

**JULY 18, 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 BE LIGHT FOR THE WORLD**

We have come to the point in our age where the role of religion has become very significant, now when violence and hatred are so visible in our daily lives. It seems that we have forgotten the words of Christ our Savior: *“You are the light of the world”* (St. Matthew 5: 14), and, *“This is My commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you.”* (St. John 15: 12). Love requires us to try to understand the emotions and needs of other people more than being absorbed with our own interests. St. John wrote: *“Love is from God and all who love others are from God and know God. Whoever does not love others*

*does not know God, for God is love.”* (1 John 4: 7-8).

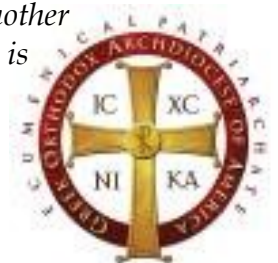
Aside from the reality that we, as Christians (and particularly as Orthodox Christians) need to speak about concerns related to the poor and human rights, we have underemphasized the obligation of each individual to examine his or her “inner life” - that is, to examine the movements and impulses within one’s soul. Indeed, each of us has to evaluate his or her own faith in God and love for others.

For us to be “the light of the world,”  
*Continued on page 2*

**THE STEWARDSHIP OF OFFERING WORSHIP TO OUR LORD**

Summer time is a season for continuing our practice of worship on Sundays. Through worship we support the mission of our Church and we serve to inspire our children so that they can support the mission of the Church into the future.

On this point, Fr. Anthony Coniaris, author of the classic book, *Making God Real in the Orthodox Home,* once noted: *“Punctuality and faithful attendance at church impresses upon children the importance of God and of our Orthodox Christian value system... A little girl noticed that after the collection was taken in a certain church, the ushers brought it up to the altar. She whispered to her mother, ‘Mommy, how do they get the money to go up to Heaven?’ The mother replied, ‘The church doesn’t send the money to Heaven, but it uses it to bring Heaven down to us.’ This mother could not have given a better answer. For, the purpose of the Church is to get God’s Heaven into each of us. ‘The Kingdom of God is within you,’ said Jesus.”*



Έχουμε φτάσει στο σημείο που ο ρόλος της θρησκείας έχει γίνει πολύ σημαντικός, τώρα που η βία και το μίσος είναι τόσο ορατά στην καθημερινή μας ζωή. Φαίνεται ότι έχουμε ξεχάσει τα λόγια του Χριστού: «Σεις έσθε το φως του κόσμου.» (Ματθ. 5.14) Η αγάπη απαιτεί από εμάς να εξετάσουμε και να προσέξουμε πώς τα λόγια και οι πράξεις μας επηρεάζουν τα συναισθήματα άλλων ανθρώπων. Ο Άγ. Ιωάννης έγραψε: «Η αγάπη εκ Θεού είναι, και πας όστις αγαπά, εκ Θεού εγεννήθη και γνωρίζει τον Θεόν. (1 Ιωαν. 4. 7).

Εκτός από την πραγματικότητα ότι εμείς, ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, πρέπει να μελετήσουμε τα θέματα που σχετίζονται με τους φτωχούς και τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα, έχουμε υπογραμμίσει την υποχρέωση κάθε ατόμου να εξετάσει την «εσωτερική του ζωή» - δηλαδή, να εξετάσει τις κινήσεις και τις παρορμήσεις μέσα στην ψυχή. Πράγματι, ο καθένας από εμάς πρέπει να αξιολογήσει τη δική του πίστη στον Θεό και την αγάπη του για τους άλλους.

Για να είμεθα «το φως του κόσμου», η συμμετοχή μας στη Θεία Λειτουργία πρέπει επίσης να είναι η συμμετοχή μας στη Θεία Λειτουργία μετά την εκτέλεση της Θείας Λειτουργίας! Ο Πατήρ Εμμανουήλ Χατζηδάκης, στο βιβλίο του, «Ο Επουράνιος Δείπνος», γράφει: «Αν έχουμε πραγματικά ενωθεί με τον Χριστό, τότε πρέπει να ζήσουμε τη του Χριστού ζωή... Απαιτείται να επιστρέψουμε στον κόσμο και να βοηθηθούμε στις υλοθέσεις και τις συνθήκες της καθημερινής ζωής, φέρνοντας την εξιλεωτική δύναμη του Θεού και τις ευλογίες της Ευχαριστίας στον τραυματισμένο και πονομένο κόσμο μας... »

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

we need to follow the True God, our Savior Jesus Christ, Who Himself is the Light of the world. We must understand the mission of Christ for the salvation of humanity. The voice of the Saints of the Ecumenical Councils, whose memory we honor today, need to be studied and understood by each person of our land. Of course, the non-Orthodox in our country cannot read and understand the writings of our Saints if we do not share them with others.

