

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,
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 FACTOR OF FAITH

St. John Chrysostom reminds us about the great difference that exists between eternity and the length of time in this present earthly life of ours. In his first oration regarding the topic of Christ's Parable, "The Rich Man and Lazarus," he says, "Tell me, if someone living a hundred years happens to see a good dream one night in which he enjoys great luxury in his sleep, would you be in the position to say that a night of one dream compares equally to a hundred years? This life cannot be com-

pared to the future life, or, rather, the difference is great, indeed. As a small drop of water is to the vastness of the ocean, so are a thousand years to be compared to the future life of Divine glory." (On Wealth and Poverty, by St. John Chrysostom, trans. by Catherine Roth, pg. 35).

In this Parable of our Lord, we hear that there is a great chasm which exists between Heaven and Hades. This truth is verified by the fact that there is a chasm between good and evil

Continued on Page 2

MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN -- Our Lord's parable today deals with man's inhumanity toward man. St. John Chrysostom notes that even the dogs had more compassion on poor man Lazarus than did the rich man; for, the dogs attempted to soothe his sores. The tendency for us to be inhuman toward each other is manifested in the violence of our time due to lack of faith in God.

As Christians, our faith in government can never be stronger than our faith in God. Faith in God leads to love for God and others, while the lack of faith in God leads ultimately to conflicts and hatred. As Orthodox Christians, whose ancestors saw good governments, as well as bad governments, we pray as we do in the Liturgy, "For our President and all civil authorities...[that our Lord grants] to those in civil authority to govern in peace so that we, in their tranquility, lead pious and peaceful lives." At the same time, Orthodox Christians have never compromised their love for God and their fellow human being because a government was bad. This is so from the times of Roman persecutions to modern times of Ottoman Turkish rule and Communism. There is no excuse for hatred; there is no cause for anger and depression! Our responsibility, however, is to always voice our faith in sharing the Gospel of our Lord.

On another note, to those whose faith depends on seeing someone rising from the dead (as in the case of the rich man), we must remember that, even when people *did* rise from the dead (Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, Tabitha, etc.), people still did not believe. Let us then live the Bible!

+FR. THEODORE



Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος μας υπενθυμίζει ότι υπάρχει μεγάλη διαφορά μεταξύ της αιωνιότητος και του χρόνου σε σχέση με αυτόν τον προσωρινό κόσμο. Στην πρώτη του ομιλία σχετικά με το θέμα της Παραβολής του Χριστού που λέγεται. <Ο Πλούσιος και ο Λαζαρος,> μας λέγει: <Πες μου, αν κάποιος σε εκατό χρόνια τυχαίνει να ειδεί ένα καλό όνειρο κατά μια νύκτα μέσα στο οποίο απολαύμβανει μεγάλη πολυτέλεια στον ύπνο του, θα εισθε σε θέση να πείτε ότι η νύκτα των ονείρων ισοδυναμεί με εκατό χρόνια; Η επιγίως ζωή δεν μπορεί να συγκριθεί με την μελλοντική ζωή, η μάλλον, η διαφορά είναι μεγάλη. Ως μια μικρή σταγόνα νερού είναι στην απεραντήν θάλασσαν, τόσο πολύ χιλιάδες χρόνια συγκρίνονται με αυτήν την μελλοντική ζωή της Θεικής δοξης...> (Η εκδοσις: Τα Πλούτη και η Φτώχεια, υπό Αγίου Ιωάννου του Χρυσόστομου, μεταφρ. υπό Αικατερίνα Roth, σελ. 35).

Δια μέσου αυτής της Παραβολής του Χριστού, ακούμεν ότι υπάρχει μεγάλο χάσμα μεταξύ Παραδείσου και κολάσεως. Αυτό διαβεβαιώνεται στην πραγματικότητα ότι υπάρχει χάσμα μεταξύ καλών πράξεων και σκοτεινών πράξεων... μεταξύ αρετής και αμαρτίας. Είναι αδύνατον να υπάρχει το καλό μαζί με την κακίαν – δεν ανακατώνονται, όπως το λάδι δεν ανακατώνεται με το νερό. Ο Θεός, ο Οποίος είναι το Πρόσωπον της αγάπης, δεν έχει σχέση με την εχθράν.

Αυτό που παίζει το μεγαλύτερο ρόλο στις αποφάσεις μας είναι η πίστις μας. Εάν πιστεύουμεν ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Αληθινός Θεός, θα κάνουμε τα έργα της αγάπης.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

and between virtue and sin. It is impossible for good to “cross over” (i.e., “be mingled”) into evil, or visa-versa in the sense that they cannot be mingled any more than oil and water can mingle.

This chasm is not a “creation” of God, because Jesus Christ our God is totally good. God does not co-exist with evil - in fact, God casts evil *out*. Therefore, the chasm between where Lazarus exists with Abraham and where the rich man finds himself is the result of the choices that *we* make. We make the choices to live according to the virtues that lead to good deeds, or the vices that lead to sinful deeds.

Every human being is created with Free Will and, therefore, has the ability (or, if you will, the *gift*) of making choices. Otherwise the virtue of love, for example, could never be expressed, since love is an act of Free Will, rather than being some robotic act. One might say that Lazarus was “destined” to go to Heaven due to the make-up of his personality, while the rich man was “destined” to go to Hades as the result of his personality. However, regardless of the make-up of our personalities, each person still can make choices all the time. We see this from the Apostles themselves. They each had different personalities, but they all chose to follow Christ our God in unity.

What is it, then that works in us that makes us choose to either do good or to do evil? It is our *faith in God*, or lack of it. Faith lies behind our choices. If I *believe*, for example, that I will be forever wealthy if I hoard my goods and give nothing to the poor and that wealth is the key to my happiness, I will, therefore hoard my goods, or be tempted to steal. If, on the other hand, I *believe* that which St. Paul states in today’s Epistle reading, “*That we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...*” (Ephesians 2:10), then I will choose to observe God’s Word. In addition, I would *believe* that I will give an account to Christ at His Judgment Seat and either live in His Kingdom because of my unity with Him, or find myself outside of His Kingdom due to the evil that I would do.

Indeed, having *faith* in the Word of God is a key factor in the decisions we make. Too often, however, we find ourselves deceived by the devil and we place our faith in the wrong places, and, accordingly, we bring about our own miseries by doing things contrary to God’s Will. It is a constant inner, meditative prayer to Christ our God on our part, through which the grace of God is imparted to us, that gives us wisdom to know the true realities around us. In this way, we can see through falsehoods and deceptions and we can choose that which leads to the Eternal Kingdom of Christ our God.

+FR. THEODORE

“I know my lawlessness and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words and overcome when You are judged.”

Psalm 51: 5-6

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

ANTIPHON I: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

Verse 1— Bless the Lord O my soul and everything within me; Bless His Holy Name.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."

Verse 2— Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

Verse 3— The Lord prepared His throne in heaven and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

ANTIPHON II: "Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)

Verse 1— Praise the Lord O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2— Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3— The Lord shall reign forever; your God O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon. Amin

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

ANTIPHON III This is the day the Lord has made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: Angelike dynameis (Tone 6)... (When the Angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your Pure and Sacred Body for You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You, Who arose from the dead, O Lord, we give glory to You.)

Hymn for St. Ioannikios the Great: Tes ton dhakrion sou rho-es... (With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Ioannikios, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.)

Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George: intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: Prostasia ton Christianon ... (A Protection of Christians unshamable, Intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for You are good; Your loving help bring to us, who are crying in faith to You: Hasten now to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a Protection for all time, O Theotokos, for those who honor You.)

READINGS: EPISTLE— Ephesians 2: 4-10 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 16: 19-31

Megalinarion: Axion Estin

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion (Praise the Lord)...pg. 64 in the Divine Liturgy Books

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Today, Philoptochos will be passing a tray for the **Ecumenical Patriarch**. Thank you for your donation. Make your reservation today for the AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 18. **Athena Snarskis** is taking reservations at the Philoptochos table. The deadline is November 11. Also, stop by to sign up for the General Meeting on November 12 so we know the count for lunch. All parishioners are welcome to hear a presentation of **Dr. John Manesis'** new book. A percentage of book sales will go to Philoptochos. See the flier in our parish hall. Light the Path Luncheon will be on Saturday, November 17 at the Long Beach Church. The luncheon is to raise money for the Adopt-a-Student endowment. See the flier and invitations in the hall.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS -Today's **Altar Flower Bouquets** are graciously offered to God by:
 -Ms. Eve Meek - *"In honor of my daughter Patricia's Birthday Day; her Loving Mother!"*
 -Mr. & Mrs. Nick Latkovic - *"In memory of Nicholas C. Latkovic, and Robert E. Fleming, the fathers of Nick, and Rhonda Latkovic!"*

IMPORTANT FESTIVAL MEETING - Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.!

GOLF CART PARADE - The name of our entry in last week's Golf Cart Parade was "Hercules & Friends". We were blessed to be loaned a golf cart from neighbors of **Tina and Angelo Veroulis**. **Becky Allen** and her friend **Norman**, kindly picked up the cart and delivered it to the church. St. George parishioners assisted with the decoration of the cart including **Pete Snarskis, Angelo Veroulis, Tina Veroulis, Becky Allen, Nick Latkovic, and Rhonda Latkovic**. Also, many thanks to **Maryia Dunkel, Debbie Pausen** and **Melissa Hawkins** for their help at this event.

