

OCTOBER 13, 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

SAINTS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA.92261
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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.

GIVING MEANING TO WORSHIP

The will to acquire divine wisdom, which is needed to do good deeds for the glory of God are expressed during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in a prayer that precedes the Gospel reading: *"Open the eyes of our minds to the understanding of the Gospel teachings. May respect for Your blessed commandments respect enter in us so that we can trample down our fleshly desires and do all things that are well-pleasing to You..."*

By way of this prayer, we prepare our

souls to resemble, by analogy, the "fertile ground" which nurtures the seed of the Divine Word for it to bring forth fruit for God's glory. Indeed, the condition of one's soul plays a big part with regard to one's prayer for all things good.

From today's reading of a passage from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus, we come to understand that the first Christians lived with faith that Eternal Life begins today. For this reason, every day is a day of gratitude - a day for the *continued on page 2*

SUNDAY OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

On Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we chant the Service to the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, which gathered in Nicaea in 787 under the Patriarch Tarasius and during the reign of Empress Irene and her son, Constantine Porphyrogenitus.

The reason for which the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened was to refute heresy and proclaim truth. At issue was the veneration of icons by Christians both at prayer in their homes and in worship in churches. The controversy involved "Iconoclasts," who viewed the use of icons as a form of idolatry, and "Iconodules," who viewed the use of icons as statements of doctrine: the character of Christ's human nature; the Christian attitude toward visible creation, and the true meaning of Christian salvation and the redemption of the entire universe.

The Council proclaimed that icons are "open books to remind us of God." The Council ordered that icons are indeed to be venerated by Christians at every place and time – in homes and in churches. St. John of Damascus explained: *"We do not worship wood, paint or stone, but we worship Him Who for my sake became material and deigned to dwell in matter... and affected my salvation."*



Η θέλησις γιά να αποκτήσουμε την θεϊκήν σοφίαν η οποία χρειάζεται για να τελέσουμε τα αγαθά έργα προς δόξαν του Θεού εκφράζεται κατά την εκτέλεσην της Θ. Λειτουργίας διά της ευχής μόλις πριν το ανάγνωσμα του Αγίου Ευαγγελίου: <Τούς της διανοίας ήμῶν διάνοιζον ὀφθαλμούς εἰς τήν τῶν εὐαγγελικῶν Σου κηρυγμάτων κατανόησιν. Ἐνθεν ήμῖν καί τόν τῶν μακαρίων Σου ἐντολῶν φόβον, ἵνα τάς σαρκικάς ἐπιθυμίας καταπατήσαντες, πνευματικὴν πολιτείαν μετέλθωμεν πάντα πρός εὐαρέστησιν Σου φρονούντες και πράττοντες...>

Διά της Ευχής αυτής, ετοιμάζουμε τις ψυχές μας να ομοιάσουν αναλόγως με το <καλό ἔδαφος γης> το οποίο ανατρέπει τον σπόρον του Θείου Λόγου προς καρποφορίαν προς δόξαν του Θεού. Η κατάστασις της ψυχῆς του ανθρώπου παίζει μεγάλο ρόλο σχετικῶς με τις ευχές του γιά το κάθε καλό.

Διά μέσου του αναγνώσματος της σημερινῆς περικοπῆς ἀπό την Επιστολήν του Απ. Παύλου προς τον Τίτον, γνωρίζομεν ὅτι ἔζουσαν οι πρώτοι Χριστιανοί με την πίστην ὅτι η αιωνία ζωὴ ἀρχίζει ἀπό σήμερα. Γιά αυτόν τον λόγον, κάθε ἡμέρα εἶναι ἡμέρα ευχαριστίας – ἡμέρα εκτελέσεως της Θ. Λειτουργίας, διά της οποίας η ευχαρηστία μας εκφράζεται με θυσία του εαυτού μας ἐξ ἀγάπης γιά τον Θεόν προς σωτηρίαν του συνανθρώπου μας και προς δόξαν του Θεού.

<Με την λατρεία ο άνθρωπος εξωτερικεύει την αγάπην του στον Θεό και επομένως εκτελεί τον προορισμόν του ἐδώ στην γη.> (Γιατί Ζῆς, υπό Αρχιμ. Χαραλ. Βασιλοπούλου, σελ. 40).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

celebration of the Divine Liturgy, through which our gratitude is expressed through self-sacrifice out of love for God for the salvation of others and for His glory.

