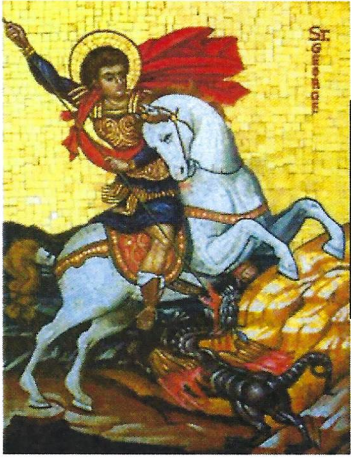


JUNE 23, 2019



## ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)

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# THE LADDER

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755  
Palm Desert, CA.92261  
Tel: (760) 568-9901  
or: (760) 880-5869

– 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.*

### ARE WE SAINTS?

The Orthodox Church honors the Saints from every class in life. There are Saints for every vocation: Saints who were soldiers, scholars, political leaders, missionaries, parents, ascetics, even cooks...and among the most important, there are Saints who were once sinners. *“Saints are people who have consecrated themselves wholly to strive to express in their daily lives the love of God as revealed in Jesus. Saints are not perfect people: to be a saint is to be the best that one can be by God’s Grace. That is why every Saint is different and why*

*every Christian can be one.” (Introducing the Orthodox Church, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, pgs. 93-94).*

These are our thoughts today as we honor all the Saints of the Church who lived in every age. From the Saints we experience the fact that there is life after death. Throughout all of history many miracles have occurred through prayers asking for the Saints to intercede for us with their prayers to our Lord, asking that He grant needed blessings.

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### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

The Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The need for setting aside one day in the ecclesiastical calendar to honor “all saints” was felt right after the Persecutions. In spite of the fact that the Church was already celebrating the memory of well-known saints, it was impossible to know, individually and by name, all those who gave themselves for the faith in Christ.

The present day of celebration of the feast of All Saints goes back at least to the time of St. John Chrysostom, who in one of his homilies in Constantinople said that the commemoration of the Martyrs of the Universal Church was observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost. All Saints Day has always been observed not only as an opportunity for the Church to project to her living membership the Christian ideals that are to be emulated, but also as an opportunity to establish unity between those in the Kingdom of Heaven, known as “members” of the “Church Triumphant,” and those of our Savior’s Church in the present world, known as members of the “Church Militant.”

*Taken from A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy, by  
Fr. Nicon Patrino*





Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία τιμά τους Αγίους από κάθε κατάσταση ζωής. Υπάρχουν άγιοι για κάθε επαγγελματισμό στην ζωή: άγιοι που ήσαν στρατιώτες, μελετητές, πολιτικοί ηγέτες, ιεραπόστολοι, γονείς, ασκητές, ακόμη και μάγεις... και μεταξύ των σημαντικότερων, άγιοι που ήσαν μιά φορά αμαρτωλοί.

<Οι Άγιοι είναι άνθρωποι που έχουν αφιερωθεί εντελώς ώστε να εκφράσουν στην καθημερινή των ζωήν την αγάπην του Θεού όπως αποκαλύφθηκε από τον Ιησούν. Οι Άγιοι δεν είναι τέλειοι άνθρωποι: να είσαι άγιος είναι να είσαι ο καλύτερος άνθρωπος που μπορείς με την χάρην του Θεού. Για αυτό κάθε Άγιος είναι διαφορετικός. Επομένως, ο κάθε Χριστιανός μπορεί να είναι άγιος.> (Εισαγωγή Στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία, υπο Αντωνίου Κονιάρη σελ.93-94).

Αυτές είναι οι σκέψεις μας σήμερα καθώς τιμούμεν όλους τους Αγίους της Εκκλησίας της κάθε εποχής. Από τους Αγίους γνωρίζουμε στην πραγματικότητα ότι υπάρχει ζωή πέραν του τάφου, διότι, καθ' όλην την ιστορίαν, πολλά θαύματα από τους Αγίους έχουν συμβεί.

