

MAY 16, 2021

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

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING 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.*

FAITH & RESPONSIBILITY

That which motivated the Myrrh-bearing Women to action 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.” Their faith in God brought them to be the first to witness the Resurrection of Christ.

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.

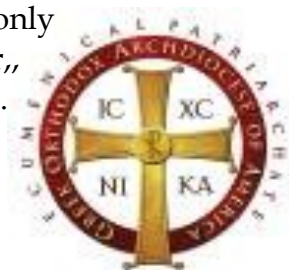
Along with the Myrrh-bearing Women, we commemorate Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. After our Lord died on the Cross, St. Joseph courageously asked the governor, Pilate, that Jesus’ Body be given to him. This was a daring act. Remember that

Continued on Page 2

THE ORTHODOX WORLD-VIEW--The two Sundays following the Resurrection of our God and Savior Jesus Christ carry themes of doubt vs. faith. St. Thomas’ doubt was addressed by our Lord by inviting him to see reality for himself in order to proclaim the truth with faith that Christ is Lord and God.

This Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women addresses the virtues of love for, and faith in, God. From these first two Sundays following the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, we note that the Apostles did not share the same world-view as did other people of their times. The world was no longer an “end in itself,” at best with souls being cast into the nebulous eternity of “Sheol,” with no real value. Nor was the world the only place where human life is to exist. Instead, life in this world is an opportunity to experience God’s love -- and then to share God’s love. In this, the Apostles lived in heaven while still bearing flesh on earth, knowing that the triumphs and trials of this present world are only temporary, while the joy and peace in Christ our God is forever,, provided one turns away from evil and toward the love of God.

With this world-view, the Myrrh-bearing Women disregarded their fears and apprehensions and moved on to Christ’s tomb, finding it empty, because Christ is Risen! +FR. THEODORE



Αυτό που ώθησε τους Μυροφόρες να χρίσουν το Σώμα του Χριστού ήταν βαθιά μέσα στις ψυχές των - δηλαδή, η αγάπη για τον Χριστό και η πεποίθηση ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός, μαζί με την αίσθηση ευθύνης για το σωστό. Αυτή η αγάπη και η πίστη, καθώς και η αίσθηση περί ευθύνης, υπερβαίνουν όλα τα εμπόδια - που απεικονίζονται εικονικά από τον «λίθον μέγας σφόρα» που εκάλυψε τον τάφο του Κυρίου μας και τον «φόβο των Φαρισαίων». Με πίστη στον Θεό, οι Μυροφόρες έγιναν οι πρώτοι να μαρτυρήσουν την Ανάσταση του Χριστού.

Οι Μυροφόρες, όπως όλοι οι Άγιοι μετά, μας προκαλούν να ωθήσουμε όλο και περισσότερο την πρόοδο της πνευματικής μας ζωής και την παροχή χρόνου, ταλέντου και θησαυρού σε άλλους και στο έργο της Εκκλησίας του Κυρίου μας. Προς τιμήν των Μυροφόρων, τις οποίες εορτάζουμε σήμερα, καλούμε όλοι να χρίσουμε το Ιερό Σώμα του Χριστού - δηλ., την Εκκλησία Του - με τις προσευχές και τις καλές μας πράξεις σήμερα μέσω της αγάπης μας για τον Χριστό και ο ένας για τον άλλο.

Το Άγιο Πνεύμα θα επιβεβαιώνει πάντοτε την πίστη μας στον Αναστάντα εκ νεκρών Χριστό - και, με πίστη, έρχονται τα θαύματα του Κυρίου μας. Έτσι βιώνουμε τα ίδια θαύματα με αυτά των ιδίων των Αποστόλων, «Ο λόγος του Θεού ηύξανε και επληθύνετο ο αριθμός των μαθητών.» (Πραξ. 6:7).

Ας συνεχίσουμε να καλλιεργούμε την πίστη μας στον Κύριο μας μέσω της συνεχούς προσευχής.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

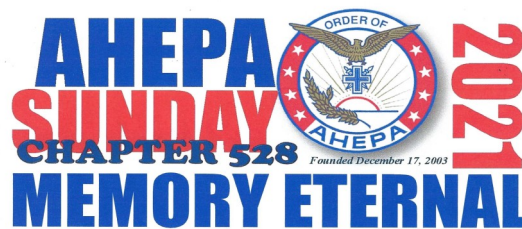
Christ was crucified as a criminal. For anyone to obtain the body of a criminal for burial, other than what was allotted for common criminals, required special permission—and in seeking that permission there was the risk that one could be implicated as a criminal, as well, and given the same death sentence. In helping Joseph to carry out this request and place Jesus' Body in the tomb, Nicodemus also risked his life. They were both declaring to the world that they were friends of our Lord and Savior!

