



FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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 Street
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

- Fr. Theodore Pantels, M.Div. Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym Kon-taxis, M.D. ,M.Div.

Holy Communion Or-der

- 1. Please remain standing while following the direc-tions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly re-move lipstick be-fore receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name) , and naturally re-ceive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Com-munion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Chris-tians must be spirit-ually prepared to receive the Sacra-ment of Holy Com-munion. 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 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may in-crease thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

GOSPEL — St. Matthew 22:35-46

At that time, a lawyer asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great com-mandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first command-ment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two com-mandments depend all the law and the proph-ets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in-spired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. He assumed the worse so that He might give us the better; He became poor that we, through His poverty, might be rich. We were made for good works (cf: Phil. 1:11) to the glory and praise of our Maker and to imitate God as far as might be. May you, O children of God, be pure and un-blameable, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...May you walk in the King's Highway, turning aside neither to the right or to the left, but led by the Spirit through the narrow gate." +ST. GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS

### Liturgical Notes for Today

Instead of the hymn, "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead...", we sing, "*Save us, O Son of God, Who was held in the arms of righteous Simeon...*" At the Entrance of the Gospel: "...Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead..."

1) "*When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then the light of Your divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, 'Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'*" / Οτε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον...

2) "*Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from You, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in your arms, the Deliverance of our souls, Who grants us Resurrection.*" / Χαίρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε...

3) "*Since You are a deliverer of captives...*" / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτής... [Hymn for St. George]

4) **Kontakion:** "*Your birth sanctified the Virgin's womb and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon. 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 παρθενικήν αγιάσας τω τόκω Σου...

### THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

By today's way of thinking, some would say that St. Paul's life was miserable. He was always being harassed, if not by Roman officials, or by citizens of the cities in which he preached, he was harassed by even some Christians themselves. In addition, he continually suffered from a "thorn in the flesh." However, in Christ's love, St. Paul found purpose and meaning in life in giving God's grace to more and more people. Despite his trials and tribulations, St. Paul reveals his happiness in seeing his spiritual children at peace and thankful to God for all blessings, "*knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.*" (2 Corinthians 4:15).

Many have lived to tell us that happiness is not found in material pleasures and luxuries. They even coined such phrases as, "You can't buy love." and "Life is not a rose garden." The world is not perfect; people are not perfect; we are not perfect. As a result, unpleasant things will always happen, mostly through our own negligence or lack of wisdom. We can respond to life's set-backs either by making them worse by being angry, depressed or simply giving up, or we can turn to Christ our God, with faith, hope and love. Like Christ – and with His power – we can overcome life's set-backs, or more accurately, overcome ourselves; our shortcomings; our passions; our sins.

If we are looking to find a peaceful conscience; to have wholesome relationships with those around us, and to grow in wisdom, we will find lasting happiness in Christ. We are created in the Image of God, giving us the ability to behold the *uncreated Image of God*, Who is Christ. As we behold Christ, we become more and more what we are created to be, that is: "temples of God" without ego-centric pride and without our passions. This fact in itself makes our lives meaningful. We have more to give (i.e., we are more valuable) than with think. Like God, we can give genuine love, which makes us and those around us able to be united with God's divine energies. Sharing in God's glory is the foundational source of true and eternal joy!

+FR. THEODORE

Με τη σημερινή νοοτροπία, μερικοί θα έλεγαν ότι η ζωή του Αγ. Παύλου ήταν πολύ δυστυχισμένη. Πάντοτε τον ενοχλούσαν, αν όχι οι Ρωμαίοι αξιωματούχοι, ή μερικές πολίτες των πόλεων στις οποίες εκήρυττε, εδιώχθηκε ακόμη και από ορισμένους Χριστιανούς. Επιπλέον, υπέφερε συνεχώς από μία «σαρκική αοθένεια». Ωστόσο, εν τη αγάπη του Χριστού, ο Αγ. Παύλος ευρήκε τον σκοπό της ζωής του δίνοντας τη χάρη του Θεού σε όλο και περισσότερους ανθρώπους. Παρά τις δοκιμασίες και τις θλίψεις του, ο Αγ. Παύλος απεκάλυψε την ευτυχία του καθώς παρατηρούσε τα πνευματικά του τέκνα σε πνευματική ηρεμία με ευγνωμοσύνη προς τον Θεό για όλες τις ευλογίες, καθώς έγραψε, «*Ειδότες ότι ο εγείρας τον Κύριον Ιησούν και ημάς συν Ιησού εγερει και παραστήσει συν υμίν. Τα γαρ πάντα δι' υμάς, ίνα η χάρις πλεονάσασα διὰ των πλειόνων την ευχαριστίαν περισσεύση εἰς την δόξαν του Θεού.*» (2 Κορ. 4:15).