Αυτό σημαίνει ότι είμεθα ενωμένοι με εκείνους οι οποίοι ήδη ζουν στην αιώνιον Βασιλείαν. Περί της πνευματικής ενώσεως αυτής, ο Μητροπολίτης Κάλλιστος Ware έγραψε: <Όπως ακριβώς οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί εδώ στην γην προσεύχονται ο ένας για τον άλλον, προσεύχονται για τους κεκοιμημένους πιστούς και ζητούν από αυτούς τις δικές των προσευχές, αφού ο θάνατος δεν αποκόπτει τον δεσμόν της αμοιβαίας αγάπης που δεσμεύει τα μέλη της Εκκλησίας.> (Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία, σελ. 258).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

This means that we are united with those who are already dwelling in the Kingdom of God. Regarding this spiritual union, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware writes, "Just as Orthodox Christians here on earth pray for one another and ask for one another's prayers, so they pray for the faithful departed and ask the faithful departed to pray for them. Death cannot sever the bond of mutual love which links the members of the Church together." (The Orthodox Church, pg. 258).

Throughout the year, the Church observes the Feast Days of various known Saints. On All Saints Sunday, the Church commemorates collectively the Saints that are known to us, as well as those who are known only to God. Many of those "unknown" Saints likely include our parents and grandparents, for whom we perform the Orthodox Christian Funeral Service, chanting, "In Your place of rest, O Lord, where all Your Saints repose, give rest also to Your servants." After all, it is from them that we have our faith in Christ today and the many churches throughout our land that they established. The Memorial Wall affixed near our parish bell tower attests to our Faith that many have lived saintly lives to the best of their ability.

Following their example suggests that some of us teach Sunday School lessons for our children; others help maintain the parish property; others help by ministering to the sick and/or the homeless; others offer service of prayers and singing for worship. During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we hear the priest exclaim: "The Holy Gifts for the Holy People of God." There are two notions that lie behind this exclamation: 1) that each member of the Church is trying to the best of his or her ability to live a saintly way of life through faith, prayer and actions which are consistent with the love and teachings of our Savior; 2) The participation of each member of our Church in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is itself a saintly act, since the Liturgy cannot be celebrated by the priest alone. Consequently, those who are in attendance, participating in the celebration of the Liturgy share in the honor of collectively praying for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Liturgy, thereby granting to all the gift of partaking of the saving Body and Blood of Christ.

Lets us all cherish the opportunity to participate in the Divine Liturgy and to bring our children and others to salvation in Christ! Everything about the Divine Liturgy is a blueprint for "living the Bible" making for a saintly way of life.

+FR. THEODORE



## 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:** *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston imas."*

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

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

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

**Refrain:** *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston"*

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**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 Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin.** *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

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

**Sunday Resurrection Hymn:** *Ex ipsous katilthes (Tone 8)... (From on high You descended O Merciful Savior, You endured the grave for three days, that You might free us from sufferings. Glory to You Lord, our Life and our Resurrection.)*

**Hymn for All Saints Sunday:** *Ton en olo to kosmo... (Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them She cries to You, Christ our God, "Send down to Your people Your tender love; grant peace from above to Your commonwealth and to our souls Your great mercy.)*

**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 to Christ our God that He will save our souls.)*

**Kontakion Hymn for All Saints Sunday:** *Os aparchas tis physeos... (O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints as being natures first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord, abundantly merciful.*

**READINGS:** Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2 / Gospel: St. Matthew 10:32-33;37-38;19:27-30

*The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated*

*Axion Estin is chanted/sung*

**Communion Hymn:** *Aghaliasthe dikai-ee en Kyrio, tis efthehsee prepee enesis, Allelouia...(Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright. Alleluia.)*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coffee Hour: Memorial Wall - Nicholas Demetropoulos

**MEMORIAL** - Today's Memorial Service is a 60 year Memorial Service for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Thomas Demetropoulos; Andrew & Anastasia Demetropoulos; Harriet & Alexander Demetropoulos, and Victoria & Diamond Demetropoulos**, the beloved parents and brethren of **Nicholas Demetropoulos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and salvation to **Thomas, Andrew, Anastasia, Harriet, Alexander, Victoria and Diamond Demetropoulos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Nicholas Demetropoulos**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

**MEMORIAL WALL & GARDEN** - A short dedication ceremony for our new Memorial Wall will take place today, near the completion of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Enclosed, please find a list of the names of those for whom a memorial plaque has been mounted on the Wall to date, as well as a copy of the short Church ceremony through which the Memorial Wall will be blessed. There is room for only 6 more plaques to be placed on this first section of the Wall. Each plaque can only contain 25 letters and is made available for \$175. See **Rhonda Latkovic** (tel.714-875-4661), Project Coordinator.

**PHILOPTOCHOS** - Coffee Hour hostesses are still needed for Sundays in July & August. Volunteers needed to help with our homeless outreach on **Thursday, June 27th**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and see **Rhonda Latkovic** for details.

