

MAY 5, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



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.

TO KNOW THE RISEN CHRIST

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (St. John 20:19). These words of our Risen Savior have deeper meaning than we think. First, He uses the word "Blessed," which means that one is given grace through the Holy Spirit in order to honor God. Every blessing of our Lord has as its purpose to offer to the individual to whom the blessing is given the opportunity to immediately bless others. Our Lord's blessings are never meant to be personal "possessions."

Second, our Lord's blessings are Divine

Gifts, allowing us to know Christ our God. It is one thing for us to see God - even the Pharisees and our Lord's enemies were able to see Him; but, they never came to know Him. The knowledge of Christ comes through means such as these: 1) participation in the Sacramental Life of the Church; 2) Study of the Holy Scriptures and, 3) fervent prayer. These three means comprise the one basic way for one to live the spiritual way of life, assuming that one *wants* to know Christ.

As we come to know Christ, we also

Continued on page 2

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Our Risen Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ showed His hands and feet and side to His disciples; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, *"Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."* After eight days, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, *"Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."* And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man, Christ (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29). This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.



<Μακάριοι οἱ μὴ εἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες.> (Ἰωαν. 20:29). Αυτά τα λόγια του Αναστημένου Σωτήρος μας ἔχουν βαθύτερο νόημα ἀπὸ ὅ, τι νομίζουμεν. Πρῶτον, χρησιμοποιοῦν τὴν λέξη <ευλογημένοι,> που σημαίνει ὅτι κάποιος δίνεται χάρις διὰ μέσου του Ἁγίου Πνεύματος γιὰ νὰ μπορέσει νὰ τιμῆσει τὸν Θεόν. Κάθε ευλογία του Κυρίου ἔχει ὡς σκοπὸν νὰ χαρίσει στὸν ἄνθρωπον στὸν ὁποῖον ἐδόθηκε ἡ ευλογία τὴν ευκαιρίαν νὰ ευλογεῖ καὶ ἄλλους στὴν συνέχειαν. Οἱ ευλογίες του Κυρίου δὲν πρέπει ποτέ νὰ θεωροῦνται ὡς προσωπικὲς <κατοχές.>

Δεύτερον, οἱ ευλογίες του Κυρίου εἶναι Θεῖα δῶρα που επιτρέπουν στους ἀνθρώπους νὰ γνωρίζουν τὸν Θεόν μας Χριστόν. Εἶναι ἓνα πράγμα νὰ δούμεν τὸν Θεόν, γιὰτὴν ἀκόμη καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ἐχθροὶ του Κυρίου μας Τὸν εἶδαν — ἀλλὰ ποτέ δὲν Τὸν ἐγνώρισαν. Ἡ γνώσις του Χριστοῦ ἐρχεται διὰ μέσων ὡς ἐξῆς: 1) ἡ συμμετοχὴ στα Ἅγια Μυστήρια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, 2) ἡ μελέτη τῆς Ἁγίας Γραφῆς, καὶ, 3) ἡ ἐνθερμη προσευχὴ — καὶ τὰ τρία ἀπὸ αὐτὰ τὰ μέσα ἀποτελοῦν τὸ ἓνα μέσον τῆς πνευματικῆς ζωῆς του ἀνθρώπου, ὅσο ὁ ἄνθρωπος θέλει νὰ γνωρίσει τὸ Χριστόν.

Καθὼς γνωρίζουμεν τὸν Χριστόν, γνωρίζουμεν καὶ τὴν ἀπειρον ἀγάπην Του γιὰ κάθε ἄνθρωπον, καθὼς καὶ γιὰ τὸν εαυτὸν μας.

Ἐπομένως, ὁ καθένας ἀπὸ ἐμᾶς ἔχει τὴν σοβαρὴν ἐυθύνην νὰ ευλογεῖ τοὺς ἄλλους γύρω του με τὶς ἴδιες ευλογίες που του δίνει ὁ Θεός, ὥστε νὰ μπορέσουν καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι νὰ ἀποκτήσουν τὴν ἐπιθυμίαν νὰ γνωρίσουν τὸν Χριστόν, ὥστε νὰ ευλογῆσουν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἀκόμη καὶ ἄλλους, ἐπίσης.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

come to know His infinite love for each human being, of course including each of us.