Participation in the Divine Liturgy is participation in the Divine Liturgy after the Divine Liturgy! We are to share our faith with others through conversations and actions. At the end of the formal celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the priest exclaims, "Let us go forth in peace." To which the deacon adds, "Let us pray to the Lord." The prayer, "Lord bless those who bless You and sanctify those who trust in You..." is a prayer for the Church; for our country and for blessings for us to impart God's gifts to all people.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council decreed that our Lord Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine. Through the Divine Liturgy, our Savior empowers us to fulfill our purpose as humans, while participating in His divine blessings.

In reference to the Orthodox theologian, Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis, in his book entitled, *The Heavenly Banquet*, writes: "If we have truly united ourselves with Christ, then we should live the life of Christ, Who, 'came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many' (St. Matthew 20: 28)... 'We are required to return to the world and to immerse ourselves in the affairs and circumstances of everyday life, bringing the redemptive power of God and blessings of the Eucharist to our wounded and broken world...'" (*The Heavenly Banquet*, pg. 356).  
FR. THEODORE

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 20th.....ST. PROPHET ELIJAH

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

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

**SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021** -- Our parish Philoptochos Chapter has designated the **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** an important local charity in need of our support. The **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** has opened up again for volunteers to help the homeless, which is great news. Currently masks are required to be worn for any volunteer work. We have selected **Monday, August 16th** as a volunteer day at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. This day was selected to honor the **The Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**, whose **Dormition is celebrated on Sunday the 15th**. The volunteer hours are from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Monday morning. We need a total of **8 volunteers**. Contact **Rhonda Latkovic** or **Fr. Ted** to volunteer to help for this important ministry.



*"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— 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 Apollos 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— Matthew 5:14-19**

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

**PROTOCOL FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

Please allow our Altar servers to hold the Communion cloth under your chin when partaking of Holy Communion. This will enable the priest and the deacon to impart Holy Communion with fewer complications and with more safety in terms of avoiding any lingering Covid-19 virus.

**ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021**

Everyone is asked to help make our upcoming **St. George Golf Tournament on September 25th** a success! Items are needed for the **silent auction** that will be offered at the awards banquet following the tournament.

Items can be works of art, golf equipment, pre-paid dinner reservations, pre-paid golf rounds, tickets for travel, dinner ware, decorative table settings, electronic accessories, and the like.

Please start collecting silent auction items next month (August) so that items can be prepared and priced. Also, please call our parish office, or Fr. Ted regarding dates and times for these items to be brought to the church.

Registration material for participating in the golf tournament will be sent out in the near future. St. George golfers: make plans to join in for this important event and bring your friends! The tournament will be held at **Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert.**



**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
**ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΝΣΙΣΚΟΥ**

## **47th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus**

July 14, 2021

+Aquila the Apostle among the 70

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

*“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

*John 16:33*

On July 20, 1974 the people of Northern Cyprus suffered greatly during the invasion of the Turkish forces. Since that day, their lives have forever been changed. The destruction, persecution, loss of homes, jobs and lives are constant reminders of those very dark days which still persist 47 years later.

While we are blessed with many freedoms in this country, many other parts of the world continue to suffer under oppression. We should be grateful for the liberty that we enjoy, while remembering in fervent prayer all those whose rights have been taken away and continue to be persecuted.

**As you gather in church on Sunday, July 18, 2021, I ask that each parish in our Metropolis offer a Memorial Service in remembrance of all those who lost their lives during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.** Let us call to mind our brothers and sisters in Northern Cyprus who are still suffering, lifting them up in prayer, and seeking peace and justice for their homeland through the Lord’s wisdom and mercy. We must continue to honor them with our prayers as well as with our ongoing commitment for the restoration of their deserved freedom.

With Love in Christ,

**+METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS OF SAN FRANCISCO**

+Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco