



MARCH 26, 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:  
74-109 Larrea St.  
Palm Desert, CA.92260  
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— Hebrews 6:13-20  
Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL—St. Mark 9:17-31  
At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you?

How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 65/2023

#### **Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and the Celebration of Greek Independence Day**

March 25, 2023

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

*Hail, unwavering tower of the Church, hail impenetrable wall of the Kingdom!*

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Day of Greek Independence — when throughout Greece, Cyprus and the Hellenic Diaspora, the people of God celebrate freedom and remember the cost thereof — let us train our minds on the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who is the model for what that freedom truly means. We sing her praises throughout Great Lent in the magnificent Akathist Hymn, because March 25 is the date we observe her Annunciation of the Glad Tidings of the Lord’s Incarnation, and because the Rebirth of the *Genos* is bound to her mighty intercessions.

The Theotokos is truly our “unwavering tower” and “impenetrable wall;” for she stands fast at the Throne of God in constant supplication for her People, the People of the Church, and the citizens of the coming Kingdom. She is the guarantor of our Faith; for she is the one who offered her humanity to God, so that God, in turn, could offer His Divinity to us. She manifests that each of us has a place in the work of salvation, for through her, we are consubstantial with the Son of God in His humanity, just as He is consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit in divinity.



The fact that the struggle for freedom is forever linked to the exercise of her own freedom, is a cause for celebration every day, and not only on March 25. We can hold in our minds and hearts the champions of 1821 in every *kairos*, for their example is ever-new and ever-young. Their sacrifices remind us of the costly price of liberty, so that we might never take for granted the freedoms won and what it takes to preserve them.

Therefore, my beloved brethren in the Lord, let us chant and magnify the Theotokos with joyous hymns and heartfelt supplications that may ever be worthy of the “unwavering tower” and “impenetrable wall” that surrounds us with love and spiritual protection. And may we ever bring to the exercise of our democracies of Greece, Cyprus, America, and everywhere in the Diaspora where “government of the people, by the people, for the people” is honored, the determination and responsibility to make us worthy of the freedoms that were gifted to us by the Heroes of 1821.

Long live Greece!

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

### 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." / Εἰς ὕψους κατήλθες...

2) "Since you are a deliverer of captives..." [Hymn of St. George] / Ως τῶν αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτῆς...

3) **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 Ὑπερμάχῳ...

#### HOW CAN WE LIVE THE DIVINE LITURGY?

There are three "themes" of today's Gospel passage that help to define a life-style of one who wants to follow Christ our God: 1) the "theme" of faith (belief); 2) the "theme" of Christ's identity as True God; 3) the "theme" of prayer and fasting. 1) "I believe; help my unbelief!" This prayer was uttered by the father whose boy was possessed by a "dumb spirit." 2) "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again." With these words, our Savior both strengthened the father's faith and proved that He is indeed God, Who has authority over even the demons. 3) "This kind cannot be cast out, except by prayer and fasting." In this, we know that even the demons recognize the power of Christ.

St. John Climacus, whose memory we commemorate today, like all the Saints, noted that prayer and fasting go together in his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In that prayer is the confession of faith in the fact that Jesus Christ is the only True God, the more we pray, the more we experience God's blessings; the more we experience God's blessings, the less we are encumbered by worldly cares, noting that fasting in itself is a discipline of avoiding worldly comforts, which demons use so as to tempt us.

Ultimately, prayer and fasting comprise the way by which we *live the Divine Liturgy*, as expressed in the Cherubic Hymn: "...As we sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity, let us set aside all worldly care..."

+FR. THEODORE

Υπάρχουν τρία «θέματα» της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής που βοηθούν να κατανοήσουμε τον τρόπο ζωής ενός που θέλει να ακολουθήσει τον Χριστό: 1) το «θέμα» της πίστεως. 2) το «θέμα» της αποκαλύψεως ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Αληθινός Θεός. 3) το «θέμα» της προσευχής και της νηστείας. 1) «Πιστεύω!» ειπε ο πατερας του κωφου παιδιου, «Βοήθει μου τη απιστία!» – μιὰ ολόκληρη προσευχή. 2) «Τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἀλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγὼ σοι επιτάσσω, ἐξέλθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς εἰς αὐτόν». Με αὐτὰ τα λόγια, ο Χριστός ενίσχυσε την πίστη του πατρός και απέδειξε ότι είναι πράγματι ο Αληθινός Θεός, ο οποίος έχει εξουσία ακόμη και στους δαίμονες. 3) «Τούτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται ἐξελεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστεία». Ἐν τούτοις, καταλαβαίνουμε ότι ακόμη και οι δαίμονες αναγνωρίζουν τη δύναμη του Χριστοῦ.

Ο Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης της Κλίμακος, του οποίου την μνήμη τιμῶμε σήμερα, ὅπως ὅλοι οἱ Ἅγιοι, εσημείωσε ὅτι ἡ προσευχή και ἡ νηστεία πάνε μαζί. Ἡ προσευχή ξεκινά με την αναγνώριση ὅτι ο Χριστός είναι αληθινός Θεός. Ὅσο περισσότερο προσευχόμεθα, τόσο περισσότερο βιώνουμε τις ευλογίες του Θεοῦ. Ὅσο περισσότερο βιώνουμε τις ευλογίες του Θεοῦ, τόσο λιγότερο επιβαρυνόμεθα ἀπὸ εγκόσμιες φροντίδες, σημειώνοντας ὅτι ἡ νηστεία ἀπὸ μόνη της είναι μια πειθαρχία ἀποφυγῆς τῶν κοσμικῶν πολυτέλειων, που χρησιμοποιοῦν οἱ δαίμονες για να μας φέρουν πειρασμούς.

