



FEBRUARY 25, 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 Kontaxis, M.D., M.Div.

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



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 Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

THE CHURCH'S TRIODION SEASON BEGINS - With the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector (Publican), the liturgical season known as the Triodion begins. The Triodion is a three week season that calls us to seek the virtue of humility, asking our Lord to forgive our sins; to have mercy upon us and to guide us as we prepare to enter the Holy Season of Great Lent. For Orthodox Christians, Great Lent this year begins on March 18th. (+Fr. Theodore)

ST. TARASIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE - Today we commemorate St. Tarasios, who was originally a consul and first among the Emperor's private counselors. However, in 784, he was elected Patriarch of Constantinople by the Sovereigns Irene and her son Constantine Porphyrogenitus. He convoked the Seventh Ecumenical Council that upheld the holy icons, and became the boast of the Church and a light to the clergy. He reposed in 806. (Taken in part from www.goarch.org)

Liturgical Notes for Today

With the Entrance with the Gospel: 1) "O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own Will, He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection." /Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον...

2) "Since You are a deliverer of captives and a protector of the poor; a physician for the sick; a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the martyrs and glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls." /Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...[Hymn for St. George]

3) **Kontakion:** "Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, 'Have mercy on us, for through You alone are we reconciled.'" /Φαρισαίου φύγωμεν υψηγορίαν...

LET'S NOT JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE

Today we heard the Parable of our Lord about the Pharisee and the Tax-collector (Publican). The Pharisee addressed God with pride, noting his diligence in observing the Law by tithing and avoiding grave sins. The Tax-collector addressed God with humility, asking for mercy due to the fact that he was aware of the sins he committed by collecting taxes from his own people to give to the Roman Empire. By doing so, he served as a traitor against the Chosen People of God. However, in humility, he was sorrowful for his sins, washing them away with his tears of remorse.

Of note, the Pharisee started off with thanksgiving to God, saying, "God, I thank You." However, as soon as he said, "I am not like others, ... not even like this Tax-collector," he lost his salvation, because in saying these words, he was passing judgment on others and, specifically, the Tax-collector.

Like the Tax-collector, let us be humble before God and only judge our own actions, asking our Savior for forgiveness and the opportunity to repent. This is the road to salvation. +FR. THEODORE

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Presvytera Mary Kosturos (6 years)**, the beloved mother of **Paul Kosturos** and mother-in-law of **Dena Kosturos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Presvytera Mary Kosturos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Paul and Dena Kosturos** and the entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 27th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 28th.....Online Orthodox Catechism Class (Zoom) - 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL - Many thanks to all who helped to make this year's St. George Greek Festival a great success. We especially thank God for the dedicated efforts of our **Festival Chairman, George Argyros and his team.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL - We encourage our Sunday School students to participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with their parents and to follow lessons that are available from either **Mrs. Athena Snarskis** or **Pres. Petula**. Going forward, **special Sunday School classes** and events are being planned for **Sunday, March 10th** and **Sunday, March 24th (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**. Parents and students are asked to bring their icons for the procession on Sunday of Orthodoxy.

SATURDAY OF SOULS - **Saturday, March 9th** - PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE: **Orthros will begin at 8:00 a.m./ Divine Liturgy will follow at 9:00 a.m.,** with the Memorial Service being held following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Continued on the next page -->

ANNOUNCEMENTS, Continued

PHILOPTOCHOS - March 3rd ...Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, **Part One of March's "Paint-n-Sip" Activity**. The "Paint-n-Sip" activity for March 2024 will be in two parts and will feature an opportunity to learn about the art of iconography with the guidance from **Louka** and **Mary Brown**. With prayer and proper technique, participants will create their own icons. See enclosed flier.

MEMBERSHIP TEA & LUNCHEON - The annual **Philoptochos Membership Tea and Luncheon** will be held at our parish hall on **Saturday, March 9th** at 11:30 a.m. To learn more details, **R.S.V.P. to Rhonda Latkovic by March 1st**. See the enclosed flier.

STEWARDSHIP - February 11th was Stewardship Sunday. We are most grateful to God for the efforts of **Matthew Holm** as chairman of our Stewardship ministry. Since February 11th, we have received an outstanding number of 2024 Stewardship Pledge Cards. A full report will be provided going into March. Those who have not for any reason received a 2024 Stewardship Pledge Card please let us know. Those who have not yet returned their 2024 Stewardship Pledge Cards, we ask to please do so soon.

PRAYER REQUESTS - Please let us know of anyone in need of special prayers. Call Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869. Please pray for: Eva Canakis, Nancy Breighner, Eve Meek, Annette Lewis, Ann Michas, Diane Young, Bess Heinrich.

RECENT CONVERTS TO ORTHODOXY - We welcome to our parish our following new members: Noelle Salmas (Chrismation: Godparent, Rhonda Latkovic); Daniel Cabantangan (Baptism and Orthodox Marriage Sacrament - Sponsor, Kyle Works); Christian Hernandez (Chrismation: Godparents, Matthew and Lisa Holm), Joshua Lee (Baptism: Godparent, Kyle Works). These are the "graduates" of our weekly online Catechism classes over the past few months.

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

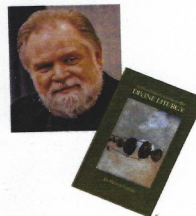
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word

Session 2

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Liturgy of the Eucharist

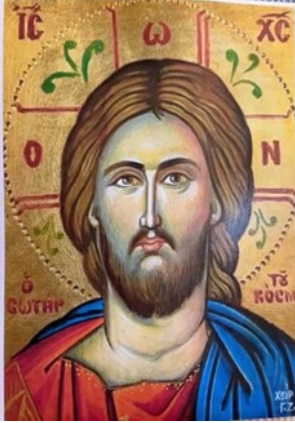


A freewill
donation of
\$10
is appreciated

To Register:

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

Philoptochos invites you to an



ICON PAINTING/WRITING WORKSHOP

Sunday, MARCH 3rd - Part I

11:00 am - Participants will begin with an Icon painting/writing introduction by **Mary Brown**. Immediately followed with prepping our canvas and step by step instructions by **Louka**.

Sunday, MARCH 24th – Part II

1145 am – **Louka** will continue with providing further step by step instructions and finishing touches to our Icon of Christ immediately following **Mary Brown's** coffee hour presentation on “**Icons from Pascha to Pentecost: Becoming Eyewitnesses to the Resurrection**”.

Limited seating for 20

Register now to
Rhonda: 714-875-4661
or sign-up during
coffee hour



\$15.00

Total cost

(includes
canvas, paint and
supplies)



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

