



MARCH 19, 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 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 LADDER

THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



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 4:14-16; 5:1-6
Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was

appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL - St. Mark 8:34-38; 9:1
The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

SERVICE OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – Following the Prayer, "Save, O Lord Your people and bless Your inheritance..." (following Holy Communion), the choir / chanters sing: "Aghios o Theos, Aghios Ischyros, Aghios Athanatos, eleison imas." "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us." as the hierarch/priest carries in procession the tray holding the Holy Cross, which is decorated with many flowers and/or basil plants. The procession includes the deacon and Altar Boys as it continues around the interior of the church temple. When the procession arrives at the center of the church, in front of the Holy Altar, the hierarch/priest raises the tray with the Holy Cross high and exclaims: "Wisdom! Let us attend!" He then sets the Holy

Continued on the next page - - - ->

Cross on a table arranged for this service and censes the Holy Cross as he proceeds around the table and chants: *"Soson Kyrie ton laon Sou"...* *"Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance granting Your rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross."* This hymn is repeated twice by the choir/chanters. Then, as the priest and deacon venerate the Holy Cross, the priest chants: *"Ton Stavron Sou proskinoumen, Despota"...* *"We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify."* This hymn is also repeated twice by the choir/chanters.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** *"By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened Paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the Myrrh-bearing Women and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy."/* Κατέλησας τῷ Σταυρῷ...

2) *"Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting Your rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross."/* Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαὸν Σου...

3) *"Since you are a deliverer of captives..."* [Hymn of St. George]/Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς...

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!'"* / Τῇ Ὑπερμάχῳ...

5) **Liturgy of St. Basil.** Instead of *"Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal..."*, we chant, *"We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your Holy Resurrection, we praise and glorify."*

THE POWER OF THE CROSS IS THE POWER OF REPENTANCE

On page 15 of our Divine Liturgy books, just before Psalm 50, we see a prayer that is read by the priest in preparation of the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts: *"Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for You are our God, we know no other; it is Your Name we invoke. Come, all you faithful, let us worship Christ's Resurrection; for behold, through the Cross joy has come to all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us praise His Resurrection. For in enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death."*

As Christ our God saves us by way of enduring His Cross, which we venerate today, we unite ourselves in His love by way of enduring our cross. Our cross is the cross of our repentance from sins. Repentance requires sacrifice of our own will in order to honor God. Sins are born from willing that our names be glorified. Virtues are born from willing that the Name of Christ is glorified; for, Christ is our God, Who, by way of His own flesh has sanctified our flesh so that we are able to be united with the energies of God's eternal love. His Resurrection from the dead is, therefore, our resurrection from the dead, as well. It follows, that Christ is God. There is no other god who gives us eternal life.

The Resurrection of Christ our God is the reason for us to forgive the sins of those who have offended us and to seek forgiveness from those whom we have offended, understanding, of course, that offending others is intricately related to our tendency to offend God. By venerating the Cross of our Lord, we summon from within us our own "cross" of repentance, which gives the ultimate meaning to the word "forgiveness." The Cross of our Savior is, in essence, the gift of repentance — that "second chance" that is so precious for our peace of mind and our ultimate salvation in Christ. +FR. THEODORE

Στην σελίδα 15 του βιβλίου μας διὰ τοῦ οὐοοίου παρακολουθοῦμε την εκτέλεση της Θ. Λειτουργίας, ευρίσκομεν μιά προσευχή που ο λειτουργός διαβάζει προς προετοιμασίαν της Μ. Εισόδου: «*Ανάστασιν Χριστοῦ θεασάμενοι, προσκυνήσωμεν Ἁγιον Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, τὸν μόνον ἀναμάρτητον. Τὸν Σταυρόν σου, Χριστέ, προσκυνούμεν και την Ἁγίαν Σου Ἀνάστασιν υμνοῦμεν και δοξάζομεν. Σὺ γὰρ εἶ Θεός ημῶν, εκτός Σου ἄλλον οὐκ οἶδαμεν. Τὸ ὄνομά Σου ονομάζομεν. Δεῦτε πάντες οἱ πιστοί, προσκυνήσωμεν την του Χριστοῦ Ἁγίαν Ἀνάστασιν. Ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἦλθε διὰ του Σταυροῦ χαρὰ ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ κόσμῳ. Διὰ παντός εὐλογοῦντες τὸν Κύριον, υμνοῦμεν την Ἀνάστασιν Αὐτοῦ. Σταυρόν γὰρ υπομείνας δι' ημᾶς θανάτῳ θάνατον ὤλεσεν.»*