**STREET LIFE OUTREACH FOR THE HOMELESS** - Our St. George parishioners are summoned to help feed the homeless at **Sunrise Park in Palm Springs on Thursday, June 27, 2019** between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. Help is also needed to cook and package the food for distribution to the homeless. Those who can help prepare and package the food are asked to join together at our parish kitchen and hall between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, the 27th**.

**ST.SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP** -- The annual summer camp program held at St. Sophia Camp for Orthodox Christian children and youth will include two sessions this year: **Session 1** - from **Saturday, July 21, 2019 - Saturday, July 27, 2019** and **Session 2**- from **Saturday, July 27 - August 3, 2019**. For information to register your children, contact **Perry Skaggs** at [SaintSophiaCamp@gmail.com](mailto:SaintSophiaCamp@gmail.com), or call: (323) 397-5436.

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, June 24th.....THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Orthros-8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 25th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 27th.....Street Life: Outreach to the Homeless

at Sunrise Park, Palm Springs, CA. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 29th.....STS. PETER & PAUL

Orthros-8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

*The Ladder for June 2019 is lovingly sponsored by Annette Lewis*

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.



## Blessing of Memorial Wall and Garden

(After each petition: "Lord have mercy" (3 times))

**Priest:** --Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You hear and have mercy.

--Again we pray for the repose of the souls of all Orthodox faithful who have departed this life; that the Lord God will give them eternal rest in the tentings of the Saints and in the arms of Abraham, where the light of Your countenance shines upon them.

-- For You are the Eternal Life and Resurrection of Your departed servants, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory together with Your Eternal Father and All-Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Prayer:** Most merciful and loving Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ our God: You Who grants eternal rest to those who worship and glorify You and Whose great mercy counters our many sins, as You are a forgiving God Who loves all humanity. And Who, for our sakes, endured buffetings, scourging, humiliation and, finally, death upon the Cross - and Who arose from the dead, as First-born of the dead, bringing eternal life and salvation to all: hear us at this hour and bless this memorial wall upon which rest the names of those who have worshiped You and praised You, proclaiming You to be the True God, Who has authority over the living and the departed. Sanctify this memorial wall and the names which are borne upon it, bringing to our minds that we will, as St. Paul has taught, "be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet You, the Lord, in the air" - and we shall always be with You unto everlasting life. For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Eternal Rest for Your faithful servants, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Prayer Before the Memorial Wall:**

**Priest-** This Memorial Wall, bearing the names of the faithful servants of God, Who have worshiped and glorified the most Holy Name of our True God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is blessed by the sprinkling of Holy Water in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

**All Chant:** Everlasting be their memories (Eonia ee mneemi afton) - 9 times.

This short prayer service is followed by the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

## MEMORIAL WALL NAMEPLATES

### MEMORY ETERNAL!

Thomas Demetropoulos

Andrew & Anastasia Demetropoulos

Harriet & Alexander Demetropoulos

Victoria & Diamond Demetropoulos

Fr. Charles Lehman

John & Mary Cumuli

Demetre K. Valissarakos

Prodromos & Cornelia Zachariadis

Peter & Maria Dalkas

Stanley & Helen Venetos

George Tcharos

Georgianne Latkovic

Paula Ekonomos Kozlen

Nick & Harriet Natsis

Lillian Cavin

Fr. James Tavlarides

Pres. Catherine Tavlarides

Constantinos "Taki" Tavlarides

Theodora "Teddy" Ekonomos

Demetri & Elaine Costakis

Anastasia Pantels

Fr. Theophilos P. Theophilos

Metropolitan Anthony

Chris & Cleo Maletis

Tom & Pagoula Michas

Constantin Zaharia

Carl Heinrich

Frank Kundanis

J.J. Richards

Nicholas R. Ayanopolis

Milton Diafos

Jack George Shaheen

Albert & Wedad Rafeedie

Doris L. Rafeedie Holms

Matushka Lila Rafeedie Regan

Nazara Jacobs Shaheen

James G. & Elaine Costakis

Yiannis Soumalias

Cleo Mary Anton

George Nicholas Flessas

Penelope Koutroubi

Nicholas & Georgia Zimis

Nicholas Latkovic

George & Helen Laskaris

Esther DiVito

Constantine & Antonia Alexander

Gregory & Steve Michaels

George & Betty Nicholau