



MARCH 12, 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— 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!"

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead and Mary stood by the grave seeking You sacred Body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and, through Her, bestowed life. Glory to You Who have risen from the dead!" / Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις...

2) "O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved." / Ορθοδοξίας ο φωστήρ...

3) "Since you are a deliverer of captives..." [Hymn of St. George] / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...

4) **Kontakion:** "To You Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, Your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In Your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to You, 'Hail Unwedded Bride!'" / Τη Υπερμάχῳ...

UNSEEN WARFARE

Someone could ask, following today's Gospel passage, "Why is the forgiveness of sins more important than the healing of physical ills?" The answer is in the fact that forgiveness of sins influences not only our earthly life, but our eternal life. The forgiveness of sins encourages us to fight against the passions without having despair over the past. Forgiveness provides us with the virtue of hope. Without this virtue, people would consider themselves condemned forever.

Hope fuels our efforts to enter the unseen warfare, in which we fight temptations and deceptions so that we can do all things that are pleasing to God. This unseen warfare takes place by way of making ourselves constantly aware of our heart-felt love for God. This is often called "contemplative prayer," or "hesychastic prayer" - prayer of the heart in silence. The basis for this prayer is from Jesus' words, "When you pray, enter into your closet and, closing the door, pray to your Father in secret..." (St. Matthew 6:6). St. Gregory Palamas, whom we commemorate today, taught extensively about "hesychastic prayer," which is the kind of prayer that we all need to practice particularly during Great Lent, since we seek to heal our spiritual wounds. By healing the wounds of our souls, we are ready to meet our Lord and Savior, Who is Resurrected from the dead and Who welcomes us into His Eternal Kingdom.

By way of the invisible warfare, Christ grants to us the means by which, with the passing of time, the "bad habits" that we acquired through our sins fade away and we acquire virtues which lead us away from any form of suffering and toward everlasting peace in Christ. +FR. THEODORE

Κάποιος θα μπορούσε να ερωτήσει, μιά που ακούσαμεν την σημερινήν Ευαγγελικήν περικοπή: «Γιατί η άφεσις των αμαρτιών είναι πιά σημαντική από την θεραπεία των σωματικών ασθενειών;» Η απάντησις ευρίσκεται στο γεγονός ότι η άφεσις των αμαρτιών επηρεάζει όχι μόνο την επίγειον ζωήν μας, αλλά και την αιώνιον ζωήν μας. Η άφεσις των αμαρτιών ενθαρρύνει τον άνθρωπον να πολεμήσῃ ἐναντία στα πάθη και τους πειρασμούς χωρίς απελπίσῃ για λάθη του παρελθόντος. Η συγχώρησις μας παρέχει την αρετή της ἐλπίδος. Χωρίς αὐτήν την αρετήν, οἱ ἄνθρωποι θα ἐθεωροῦσαν τοὺς εαυτοὺς τοὺς καταδικασμένους για πάντα.

Ἡ ἐλπίδα τροφοδοτεῖ τις προσπάθειές μας να εἰσέλθουμε στον ἀόρατον πόλεμον, στον ὁποῖον πολεμάμε τοὺς πειρασμούς και τις ἀπάτες, ὥστε να μπορούμε να κάνουμε ὅλα ὅσα εἶναι εὐάρεστα στον Θεόν. Αὐτός ο ἀόρατος πόλεμος λαμβάνει χώρα με το να ἔχουμε συνεχῶς ἐπίγνωσιν της ἐγκάρδιας ἀγάπης μας για τον Θεόν. Αὐτό ὀνομάζεται συχνά «στοχαστική προσευχή» ἢ «ησυχαστική προσευχή» – προσευχή της καρδιάς «ἐν τῇ σιωπῇ.» Ἡ «ἐν τῇ σιωπῇ» προσευχή πέρνει την ἀρχήν της ἀπὸ τα λόγια του Χριστοῦ, «Ὅταν προσεύχη, εἰσελθε εἰς τὸ ταμεῖον σου και κλείσῃς τὴν θύραν σου προσεύξαι τῷ Πατρὶ σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ.» (Ματθ. 6:6). Ὁ Ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ὁ Παλαμάς, τον ὁποῖον μνημονεύουμε σήμερον, ἐδίδαξε ἔντονα περὶ της «ησυχαστικῆς προσευχῆς», που εἶναι τὸ εἶδος της προσευχῆς που πρέπει να κάνουμε ὅλοι προπαντὸς κατὰ τὴν Μ. Τεσσαρακοστήν, ἀφοῦ ἐπιδιώκουμε να θεραπεύσουμε τις ψυχικές μας πληγές. Θεραπεύοντας τις πληγές της ψυχῆς, εἴμεθα ἔτοιμοι να συναντήσουμε τον Χριστόν, ὁ ὁποῖος

