



JANUARY 29, 2023

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

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 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 - 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

ST. IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER – Today, we commemorate Saint Ignatius was a disciple of Saint John the Theologian, and a successor of the Apostles, and he became the second Bishop of Antioch, after Evodus. He wrote many epistles to the faithful, strengthening them in their confession, and preserving for us the teachings of the holy Apostles. Brought to Rome under Trajan, he was surrendered to lions to be eaten, and so finished the course of martyrdom about the year 107. He is called God-bearer, as one who bare God within himself and was aflame in heart with love for Him. Therefore, in his Epistle to the Romans (ch. 4), imploring their love not to attempt to deliver him from his longed-for martyrdom, he said, *"I am the wheat of God, and am ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found to be the pure bread of God."* -Taken from:www.goarch.org

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel:

- 1) **Entrance hymn:** "O Merciful One, You came from on high, and condescended to Your three-day burial to save us from passions. You are our life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory to You." / Εξ ὕψους κατήλθες...
- 2) "In the manner of the Apostles, and as successor to their thrones, God-inspired One, you deemed action above contemplation. Thus, rightly teaching the word of truth, you contented in faith to a bloody end, Priest-Martyr Ignatius. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved." / Και τροπων μετοχος...
- 3) "Since you are a deliverer of captives..." [Hymn of St. George] / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...
- 4) **Kontakion:** "Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and fittingly blessed the hands of Symeon. You have now come and saved us O Christ, our God. In troubled times, as the only loving One, give peace to Your commonwealth and strength to those in civil authority, whom You love." / Ο μήτραν παρθενικὴν αγιάσας...

THE PURPOSE OF HEALTH

Today's Gospel passage is also read during the performance of Holy Unction. Through the meeting between Christ and the Canaanite Woman, we learn that the purpose of our lives is to glorify our Savior with thanksgiving by having our faith in Him as we pray for one another because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, in addition to the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Sacrament of Holy Unction is performed as a community together with the other believers among us for the health of our souls and bodies.

Christ praised the woman's faith, thus showing that our faith in God is not a private matter. If our faith is strong, not only are we a source of strength and support for others, but, through our faith, others are inspired to build for themselves a stronger faith in God, glorifying God in all things.

Strong faith in God creates a prayerful lifestyle. The Canaanite Woman of today's Gospel passage never stopped praying. She teaches us that prayer is defined as a personal, ongoing relationship with Christ. Our prayer, combined with God's grace, yields every good gift from above. Indeed, our purpose - and the purpose of our health - is to be co-workers with God. St. John Chrysostom reminds us that we should not worry that maybe we are not worthy to pray...we become worthy because of our strong faith and persistent lifestyle of constant prayer.

+FR. THEODORE

Κατά τη εκτέλεσην του Μυστηρίου του Ευχελαίου, διαβάζεται επίσης και η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή. Δια μέσου της συναντήσεως μεταξύ του Χριστού και της Χαναανίας, μαθαίνουμε ότι ο σκοπός της ζωής μας είναι να δοξάσουμε τον Σωτήρα μας με ευχαριστία έχοντας την πίστη μας σε Αυτόν καθώς προσευχόμεθα ο ένας για τον άλλον, επειδή είμεθα αδελφοί εν Χριστώ. Ως εκ τούτου, εκτός από το Μυστήριο της Θείας Κοινωνίας, το Μυστήριο του Ευχελαίου τελείται ως κοινότητα μαζί με τους άλλους πιστούς ανάμεσά μας υπέρ υγείας των ψυχών και των σωμάτων ημών.

Ο Χριστός επαίνεσε την πίστη της Χαναανίας, δείχνοντας έτσι ότι η πίστη μας στον Θεό δεν είναι προσωπική υπόθεση. Εάν η πίστη μας είναι ισχυρή, όχι μόνο είμεθα πηγή δυνάμεως και υποστηρίξεως για άλλους, αλλά, μέσω της πίστεώς μας, οι άλλοι εμπνέονται ώστε για να οικοδομήσουν για τον εαυτό τους μία ισχυρότερη πίστη στον Θεό, δοξάζοντας τον Θεό σε όλα.

