια συναισθήματα είναι τα κόλπα του διαβόλου. Ο Ψαλμός 114 προσφέρει μια προφητεία περι του βαπτισματος: «*Είδοσαν Σε, ο Θεός, και εφοβήθησαν, και εκφωνούμεν, «Ο Ιορδάνης εστράφη προς τα οπίσω!*» Αυτά τα ύδατα αντιπροσωπεύουν επίσης τα δάκρυά μας της μετάνοιας. Ως εκ τούτου, είναι δάκρυα αγάπης στη Χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος, καθώς ο Χριστός μας καλεί να είμεθα ενωμένοι μαζί Του στην επουράνιον ζωή ακόμη και που ζούμε σε αυτήν την παρούσαν ζωή, γιατί είπε: «*Μετανοείτε, ήγγικεν γαρ η Βασιλεία των Ουρανών*.» (Ματθ. 4:17). +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

**MEMORIAL** - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Theresa Ayanopolis (40 days)**, beloved mother of **Brenda Curreri**. **Theresa Ayanopolis** is one of the founding members of our St. George parish and she is a long-standing member of our St. George Philoptochos Chapter. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Theresa Ayanopolis** and may He grant peace and comfort to her entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

#### **WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Monday, January 9th.....Festival preparations continue - 9:00 a.m. (throughout the week)

Tuesday, January 10th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m. / AHEPA Meeting-6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 12th.....Parish Council - 2:00 p.m.

#### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THEOPHANY, HOLY WATER, AND HOUSE BLESSINGS** - Holy Theophany (Baptism of our Lord in the River Jordan) was observed on Friday, January 6, 2023, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, followed by the **Service of the Great Blessing of the Waters**. On the eve of Theophany, January 5, 2023, we celebrated the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, also followed by the **Service of the Great Blessing of the Waters**. Therefore, on both days, **Holy Water** was offered to all of our faithful in attendance. In addition, our **St. George parishioners** are encouraged have their **homes blessed with Holy Water** throughout the month of January 2023. Please feel free to call Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 to make an appointment.

**VASILOPITA** - Today's Vasilopita celebration will be held in our parish hall following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, with His Grace, Bishop Spyridon officiating. His Grace, along with Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym share prayers of thanksgiving to God for our dynamic **St. George Philoptochos Chapter** and the tremendous work of philanthropy that our Philoptochos members offer to the local community and to our Archdiocese, Metropolis and parish ministries. Today's **Vasilopita** is held as a prayer in asking everyone to support our sacred Archdiocese institution of **St. Basil's Academy**, which is one of the many ministries of our **National Philoptochos Society**.

**GREEK FESTIVAL** – Special thanks to all who came forward to help make the domades for the Festival this past week! With everyone's help this past week, the quota for our Festival dolmades was reached successfully...again: **many thanks and many blessings!** **Let's all continue to come together for the success of our 2023 Festival!** Also... our 2023 Festival will feature "**Yiayia's Attic!**" Everyone is asked to bring items in good order for "**Yiayia's Attic**" to our parish hall throughout the weeks ahead. Call (760) 568-9901 to arrange for drop-offs....Preparations for the 2023 Festival continue tomorrow, January 9th at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is needed in the effort of preparing the **tyropites**. In addition, for those who will be chairing a festival booth, please see the enclosed **Festival Clover Money Register** information!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL-- 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** - Please note that the next **General Members Philoptochos Meeting** will take place a week from tomorrow, **Monday, January 16th!**

**PARISH COUNCIL** -- We just received notice from our **Holy Metropolis of San Francisco** that our **Parish Elections were ratified!** Therefore, the **Oath of Office for 2023** will be given next Sunday following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

**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.**

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## ST. GEORGE FESTIVAL MONEY REGISTER TRAINING



### St George Festival Register Training Begins –

The 2023 St George Festival will accept **Credit / Debit Cards only** for payment to improve transactional efficiency, eliminate manual bookkeeping and reduce the security concerns related to handling large amounts of cash.

We will be utilizing **CLOVER Electronic Registers to process all transactions.** These registers are like today's smartphones – **ICON driven and intuitive** after a short training session. I highly recommend **Chairman and Cashiers attend at least 1 Hands On class** to be comfortable with the new machines. **See or contact Nick Latkovic with questions – 760-455-9727 or stgeorgeoffice7@gmail.com**

As with any new technology, there will be questions during the festival. We will have a roaming "Help Desk" team to assist cashiers with questions during the hours of operation.

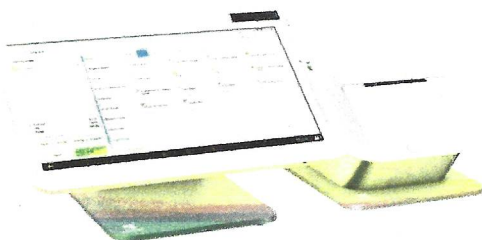
There will be regular updates in The Ladder regarding this system. Training Sessions for the Festival CLOVER Cashless Register users will occur in the church hall on the following days:

**Monday 1/9/23 @ 6:30 PM – This session will be for the training and assist team**

**Monday 1/23/23 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules**

**Monday 2/06/23 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules**

**Monday 2/13/23 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules**







*Join AHEPA Chapter 528  
for a Greek Island Dinner*



**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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 /*

**Desert  
Willow  
Golf Resort**