Συνέχεια στην ἐπόμενη σελίδα – – – – ->

Αναστήθηκε εκ των νεκρών και που μας καλωσορίζει στην Αιώνιον Βασιλεία Του.

Μέσω του αοράτου πολέμου, ο Χριστός μας δίνει τα μέσα με τα οποία, με το πέρασμα του χρόνου, οι «κακές συνήθειες» που αποκτήσαμε με τις αμαρτίες μας εξαφανίζονται και αποκτούμε αρετές που μας οδηγούν μακριά από κάθε μορφή ταλαιπωρίας και προς την αιώνιον εν Χριστώ ειρήνη.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 14th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m./ AHEPA 528 Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 17th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.
Salutations Service (Third Stanza) - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 18th.....St. George Parish Lenten Retreat – 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Theme: “Living the Divine Liturgy;” Our speaker is Fr. Steven Tschlis, pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, California and author of the booklet, “Worshiper’s Guide to the Divine Liturgy.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** -- Please join us for a special Sunday School class with **Mrs. Mary Brown**, who will be presenting **The Passion of Christ Iconography**. Parents and grandparents are invited to attend! Mark **Friday, April 7th** on your calendars and plan to join us for our **Sunday School Holy Week Retreat**. (See the enclosed flyer.)
- **PHILOPTOCHOS**– March Outreach Project: We are collecting new diapers and diaper wipes during the month of March. Needed diaper sizes are 0-4. Donations benefit the **Palm Desert Birth Choice of the Desert** organization that helps unwed mothers and babies. Drop off in the church hall from March 5th-31st. April Outreach Project: During the month of April, we are collecting non-perishable food to benefit families in need. (See enclosed flyer.)
- **AHEPA - AHEPA 528 Meeting – Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** Note: our AHEPA Chapter 528 is accepting student applications for the AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship. Applications are due by April 2nd. Please see our AHEPA 528 website at ahepa528.org to download a copy of the application. Applications are also available in our parish hall. Scholarships will be announced and delivered on May 21st - AHEPA Sunday.
- **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT** - This coming **Saturday, March 18, 2023** everyone is welcome to join us for our annual **St. George Parish Lenten Retreat**. **Fr. Steven Tschlis**, 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!
- **BOOK STORE** - Newly ordered Akathist Hymn Books and Holy Week Books are now available in our parish book store for those who still want to prepare for the Friday evening Salutation Services during Lent and for Holy Week - April 9-16th.

