

NOVEMBER 18, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER



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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.*

HEAVENLY TREASURES

In today's Gospel passage, Christ our God confirmed the facts that we have a soul; that the soul lives forever, and that its role is that of having authority over the body. The soul is the divine quality of a person.

In this regard, the treasures of the soul have eternal worth. The soul's treasures are: 1) the virtues and 2) good deeds.

Many Saints of the Church have spoken about the Christian virtues. Some of

those virtues are: 1) love, 2) humility, 3) faith, 4) generosity, 5) chastity, 6) gentleness, 7) self-control, and 8) diligence.

Christian virtues are the fountains from which spring good deeds for the glory of God and for the salvation of our fellow human being. Virtues and good deeds together comprise our precious spiritual treasure, through which we are bonded to the rich blessings of God.

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ADVENT: THE LITURGICAL SEASON LEADING TO THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS (THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR)

The Nativity Fast is a period of abstinence and penance practiced by the Eastern Orthodox Christians. It is observed from November 15 to December 24, inclusively. Through the discipline of fasting, practiced with humility and repentance. By learning to temper the body's primary desire for food, other worldly desires can be more easily tempered as well. Through this practice one is better enabled to draw closer to God in the hope of becoming more Christ-like. While the fast influences the body, it is important to note that emphasis is placed on the spiritual facet of the fast rather than mere physical deprivation. Orthodox theology sees a synthesis between the body and the soul, so what happens to one affects the other. The church teaches that it is not enough to fast from food; one must also fast from anger, greed and covetousness. In addition to fasting, almsgiving is also emphasized.

Two Sundays before Nativity the Church calls to remembrance the Holy Ancestors, both before the giving of the Law of Moses and after, including Adam and King David. The Sunday before Nativity is even broader in its scope of commemoration than the previous Sunday, in that it commemorates all of the righteous men and women from the creation of the world up to St. Joseph.

– Taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_Fast



Κατα την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην περικοπην, ο Χριστος διαβεβαιωνει οτι ο ανθρωπος εχει ψυχην...οτι η ψυχη ζει αιωνως, και οτι εχει ως ρολον της την κυριαρχιαν του σωματος. Η ψυχη ειναι η θεικη ιδιοτης του ανθρωπου.

Ως εκ τουτου, οι θησαυρες της ψυχης εχουν αιωνιον αξιαν. Οι θησαυρες αυτες ειναι: 1) οι αρετες, και, 2) τα εναρετα εργα.

Μερικοι Αγιοι της Εκκλησιας εχουν ομιληση περι των Χριστιανικων αρετων. Μερικες αρετες ειναι: 1) η αγαπη, 2) η ταπεινοτης, 3) η πιστις, 4) η γενναιοδωρια, 5) η αγνοτης, 6) η ηπισοτης, 7) η εγκρατεια, 8) η ευχαριστησις, και 9) η επιμελεια.

Οι Χριστιανικες αρετες ειναι πηγες απο τις οποιες πηγαζονται τα εναρετα εργα προς δοξαν του Θεου και την σωτηριαν του συνανθρωπου μας. Οι αρετες και τα εναρετα εργα μαζι αποτελουν τον πολυτιμον ψυχικον θησαυρον μας, δια του οποιου συνδεεται ο ανθρωπος με τις πλουσιες ευλογιες του Θεου.

Στην *Φιλοκαλιαν* διαβαζομεν τα γραπτα του Αγιου Αντωνιου, *Περι του Ανθρωπινου Χαρακτηρος και της Εναρετης Ζωης*, μεσα στα οποια ευρισκεται η εξης συμβουλη: <Οταν ο ανθρωπος σεβεται τον Θεον με ολην του την καρδιαν και με ολην του την πιστην, δια μεσου της Θειας προνοιας, παραλαμβανει την δυναμην να ελεγει την οργην και τις επιθυμιες του, αφου οι επιθυμιες και η οργη του ανθρωπου ειναι αιτιες για ολες τις κακιες.> (Τομ. 1, σελ. 331)

Ας προσεξουμεν την κατασταση της ψυχης μας, ωστε να κανουμεν τις καταλληλες προετοιμασιες για την μελλοντικην μας ζωην.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

In the *Philokalia* we read the writings of St. Anthony the Great, "On the Character of Man and the Virtuous Life," in which we find the following advice: "When one reveres God wholeheartedly and with faith, one receives through God's providence the power to control anger and desire; for it is desire and anger which are the cause of all evils." (Vol. 1, pg. 331).

Among other things, St. Anthony reminds us of the following spiritual truths: "Freedom and happiness of soul consist in genuine purity and detachment from transitory things...Examine and test your inward character; and always keep in mind that human authorities have power over the body alone and not over the soul...for, God created the soul to be free and endowed it with the power to choose between good and evil...The cause of all evils is delusion, self-deception and ignorance of God. Concentration on holiness of living, together with attentiveness to the soul, lead to goodness and the love of God. For, whoever seeks God finds Him by overcoming all desires through persistence in prayer. For such a person, there is no fear even of demons." (*Philokalia*, Vol 1., pg. 333).