Η ισχυρή πίστη στον Θεό δημιουργεί έναν προσευχητικό τρόπο ζωής. Η Χαναανία της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής δεν εσταμάτησε ποτέ να προσεύχεται. Μας διδάσκει ότι η προσευχή ορίζεται ως μια προσωπική, διαρκής σχέση με τον Χριστό. Η προσευχή μας, σε συνδυασμό με τη χάρη του Θεού, αποδίδει κάθε καλό δώρο άνωθεν. Πράγματι, ο σκοπός μας - και ο σκοπός της υγείας μας - είναι να είμεθα συνεργάτες με τον Θεό. Ο Αγ. Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος μας υπενθυμίζει ότι δεν πρέπει να ανησυχούμε μήπως δεν είμεθα άξιοι να προσευχόμεθα... γινόμεθα άξιοι λόγω της ισχυρής μας πίστεως και του επιμόνου τρόπου ζωής της διαρκούς προσευχής.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, January 30th.....THE HOLY THREE HIERARCHS

Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m. Work throughout this week continues for Festival food item preparation beginning at 9:00 a.m. (souvlakia and pastries). On Monday and Thursday this week, *work will continue following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.* (please note the early Start times).

Tuesday, January 31st.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 2nd.....PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE

Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** -- Please join us for **YOUTH SUNDAY on January 29th** when our Sunday School staff and families assist as ushers, sit together, and actively participate throughout the Divine Liturgy and host Coffee Hour! Students along with their parents are invited to sit in the first four pews on the right side of our church temple, opposite the choir so that they can help with congregational singing, as led by our choir.
- **FESTIVAL** – 1) **Volunteer Forms** are included in today's *Ladder*. Festival booth chairpersons are asked to participate in **tutorial lessons** to learn the new **Clovis Register system** for Festival income. Contact **Nick Latkovic** for information.
2) Everyone is needed to help for **Festival food preparations** throughout **this week**. We are grateful to those who have been helping over these past few weeks.
3) **Festival flyers** and **lawn signs** are now available for distribution to businesses that our parishioners patronize, as well as being distributed throughout neighborhood developments.
4) **Underwriting the Costs for our Greek Festival** --Donations are now being accepted specifically to help defray costs associated with our Greek Festival event - in particular, the cost of paying hired help in the event that enough volunteers cannot be found to help with the work. A \$100 donation will provide payment to a non-parish Festival worker to work one shift at our Festival. Donations to help cover other costs related to our Festival are also very much welcome!
- **AHEPA** - Today we welcome the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelopy delegates to this year's AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference, hosted by our AHEPA 528 Chapter. Also, we remind one and all that the AHEPA 528 "**Super Bowl Party**" will not take place at our parish hall this year. However, the raffle of "**Super Bowl Squares**" will be held off-site. Contact our parish office, or see **Bill Rellos** for more details.
- **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT** - Please circle the date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 in order to join us for our annual **St. George Parish Lenten Retreat**. **Fr. Steven Tsihchlis**, pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church and author of the pamphlet entitled "**Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy**," will be the speaker for this Retreat. Please see the enclosed flyer!
- **ORTHODOX ACADEMY** – Next **Sunday, February 5th** during our coffee hour – a special presentation regarding a newly formed **Orthodox Christian elementary school** in the Inland Empire.

Volunteer for the Festival

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.