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

Living the Liturgy

with

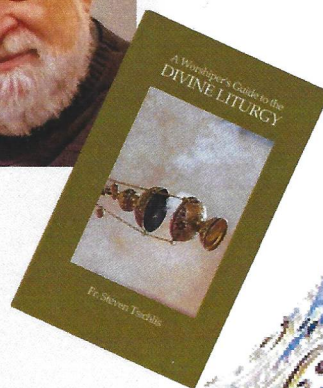
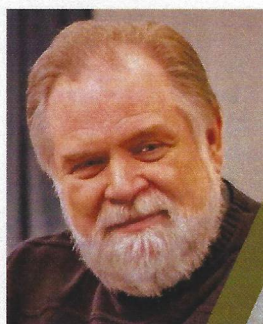
Father Steven Tschlis

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

ST GEORGE SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

March & April 2023



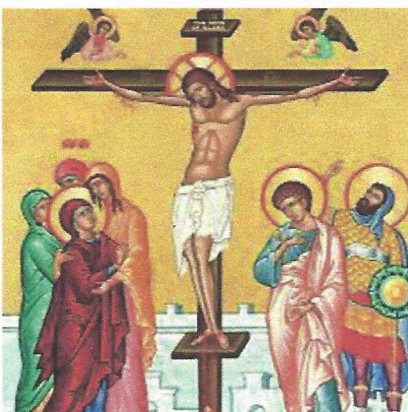
MARCH 5TH, 2023 – Sunday of Orthodoxy

BRING YOUR OWN ICONS FROM HOME!

9:15 – Divine Liturgy begins **EARLY** (Families sit front right pews)

10:15 – ~~Procession~~ of the Icons (At conclusion of Divine Liturgy)

10:45 – SUNDAY SCHOOL & HOLY WATER BLESSING (Agiasmos)



MARCH 12TH, 2023

SPECIAL FAMILY SUNDAY PRESENTATION

Iconography on the Passion of Christ

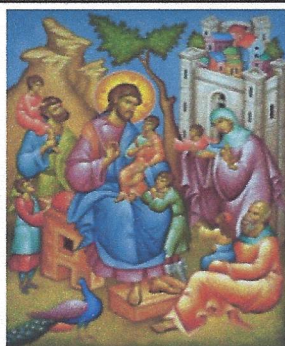
By Mrs. Mary Brown

10:45-11:45 Theater Classrooms, Fellowship & Lunch provided!



PLEASE RSVP Mrs. Athena Snarskis Text/Call 219-313-6940

ALL AGES WELCOME!



FRIDAY – APRIL 7TH, 2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN RETREAT

10:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

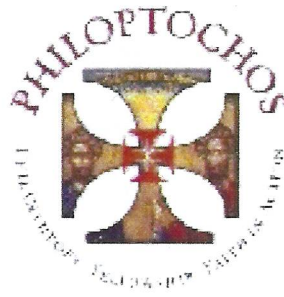


PLEASE RSVP with YES/NO ASAP!

Much preparation goes into staffing, planning lessons, demonstrations, games, crafts, lunch etc. for the day.

Families are welcome to help/stay!





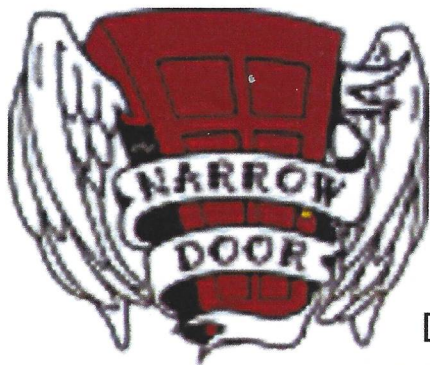
St. George

Ladies Philoptochos



MARCH OUTREACH PROJECT

We are collecting new **diapers and diaper wipes** during the month of March. Needed diaper sizes are 0-4. Donations benefit the Palm Desert Birth Choice of the Desert organization that helps unwed mothers and babies. Drop off in the church hall from March 5th-31st.



APRIL OUTREACH PROJECT

During the month of April, we are collecting **non-perishable food** to benefit families in need.

Wanted items are:

rice (1 or 2 lb. bags), cereal, mac-n-cheese, canned soup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned pasta, canned meats, peanut butter (12-16 oz. plastic), spaghetti, canned pasta sauce. Donations benefit the Narrow Door food bank in Indio. Drop off at the church from April 12nd-30th.