As the Myrrh-bearing Women and Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus maintained their faith in Christ through dangerous moments, our parishioners here at St. George, while facing the dangers of this year's Coronavirus, maintained their faith in Christ our God. Such faith is manifested in the increased attendance for worship services over the past few months. Truly, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, many people maintained and even strengthened their faith throughout this year.

The Holy Spirit will always confirm our faith in Christ risen from the dead -- and, with faith come the wonders of our Lord. This is how we experience the same wonders as those experienced by the Apostles themselves, "*The Word of God increased and the number of disciples multiplied.*" (Acts 6:7).

We will indeed experience Apostolic wonders as we continue to cultivate our faith in our Lord through continued prayer and thanksgiving to Christ. Let us hold in our minds the faith, courage, and the spiritual righteousness of the Myrrh-bearing Women, St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus. Let us indeed adopt the world-view of all of our Holy Saints, by which our thoughts are directed toward heaven, even though we live on earth.

+FR. THEODORE



2011 - Fr. Theophilos

2016 - Steve Geotas

2016 - Stan Georgalakis

2016 - Steve N. Pisanos

2017 - George Tcharos

2017 - Robert Maverick

2018 - Thomas Evans

2018 - JJ Richards, Sr.

2020 - Spiro Canakis

2021 - Nick Kyriacou

2021 - Chris Laskaris



"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 -- Acts 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

GOSPEL -- St. Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and sum-

moning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Chris Laskaris (40 days)**, the beloved husband of **Annette Laskaris**. We also pray for the Eternal Life and Salvation of **Fr. Panagiotis Laskaris** and **Demetrios Laskaris**, the beloved brothers of **Chris Laskaris**, as well as for the Eternal Life and Salvation of departed AHEPA Chapter members: **Fr. T. P. Theophilos, Steve Geotas, Stan Georgalakis, Steve Pisanos, George Tcharos, Robert Maverick, Thomas Evans, J.J. Richards, Spiro Canakis and Nick Kyriakou.**

Today.....AHEPA Sunday. Scholarship presentations from the **AHEPA Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund**. St. George Sunday School classes resume - 11:30 a.m. (Zoom format)

Monday, May 17th..... Philoptochos General Members Meeting - 11:30 at Old Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Mirage

Tuesday, May 18th..... Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. (Acts 9:32-42)

Friday, May 21st..... STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN - Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

On **May 22nd Saturday at 7:00 pm PST,**
and **May 23rd Sunday at 6:00 pm PST,**

the 15th the Los Angeles Greek Film Festival will proudly present, the exclusive Official Premiere screenings, of

MAN OF GOD,

a film depicting the trials and tribulations of Greek Orthodox **Saint Nektarios of Aegina.**

This is the link for more [info and tickets.](#)



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

May 14, 2021
✠ Isidoros of Chios

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

By now you are aware of the updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **for those fully vaccinated against COVID-19**. The CDC has stated that people in the United States who have been **fully vaccinated** can resume pre-pandemic activities, indoors and outside, without wearing a mask and with no social distancing, **except where required by local guidelines or business restrictions**.

While this is encouraging news to hear that we are closer to returning to our customary worship experience, the Metropolis continues to review all pertinent guidelines and will provide further support and guidance to our clergy and faithful in the near future. Because we span seven states with various guidelines at city, county and state levels, navigating the many directives is challenging.

Therefore, the parishes of this Metropolis will continue to follow the COVID-19 guidelines of their state and local authorities, **and adhere to the present Metropolis guidelines which include the wearing of masks for all services regardless of vaccination status, the continuation of social distancing, and hand sanitizing**.

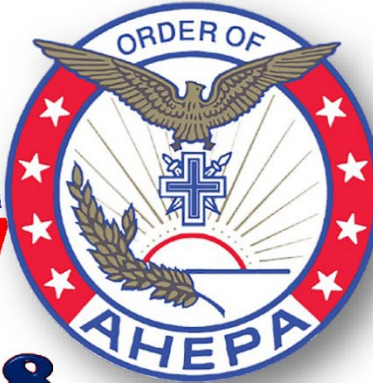
We are grateful for continuing to care for your brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for your patience, support and love of one another as we look forward to the day we can embrace as true children of God.

