

MAY 12, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

THE MYRRBEARING WOMEN

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.

SHE IS THE CHURCH

It might be said that the Myrrh-bearing Women provide a vision, in part, of the ministry of the Orthodox Christian Church. It may not be a coincidence at all that the Church is referred to in the Greek Language in the feminine gender as *ἡ Εκκλησία*, pronounced: "ee ecclesee-a." After all, the work of glorifying the Crucified and Risen Christ God was first performed by these Myrrh-bearing Women, risking life and limb to offer myrrh oils to Christ in the tomb. While the Apostles themselves were hiding due to their fear of persecution, these

Women were ministering to Christ at His tomb.

The tomb of Christ itself is a type for the "church building" where the faithful worship Him. The tomb is called a "bridal chamber" from where Christ came forth as the Victor over death. By extension, our church as a "place of worship" is Christ's "bridal chamber" from where we who bear Christ in our souls burst forth with the message to all people of His everlasting life, as we continue to chant aloud the Good News, "Christ is Risen!"

Continued on page 2

LESSONS FROM THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

The dedication to responsibility on the part of the Myrrh-bearing Women to anoint the Body of Christ, following His death on the Cross, is an example of living, dynamic prayer. Such living, dynamic prayer includes all the elements of the soul and entire personality – our motives; our ideology; our thoughts; our mentality; our hopes and our dreams. What motivated them to do so was deep inside their souls – i.e., their love for Christ; their belief that He is God; their sense of responsibility toward what is proper. This love and belief, as well as the sense of responsibility, transcends all obstacles – represented figuratively by the "large stone" that covered our Lord's tomb and the "fear of the Pharisees." The Myrrh-bearers, like all the Saints after them, challenge us to push ourselves ever more in the advancement of our spiritual life and in our giving of time, talent and treasure to others and to the work of our Lord's Church. In honor of the Myrrh-bearing Women, whom we commemorate today, we are all called to anoint His Sacred Body – His Church – with our prayers and good deeds today through our love in Christ for one another.

--FR. THEODORE



Μπορεί να ειπωθεί ότι οι Μυροφόρες παρέχουν ένα όραμα, εν μέρει, περί το έργο της Εκκλησίας μας. Μπορεί να μην είναι σύμπαντις καθόλου ότι η Εκκλησία αναφέρεται στο θηλυκό φύλο. Μετά από όλα, το έργο της δοξασίας του Εσταυρωμένου και Αναστημένου Χριστού εκτελέσθηκε για πρώτη φορά από τις Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες, διακινδυνεύοντας την ζωήν των για να προσφέρουν μύρο στον Ενταφιασμένον Χριστόν. Ενώ οι Απόστολοι εκρυβόνταν εξαιτίας του φόβου των από τους εχθούς του Χριστού, αυτές υπηρετούσαν τον Χριστόν στον τάφο Του.

Ο τάφος του Ιδίου Χριστού είναι ένας <τύπος> για τον ναόν της Εκκλησίας, όπου οι πιστοί Του λατρεύουν. Ο τάφος ονομάζεται <νυφικό θάλαμο> από όπου βγήκε ο Χριστός ως Νικητής του θανάτου. Ως εκ τούτου, ο ναός της Εκκλησίας, ως τόπος λατρείας, είναι <νυφικό θάλαμο> του Χριστού από όπου και εμείς οι Χριστοφόροι πορεύομεν στον κόσμον διακηρύσσοντας: *Χριστός Άνέστη!*

Η Θεοτόκος είναι μία από τις Μυροφόρες – μία από τις μάρτυρες της Αναστάσεως, δεδομένου ότι τεκνοποίησε τον Χριστόν εν σαρκί. Η παρουσία Της στον τάφο εκπληρώνει τον σκοπόν της ζωής Της. Αυτή είναι η Πηγή της σωτηρίας της ανθρωπότητας, όπως είναι και ο τάφος του Χριστού.