Πολλοί έχουν ζήσει αρκετά χρόνια για να μας πουν ότι η ευτυχία δεν ευρίσκεται στις υλικές απολαύσεις και τις πολυτέλειες. Εσχημάτησαν ακόμη και φράσεις όπως: «Η αγάπη δεν αγοράζεται» και «Η ζωή δεν είναι όλο μέλη και γάλα». Ο κόσμος δεν είναι τέλειος, οι άνθρωποι δεν είναι τέλειοι και δεν είμεθα εμείς τέλειοι. Ως αποτέλεσμα, αναποδιές θα συμβαίνουν πάντοτε, κυρίως από δική μας αμέλεια ή έλλειψη σοφίας. Μπορούμε να ανταποκριθούμε στις αναποδιές της ζωής ή να τις χειροτερεύσουμε με τον θυμό μας, ή με κατάθλιψη και απελπισία – ή μπορούμε να κάνουμε προσευχή στον Χριστό με πίστη, ελπίδα και αγάπη. Όπως ο Χριστός - και με τη δύναμή Του - μπορούμε να ξεπεράσουμε τις αναποδιές της ζωής, ή ακριβέστερα, να νικήσουμε τον εαυτό μας, τα ελαττώματά μας, τα πάθη μας και τις αμαρτίες μας.

Εάν ψάχνουμε για να ευρούμε μια καθαρή συνείδηση και για να έχουμε υγιεινές σχέσεις με όλους γύρω μας – και για να αυξηθούμε εν τη σοφία του Θεού, θα ευρούμε διαρκή ευτυχία και ψυχική χαρά ενώνοντας τον εαυτό μας με τον Χριστό. Έχουμε δημιουργηθεί κατ' εικόνα του Θεού, δίνοντάς μας την ικανότητα να γνωρήσουμε την *ἀκτιστη Εικόνα του Θεού*, ο Οποίος είναι ο Χριστός. Καθώς γνωρίζουμε τον Χριστό, γινόμεθα όλο και περισσότερο οι άνθρωποι που εδημιουργηθήκαμε να είμεθα, δηλ. «*ναοί του Θεου*,» χωρίς εγωϊσμό και χωρίς τα πάθη. Αυτή η πραγματικότητα από μόνο της χαρίζει τον σκοπό για την ζωή μας. Έχουμε περισσότερα να προσφέρουμε (δηλαδή, είμεθα πό πολύτιμοι) από ό,τι νομίζουμε. Όπως κάνει ο Θεός, μπορούμε και εμείς να προσφέρουμε γνήσια αγάπη, η οποία κάνει εμάς και όσους γύρω μας να ενωθούμε με τις θεϊκές δυνάμεις του Θεού. Η συμμετοχή στη δόξα του Θεού είναι η πηγή της αληθινής και αιωνίου αγαλλιάσεως!

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 6th.....**No Bible Study today**/Parish Council- 2:00 p.m.

(Note: The notice in *The Voice of St. George* of the February AHEPA meeting being held on February 6th was an error. The **meeting is actually scheduled for Tuesday, February 13th** at 6:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 7th.....Online Orthodox Catechism Class (Zoom) - 6:30 p.m.

**Please note: Thursday, February 8th – Saturday, February 10th – Fr. Ted will be away** in Sacramento for granddaughters' "Grandparents Day" presentation at their school on Friday, February 9th. **Fr. David Kruse**, pastor of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms will be available in the event of an emergency – (760) 408-6116.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Today, our Sunday School continues its service project in support toward the **San Francisco Philoptochos Metropolis' Kids-n-Cancer ministry**. Lessons will be combined with the service project. To help us prepare for the success of our Philoptochos/Sunday School service project, please contact, **Fr. Ted** (760) 880-5869), **Mrs. Athena Snarskis** (219) 313-6940, or **Pres. Petula Pantels** (909)539-7542). See the enclosed flier.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** – February is dedicated to a special service project in support of our **San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos' Kids-n-Cancer ministry**. Also, Philoptochos has been working diligently in preparing the pastries for our up-coming Greek Festival. The baking schedule is as follows: **February 5th – 9th: Baklava**. **February 12th – February 16th: Packaging and preparations for the Festival**, which takes place from February 17th to the 18th. On a final note, please **save the date for the Philoptochos Membership Tea and Luncheon on March 9th**.
- **FESTIVAL CLOVER "CASH REGISTER" TRAINING** – Next **Monday, February 12th** and **Tuesday, February 13th**, those who will be working Festival parish vendor stations can learn the "Clover" cashless register system that will be used for all Festival stations. **Nick Laktovic** will be available to help tutor those seeking to learn the proper use of "Clover." See the enclosed flier.



