



FEBRUARY 11 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 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 25: :14-30

The Lord said this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents

made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master. And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master. He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him, You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have

GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.”

As he said these things he cried out: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**Liturgical Notes for Today**

With the Entrance with the Gospel: 1) *“Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord, by His Mighty Arm, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death, and become the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades and has granted the world great mercy.”*/Ευφραινέσθω τα ουράνια...

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

3) **Kontakion:** *“Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners’ voices raised in prayer. In Your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You.”*/Προστασία των Χριστιανών...

**GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER**

From today’s Gospel passage we heard the Parable of our Lord and Savior regarding talents. Negligence toward fulfilling God’s work very often comes from a frame of mind, which suffers from resentment over the impression that others have an abundance of blessings compared to others, or from a spirit of neglect due to ingratitude. However, let us never forget our responsibility toward God to be grateful for the blessings that we do have. Gratitude is an “equal-opportunity” expression.

Whether due to jealous anger, lazy negligence, or unbridled selfishness, the servant in this parable having only one talent decided to “bury” it in his own worldly, fleeting pleasures and self-interests. He could have used it for good deeds, thereby multiplying its value. Indeed, God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Generosity is a safety net against sin.

It is clear from today’s Gospel passage that our Lord distributes gifts and attributes to people unequally. However, this is how He chooses to show love for each of us individually as persons. In this way, we are able to value each other as servants of God – giving us personal worth. While He loves us all equally, we have *equal* responsibility to “commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.” Let us have an *equal spirit* of generosity according to our means in giving our time, treasure and talents so that our Orthodox Faith can spread throughout the world by way of worship and good deeds to the glory of God. +FR. THEODORE

Από τη σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή ακούσαμε την Παραβολή του Χριστού σχετικά με τα τάλαντα. Η αμέλεια ως προς την εκπλήρωση των έργων του Θεού προέρχεται πολύ συχνά από ένα αγανακτισμένο πνεύμα, εξαιτίας της εντυπώσεως ότι οι άλλοι έχουν άφθονες ευλογίες σε σύγκριση με άλλους, ή από πνεύμα παραμελήσεως λόγω αχαριστίας. Ωστόσο, ας μην ξεχνάσουμε ποτέ την ευθύνη μας απέναντι στον Θεό να είμεθα ευγνώμονες για τις ευλογίες που ήδη έχουμε. Η ευγνωμοσύνη είναι μια έκφραση «ίσων ευκαιριών».

Είτε λόγω μνησικακίας, τεμπελιάς, ή εγωϊσμού, ο υπηρέτης αυτής της παραβολής, έχοντας μόνο ένα ταλέντο, απεφάσισε να το «θάψει» στις δικές του κοσμικές, απολαύσεις και προσωπικά του συμφέροντα. Θα μπορούσε να το είχε χρησιμοποιήσει για καλές πράξεις, πολλαπλασιάζοντας έτσι την αξία του. Πράγματι, ο Θεός αγαπά τον χαρούμενο δωρητή (2 Κορινθίους 9:7). Η γενναιοδωρία είναι ένα «δίχτυ» ασφαλείας από αμαρτωλές διαπράξεις.

Είναι φανερό από την σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή ότι ο Χριστός χαρίζει άνισα δώρα και ιδιότητες στους ανθρώπους. Ωστόσο, έτσι δείχνει την αγάπη Του για τον καθένα μας ώστε να έχει ο καθένας μας

*Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα – -->*

μοναδική αξία. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο, μπορούμε να εκτιμούμε ο ένας τον άλλον ως υπηρέτες του Θεού – κάτι που μας δίνει προσωπική αξιοπρέπεια. Ενώ ο Χριστός μας αγαπά όλους εξίσου, έχουμε την *ισότιμη ερθόνη* να παραδίδουμε τον εαυτό μας και ο ένας τον άλλον και ολόκληρη τη ζωή μας στον Χριστό. Ας έχουμε το *ισότιμο πνεύμα* γενναιοδωρίας ανάλογα με τις δυνατότητές μας να προσφέρουμε τον χρόνο, τους θησαυρούς και τα таланτά μας, ώστε η Ορθοδοξία να διαδοθεί σε όλο τον κόσμο διά μέσων της λατρείας μας και των καλών μας έργων προς δόξαν Θεού.  
+ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Today.....STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Monday, February 12th to Friday, February 16th.....Preparations for next weekend's St. George Greek Festival.