Giving God's blessings to others gives us the ability to receive more of God's blessings. As examples of what I am saying consider these: the blessings of peace come from people who are themselves blessed with the peace of God; the blessings of love are given by those who have been blessed with the capacity to be loving people. To the degree that people experience strife or feel anxiety in their relationships with others, to the same degree each person must consider the fact that he or she is contributing to the strife and anxiety on the basis of his or her own attitudes or behaviors. It is easy to ask people to find solutions for soothing strife and easing anxiety, but what is really needed is for each of us to *be* the solution by actually understanding each other's concerns and by actually giving out encouragement, rather than being the cause of anxiety by way of complaining or criticizing others. A clear example of this fact is to be seen in politics today. People are lacking the blessing of peace within themselves—hence, they are unable to give the blessing of peace to their people. People are lacking the blessings of love—hence, the love in our culture is growing cold. This is all because many have grown apart from Christ our God.

Today's passage from the Book of Acts reminds us that, indeed, our Lord gave many blessings to St. Peter, personally. Even his shadow was graced with the energy of Christ our True God so that simply by walking through a crowd of people, his shadow would be a blessing to the multitudes who were in need of healings. With this event, our Savior shows that His blessings are given in order to bring people to His Church, already forming as "*many signs and wonders were done among the people... and believers were increasingly added to the Lord.*" (Acts 5: 12 & 14).

Therefore, each of us has the serious responsibility to bless others around us with the same blessings that we receive from God, so that they also can develop a desire to know Christ, so that, in turn, they can bless others, as well. They must see Christ through our words; our deeds and our attitudes.

Let none of us assume that the responsibility to share God's blessings with others applies to other people and not to ourselves personally. This is certainly something to think about during this blessed 40 day Post-Paschal season.

+FR. THEODORE

"And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them...and they were all healed."
Acts 5: 14-15 & 16

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

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

Verse 1—Shout to God, all the earth. Sing now to His name; give glory to His praise.

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

Verse 2—Say to God, "How fearful are Your works.

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

Verse 3—Let all the earth worship You and sing to You.

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 —May God be gracious to us, and bless us. May He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Refrain: "Soson imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."

Verse 2—That we may know His way on the earth, Your salvation among all the Gentiles.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3—Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

Refrain: "Soson imas Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas Si, alleluia."

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face. As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. So shall the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad. This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Hymn with the Entrance with the Holy Gospel: Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead; by death trampling down death and, to those in the tombs, He has bestowed life.) [Hymn for the Resurrection of Christ from the dead.]

Instead of "Defte proskinisomen," :En Ekklisias evlogheete ton Theon Kyrion ek pighon Israel...o Anastas ek nekron

Hymn for the First Sunday After Pascha. Esfraghismenou tou mnimatos... (O Life, You rose from the sepulcher, even though the tomb was secured with a seal, O Christ God. And though the doors had been bolted, You came to Your disciples, O Resurrection of all. Through them You renew a right spirit in us, according to Your great mercy.)

Kontakion Hymn: Ei ke en tafo katilthes... (Through You, the deathless One, descended into the grave, You destroyed the power of Hades and, as Victor, You arose again, O Christ our God. You greeted the Myrrh-bearing Women, saying, 'Rejoice!' You did bestow peace upon Your Disciples and Resurrection upon the fallen.)

READINGS: Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20/ Gospel: St. John 20: 19-31

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Instead of "Axion Estin", "Se tin fah-ee-nin lambadha..." (You, the brightly shining lantern and the Mother of our God,* the conspicuous glory,* you are superior to all creation.* We hymn you and magnify.)