In comparison to the kind of inner life to which St. Anthony (and the entire body of Saints) calls us to embrace, the inner life of the rich man from the Parable of our Lord in today's Gospel differs dramatically. As opposed to having inner peace with God, his life is filled with much anxiety over what to do with all of his many crops, because he viewed his treasure as a guarantee for physical well-being. His delusion was that his physical being is all that matters in life. Therefore, he worried about how to preserve it in comfort and luxury.

Our Lord's teaching, however, is that we are created with both a body and a soul. Both are of God and both are to be cared for with honor to God's glory, although it is the property of the soul to have the *free-will* capability of controlling the body. It is through our physical bodies that virtuous deeds are produced, emanating from the goodness of our souls. This ruler-ship of the soul over the body forms the basis of Orthodox spiritual life. In physically doing God's work from the depths of our souls we visibly inspire others with the love of God.

Let us watch over the condition of our souls with diligence so that we can make the necessary preparations for our future life by *giving* spiritual treasures of good works and proper guidance to others for their salvation.

+FR. THEODORE

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all through all and in all. But the grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."

--Ephesians 4: 3-7

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: Ex ipsous katilthes pros ton thanaton (Tone 8)... (From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure, three days in the tomb that we may be, released from passions in this world, You Who are our resurrection and our life. Glory unto You O Lord.)

Hymn for the Martyr St. Platonos of Ankyra: O martys Sou Kyrie... (Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God. Since he possessed Your power and defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, save 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: O katharotatos na-ohs tou Sotiros ... (The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is She.)

READINGS: EPISTLE -- Ephesians 4: 1-7 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 12: 16-21

Megalinarion: Axion Estin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Olympia Fick

AHEPA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON -- Today at 12:30 p.m. at Towne Center Café.
Any last minute reservations? See Wynn Storton today in our parish hall. AHEPA Chapter 528 would like to thank the St. George Ladies of Philoptohos for their support in providing for the success of this year's AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon!

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS - The following are the Contributors and their Dedications for this Sunday, November 18, 2018:

--Ms. Terry Ayanopolis - *Scripture from Isaiah 40:31 "But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger."*

--Mr. & Mrs. Gene and Nadia G. Hector - *"In loving memory of our fathers"; Eugene Geeza, and Gene T. Hector; may their memories be Eternal!*

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. **Next week, November 26 and 27, starting at 9:00 a.m.,** we begin making cookies for our Christmas Bake. Come help us to make the work go faster. The week of December 3 will be making bread. **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, December 8 is our annual Christmas Luncheon at Desert Horizons Country Club.** More information to come.

STREET-LIFE...FEEDING THE HOMELESS – Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at Miles Park in Indio. See the enclosed flier for details. Sign up to help on the "Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet" posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

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 20th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Street-Life Ministry to the Homeless, Indio - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 21st.....ENTRANCE OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE

Orthros-8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 22nd.....THANKSGIVING DAY (office closed)

"All things wait upon You, O Lord...When You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth." --Psalm 103(104): 29-30

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.

The Streetlife Project

Feeding the Homeless for Thanksgiving

11/20/18
Miles Park,
Indio, CA

Who: Volunteers from St. George needed to drive food to the location, serve the food, help with clean-up & spread God's love to those less fortunate.

What: St. George Philoptochos will be sponsoring the turkey dinner for 400-500 homeless on this day.

When: Tuesday, Nov. 20th from 6:00-8:30 PM

Where: Miles Park in Indio, CA.

How: See Rhonda Latkovic to volunteer. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the church hall.

THANKSGIVING HOMELESS PROJECT

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Help needed:

- Pick up food at Towne Center Café around 5:30 p.m. (two SUV-type cars are needed)
- Arrive at location by 6:00 p.m.
- Transfer pans of turkey and gravy to designated tables for distribution
- Assist with distribution of food to approximately 400-500 people
- Bus tables, help clean -up, etc.
- Finish up approximately 8-8:30 p.m

Materials needed: Aprons, gloves and sanitizers for each volunteer; serving utensils and 2 rolling carts

Volunteer by signing the "Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet" posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Thanksgiving for the Homeless

Tuesday, Nov. 29th

Driving Directions

**From: 74109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert,
California 92260, United States**

**To: Miles Park, 44700 Palm St., Indio, California
92201, United States**

1. Head west on Larrea Street
2. Turn right onto Portola Avenue
3. Turn right onto Fred Waring Drive
4. Turn left onto Avenue 44
5. Turn right onto Indio Boulevard (I-10
Business)
6. Turn right onto Biskra Street
7. You have arrived at your destination,
straight ahead.

**If you wish to carpool, meet at the church by
5:30 PM. If you wish to drive directly to the park,
please arrive no later than 6:15 PM.**



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



Philoptochos Annual Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.
Desert Horizons Country Club

44900 Desert Horizons Country Club

Indian Wells, CA 92210

(Off Hwy. 111 between Cook and El Dorado)

760-340-4646

R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 30, 2018 to:

Rhonda Latkovic, Athena Snarskis or Tina Veroulis

Make your check payable to Philoptochos

Family and Friends are invited

\$37.00 per person for a Pre-fixe Menu, no substitutions

Choice of: **circle number of choice** (both meals include salad, soft drinks, & dessert)

1. Petite Filet Steak, spinach mashed potatoes, vegetables
2. Seared Alaskan Cod, lemon, olive and white bean ragout and spinach

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____ Amount Total \$ _____