

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

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)

Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)

# THE LADDER



**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 ENDURE & TO ACT**

Commitment is made evident in two ways: 1) through endurance, and, 2) by action. In today's Epistle passage from 2 Corinthians, St. Paul explains this:

*"As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:*

*through great endurance, in 1. afflictions, 2. hardships, 3. calamities, 4. beatings, 5. imprisonments, 6. tumults, 7. labors, 8. watching, and, 9. hunger;*

*by 1. purity, 2. knowledge, 3. forbearance, 4. kindness, 6. the Holy Spirit, 7. genuine love, 9. truthful speech, and, 10. the power of*

*God."* (vs. 4-7)

As the footnote in the *Orthodox Study Bible* states regarding St. Paul, *"His life demonstrates the paradox of God's strength working in human weakness, of renouncing the world in order to master it. The day of salvation is now, always the present moment in the period before Christ's return."* (pg. 1579).

In essence, then, we need to accept the fact that, on a daily basis, we need to endure the imperfections of the world around us. Yet, anger and depression do not allow us to endure anything.

*Continued on Page 2*

**STEWARDSHIP**

From our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Stewardship Ministries, I share the following notes:

*"The base from which we serve as the Voice of Christ in a Changing World is the parish. A strong parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those that are searching for a spiritual home, and a base from which we are sent out into the world. The parish also provides a place for worship, community and education in the faith. To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision and inspiration to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be. We are called to offer ourselves and our treasure to make our local church all that is can be."*

-- [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

*"It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He is, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today."*

--Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

+FR. THEODORE



Όπως αναφέρει η υποσημείωση στο *Orthodox Study Bible*, σχετικά με τον Άγ. Παύλο, «*Η ζωή του δείχνει ένα παράδοξο πράγμα όπου η δύναμις του Θεού λειτουργεί στην ανθρώπινη αδυναμία, και όταν οι άνθρωποι αποκηρύσσουν τον κόσμο, τον κυριαρχούν. Η ημέρα της σωτηρίας είναι τώρα, πάντα η παρούσα στιγμή της περιόδου πριν από τη Δεύτερη Παρουσία του Χριστού.*» (σελ. 1579).

Στην ουσία, λοιπόν, πρέπει να αποδεχθούμε το γεγονός ότι, σε καθημερινή βάση, πρέπει να υπομείνουμε τις ατέλειες του κόσμου γύρω μας. Ωστόσο, ο θυμός και η κατάθλιψη δεν μας επιτρέπουν να υπομείνουμε τίποτα. Το μόνο που συμβαίνει είναι ότι κάνουμε τα πράγματα χειρότερα. Μόνο με τον Χριστό μπορούμε να αντέξουμε. Ωστόσο, για να είμεθα μαζί Του, πρέπει να έχουμε πίστη, από την οποία αγωνιζόμαστε για να καθαρίσουμε τις σκέψεις μας και να αναζητήσουμε τη σοφία του Θεού, που είναι ο καρπός της προσευχής με τη χάρη του Αγίου Πνεύματος.

Ενεργώντας σύμφωνα με τις εντολές του Κυρίου μας, ενώ εξακολουθούμε να αντιμετωπίζουμε δοκιμασίες, αποδεικνύουμε τη δέσμευσή μας στον Κύριον και, με αυτόν τον τρόπο, Τον δοξάζουμεν. Με μια τέτοια νοοτροπία οι Άγιοι έχουν εμπνεύσει γενιές ανθρώπων και θαύματα έχουν γίνει τόσο στην εποχή τους, όσο και στη δική μας.

Πολλές φορές ερωτάμε: «Τι θα κερδίσω εγώ αν κάνω καλό;» Ο κακός υπηρέτης του σημερινού Ευαγγελίου είχε την ίδια στάση. Ας προσευχηθούμε να μην έχουμε ποτέ τέτοια στάση, αλλά να παραδοθούμε στον Θεό την κάθε ημέρα.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

All that happens is that we make things worse. Only with Christ our God can we endure. However, to be with Him we are asked to have faith, from which we struggle to purify our thoughts; seek the wisdom of God through prayer by the grace of the Holy Spirit; be kind and patient with ourselves and others; and act according to the truth of the Gospel. By acting as our Lord commands, while still facing trials and tribulations, we give evidence of our commitment and, in this way, we give Him glory.

