

OCTOBER 14, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: stgeorgepd@aol.com

THE LADDER

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7th ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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.

DEFENDING ORTHODOXY

The words of St. Paul to Titus, which we heard during the reading of the Holy Epistle passage today, are words not only directed to Titus, but to all of us in our present society.

St. Paul tells us to avoid useless discussions about ideologies and laws, which have nothing to do with the teachings of Christ's Gospel. He says, "*for a heretic, after trying to instruct him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him.*" (Titus 3:10).

The Saints of the Early Church would explain that a "heretic" was one who decided on his or her own which teachings of the Bible to observe and which teachings not to observe. However, a faithful Christian is responsible to always observe all the teachings of Christ our God. Whoever believes only in some of God's teachings causes division throughout the entire Christian community.

We live in a time when many of our faithful do not know the teachings of

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE & THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH --When we consider accurately the Orthodox Christian teaching and mentality, humanity is not depraved, nor is human nature itself sinful. The rules of the Church are geared to bring the best out of people through repentance, rather than to degrade or devalue them because of sins.

Let's look at St. Paul's words to the Romans: "*We know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that is what I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*" (Romans 7:14-17). Sin "dwells" in us as a result of our poor choices and the desire to be neglectful of God. We were not created to be sinful. According to Orthodox theologians, "*The Orthodox Church rejects any teaching that Man has a 'sin-nature', or that Man's nature is depraved to the core...Sin is something distinct from our nature. Because we are created in the image of God, there is an indelible goodness in our nature that can never be undone. While we can become immersed in sin, we know that it is still not part of our nature,...Thus, sin is what we do, not what we are.*" (see *The Orthodox Study Bible*, pg. 1534). Otherwise, we could do nothing good.

This, then, is the principle for "spiritual warfare" to which St. Paul is alluding in his struggle to do what he knows he should, but often does not. We turn to our Savior Who enlightens us. +FR. THEODORE



Τα λόγια του Αγίου Παύλου προς τον Τιτον, τα οποία ακουσαμεν κατα την αποστολικήν αναγνώσιν, απευθύνονται, όχι μόνον προς τον Τιτον, αλλά προς όλους μας της σημερινής εποχής.

Μας λέγει ο Άγιος Παύλος να αποφεύγωμεν περιττες συζητήσεις περι ιδεολογιών και νομών, οι οποίες δεν έχουν σχέσιν με την διδασκαλίαν του Ευαγγελίου του Χριστού. Μας λέγει: <αιρετικόν άνθρωπον μετά μιαν και δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτού>. (Τιτον 3:10).

Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας εξήγουν ότι <ο αιρετικός άνθρωπος> είναι εκείνος ο οποίος διαλέγει μόνος του ποιές διδασκαλίες του Χριστού θέλει να τηρήσῃ και ποιές δεν θέλει να τηρήσῃ. Ο πιστός Χριστιανός, όμως, είναι υπεύθυνος να τηρήσῃ καθημερινώς την ολοκληρήν διδασκαλίαν του Χριστού. Οποιος πιστεύει μόνον σε μερικές διδασκαλίες χωρίζει την κοινότητα των πιστών.

Ζούμεν σε εποχὴν στην οποίαν υπάρχουν πολλοί οι οποίοι δεν εξευρουν καθόλου την διδασκαλίαν της Εκκλησίας μας. Μερικοί πιστεύουν σε μαγείες και δεισιδαιμονίες οι οποίες δεν έχουν καμίαν σχέσιν με την Ορθόδοξον Πίστιν. Άλλοι δεν πιστεύουν στα Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας ὡς πρέπει. Και, όμως, λέγουν ότι είναι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί.

Σήμερα καθὼς μνημονεύομεν τοὺς Πατέρες της Ζῆς Οἰκουμένης Συνόδου, ἀς ξανα-νεώσομεν τὸ ζῆλον μας νὰ μαθοῦμεν ὅλες τις διδασκαλίες της Εκκλησίας μας καὶ ἀς κάνομεν καθὲ προσπάθειαν νὰ ἐφαρμοσοῦμεν τις διδασκαλίες της Εκκλησίας μας στις καθημερινές υποθέσεις μας.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

our Orthodox Church. There are some who believe in magic and in superstitions, which are not at all part of our Orthodox Faith. Others do not properly understand or believe in the Sacramental Life of the Church—and yet they say that they are Orthodox Christians. As we commemorate the Saints of the Seventh Ecumenical Council today, let us renew our zeal to learn *all* of the teachings of our Church and let us make every effort to live the Orthodox way of life.

Christians today face much the same heresies as did the early Christians. While the early Christians dealt with Gnosticism, Arianism and paganism; we deal with materialism, secularism and atheism on many levels. In his book entitled, *Secular Humanism: An Orthodox Perspective*, Fr. John Bockman writes: “*Secular Humanism is at least in part a revival and extension into the present of the fifth-century heresy of Pelagianism, a fatal misconception of the relationship between God and man. To assert, as did Pelagius (c. 354-418 A.D.), that man has perfect freedom of will and can achieve righteousness by his own efforts is to contradict the fundamental truth that God is the giver of all good. The Pelagians rejected the Orthodox doctrine that the Son of God became flesh to save man, holding instead that man needs no Savior. Ultimately, the logic of Pelagianism effectively eliminates the need even for God.*” (pg.38-39).

In essence, the thinking of Pelagius was not much different from that of the ancient Greek agnostic, Protagoras, who coined the phrase: “*Man is the measure of all things.*” It provides a basis to the *secularism* of our time. Secularism is a word which means that God is not part of our daily picture. “The world” is not God’s world. Accordingly, we are not God’s people. Hence, according to Secular Humanists, it is justifiable to remove God’s teachings from the fabric of American life. It would seem that the maxim, “*Man is the measure of all things,*” appears to be a popular doctrine of today.

We are called upon to counter and rebut such heresies. If we do not, we will fail to preach the truth of our Apostolic Orthodox Christian Faith. We can do this by learning about our Orthodox religion, by reading books related to the teachings of our Church; books explaining the meaning of our Orthodox practice. Our complacency and negligence in this regard require our repentance and our willingness to teach aright the Word of God’s Truth.

+FR. THEODORE

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.” St. John 20:31

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: *Efrenestho ta ourania (Tone 3)... (Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death and First-Born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.)*

Hymn for the Saints of the Ecumenical Councils: *Yper-de-toxasmenos iparchees... (Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the Holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons and, through them, You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One. Glory be to You.)*

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— Titus 3:8-15 / GOSPEL - St. Luke 8:5-15



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **William (Bill) Stapakis (3 months)**, the beloved brother of **Mary Amandos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **William Stapakis** and to **Mary Amandos** and the entire family, among whom are: Reverend Konstantinos, Presbyteria Maria, Steve, Alice, Helen, Michael and Christos. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Next Sunday, October 21, we will start selling **AHEPA's Thanksgiving Luncheon** tickets at the Philoptochos table. The dinner will be on Sunday, November 18. Everyone is welcome. See **Athena Snarskis** and her team. See flier on the coffee bar in the hall. If you are interested in sponsoring a Coffee Hour in December, see **Pat Dalkas**.

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK FESTIVAL--Today everyone is invited to enjoy the Greek Festival hosted by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Murrieta, California. (See Fliers in our parish hall).

PAINT EL PASEO PINK WALK --We wish to thank all who either walked and/or donated towards The Desert Cancer Foundation's fundraiser this past weekend. Our thanks to **Father Ted Pantels, Lula Valissarakos, Georgia Saphazis, Olympia & Rod Fick, Pauline Latkovic, & Rhonda Latkovic**.

IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: You are cordially invited (please bring a friend). **When: Saturday, October 27, 2018; 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m.** Please **RSVP by October 22, 2018** by calling (760) 238-7185. **Hosted by: Ann Dixson**. A donation will be made to the St. George Church/Philoptochos.

PET BLESSING EVENT - Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 3, 2018** and plan to bring your dog or cat to our annual pet blessing event. See the enclosed flier.

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

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 16th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 18th..... **ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**
Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.
Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 20th..... **ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALLONIA**
Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

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.

Improve Your Health & Environment

You Are Cordially Invited (please bring a friend)

When: Saturday, October 27, 2018

10:00am and again at 1:00pm (choose time that is convenient for you)

Where: St. George Greek Orthodox Church Hall

74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260

The event is FREE, the information is priceless - Products will not be sold at the event

Special Guest: Sheila Backus, Health & Wellness Advocate

Refreshments Will Be Served

Please RSVP by October 22, 2018 by calling (760) 238-7185



The graphic features a green and yellow background with a white outline of a house. At the top right is a logo of a leaf with a drop. Below it is a logo for 'Oligo' with the text 'PROVEN. PROTECTED. PATENTED.' At the bottom left is a photo of Ann Dixon, and at the bottom right is a photo of Sheila Backus.

Hosted by Ann Dixon

*A donation will be made to the
St. George Ladies Philoptochos*

Sheila Backus

PET BLESSING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 2018 @ 9:00 AM

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ANNUAL PET BLESSING

Please join us for our annual pet blessing event on Sat., Nov. 3rd, 2018 at 9:00 am in the back church courtyard at 74109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert. The blessing service will begin at 9:30 AM.

Our special guest is Richard Waxman, founder of "Paws and Hearts" Animal Assisted Therapy, a non-profit organization located in Palm Desert.

Animal Samaritans will be on hand with pets available for adoption. Anyone bringing a dog food donation (either canned or bagged) will be entered into a gift basket drawing.

Complimentary light refreshments & dog biscuits will be available for attendees. Selected Greek pastry items will be available for sale.

All pets must be on leash and supervised. Please join us! **RSVP by Oct. 30th to:**
pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

What: Pet Blessing Event

When: November 3rd, 2018 @ 9:00 am

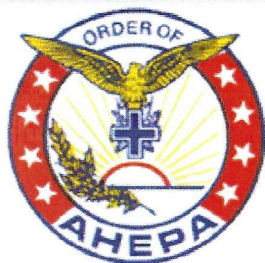
Where: St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74109 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA
ph. (760) 568-9901

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
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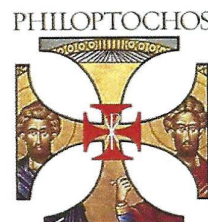
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

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!