“Through worship, one outwardly expresses love for God and, as a result, fulfills his or her purpose here on earth,” according to Archimandrite Haralambos Vasilopoulos. (*Why Do You Live?*, pg. 40). One might ask, *“How does my participation in the Divine Liturgy actually fulfill my life?”* On the surface, provided we are attentive to the prayers and the hymns of the Church as the Divine Liturgy is being celebrated (and not day-dreaming), our thoughts are energized and purified in Christ. On a deeper level, our thoughts influence the nature of our souls. Worship is our *inward* work (i.e., work within our souls) so that our *outer* works (including our outward behaviors) can be *Divine*.

As we offer ourselves to Christ our God, He abides in us through the Holy Spirit. After all, the Only-Begotten Son of God is all that can be given for the life of the world. God’s Son becomes our sacrifice to God as a gift to all people. Christ is all *we* have to give.

“We offer these Gifts to You from Your own Gifts in all and for all,” exclaims the priest as the Holy Gifts are consecrated into the very Body and Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He abides in us through the Holy Spirit. However, giving Christ from within us means that we “have died with Christ so that we can live with Christ” -- the very essence of our Baptism. To “die with Christ” means that we acknowledge the fact that we have nothing to give but food for moths, and rust. To “live with Christ” means that we impart the Holy Trinity to others – we give God, the Creator of all, to others through ourselves, thereby truly fulfilling our lives.

Participating in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with these thoughts in mind gives meaning to worship, which, in turn, is destined to give meaning to our lives.

+FR. THEODORE

“Rejoice always and pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for, this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”

– 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-22

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, soson imas."*

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

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

ANTIPHON II: *"Soson 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: *"Soson 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: *"Soson 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..."*

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)...(O Lord by Your Sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the theif blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world for evermore.)*

Hymn for the Saints of the 7th Ecumenical Council: *Yper-dhe-dhoxasmenos...(You are glorified above all, O Christ our God, Who established our Fathers as radiant stars upon the earth, and so, through them, we all are guided to the True Faith. O Compassionate Lord, glory be unto You.)*

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... (O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.)*

Axion Estin

Communion Hymn: *Enite ton Kyrion ek ton ouranon. Enite Afton en tis ipsistees...(Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. Allelouia)*

The Ladder for the month of September 2019 was sponsored by Bernice Shaheen.

The Ladder for this month is sponsored by Alice Pulos.



Coffee Hour: Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by **Lynanne Steele.**

PHILOPTOCHOS- The Philoptochos will be selling freshly baked koulourakia and paximathia in addition to quince and fig jams after Church Services today! Our Philoptochos Chapter would like to express our thanks to all the members who participated in Saturday's "Pain El Paseo Pink Walk" to benefit cancer patients through the **Desert Cancer Foundation.**

Our **Philoptochos General Members Meeting** is **Monday, October 14, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.**

We look forward to seeing everyone at our **Movie Matinee Afternoon** on **Thursday, October 17th.**

The movie selected for viewing is *The Biggest Little Farm*, a Sundance Film Festival winner.

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK FESTIVAL -- Everyone is invited to attend the annual **St. Nicholas Greek Festival** that is being held in **Temecula** today up **until 7:00 p.m.** Fliers and "flier post-cards" are available in our parish hall at the coffee bar, with details and directions to the **Temecula Old Town Civic Center**, where the festival is being held.

SUNDAY SCHOOL -- Next **Sunday, October 20th**, our Sunday School students are invited to participate in a project of painting pumpkins with religious themes. Let us support our students by being patient and accommodating throughout the coffee hour.

GREEK LANGUAGE CLASS -- A class of instruction in the **Modern Greek Language for adults** is being formed. The **first day of class is October 22, 2019...**classes will be held every Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contact our parish office for more information and registration particulars.

ALTAR FLOWERS -- Notice: **There are only two available requests for 2019 Altar Flowers.** Those dates are: **October 20th and December 19th.** Thank you for your continued support. See **Louise Dobbs Barringer** in our parish hall.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 14th.....Philoptochos General Members' Meeting – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 15th..... Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 17th.....Philoptochos Movie Matinee Afternoon-2:30 p.m.