As we celebrate this joyful season of Pascha, let us call to mind these words of Saint Paul and heed them in our daily lives, **“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”**
(Romans 12:12)

With Love in Our Risen Lord,

Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco
✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

AHEPA SUNDAY CHAPTER 528



Founded December 17, 2003

2021

Chapter Officers



PRESIDENT -
Wynn Storton, PSG
760.832.2825
VICE PRESIDENTS -
Nick M. Krespis
Nicholas M. Latkovic
SECRETARY -
Pete Peterson
TREASURER -
Kyriakos Seraphim
CHAPLIN -
Fr. Ted Pantels
VETERANS CHAIR -
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Derrick Villanueva

Christ is Risen! Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society.

It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, as well as family and individual excellence to the community.

Although most of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

We would like to continue our support by making a pledge to expanding our chapter membership and to be a positive witness to our community.

AHEPA continues to monitor COVID-19 developments with concern and out of an abundance of caution for the community. The health, well-being, and safety of the community is our top priority.

AHEPA Chapter 528 will be holding next ZOOM meeting June 9th, 2021

Going dark for July and August, hoping to have physical meetings be September 8th 2021.

Email or call any brother on the above list if you wish to join in on the fellowship of brotherhood
ahepa528.org

Chapter 528 President Wynn Storton PSG
760.832.2825 / wynn@ahepa528.org

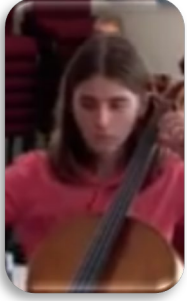
† Memory Eternal
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**IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF THESE DEPARTED
BROTHER'S TIES WITH THIS BROTHERHOOD.**

Announcing the 2020 Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship finalists:

Symeon Seraphim (age 18) a Freshman attending Cal State University at San Bernardino, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Cello - Music Performance. Symeon plans to be a World Class Cello Soloist, seeking a Master's in Education and a California Teaching Credential. His GPA is an impressive 3.9% and his goal is to eventually obtain a Master's in music education, to give back as a music professor. His family are active members of St George and he and his father are both members of AHEPA 528. Although, Symeon was offered full scholarships to attend the University of Portland and the University of Redlands, he chose to attend CAL State San Bernardino to continue his studies under Ms. Esther Back, professor of Music and director of the CSUSB Ensemble. Although Symeon only picked up the cello when his family moved here from Cyprus, 3 years ago; Symeon excels in musical talent of the highest caliber and has been performing with the Cal State San Bernardino Cello Ensemble since High School. Where he has earned the position of the Principal Cellist o the ensemble. Symeon is scheduled to perform at the prestigious, Carnegie Hall in New York City, next month.



We are proud to present Symeon Seraphim, the Saint George Educational award, in the amount of \$1000.00.

Emmarie Shannazrian (age 17) is a graduating Senior at Palm Desert High School. She been accepted to Cal State San Marcos and will be attending in the Fall. Seeking a BA in Education, with plans to be an Elementary Teacher. Academically, she has made Honor Roll for all for years of High School with Perfect Attendance.



Emmarie participates in athletics as a 2019 National Tournament Winner for Volleyball Silver Bracket, a Varsity Swim Team Member, and a Varsity Track Team Player for PDHS. She also balances her time as a Student mentor with the PDHS Link Crew, planning school events & activities. While also involved with Aztec Impact- leadership, organizing rallies, school tours and monthly student award programs. She is also an Elementary school classroom intern practicing her teaching skills. Her extra-curricular activities include 10 years in Girl Scouts, 3 years serving as a historian and secretary in the Desert Sandblasters 4-H club and being a Day Counselor at the YMCA Childcare facility. Along with her family she has volunteered at the Palm Desert Greek Festival, for 10 years. Both her Father and Brother are members of AHEPA chapter 528.

We are proud to present Emmarie Shannazarian with the George Tcharos Educational Award, in the amount of \$750.00 towards completing her studies.

**Thank you to all who applied for the Fr. Theophilos Scholarship
We are immensely proud of each of these young students and the example they set for others.
AHEPA 528 is pleased to play a part in their education and their future. THANK YOU**



**Please help our students receive educational support.
Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donations accepted at
www.ahepa528.org
or mailed to: AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund
42-215 Washington St. A-154 Palm Desert, CA 92211-8031**