## Support our Festival!



Our festival is just around the corner and, God willing, everyone will have a rewarding experience. We thank our parishioners and friends for your past support and want to take a moment to remind you of all the ways you can help this upcoming year.

**Volunteering** – Volunteers are welcome as of the 18<sup>th</sup> of December for cooking. Such support will be needed up until the festival in February. Please reach out to George or Stacy Argyros to get more information. In addition, assistance is appreciated during the week before the festival to help set up, during the festival and following the festival to assist with cleanup. If you've volunteered before and wish to continue, feel free to contact the past chairperson to again offer your assistance. If you'd like to volunteer for the first time or don't have contact information for the past chairperson, feel free to reach out to Jim Christopoulos at 760-902-8460 or at [goofy\\_328@yahoo.com](mailto:goofy_328@yahoo.com).

**Sponsorships** – Any person can pay for a sponsorship, whether it be to advertise your business or send a personal message. You may also ask friends and/or owners of businesses you frequent to buy a sponsorship, which will be posted on our parish Festival website. These not only provide financial support for the festival, but are a wonderful way to advertise businesses. Sponsorship donations can be sent to our parish office. For more information, please call our parish office at (760) 568-9901. Make checks payable to "St. George Greek Orthodox Church" and in the memo, write, "FESTIVAL DONATION."

**Donations** – Unable to volunteer? Sponsorship not appropriate? Another option would be to provide a cash donation. Such a donation would help offset our many expenses.

The success of our festival depends on us all. We strive to simultaneously satisfy the needs of our guests as well as to share our hospitality and religion with them. Please help in any way you can. You may contact George Argyros or Father Ted for more information.





**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**  
**ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 18/2024

**Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople**

February 6, 2024

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

**Their sound has gone forth unto all the earth.... (Psalm 18:4, LXX)**

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,


As we celebrate the feast of Saint Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople, the Evangelizer of the Slavic Peoples, let us take from his noble example the spirit of true apostleship on behalf of all people. Especially during this time when our Ukrainian Brethren are suffering wave after crashing wave of violence and abuse from the Russian Federation, we implore the intercessions of Saint Photios the Great to finally put an end to this fratricidal war of greed and aggression. The Gospel delivered to the Slavs by the saintly Patriarch of Constantinople was one of peace, not war; one of friendship, not enmity; one of love, not hate.

As we continue to pray for the peace of the world – and especially in the Holy Land – we also recognize the vision of our Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine; for it is a National Institution of our Sacred Archdiocese that is dedicated to preserving the memory of the early immigrants and founders of our Church in America. The sound of the voices of those immigrants who came to America – whether known in name or not – has gone forth throughout our land, and has carried the message of the Everlasting Gospel to every corner of our Nation. Many grandparents and great-grandparents have been fortuitous apostles. As they journeyed throughout the United States looking for a better life, they brought with them the Orthodox Gospel of Christ.

Therefore, on this Feast of Saint Photios, let us take time to focus with gratitude and thanksgiving on those who came before us. They sought a better world for themselves and their children. We can do no less. The Shrine of Saint Photios reminds each and every one of us that we also are called unto the apostleship of peace and of love. As we support the Shrine in material ways, let us also take up its spiritual vision to not only remember a noble past, but also to forge a better future for the whole world.

With paternal love in Christ,  
† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

# St George 2024 Festival Register Training

 The good news is we are expecting +7,000 visitors at our Festival on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with good weather. This will amount to over 25,000 transactions at our booths.

