

APRIL 14, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

ST. MARY OF EGYPT



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.

ALONE IN OUR PRIVATE DESERT

The sacrifices of blood from goats and bulls to which St. Paul refers in today's Epistle reading, were in essence offered to comfort people with the notion that their sins were forgiven, since God is therefore "satisfied" with their offering. They were sacrifices of the flesh given to help in the cleansing of the *outer* person. However, the actual and real offering that is to be given to God for our sins is Christ Himself. This sacrifice of Christ is given through us as we turn to Him and partake of His baptism. St. Paul tells us that Christ cleanses us

from "dead works" so that we can serve God. Although we are sinners, however, we are not worthless. For, Christ our God has given us the way of repentance, which leads us to our Savior's Eternal Kingdom.

We were created to able to extend God's love to the visible world. In this, every one of us has tremendous dignity and honor, bearing the Image and Likeness of God. However, sin *diminishes* our Divine dignity.

The work of repentance is that of

HONORING ST. MARY OF EGYPT

During the Orthros Service today, hymns are chanted in honor of St. Mary of Egypt, with the following words: "Dwelling in the wilderness, you blotted out every image of the passions from your soul, having in their place instead printed on your soul the sublime Godlike form of the holy virtues. And you shone forth to such an extent that you were able to fly across the waters, O blessed one, and levitate above the ground when you raised your hands up to God in prayer. Now, O blessed Mother all-glorious Saint Mary, as you stand before the Master with confidence, importunately pray for us...You ran earnestly the fine way of virtue. Having crossed the Jordan River's stream, unhesitatingly you began your residence in the place where John the Baptist lived before. And by your ascetical way of life you subdued the passions' ferociousness with confidence, O Saint, and carnal throbbings you minimized, O Mother ever-memorable." (*Translations from Greek to English by Fr. Seraphim Dedes*)

The Kontakion Hymn for St. Mary:

"In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels."



Τα ολοκαυτώματα της Παλαιάς Διαθήκης εδόθησαν για να εκκολύνουν τους ανθρώπους με την αντίληψη ότι οι αμαρτίες τους συγχωρούνται επειδή ο Θεός είναι <ικανοποιημένος> με τις προσφορές τους. Ήσαν θυσίες της σάρκας για να βοηθήσουν προς καθαρισμόν του εξωτερικού ανθρώπου. Αλλά η αληθινή προσφορά που πρέπει να δοθεί στον Θεόν για τις αμαρτίες μας είναι ο Ιδιος ο Χριστός. Η προσφορά του Χριστού γίνεται διά μέσου του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος. Από την περικοπή της Επιστολής του προς τους Εβραίους, ο Αγ. Παύλος μας λέγει ότι ο Χριστός μας καθαρίζει από τα νεκρά έργα για να υπηρετήσουμε τον Θεόν. Ενώ είμεθα αμαρτολοί, ακόμη δεν είμεθα άχριστοι, διότι ο Χριστός μας έδωσε την μετάνοιαν που μας οδηγεί προς την Αιώνιον Βασιλείαν Του.

Δημιουργήκαμεν με ικανότητες για να μεταφέρουμε την αγάπην του Θεού προς τον ορατόν κόσμον. Ως εκ τούτου, ο κάθε άνθρωπος έχει τεράστια αξία, αφού έχουμε εγγενώς την εικόνα και την ομοιότητα του Θεού. Ενώ η αμαρτία μειώνει την Θεϊκήν μας αξιοπρέπειαν, η μετάνοια μας την επαναφέρει.

Η μετάνοια καθαρίζει την συνείδησην μας αφού αναζητούμεν τον Χριστόν. Ο Αγ. Ιωάννης ο Κρόνσταντ μιά φορά είπε: <Η ουσία του ανθρώπου είναι η Εικόνα του Θεού που παραμένει στον άνθρωπον, παρά κάθε παραμόρφωση.> (Η Ζωή εν Χριστώ). Ας προσευχηθούμεν για την συγχώρηση των αμαρτιών μας και για ευκαιρίες για να μετανοήσουμεν.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

restoring our Divine dignity by turning to Christ. St. Paul says: "Christ...purifies [our] conscience from dead works [in order] to serve God." The forgiveness of our sins is manifested in the fact that our Lord continues to provide us with opportunities to serve according to His Will. St. John of Kronstadt once said, "The very essence of a person is the Image of God. This remains in a person despite every disfigurement." (My Life in Christ, pg. 254).

Today's Gospel passage is indeed related to the life of St. Mary of Egypt, because her life-long effort in repentance for her sins serves as an example of having had spiritual disfigurement due to sin, yet having been restored as she turned to Christ our God. In today's Gospel passage, we learn the meaning of "turning to Christ our God." It means to drink the cup that Jesus drinks and be baptized in the baptism in which He is baptized. Repentance is the starting point for the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Confession. A life-style of repentance lies behind our participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. When the priest St. Sozima went to offer St. Mary Holy Communion, he found her actually walking on water as an angel of God and in imitation of Christ Himself, thus illustrating her restored Divine dignity.

Truth be told, every saint was a sinner at some level. In repentance for her many sins, St. Mary departed into the desert in order to find Christ our God. In this, she serves to remind us that life in this world is for each of us always a matter of living in some kind of "desert." No matter where we are and who we are with, there are times when we know that we stand alone in our own private "desert," which is that place in which we can be either *lonely* or simply *alone*. We can choose to feel *lonely*, dwelling on regrets with self-pity and/or being just bored and captivated by our fears, anger or bitterness, or we can *be alone* in peace, seeking Christ our God in prayer without distractions.

Let us ask our Lord for forgiveness and strength in the face of temptations. Let us ask for Divine guidance as we each embark on the road of repentance -- a road that can never be a *lonely* one, since we walk it with Christ. Only in this way can we be empowered to do good deeds of charity to God's glory, having been baptized in the Baptism of Christ and partaking of the Body and Blood of the One True High Priest, Who is Christ God Himself.

+FR. THEODORE

SCHEDULE FOR HELPING FOR HOLY WEEK NEEDS:

- Making of Palm Crosses - next Saturday - 10:30 a.m.
- Dying Easter Eggs - Holy Thursday (after Church Services) - 11:15 a.m.
- Preparing the Epitaphio - Holy Friday Morning - 8:00 a.m.
- Assembly of men who will carry the Epitaphio - Holy Friday - 6:15 p.m.
- Assembly of young ladies - Myrrhbearers - Holy Friday - 6:15 p.m.

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

ANTIPHON I:

Verse 1: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name.

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

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

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

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

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

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

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

ANTIPHON II:

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.

Response: "Soston imas Ie Theou, o Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si: Allilouia."

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

Response: 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.

Response: "Soston imas Ie Theou, o Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si: Allilouia."

Chanter(s): "Doxa Patri ke Io, ke Ayio Pnevmati, ke nin ke ai ke is 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 made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Resurrection Hymn: Ton Synanarchon Logon [Tone 5]...*(Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who for our salvation was born of a Virgin for He willed to be lifted up bodily upon the Cross, to endure death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.)*

Hymn for St. Mary of Egypt: En Si Miter akrivohs...*(In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.)*

Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis...*(As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr 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; mediation with the Creator immovable. We sinners beg You: do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since You are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to You with faith: Hurry to intercession; and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos, Who defends at all times those who honor You.)*

READINGS: Epistle - Hebrews - 9: 11-14 / Gospel - St. Mark 10: 32-45

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (pgs. 125-143 in our Divine Liturgy Book)

Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos): Epi Si Cherhee ke Charitomeni... (Divine Liturgy Book, Pg. 135)

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion (Divine Liturgy Book, pg. 64)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Tommie Maverick

PHILOPTOCHOS - Today begins our Easter Bake Sale and will go through April 21 (Palm Sunday). No orders taken; first come first served. Tomorrow, Monday, April 15 will be our General Meeting and Elections for the new Board for 2019 - 2021 starting at 11:30 a.m. A light lunch will be served for a donation of \$7.00. Our Outreach Project will be on Tuesday and Thursday, April 16 and 18. See Rhonda Latkovic for further details. Philoptochos will be sponsoring Palm Sunday Lunch. You must have a reservation. Make it today at the Philoptochos table. Lunch will be \$15.00. See Athena Snarskis. SAVE THE DATE: Agape Celebration of Love to benefit Kids 'n Cancer will be on Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. Invitations are on the coffee bar in the hall.

AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP - Applications for the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship** are now available in our parish hall. The **deadline for receiving these applications is May 1st** and the scholarship will be **awarded on AHEPA Sunday, May 18.** Applications are also available in our parish hall and online at: www.ahepa528.org, along with more information.

GOLF TOURNAMENT- Time is running out to register and/or make reservations to participate in this year's St. George Golf Tournament and Tournament Awards Dinner, which is scheduled for May 4th at Desert Falls Country Club: Registration: 11:00 a.m./ Tee-off: 12 noon. Dinner: 6:00 p.m. at our parish hall. See the enclosed registration and reservation Golf Tournament form.

STREET LIFE - Please see the enclosed insert with the dates & times showing when we are providing food and clothing to the homeless. A sign-up sheet is posted on our parish bulletin board for volunteers.

PALM CROSSES - Palm Crosses for the Divine Liturgy in celebration of Palm Sunday will be prepared following Church Services on Saturday of Lazarus, April 20th. Everyone is welcome and needed.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON- Please see the enclosed flier and plan to join in the annual Palm Sunday Luncheon, sponsored this year by our Ladies Philoptochos Society.

OUR PARISH BOOK STORE AND HOLY WEEK BOOKS - Did you know we have moved our bookstore into one of the classrooms in the church hall? In addition, we are in the process of setting up a library for the use of our membership. We have several new books on display, two for children that are written by authors of Greek heritage (one is our own John Manesis)! Fr. Ted has a Lenten reading recommendation: the book is titled, *How to Be a Sinner*, by Peter Bouteneff. Also, now is definitely the time to place an order (if needed) for a copy of the Holy Week Book with the Church Services for all of Holy Week. Please visit the bookstore today after church.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, April 15th..... Philoptochos General Members' Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, April 16th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. / Indio ministry to the homeless-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17th.....Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy- 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 18th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m./Palm Springs ministry to the homeless-6 p.m.
Friday, April 19th.....Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 20th.....SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Preparation of Palm Crosses - 10:30 a.m.

The Ladder for April 2019 is lovingly

sponsored by:

Matushka Gloria Lehman

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 so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the narthex for your use. God Bless.



LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS OF ST GEORGE

PALM DAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 21, 2019

Dear Parishioners

This year, The Ladies of Philoptochos of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will hold the annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this meaningful holiday celebration.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person. The funds after expenses will be shared equally between the church and philoptochos. We would appreciate your support. Please enclose your payment with this form made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give it to the office. The deadline is April 14, 2017.

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AMOUNT _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____

The StreetLife Project

“Feeding &
Clothing the
Homeless for
Easter”

4/16/19 @ 6pm

Miles Ave. Park, Indio

4/18/19 @ 6pm

Sunrise Park, Palm

Springs

Who: Volunteers from St. George needed to drive food & clothing 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 dinners at both locations.

How: Volunteer sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the church hall. Any questions, please contact Rhonda Latkovic.

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY • MAY 4 • 2019

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAME(S)	INDEX
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1	_____
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2	_____
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3	_____
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4	_____
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PAYMENT INFORMATION

Individual Player(s) _____ (# of players) x \$175 \$ _____

Tee Sponsorship (s) _____ (# of sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____

Traditional Greek Dinner _____ (# of dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Donation _____ \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Registration deadline:

Friday, April 26, 2019

Pay by credit card or make checks payable to:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Send check and registration form to:

PO Box 4755 Palm Desert, CA 92261

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____
Company (Organization) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

PLAYER NAME(S)	INDEX
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____

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