Στην εκτέλεση της Αρτοκλασίας ακούμεν: *<Εύλογημένη Σύ εν γυναιξί ὅτι Σωτήρα ἔτεκες τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.>* Στην Προσκομηδὴν, ὁ ἱερεὺς διαβάζει την ευχήν: *<Ὡς ζωηφόρος, ὡς Παραδείσου ὠραιότερος, Χριστέ ὁ τάφος Σοῦ, ἡ Πηγή τῆς ἡμῶν Ἀναστάσεως.>*

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The standard iconography of our Church, with the Platytera (i.e., the icon of the Ever-Virgin Mary with Christ), set in the apse of the church temple, behind the Altar Table, expresses the full nature of Her role in our salvation. By extension, Her role is amplified in Her presence with the other Myrrh-bearing Women, who approached the tomb of Christ and were blessed to be the first to witness His Resurrection. During the Service of the Blessing of the Five Loaves, these words are attributed to the Ever-Virgin Mary: *"Blessed are You among women and blessed is the fruit of Your womb."* To the extreme, the "fruit" of Her womb is the Church - the Body of Christ. At the same time, Her presence at the tomb of our Lord fulfills Her birth-giving role for our salvation. For, in preparation for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the tomb of Christ is called the "birth place" of our Resurrection with Him, as these words are intoned by the Priest: *"As life-bearing, more beautiful than Paradise, indeed more brilliant than any royal chamber, was Your tomb, O Christ, the fountainhead of our resurrection."*

Hence, the Church is referred to in the feminine gender. For, Her mission is to make us all myrrh-bearers, giving the myrrh of the Divine Love to everyone around us. Vladimir Lossky notes how the Ever-Virgin Mary works into the Orthodox Christian understanding of the life and mission of Christ's Holy Church. In essence, She represents everything that each of us is destined to become as brothers and sisters of Christ, having participated in His death and Resurrection through Holy Baptism. *"Only the Mother of God (the first among the Myrrh-bearers), through Whom the Word was made flesh, is able to receive the plentitude of grace and to attain unlimited glory, by realizing in Her Person all the holiness of which the Church is capable...It is only through our experience of life in the Church that we can adhere to the unlimited devotion which the Church offers to the Mother of God; and the degree of our adherence to this devotion will be the measure of the extent to which we belong to the Body of Christ (i.e., His Church). (In the Image and Likeness of God, pgs. 207 & 210).*

As we celebrate Mother's Day today, let us give honor to the Mother of God, our Savior. She goes beyond the priceless role of every woman as being a "human bridge," taking us from our non-existence to life itself. The Ever-Virgin Mary is the "Human Bridge" that takes us from earth to Heaven, leading us, as She led the Myrrh-bearing Women, to the Resurrection of Christ.

+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—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...)*

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.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Christos Anesti... (Christ is Risen from the dead; O Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life.)*

Second Resurrection Hymn: *Ote katilthes pros ton thanaton... (When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life Immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You from internal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O Life-Giving Christ our God, we give glory.)*

Hymn for St. Joseph of Arimathea: *O efschimon Iosif apo tou xilou... (The noble Joseph, taking Your Immaculate Body down from the Tree and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You did arise, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.)*

Hymn for the Myrrh-bearing Women: *Tes Myrofores ghinexee... (Unto the Myrrh-bearing Women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ has proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen granting great mercy to the world.)*

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 God that He will save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn: *Ei ke en tafo katilthes... (Though You did descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet did You destroy the power of Hades and did arise, as Victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrh-bearing Women: 'Rejoice!' and giving peace to Your Apostles, O You Who does grant Resurrection to the fallen.)*

READINGS— EPISTLE- Acts 6:1-7 / GOSPEL- St. Mark 15: 43 - 16: 8

Instead of "Axion Estin," *O Angelos evoh-a ti Keharitomeni... (The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has truly risen from the grave on the third day. Be illumined, illumined, O New Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy, O Zion, and exult. And you be merry, O pure Theotokos, at the arising of the One you bore.)*