With these thoughts held firmly in their minds, the Saints of our Church have inspired generations of people and miracles have occurred both in their own life-times, as well as in ours. With these thoughts in their minds, our Saints show a peaceful way of life and they offer volumes of good deeds for the benefit and salvation of others. While God gave St. Paul and the other Saints the talents that they needed to *endure* and *act* for God's glory, they multiplied their talents by imparting them to others, sharing God's blessings, as others shared God's blessings with still others. If only our society could be filled with such people!

We live in a world in which freely sharing God's blessings with others is not the norm. Too many times we find ourselves in the habit of asking, "What's in it for me?" This question emanated from the heart of the wicked servant of today's Gospel passage. It is almost as if when we do not gain some personal advantage from someone, we become cold-hearted ourselves – and, sometimes our coldness is directed at God, of Whom (figuratively) the wicked servant judged to be "*A hard man, ...and I was afraid...*" (St. Matthew 25:25).

Ironically, the wicked man projected his own wicked frame of mind onto to God and judged God, rather than himself. Let us pray to never fall into such a "spin" in our thinking. Rather, let us truly "*commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.*"

+FR. THEODORE

#### **BIBLE STUDY –Tuesday February 9, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.**

Join the Zoom Bible Study Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86578988907?pwd=cFBoaDg3b25hdTU1L3o1NDV2ay83dz09>

Meeting ID: **865 7898 8907**

Passcode: **919868**

Or, using your cell phone, call:1 699 900 6833 and dial in the Meeting ID and Passcode numbers. We will be studying the following passages: [St. Matthew 15:21-28](#)

**NOTE:** When unable to attend Church Services in person due to state regulations regarding the Coronavirus or personal illness, follow the Divine Liturgy through live-streaming provided by various Archdiocese parishes at: <https://www.goarch.org/live-broadcasts>.



*“Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Blessed are You at Your throne of the glory of Your Kingdom, seated above the Cherubic angels, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”*

*“Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.”*

**EPISTLE—2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

Brethren, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

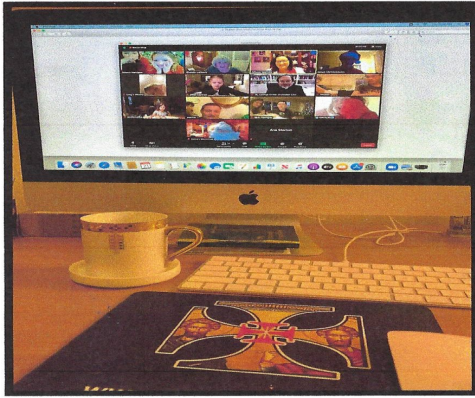
**GOSPEL—St. Matthew 25:14-30**

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's

money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Today.....Sunday School – 11:30 a.m. (“zoom” format)  
 Coffee Hour (sponsored by Philoptochos)-1:00 p.m. (See enclosed flier)  
 AHEPA 528 Virtual Super Bowl Party – 3:30 p.m. (See enclosed flier)
- Monday, February 8th.....Philoptochos Board Meeting - 11:30 a.m. (“zoom” format)
- Tuesday, February 9th.....Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. (“zoom” format)
- Wednesday, February 10th... **St. Haralambos the Martyr**  
 Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
 AHEPA meeting - 6:30 p.m. (“zoom” format)
- Thursday, February 11th.....Parish Council- 2:30 p.m. (“zoom” format)



## **Saint George Coffee Hour is Back!**

**Join us on the first Sunday of  
each month beginning  
Sunday, February 7, 2021 at  
1:00 PM (PST) via ZOOM!**

This is a recurring meeting on  
the first Sunday of every month. Same time, Meeting  
ID and Passcode for all Zoom meetings.

**Meeting ID # 864 9984 9746 Passcode # 45970**

February 7th, 2021  
March 7th, 2021  
April 4th, 2021  
May 9th, 2021  
June 6th, 2021



\*Coffee hour sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos



## **AHEPA 528 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL \$10 POOL SQUARES SUPER BOWL PARTY**



### **FUN FOR EVERYONE**

We will have Zoom start at 3:30 pm  
Payment arrangements can be made via  
check, etc. by sending email to:  
contact@ahempa528.org

### **Livestream and ZOOM**

**after each Quarter to announce winner!  
Donate online, AHEPA528.ORG**

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or donate online

Scholarship awards benefit members of  
Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

AHEPA CHAPTER 528  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
42-215 WASHINGTON ST. A-154  
PALM DESERT, CA 92211

**SUPER BOWL  
FEB 7<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Each block costs  
\$10 and multiple  
blocks can be  
purchased.

Please visit  
Ahepa528.org  
For login information or  
email:  
contact@ahempa528.org



**WYNN@AHEPA528.ORG  
760.832.2825**