Tuesday, February 13th.....No Bible Study/AHEPA- 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14th.....Online Orthodox Catechism Class (Zoom) - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17th and next Sunday, February 18th ...ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL (10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. both days) **Note: Next Sunday: Orthros- 7:45 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2024 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL – Saturday, February 17th and next Sunday, February 18th is our annual St. George Greek Festival.** This is the week is a good time to distribute Festival fliers to hotels and restaurants! Please note that **Orthros will begin at 7:45 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.** This will enable everyone in our parish to help make this year's Greek Festival a resounding success.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL – After Church services today,** students, parents and parishioners are invited to help make “**Friendship Bracelets**” in support of our Philoptochos **Kids-n-Cancer/Camp Agape** ministries. See attached flier! On **Sunday, March 10th** our Sunday School lesson be about Great Lent. On **Sunday, March 24th**, a very special presentation by **Mary Brown**, who has extensively studied Orthodox Christian iconography, will be offered to **Sunday School students, parents and members** of our parish in general during our coffee hour. The presentation will feature the meaning of Orthodox Christian icons.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS – Sunday, March 3rd** will be our next “**Paint-n-Sip**” Sunday. Following a brief presentation by **Mary Brown, Louka** will guide participants in painting a simple icon of Christ which can be blessed by **Fr. Ted** and used for family prayer. On another note, please **save the date for the Philoptochos Membership Tea and Luncheon on March 9th.** R.S.V.P. by March 1st to Rhonda Latkovic.
- **FESTIVAL CLOVER “CASH REGISTER” TRAINING – Next Monday, February 12th and Tuesday, February 13th,** training lessons will be offered to those who need to know 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.
- **ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT – Saturday, April 6, 2024.** Fr. Steven Tschlis, pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, California and author of *A Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy*. This year, Fr. Steven will offer a detailed explanation of the prayers of the Divine Liturgy will be presented. See the enclose 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.

# 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.**

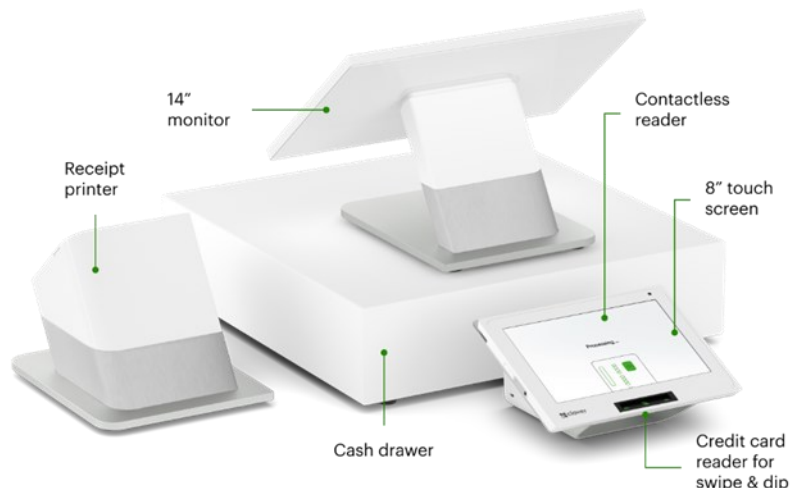
As with any new technology, there will be questions during the festival. We will have a roaming "Help Desk" team to assist cashiers with questions during the hours of operation.

**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 - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTIKHIO - SOULVAKI - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES - GYROS  
 GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTIKHIO - SOULVAKI - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES - GYROS  
 - GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES -



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD  
 HEAVENLY PASTRIES  
 GREEK FOLK DANCERS  
 OUZO ▶ RETSINA ▶ METAXA  
 ART & SOUVENIRS  
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 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)

PDGreekFest





*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**

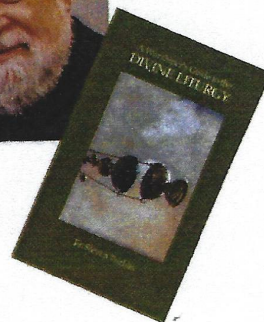
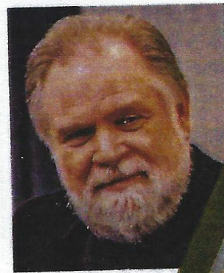
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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