Συνέχεια στην ἐπόμενη σελίδα — — — -->

Καθώς ο Χριστός μας χαρίζει την αιώνιον σωτηρία μέσω του Σταυρού, ενωνόμεθα με τον Χριστό μέσω του δικού μας «σταυρού», που είναι ο «σταυρός της μετανοίας». Η μετάνοια απαιτεί από εμάς μια θυσία της δικής μας θελήσεως προς δόξαν του Θεού. Ο Χριστός δια μέσου της σαρκός Του ηυλόγησε την σάρκα μας για να ενωθούμε με την ενέργεια της θεϊκής Του Αγάπης. Επομένως, η Ανάστασις του Χριστού εκ των νεκρών είναι και η προσωπική μας ανάστασις εκ των νεκρών. Πράγματι, δεν υπάρχει άλλος θεός!

Η Ανάστασις του Χριστού εκ των νεκρών είναι ο λόγος για να συγχωρηθούμε και να συγχωρήσουμε άλλους. Προσκυνώντας τον Σταυρό σήμερα, φέρνουμε στον εαυτό μας τον «σταυρό της μετανοίας». Η μετάνοια μας δίνει την απόλυτη σημασία της λέξεως «συγχώρεση». Ο Σταυρός του Σωτήρος μας είναι στην ουσίαν το δώρο της μετανοίας – το πολύτιμο δώρο της αιώνιου εν Χριστώ ειρήνης.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 21stBible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 22nd.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 24th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.

Great Vespers with Fourth Stanza of Salutations – 6:00 p.m.

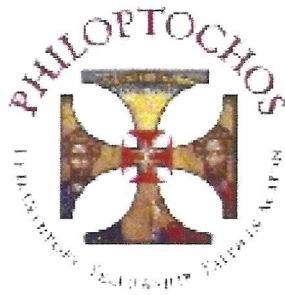
Saturday, March 25th.....ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

Next Sunday, March 26th....Spring General Assembly following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** -- Mark **Friday, April 7th** on your calendars and plan to join us for our **Sunday School Holy Week Retreat**.
- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**- **Next Sunday, March 26th, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.**
- **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.) Also...the Philoptochos will have a table set up after church to sell **Luminary Candles for Holy Friday**. More details to follow.
- **AHEPA** - 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 AHEPA Sunday in May.
- **BOOK STORE** - Newly ordered Holy Week Books are now available in our parish book store for the Friday evening Salutation Services during Lent and for Holy Week - April 9-16th.
- **ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT** - Our St. George Golf Tournament will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2023** at the **Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert**. Enclosed is the registration and reservation form. We ask everyone to help make this event successful by having golfers register for the tournament and making reservations for the awards dinner which will follow. In addition, we are in need of silent auction items for the awards dinner ceremony.



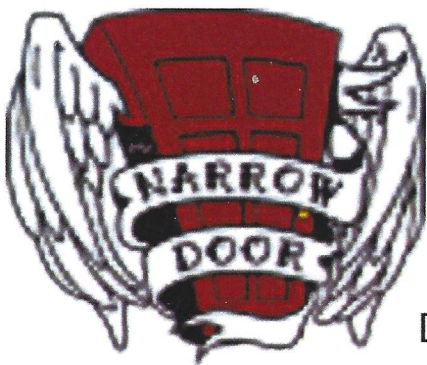
St. George

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.

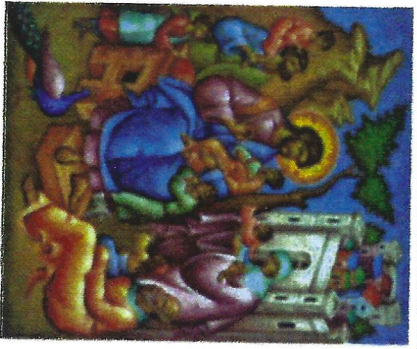


APRIL OUTREACH PROJECT

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.