Τελικά, ἡ προσευχή και ἡ νηστεία αποτελοῦν τον τρόπο με τον οποίο ζοῦμε την πνευματικὴ ζωὴ της Θείας Λειτουργίας, ὅπως εκφράζεται στον Χερουβικὸ Ὑμνο: «...Τη ζωοποιῶ Τριάδι τον τρισάγιον ὕμνον προσάδοντες, πάσαν την βιοτικὴν αποθῶμεθα μέριμναν...»

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

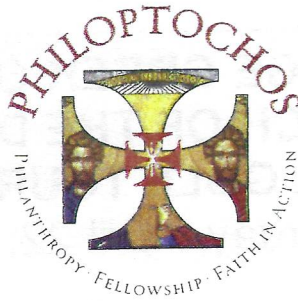
Tuesday, March 28th .....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 29th.. .....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 31st.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.  
Akathist Hymn – 6:00 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY-** Today, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL --** Mark **Friday, April 7th** on your calendars and plan to join us for our **Sunday School Holy Week Retreat**. See enclosed flyer
- **PHILOPTOCHOS-** Please note the enclosed **updated Philoptochos March/April Outreach flyers!**  
March Outreach Project: We are collecting new diapers and diaper wipes during the month of March. Diaper sizes for older toddlers are needed! 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: We are collecting non-perishable food to benefit families in need. Also...the Philoptochos will have a table set up after church to sell **Luminary Candles for Holy Friday**. See enclosed flyers – one side is for health of family/friends; the other side is for eternal memory of family/friends who have departed this life.
- **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](http://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.
- Holy Week begins two weeks from today, with the celebration of Palm Sunday. As we turn our attention to Holy Week preparations, parishioners may donate various liturgical needs for the performance of our Sacred Holy Week services:
  - . The cost of flowers for the decoration of the Epitaphio and Holy Week Icons.
  - . A white linen sheet for the Service of the Unnailing of Christ from the Cross on Holy Friday.
  - . The cost for the candles and candle cups used for Holy Friday and Holy Saturday night services.
  - . The cost for Easter lilies on Pascha.
  - . Rose water for the Epitaphio Service on Holy Friday night.
    - This list may be adjusted for next week's *Ladder*, depending on the needs and the items donated throughout the course of this week.
  - . Those who want to serve as readers for Holy Week services are welcome to participate. In addition, volunteers are needed to carry the Epitaphio; to serve as Myrrh-bearers; to help decorate the Epitaphio and Holy Week Icons; to offer prosforo, etc. See Fr. Ted.



St. George

Ladies Philoptochos



## MARCH OUTREACH PROJECT

We are collecting new **diapers and diaper wipes** during the month of March. Needed diaper sizes are \*0-6. 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.  
**\*please note that sizes most needed are 4, 5, & 6)**

## 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.

**\*no glass containers**

Donations benefit The Narrow Door food bank in Indio. Drop off at the church from April 2nd-30th.



## ***Luminary Candles to Light the Church on Holy Friday***

*Let's light the path around our Church during Holy Friday Evening services with the names of our loved ones who have passed on or our wishes for the health of our family and friends.*

Each candle-lit bag will be personalized with either: "In Memory" (name) or "In Health" (name) depending on your choice.

There is a \$10 donation for each luminary bag and up to two names maximum may be displayed on a bag.

**Luminary Orders will be taken beginning Sunday, March 26th to April 9th.**

Please complete your form, make your check payable to St. George Ladies Philoptochos and either mail back the form & your check or give it in person to the church office or a Philoptochos board member. Project Chairperson: Margarita Pagoulatos.

**Total Bags \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amt. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_**

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**\$10 Luminary "In Health" (Max of 2 names for each luminary bag)**

Ordered By: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (Tel. or email): \_\_\_\_\_

Name 1: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_



# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament



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## ENTRY INFORMATION

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- \$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

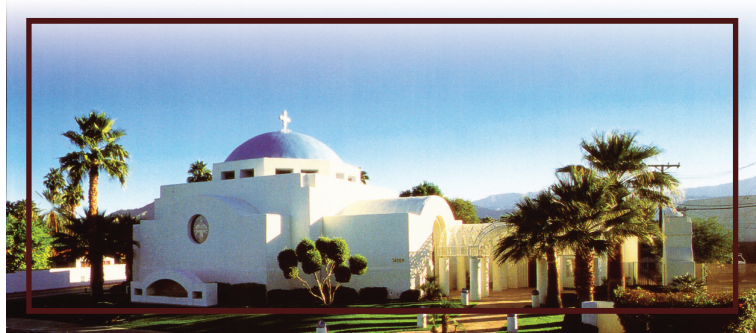
Sign up online at [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge)

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form to:

74-109 Larrea | Palm Desert, CA | 92260





**ST. GEORGE SUNDAY SCHOOL, PALM DESERT, CA**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR**

# **LENTEN RETREAT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

**PS – K 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> to HS 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**RSVP : Mrs. Athena  
219.313.6940 or Athna2@aol.com**

## **COME JOIN**

- Fr Ted & Presb. Petula Pantel,
- Deacon Euthym & Deaconess Krisann Kontaxis,
- Mrs. Athena Snarskis & Mrs. Alex Pappas