PET BLESSING EVENT - Our Pet Blessing Event yesterday was wonderful! Our special guest attendees included **Richard Waxman**, founder of "**Paws & Hearts**", Animal Assisted Therapy and **Lynne Lockwood**, representative from "**Loving All Animals**," both local non-profit organizations.

NEW TABLE-CHAIR SETS- A sample of our new **parish hall table & chair sets** is available now in our parish hall. Please check it out.

AHEPA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON - Reservations will be taken today for joining in the annual AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon at Towne Center Café on **Sunday, November 18th**.

ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD -- St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Forms are available in our parish hall. We encourage everyone to consider sharing blessings of our Savior with their fellow parishioners.

PARISH FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY-Save the date: Sunday, December 9, 2018.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 6th.....No Bible Study.

Wednesday, November 7th.....Festival Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 8th.....ARCHANGELS MICHAEL & GABRIEL

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

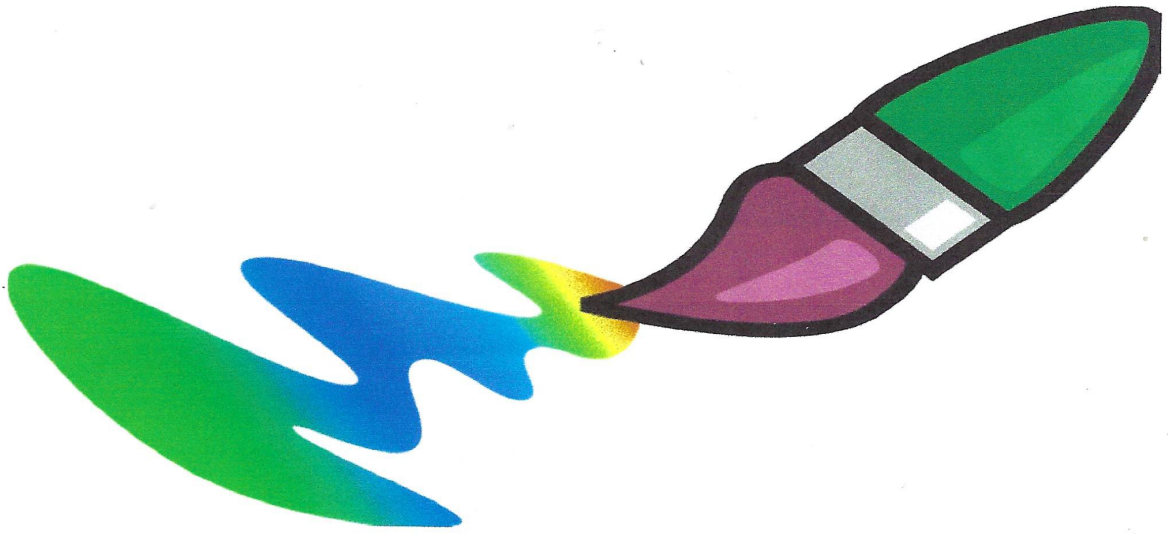
-Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 9th.....ST. NECTARIOS OF PENTAPOLIS

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

-Coloring Book Group - 12:00 noon

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, November 9th @ 12 PM-2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By Nov. 4th to Rhonda Latkovic

Our next luncheon & adult coloring session will be Friday, November 9th. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A raffle will be held. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!

PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING

All Parishioners are invited to our Philoptochos Meeting for a book reading and talk from the newly published book by Dr. John Manesis:

[With Steadied Hands](#)

When: Monday, November 12

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Where: Church Hall

A hearty lunch will be served for a donation of \$10.00.

Please RSVP at the Philoptochos table so we can determine how much food to order or call Rhonda or Emily.

You will be able to purchase a signed copy of [With Steadied Hands](#). For each book sold, Dr. Manesis will donate \$5.00 to Philoptochos.

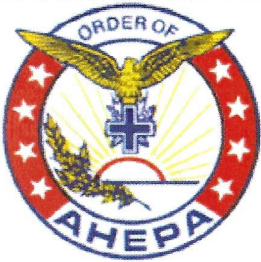
We are looking forward to this exciting event.

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
LUNCH

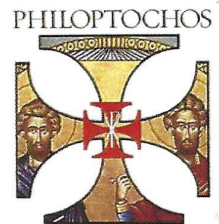
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 18th, 2018



Town Center Cafe

44491 Town Center Way
Palm Desert, CA



\$25.00

Children \$12.00 *under 12*

Tickets can be purchased from Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

**All proceeds go to Fr. Theophilos Theophilos
Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Donations accepted at www.ahepa528.org or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

contact@ahepa528.org

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online ahepa528.org
Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 11, 2018

Thank You for your Continued Support!



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

- Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline: December 3, 2018



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office - 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