FRIDAY – APRIL 7TH, 2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN RETREAT

10:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

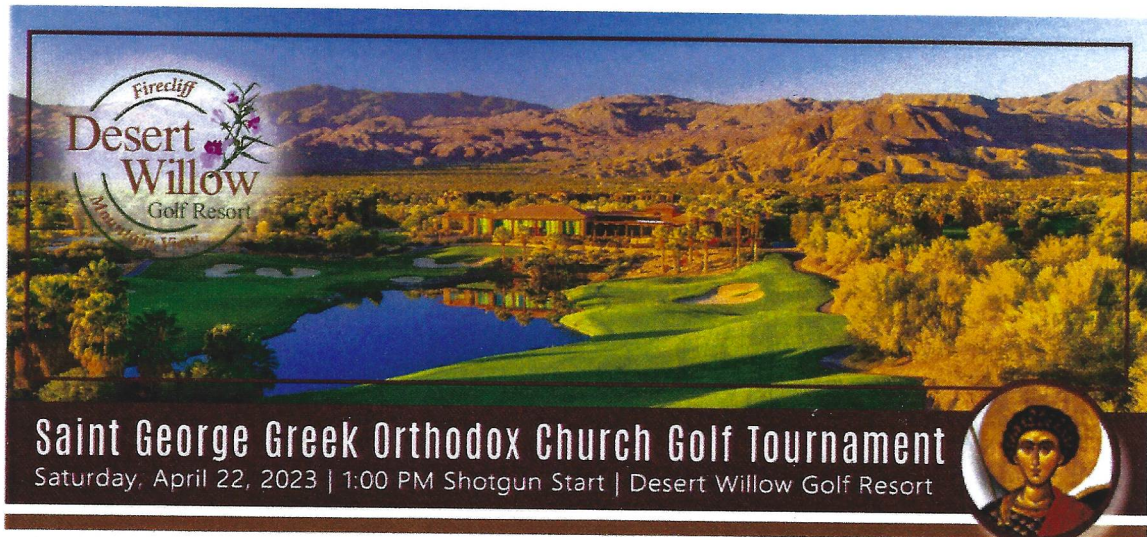


PLEASE RSVP with YES/NO ASAP!

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

Families are welcome to help/stay!

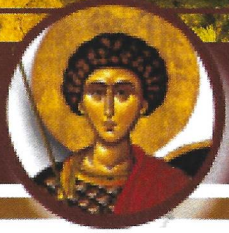
**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF THE DESERT
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Saturday, April 22, 2023



JOIN THE FUN!

Sign up for a very fun event. Women and men golfers welcome. Create your own foursome or we can pair you up.

Desert Willow provides one of the best golf experiences in the Valley. The dinner activity following golf has always been a highlight of the day...a Greek taverna style dinner with live Greek music, dancing, a lamb chop dinner and no host bar....& of course, tastes of Greek style lamb right off the spit.



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 1:00 PM Shotgun Start | Desert Willow Golf Resort

ENTRY INFORMATION

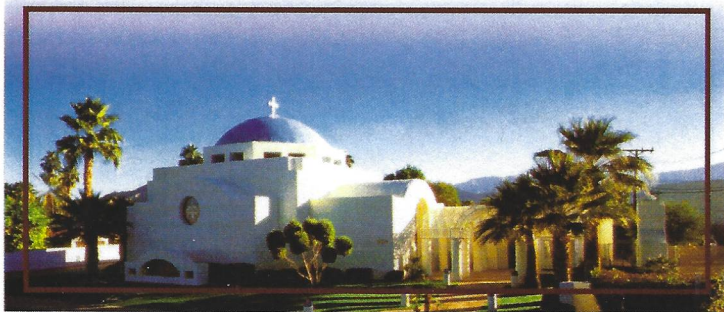
Saturday, April 22, 2023

- \$185 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 1:00pm Shotgun Start at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Traditional Greek Dinner, Silent Auction, and Live Music at St. George Greek Orthodox Church

INDIVIDUALS AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s) ____ (# of Players) x \$185 \$ ____
- Tee Sponsorship(s) ____ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ ____
- Traditional Greek Dinner ____ (# of Dinners) x \$45 \$ ____
- Donation \$ ____

Total Amount \$ ____



EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAMES

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023

Sign up online at www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form to:

74-109 Larrea | Palm Desert, CA | 92260