Communion Hymn: *Soma Christou... (Receive the Body of Christ; taste from the immortal fount.)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Cleo Anton (40 days)**, the beloved wife of **John Anton** and the beloved mother of **Tom Moore** and **Billy Moore**, as well as a beloved friend to all the members of our parish; the choir and the Philoptochos Society. May our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Cleo Anton** and May He grant comfort and peace to **John Anton** and to the entire family. **MAY HER MEMBORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS - Our last **General Meeting of the season will be tomorrow Monday, May 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Desert Willow**. Reservation deadline was Friday, May 10. We are continuing our membership drive. Check out our **2019 Members list** in this Ladder to see if you have already renewed your membership. If not, you may renew by sending a check made out to Philoptochos for **\$45.00 to the office or give your check to Rhonda Latkovic**. We need Coffee Hour sponsors or hosts for June and July. See **Pat Dalkas**.

AHEPA - On an annual basis, our AHEPA Chapter 528 has always been privileged to honor the ladies of our parish with flowers in celebration of Mother’s Day. This tradition continues today as we celebrate Mothers Day again this year. On behalf of our AHEPA, our entire community expresses honor and gratitude to the mothers, grandmothers and Godmothers of our parish for their love and faith in God, which has always been a strong force leading to our salvation in the Risen Christ.

On another note, 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.

NEW ICONS ARE ON THE WAY – Beautiful Orthodox Christian Icons will be arriving over the next few days, with installation beginning on Wednesday, May 15th and continuing up to Saturday, May 25th. More information about this special project will appear in next week’s *Ladder* as to the lay out of the Icons as the interior of our church edifice is beautified. Due to the construction involved in mounting our new Icons on the walls, there will be no choir next Sunday, May 19th.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, May 13th.....Philoptochos General Members Luncheon at Desert Willow CC-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 14th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 15th.....Installation of New Church Icons begins

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.

2019 PHILOPTOCHOS

MEMBERSHIP

BECKY ALLEN	EVELYN KARAS
STACY ARGYROS	KRISANN KONTAXIS
TERRY AYANOPOLIS	CHRISTINA KUNDANIS
KAY BELL	ANNETTE LASKARIS
ANNE BOUKIDIS-MICHAS	PAULINE LATKOVIC
LINDA BOZIGIAN	RHONDA LATKOVIC
PAULETTE CARKONEN	NICK LATKOVIC (ASSOC.)
ELENI CASTRALI (ASSOC.)	MARY LEE
PENELOPE CHIOTIS	GLORIA LEHMAN
SUSAN CLARK	ANNETTE LEWIS
PAT DALKAS	DEBBIE LUKATOS
JOSIE DESNOYER	CAROL LYONS
ANN DIXON	BESS MANESIS
LOUISE DOBBS-BARRINGER (ASSOC.)	EVE MEEK
ALEXANDRA DYMOND	MARGARITA PAGOULATOS
JOAN FAKINOS	JOAN PANOPOULOS
ATHENA HARRIGAN	FR. TED PANTELS (ASSOC.)
MELISSA HAWKINS	PRESV. PETULA PANTELS
BESS HEINRICH	LINDA PETALAS
LINDA KALLIS	OLYMPIA PILAFIDIS-FICK
PENNY KARAGIANIS	DEBBIE POUSEN
ANNA PRINNEAS	ALICE PULOS
JEANNIE RANGLAS	VICTORIA REED
ATHENA SNARSKIS	CAROL SPELIOPOULOS
GINNIE STOCKER	EMILY TCHAROS

LULA VALISSARAKOS

ANGIE WYSUP

MARY ZACHARIADOU

NELLIE ZAMBRANO

DIANE YOUNG

TINA VEROULIS

KALITSA XITCO

GABRIELLA ZAHARIA

PAM ZAVERDAS

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