Communion Hymn: "Soma Christou..." (Receive the Body of Christ and taste Him, Who is the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Matushka Gloria Lehman

PHILOPTOCHOS - Today is the **Agape Luncheon at 2:00 p.m. at the Newport Beach Country Club in support of Kids 'n' Cancer.** We hope you made your reservation and enjoy the afternoon for this worthy cause. Our last General Meeting of the season will be on Monday, May 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Desert Willow Golf Club. You must make reservations in advance by the deadline of Friday, May 10. Call **Rhonda Latkovic or Emily Tcharos.** Reservations are important so we give an accurate count to management. Take a look at your calendar and pick a date to be a sponsor or host for Coffee Hour. See **Pat Dalkas.** By mistake, Diane Young was not listed in last week's list of 2019 Philoptochos Members. Please note that **Diane Young** is indeed a member of our Philoptochos Chapter for 2019

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The following is the contribution and dedication for the Altar Flowers (both bouquets) lovingly donated for the glory of God:

--**Annette Laskaris** - *"In loving memory of His Eminence, Metropolitan Anthony and our parents: Reverend George & Presvytera Eleni Laskaris; Angelo & Esther Di Vito. May their memories be eternal!"*

-- **Spiro Astmos** - *"In loving memory of my wife Christante, son - Steven, brother - Nick, sister - Polly, grandson - Dan, sister in-law - Bess; my mother, - Helen, and father - Steve. May their rest be Eternal!!"*

AHEPA - All applications for the Fr. T.P. Memorial Scholarship should be in at this time. Scholarship awards will be presented on AHEPA Sunday, May 19, 2019. Please note the attached letter from our AHEPA Chapter President, which explains the need for financial support for this Scholarship Fund.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 7th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Parish Council - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9th.....Choir Practice - 1:00 p.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 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, May 13th at 11:30 AM

The Terrace
at Desert Willow Golf Resort



Desert
Willow

Golf Resort

Firecliff & Mountain View

*One Legendary Location Two
Unforgettable Courses*

38-995 Desert Willow Drive

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Our last Philoptochos general members meeting before the summer break. More info to follow.

AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

AHEPA Chapter 528 Scholarship Contribution Request

We, the members of AHEPA 528 are so proud and amazed at the quality of our annual Scholarship Applicants. In the last 5 years, two of the local High School Valedictorians came from our little church. Several students were Top Ten scholars of the valley. Some had an incredible 4.6 to 5.2 GPA's. Our kids are attending prestigious Universities across the nation, from Dartmouth to Stanford to USC to USD. Others are representing the home state, California and attending top-notch state schools such as UCLA, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Barbara. Several graduated High School with a year or two, of college, completed. Three are in graduate studies. That's the caliber of applicants we're so very proud of at St. George.

AHEPA 528 is proudly in its 14th year of offering scholarships to students from the St. George and Ahepa 528 community of Palm Desert. Our educational program started with the guidance and inspiration of Fr. T.P. Theophilos Theophilos. To date it has provided over \$39,500 to over three dozen recipients, including STEM majors, and Grad students.

Currently, we need your support. Our biggest annual fundraiser, the Palm Desert Greek Festival did not meet our 2019 fundraising goals. We ask that you consider making a donation, to this worthy cause for our own community's children and the future. Your donation will help fund the Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship program and our newest award, the George Tcharos Memorial Scholarship. We truly appreciate those who donate by monthly subscription and encourage others to participate, for as little as a \$ 25-month commitment. Please, contact me for details.

AHEPA Sunday is on May 19th. I invite everyone to be present when we award, at least two scholarships as we are using reserves this year. With your generous donations, we may be able to provide three or four students, with funding as we usually do. Please, show these incredible students how proud and supportive their community is of their hard work and dedication to academic excellence. After all, they are the future.

In Christ,

Wynn Storton
Scholarship Committee Chair
Chapter 528 President
Supreme Governor Region #8

*MEETINGS 1st Wednesday of every month at
Saint George Church, Palm Desert
Unless otherwise notified*

All checks payable to:
AHEPA CHAPTER 528
PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

Or online: <https://ahepa528.org/scholarship.htm>

AHEPA Chapter 528

Website: Ahepa528.org , contact@ahepa528.org