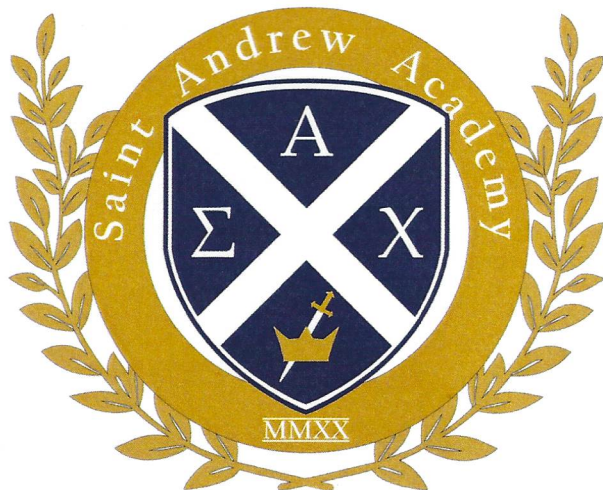
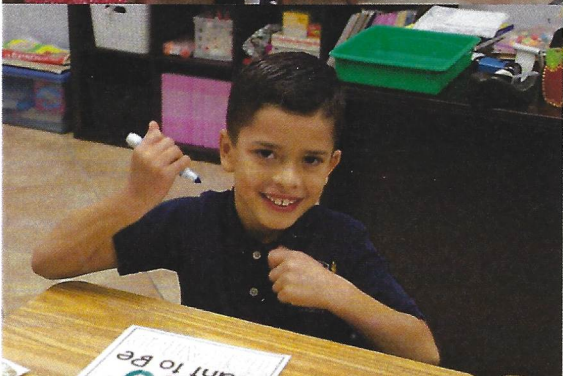
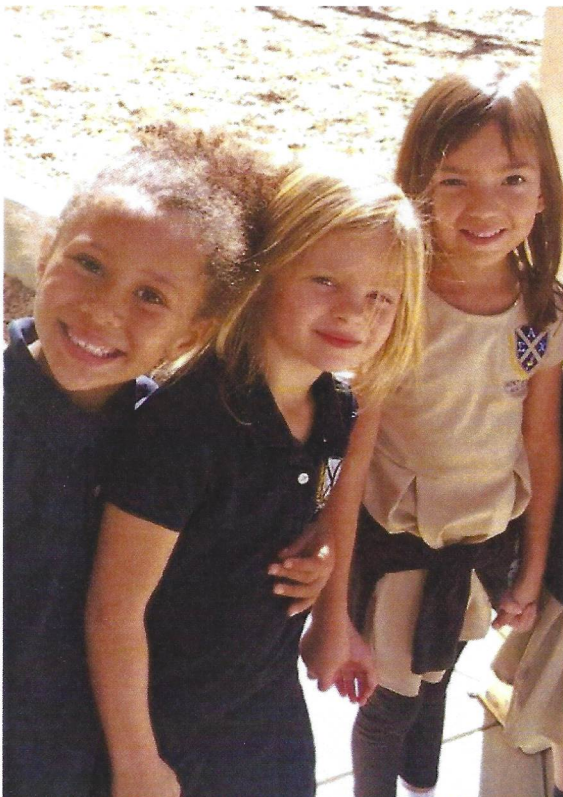
Please complete the brief form below and leave it at the church office, with Jim Christopoulos or with Father Ted. If you'd like more information, feel free to call the church office at 760-568-9901 or Jim Christopoulos at 760-902-8460. You may also email Jim at goofy_328@yahoo.com.

.....
Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Shift Availability: Saturday 2/18: ___ 9:45-3:00 ___ 3:00-8:15

 Sunday 2/19: ___ 9:45-3:00 ___ 3:00-8:15



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**St. George Greek Orthodox Church's
2023 Lenten Retreat**

Living the Liturgy

with

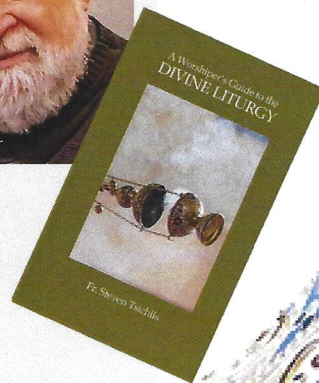
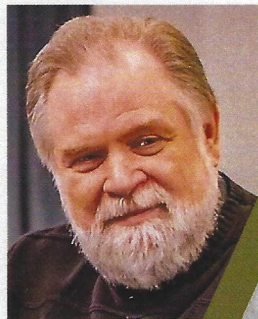
Father Steven Tsihlis

Pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA
Author of *A Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy*

Saturday, March 18

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Lenten Lunch Included



Session 1

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

"The Lord's Table: How Our
Participation in Liturgy Impacts
Our Lives"

Session 2

1:00 - 2:30 PM

"Living the Liturgy: Eating and Drinking
the Lord Jesus"



A freewill
donation of
\$10
is appreciated

To Register:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com | 760-568-9901

74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA