

JANUARY 6, 2019

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 BAPTISM OF CHRIST OUR GOD IN THE JORDAN- HOLY THEOPHANY

FULLFILLING RIGHTEOUSNESS

At the moment when Christ drew near to St. John the Baptist in order to be baptized in the River Jordan, in answer to St. John's concern, "*I have need to be baptized of You...*", our Savior said: "*Let it be so now, to fulfill all righteousness.*" (St. Matthew 3:14-15).

St. John Chrysostom explains that our Lord was not baptized in order to be washed from sins, because our Lord is without any sin. In addition, our Lord was not baptized as an act of repentance,

because He is God and has no need to repent of any sin, nor to be saved. Finally, our Lord was not baptized in order to be born again "by water and Spirit," because, (once again) Christ is Himself Perfect God and Perfect Man.

According to St. John Chrysostom, our Savior was Baptized in the Jordan to be revealed as God Who is our Savior, as One of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and also to fulfill God's righteousness.

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HOLY WATER ON THE FEAST DAY OF THEOPHANY

Orthodox Christians most often bless themselves with holy water by drinking it. It is traditional to keep a quantity of it at home, and many Orthodox Christians will drink a small amount daily with their morning prayers. It is also often taken with prayer in times of distress or temptation. The use of holy water is based on the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, and the Orthodox interpretation of this event. In their view, John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and the people came to have their sins washed away by the water. Since Jesus had no sin, but was God incarnate, his baptism had the effect not of washing away Jesus' sins, but of blessing the water, making it holy – and with it all of creation, so that it may be used fully for its original created purpose to be an instrument of life.

On the Great Feast of Theophany, holy water is blessed twice: at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the eve of the feast, and on morning of the feast itself. After proceeding to the place where the vessel of water is prepared to the singing of appropriate troparia (hymns) of the Theophany there are a group of Scripture readings (Isaiah 35:1-10; 55:1-13; 12:3-6) and 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, culminating in the baptism account from the Gospel of Saint Mark (1:9-11).

Taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_water_in_Eastern_Christianity



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.

Την στιγμήν που ο Χριστός έφτασε κοντά στον Άγιον Ιωάννην τον Βαπτιστήν γιά να βαπτισθεί στον Ιορδάνη, απαντώντας στην απορία του Αγίου Ιωάννου, <Εγώ χρείαν έχω υπό Σου βαπτισθήναι, και Συ έρχη προς με;> ο Χριστός είπε, <Άφες άρτι, ούτω γαρ πρόπον εστίν ημίν πληρώσαι πάσαν δικαιοσύνην.> (Μαθ. 3: 14-15).

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος εξηγεί ότι ο Κύριος μας δεν εβαπτίσθηκε γιά να πλυθεί από τις αμαρτίες, διότι ο Κύριος δεν έχει καθόλου αμαρτίες. Επιλέον, ο Κύριος δεν εβαπτίσθηκε ως πράξη μετανοίας, επειδή δεν χρειάζεται να μετανοήσει για αμαρτίες προς σωτηρίαν. Τέλος, ο Κύριος μας δεν εβαπτίσθηκε <διά ύδατος και Πνεύματος,> επειδή ο Χριστός είναι ο Ίδιος Τέλειος Θεός και Τέλειος Άνθρωπος.

Ο Άγιος Χρυσόστομος έλεγε ότι ο Χριστός εβαπτίσθηκε στον Ιορδάνην γιά να αποκαλυφθεί ως Θεός, ο Σωτήρ του κόσμου – ο Ένας Θεός σε τρία Πρόσωπα: ο Πατήρ, ο Υιός και το Άγιο Πνεύμα. Επίσης εβαπτίσθηκε γιά να εκπληρώσει την δικαιοσύνην του Θεού.

Η εκπλήρωση του Θείου Νόμου επιτυγχάνεται μόνον δια μέσου της υπακοής στον Θεόν. Στο Βάπτισμα του Χριστού του Θεού, βλέπουμεν ότι Αυτός εκπληρώνει τον Νόμον διά μέσου της δικής Του υπακοής στον ίδιον το Νόμον που μας δίνει.

Άς εορτάσουμεν εφέτος τα Φώτα υποσχεθώντας την προσωπικήν υπακοήν στον Θεόν.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

This revelation of God as the Holy Trinity, is why the Baptism of our Savior is also called *Theophany*. The Baptism of Christ our God also reveals that fulfillment of the Divine Law is accomplished only through *obedience* to God. In the Baptism of Christ our God, we see that He fulfills the Law through His own obedience to the very Law that He gives us. St. John Chrysostom tell us: "*Fulfilling this righteousness was necessary for all people – but no one of them kept it or fulfilled it – Christ came then and fulfilled this righteousness...As Christ was circumcised, offered sacrifice, kept the Sabbath and observed the Jewish feasts, so also He added this remaining thing, that He was obedient to having been baptized by a prophet. It was the will of God, then, that all should be baptized – about which John speaks: "He having sent me to baptize with water" (John 1:33)...Thus, if obedience to God constitutes righteousness, and God sent John to baptize the nation, then Christ has also fulfilled this along with all the other commandments.*" (Discourse on the Day of the Baptism of Christ, by St. John Chrysostom: Taken from Orthodox Church in America, <https://oca.org/fs/sermons>)

If obedience to God's Law and Will is so treasured that God sacrificed Himself to undo our disobedience, think how important is it for *us* to obey God's Word at all times! God's Word is our salvation!

Obedience to God is the cornerstone of marriages and the raising of children, because it is the only way to show gratitude to God and others who love us - and it is through *obedience to God* that we are given the grace of the Holy Spirit. This helps, only in part, to explain the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ at His Baptism, by which we are reconciled with God. "*Wherefore also the Spirit descended as a dove, because where there is reconciliation with God – there also is the dove. So also in the ark of Noah the dove brought the branch of olive – a sign of God's love of mankind....*" (Discourse on the Day of the Baptism of Christ, by St. John Chrysostom, taken from Orthodox Church in America, <https://oca.org/fs/sermons>).

Let us celebrate this year's Feast of the Theophany by partaking of the Waters, which are given to us today through the grace of the Holy Spirit as the Waters of our Savior's Baptism, remembering that all we can do to show thanksgiving to Christ our God is to be obedient to His Word given to us in Holy Scripture.

+FR. THEODORE

"The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds." -- Titus 2: 11-12.

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

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

Verse 1—: In the exodus of Israel from Egypt, the house of Jacob. Judah became His sanctuary.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."*

Verse 2- The sea saw them and fled, the Jordan turned back.

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

Verse 3— What is it to you, O Sea, that you fled, and to you, O Jordan, that you turned back?

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson 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: *"Soson imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1- I have loved, because the Lord shall hear the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, O en Iordhani ipo Iannou vaptistheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - For He inclined His ear to me, and in my days I shall call upon Him.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who was baptized in the Jordan by John, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

Verse 3 - The pains of death surrounded me; the dangers of Hades found me. The Lord is merciful and righteous, and our God has mercy.

Refrain: *"Soson imas Ie Theou, O en Iordhani ipo Ioannou vaptistheis, 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: *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let all who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

Entrance with the Holy Gospel: (Priest & Deacon): *Evloghimenos o Erhowmenos....(Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us Save us, O Son of God, who were baptized in the Jordan by John.)*

Hymn for Theophany: *En Iordani Vaptizomenou Sou Kyrie... (At Your Baptism in the Jordan River, O Christ, the worship due to the Holy Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore You witness by calling You 'Beloved Son', and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a Dove, confirmed the immutability of this declaration. O Christ God Who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday: *Epefanis simeron ti oikoumeni... (You have appeared today to the world and Your light, O Lord, has been shown upon us. With full knowledge we praise You. You have come; You are manifested, O unapproachable Light.)*

Instead of "Aghios o Theos (Holy God, Holy Mighty...) the following is sung: *"Osi eis Christon evaptistiteh, Christon enedhisastheh" ... (All who have been baptized in Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia).*

READINGS: EPISTLE— Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 / **GOSPEL—** St. Matthew 3: 13-17

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated today. Following the reading of the Creed, turn to page 126 in the Divine Liturgy books.

Instead of "Axion Estin," the Hymn "Epi Si Cheree" is sung.

Communion Hymn: *Epefani ee Chahrhis tou Theou - ee Sotirios pasin anthropeis. (The Grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. Alleluia.)*



Coffee Hour: Philoptochos - Vasilopita

PHILOPTOCHOS - Philoptochos will be passing a Vasilopita Tray today for National Philoptochos. Thank you for your donation. This is the last day we're taking reservations for Taverna Night, January 12. Your reservation will be taken at the Philoptochos table. If you have any questions, see Tina Veroulis. We are selling the 1 pound loaves of prosforo bread in the Church Hall today. See Pat Dalkas. Tomorrow, January 7 food preparation starts for the Festival. Please plan to come and help. Check the food preparation schedule on the message board in the hall to plan your days to volunteer.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS - The Altar Flower Bouquets offered to God's glory this Sunday were offered by:

--Annette Lewis - "In loving memory of my husband Skip Lewis; May his memory be Eternal!"

--Becky Allen - "May there be perfect health, peace, and love, in my family throughout this year, and always!"

GREEK FESTIVAL - The time for final preparations for our **2019 Greek Festival** has arrived. Please see the enclosed the "Volunteer for the Festival" Form. It is also very important for all of us to begin securing sponsorships and ads for our 2019 Greek Festival. The "Sponsorship & Ad Form" will be included in our *Ladder* over the next few weeks. **The deadline for submitting sponsorships and ads for our 2019 Festival is: January 15, 2019,** to allow time for printing our Festival program. **Tomorrow, preparations for the 2019 Festival begin!**

AHEPA - January **AHEPA meeting** will be at our parish hall on **Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m.**

TAVERNA NIGHT - This coming Saturday, January 12, 2019 at our parish hall at 5:00 p.m. Today is the deadline for making reservations.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, January 20th.** 2019 Stewardship Pledge Cards will be made available to all members of our St. George Palm Desert Parish for 2019. Stewardship is a matter of supporting the ministry of our Church through participation in the Holy Sacraments and through sharing God's bountiful blessings for the salvation of others.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, January 7th.....ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

Festival Preparations Begin - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 8th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 9th.....AHEPA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 10th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m. / Parish Council - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 12th.....ST. TATIANA THE MARTYR

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

Taverna Night - 5:00 p.m.

*A Blessed and Happy New Year to one and all!
The Ladder for January 2019 is
lovingly sponsored by:
The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society*

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 SERVICE OF THE VASILOPITA

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Faithful: Amen. (The hymn for St. Basil is chanted. See the front page of today's *Ladder*.)

Priest: Have mercy upon us, O God, in Your great mercy; hear us and have mercy.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy (3 times)

Priest: Again, we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our Archbishop Gerasimos and for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation – for forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God: the people here present; for all Orthodox Christians who live in this city and parish; for the Stewards and benefactors of this Holy Church.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy (3 times)

Priest: Again, we pray for those who labor and who sing in this holy Church and for our families, spouses, children, parents, brothers, sisters and relatives – and for all of our brotherhood in Christ.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy (3 times)

Priest: Again, we pray for the personnel; the leadership, teachers and the staff of the St. Basil Academy and for their well-being in Christ.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy (3 times)

Priest: Again, we pray for the officers of our Philoptochos Society, who prepared this holy feast; for peace in the whole world and for the stability of the Holy Church and for the unity of all.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy (3 times)

Priest: For You are a merciful and loving God and to You we offer glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Creator of all things and King of ages, the One abundant in mercy and goodness, Who accepted the gifts of the Wise Men in Bethlehem; Who is the Bread of Life and Who came down from heaven and Who puts times and years under Your authority and Who came down from heaven and Who holds our lives in Your hands: hear us as we pray to You on this day of our entrance into the New Year of Your goodness and +bless this bread+ which is offered for Your glory and in honor of our Father among the Saints, St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. Look down from Your Holy Heaven and send down upon us Your heavenly gifts, for we have placed our hope in You, the Living God, unto the ages. Bless the St. Basil Academy and bless all that we do in our homes and in our parish. Enrich our lives and direct our steps to do Your Will, for we do not live by bread alone. Bless us, by the intercessions of Your Most Holy Mother, the Theotokos, our Father among the Saints, St. Basil, St. George the Great Martyr and our Patron Saint – and all the Saints, who have pleased You in every age. Amen.

The priest then prays: "Have mercy upon us, O God according to Your great mercy, we pray to You: hear us and have mercy." "Again we pray for mercy, life, health, peace, forgiveness and salvation for the servants of God..." cutting out a piece of Vasilopita for our Lord, the Theotokos, St. George, our Patriarch, Archbishop, Metropolitan, fellow clergy and the leaders of each parish organization, concluding with the Dismissal Prayers found on page 80 of our Divine Liturgy Books.

Volunteer for the Festival

February 16th & 17th 2019

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.



Please sign up to volunteer in the church hall after liturgy on any Sunday. You may also complete the information on the back and leave it with Jim Christopoulos or Father Ted. Finally, you may email or call Jim at goofy_328@yahoo.com (note “_” between goofy and 328) or 760-902-8460. God bless!

For those of you who are unable to volunteer, but want to help support the festival, you may want to consider “sponsoring” a shift. For a donation of \$60, you can sponsor a paid worker. If interested, please see Jim or Father Ted.

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Festival Volunteer Form

Friday & Saturday, February 16th & 17th 2019

»Name: _____

»Phone Number: _____ »Email Address: _____

»Availability (Please check all that apply):

Set Up Prior to Festival _____

Saturday 2/16: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

Sunday 2/17: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

Tear Down Following Festival _____

»Please check off all areas that you would like to volunteer (we will try to place you in one of these areas, if possible).

Area	Chairperson(s)	Check if Interested
Set-up/Tear down	Doug Lyons	
Front Gate	Lou & Penny Karagianis	
Back Gate	Jim Christopoulos	
Greek Store	Rhonda Latkovic	
Kafenio	Tbd	
Kids Area	Melissa Hawkins	
Loukoumathes	Krisann Kontaxis	
Bars	Nick Krespis	
Dinner Line	Tasia Richards	
Gyros	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Cooking	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Appetizers	Jim Christopoulos	
Yiayia's Attic	Chris Deleganis	
Accounting/\$ Run	Nick Kaperonis	
Kitchen/Food Run	George & Stacy Argyros	
Pastries	Lula Valissarakos	
Parking Lot Carts	Jim Christopoulos	



SAINT GEORGE 2019 GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP & AD PROGRAM

Event Dates: Sat. & Sun., February 16th - 17th, 2019

Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

Attached is my check in the sum of:

Date: _____ \$ _____

Sponsorship/Ad Choice: _____

Sponsorship/Ad Choices Available:

Sponsorship Levels: (includes full color ad on outside back of Festival Program, Sponsorship listing on Festival Website, festival admission tickets, & goody bag)

Gold Sponsor Level - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 1000

Silver Sponsor Level - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 500

Advertising Choices: (includes black & white ad inside Festival Program, listing on Festival Website)

Corporate - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 300

Personal - 2-line message with name ----- \$ 150

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

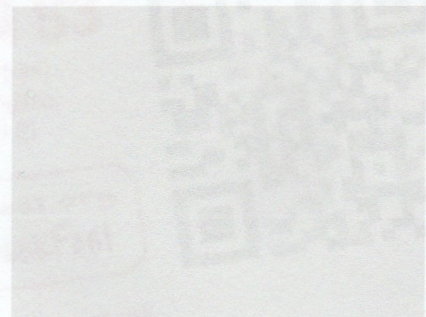
City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Make checks payable to:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
Phone: (760) 568-9901
Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com
Fax: (760) 568-9492

Print personal ad below:



Absolute DEADLINE for Copy: January 20th, 2019

Electric submission of camera ready corporate logos & names are accepted in most formats.

**ST. GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND OUR**

TAVERNA NIGHT DINNER DANCE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.
AT THE CHURCH HALL WITH LIVE MUSIC
\$45.00 PER PERSON**

Reservations must be paid in advance by Sunday, January 6, 2019 at the Philoptochos table OR mail your check to the office. Check is payable to St. George Philoptochos and note on check Taverna Night. (Tickets not paid by January 6th will be \$50.00 per person.)

NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN AT DOOR

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ Amt. enclosed: _____