Friday, October 18th.....**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**

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

EPISTLE—Titus 3:8-15 —Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apolos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL —St. Luke 8:5-15 —The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it with-

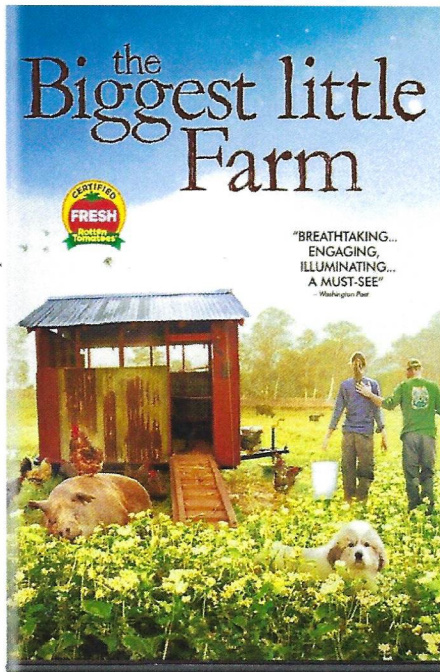
ered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

SAINT GEORGE CHURCH

74109 LARREA ST, PALM DESERT, CA

PRESENTS

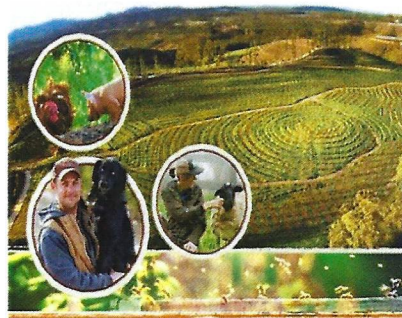
MOVIE MATINEE



“LIKE FRESH AIR FOR THE SOUL” – Variety

“In a time when climate news is near uniformly depressing, this is a nature documentary that pays loving hopeful tribute to the complex web of life” – New York Post

“Uplifting, educational and entertaining! 96% audience approved” – Rotten Tomatoes



OCTOBER 17th

2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos

RSVP Rhonda 714-875-4661 or Athena 219-313-6940



“SURVIVAL GREEK”

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

REGISTRATION FORM 2019

LOCATION: Classes are held at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church 74109 Larrea St, Palm Desert, CA 92260

SCHEDULE: Classes begin Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019 at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. First semester duration is 9 weeks and continues until December 17th, 2019.

TUITION: \$75.00 per student

Please complete form and return with payment by October 22nd, 2019.

STUDENT INFORMATION (please fill in all fields):



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



experience the treasures of Greece!

OCTOBER
12th & 13th

SATURDAY

10am – 9pm

SUNDAY

11am – 7pm

at the Old Town Temecula Civic Center



Live Greek Music ♦ *The Olympians!*

Dancing & Folk Dance Performances

Authentic Greek Food

Delicious Greek Pastries

Greek Wine, Beer, Liqueur & Coffee

Mediterranean Market Place

Children's Game Area & Petting Zoo



ONLY \$3 ADMISSION

SENIOR CITIZENS \$2

KIDS UNDER 12 only \$1

FREE ADMISSION

to US Military, Firefighters & Law Enforcement with proper ID

FREE PARKING

at old town garage

28690 Mercedes St.

Temecula, CA 92590

www.TemeculaGreekFest.com

SAINT GEORGE 2020 GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP & AD PROGRAM

Event Dates: Sat. & Sun., February 22nd - 23rd, 2020

Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

Attached is my check in the sum of:

Date: _____ \$ _____

Sponsorship/Ad Choice: _____

Sponsorship/Ad Choices Available in 24th Annual Greek Festival Booklet:

Sponsorship Level: (includes full page (8.5 x 5.5) **color** ad in program booklet, company logo in Festival Ad Program, signage at festival admissions gate & Sponsorship listing on Festival Website)

Sponsor Level ----- \$ 1000

Advertising Choices: (includes black & white ad in program booklet)

Full Page (8.5 x 5.5) -- \$ 500 **Half Page (4.25 x 5.5) -- \$ 275**

Quarter Page or Business Card (2.125 x 5.5) -- \$150

Personal Name Listing w/ Message -- \$100

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Make checks payable to:
St. George Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
Phone: (760) 568-9901
Email: 2016stgeorgegreekfest@gmail.com
Fax: (760) 568-9492

Print personal ad below:

Absolute DEADLINE for Copy: January 20th, 2020

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