The 2024 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 are using CLOVER DUO 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.**

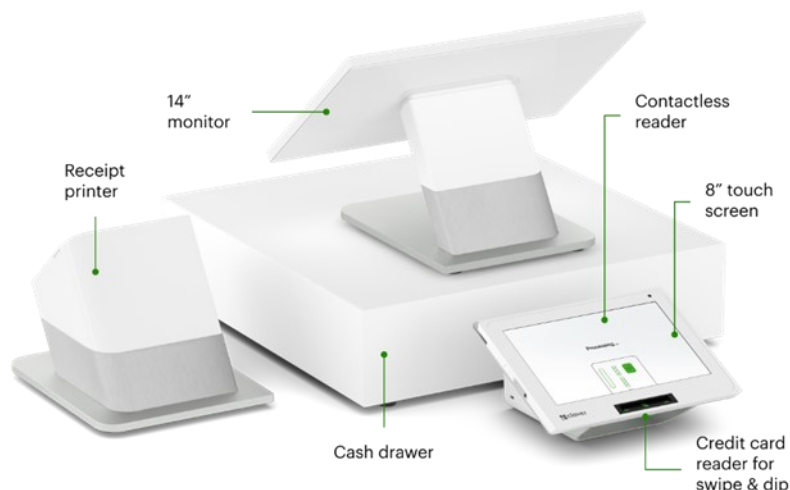
As with any new technology, there will be questions during the festival. We will have a roaming "Help Desk" team to assist cashiers with questions during the hours of operation.

**CLOVER Cashless Register user's training will occur in the church hall on the following days:**

Monday 2/12/24 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules.

Tuesday 2/13/24 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules.

Please contact Nick Latkovic at 760-455-9727 to arrange another time if you cannot attend the above sessions. I will also be at the church hall during the next 2 weeks prior to the festival to answer questions as well.



## Volunteer for the 2024 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.



If you haven't already, please sign up to volunteer for our festival. Complete and drop off this form to Jim Christopoulos or Father Ted. You may also contact Jim Christopoulos at 760-902-8460 or email [goofy\\_328@yahoo.com](mailto:goofy_328@yahoo.com). God bless!

.....  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Availability: Saturday 2/17: \_\_\_ 9:45-3:00 \_\_\_ 2:45-8:00

Sunday 2/18: \_\_\_ 9:45-3:00 \_\_\_ 2:45-8:00

Set up (week before festival): \_\_\_

Clean up (day after festival): \_\_\_



GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES

GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD  
HEAVENLY PASTRIES  
GREEK FOLK DANCERS  
OUZO ▶ RETSINA ▶ METAXA  
ART & SOUVENIRS  
RELIGIOUS ITEMS  
CHURCH TOURS  
KIDZ ZONE  
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

*Proudly presents the*

## 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# GREEK FESTIVAL

in Palm Desert, CA

Saturday & Sunday

February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

10am to 8pm

on the Church Grounds

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, CA

(760) 568-9901



**NO CASH PAYMENT** Credit Card and contactless payment **only** at this time



**NO PETS ALLOWED** Service Animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome



**SMOKING** and use of tobacco products **PROHIBITED** on church grounds

**EL PASEO COURTESY CARTS** available for festival attendee pick up & drop off. Route along El Paseo from San Pablo to Portola & church festival entrance.

**ADDITIONAL PARKING AVAILABLE** at Washington Charter School, and Hope Lutheran Church & Spiritual Center.

**SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED.**



We are pleased to provide assistance to anyone requesting it. If you need help, please ask.

Experience Authentic Greek Food  
Devour Heavenly Pastries  
Dance to live Greek music, and  
**Be Greek for a Day!**

**ADMISSION \$5**

(Children 12 & under free)  
Active Duty Military, Police,  
Fire & EMT Free w/ ID

[www.PDGreekFest.org](http://www.PDGreekFest.org)

t f PDGreekFest



GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES

GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - SOULYAKI - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES - GYROS





*St George Ladies Philoptochos invites you to a*

# *Membership Tea & Luncheon*

*Saturday, March 9*

*11:30 -2:00 P.M.*

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church Hall*

*RSVP By March 1st*

*Rhonda 714-875-4661*



*Wear your favorite hat!*  
*Hat Contest ~ Music ~ Raffle*





St. George  
Greek Orthodox Church's  
2024 Lenten Retreat

# Living the Liturgy

with

**Father Steven Tsichlis**

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

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Lenten Lunch Included

**Session 1**

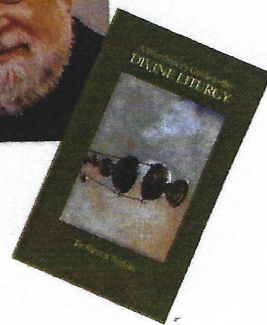
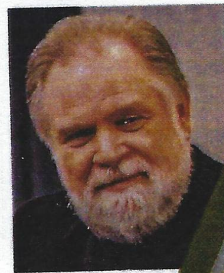
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word

**Session 2**

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Liturgy of the Eucharist



A freewill  
donation of  
\$10  
is appreciated

**To Register:**

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com | 760-568-9901  
74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA