



**AUGUST 21, 2022**

**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)**

**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 Kon-**

**taxis, M.D.**

**Holy Communion Or-**  
**der**

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.*

# THE LADDER

## PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES



*"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 -- 1 Corinthians 4: 9-16

GOSPEL -- St. Matthew 17: 14-23

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

**ST. THADDAEUS THE APOSTLE** -- Today we commemorate St. Thaddaeus the Apostle. He became a disciple of Christ, and after His Ascension he journeyed to Edessa. There he catechized and baptized Abgar (see Aug. 16). Having preached in Mesopotamia, he ended his life in martyrdom. Though some call him one of the Twelve, whom Matthew calls "Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus" (Matt. 10:3), the ancient historian Eusebius says that St. Thaddaeus is one of the Seventy: "*After [Christ's] Resurrection from the dead, and His ascent into Heaven, Thomas, one of the twelve Apostles, inspired by God, sent Thaddaeus, one of the seventy disciples of Christ, to Edessa as a preacher and evangelist of Christ's teaching*" (Eccl. Hist. 1: 13). See our Archdiocese website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org).

### Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** "Savior, Your tomb was sealed by the Jews with a stone. Soldiers kept watch over Your sacred Body. Yet, You rose on the third day, giving life to the world. Wherefore, the powers of heaven cried out to You, O Giver of Life, 'Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your Kingdom, glory to Your dispensation who alone are the Loving One.'/ Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος...; **2)** "In birth You preserved Your virginity; in death, You did not abandon the world, O Theotokos. As Mother of life, You departed to the Source of life, delivering our souls from death by Your intercessions."/ Εν τη Γεννήσει την παρθενίαν...; **3) St. George Hymn;** **4) Kontakion Hymn:** "Neither the grave nor death could contain the Theotokos, the unshakable hope, ever vigilant in intercession and protection. As Mother of life, He Who dwelt in the ever-virginal womb transposed Her to life."/ Την εν πρεσβείαις...

### THE CAPACITY TO MOVE MOUNTAINS

God created us in His Image and Likeness. As such, God does not ask us to do anything that we are not innately capable of doing. We are innately capable of keeping God's Commandments; we are innately capable of praying and fasting. We are capable of worshipping God. We are capable of doing good deeds. Our unwillingness to do what we are capable of doing is what makes for an unfulfilled life.

Our unwillingness to do as God Commands is related to our pride, through which we are deceived to believe that we do not need God and that we are, by virtue of our own imperfect powers, somehow invincible. Such deception comes from the devil, who fell from Paradise because of pride and, consequently, he fell away from God. Pride is the opposite of love for God, because by its nature, it does not "need" God. Indeed, how many things do we do as if God is not watching us?

If we have faith in God, we follow God's Commandments with love in our hearts. Christ God tells us that with just a little faith in His love --as little as a grain of mustard seed--nothing would be impossible for us.

We often find ourselves explaining our imperfections, or excusing them, by saying that, after all, we are all "just human." That only works in the effort of not condemning our neighbor for his or her imperfections by acknowledging that we are all imperfect. But, "being human" is not meant to be an excuse for sin and evil.

We are capable of rising above our imperfections through prayer in seeking our Lord's help. We are capable of sharpening our consciences, and strengthening our faith so that we can truly "move mountains" -- most importantly, the "mountains" that serve as huddles in our effort to live a life-style that is pleasing to God.  
+FR. THEODORE

Ο Θεός μας εδημιούργησε κατ' Εικόνα και καθ' Ομοίωσή Του. Ως εκ τούτου, ο Θεός δεν ζητά από εμάς να κάνουμε κάτι που δεν είμεθα εκ φύσεως ικανοί να κάνουμε. Είμεθα εγγενώς ικανοί να τηρούμε τις Εντολές του Θεού. Είμεθα εκ φύσεως ικανοί να προσευχόμεθα και να νηστεύουμε. Είμεθα ικανοί να λατρεύουμε τον Θεό. Είμεθα ικανοί να κάνουμε καλές πράξεις. Η απροθυμία μας να κάνουμε αυτό που είμεθα ικανοί να κάνουμε είναι αυτό που δημιουργεί για εμάς μιá ανεκπλήρωτη ζωή.

Η απροθυμία μας να τηρούμε τις Εντολές του Θεού σχετίζεται με την υπερηφάνειά μας, μέσω της οποίας είμεθα εξαπατημένοι να πιστεύουμε ότι δεν έχουμε ανάγκη από τον Θεό και ότι είμεθα, λόγω των δικών μας ατελών δυνάμεων (κατά κάποιο τρόπο) ανίκητοι. Τέτοια απάτη προέρχεται από τον διάβολο, ο οποίος έπεσε από τον Παράδεισο λόγω υπερηφάνειας και, κατά συνέπεια, απομακρύνθηκε από τον Θεό. Η υπερηφάνεια είναι το αντίθετο της αγάπης για τον Θεό, γιατί από τη φύση της δεν «χρειάζεται» τον Θεό. Σε αυτό, πόσες δουλειές κάνουμε σαν να μην μας παρακολουθεί ο Θεός;

Είμεθα ικανοί να υπερβούμε τις ατέλειές μας μέσω της προσευχής, αναζητώντας τη βοήθεια του Κυρίου μας. Είμεθα ικανοί να εξαγνίσουμε τις συνειδήσεις μας και να ενισχύσουμε την πίστη μας ώστε να μπορούμε πραγματικά να «κινούμε βουνά»--και πίο σημαντικό, τα «βουνά» που είναι τα ίδια τα εμπόδια στην προσπάθειά μας να ζήσουμε έναν τρόπο ζωής που είναι ευάρεστο στον Θεό.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL RENEWAL WITH OPEN ARMS** - Today in our parish hall, we will have a brief meeting following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

**PHILOPTOCHOS FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE** continues throughout this month. Contact Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 to confirm delivery time for items to be brought to our parish hall. Non-perishable food items whose expiration dates have not expired, as well as clothing in reasonable condition are welcome. A **\$40 donation** will provide a **food box** filled with staples for a family of four. Make check payable to "Ladies Philoptochos." Enclosed is a copy of the "Food Drive" flier that is available in our parish hall.

**PARISH CHANGE OF ADDRESS** -- Beginning in **September 2022**, our parish Post Office Box 4755 will no longer be in use. **Regular postage mail** will be delivered to our **new parish mail box** with all mail being addressed to:

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
74-109 Larrea St.  
Palm Desert, California 92260*

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 23rd.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

What We Need Canned Soups Vegetables Rice Beans Peanut Butter

PHILOPTOCHOS

THE NARROW DOOR

Campbell's Cream of Mushroom SOUP

PROGRESSO CREAMY TOMATO WITH BASIL

Campbell's Homestyle Chicken Noodle SOUP

Long Grain White Rice

Jif

### Food Pantry Donations

St. George Ladies Philoptochos

Donations To Benefit:

The Narrow Door, an Indio-based non-profit committed to helping families in need and the homeless.

When: AUGUST 1-31

Where: Drop Off @ St. George Church Hall

A \$40 donation will provide a food box filled with staples for a family of four. Make check payable to Ladies Philoptochos.

**OUR ST. GEORGE PARISH DIRECTORY** will be available on the **Sunday, September 4th**. We want to thank all of our parishioners who participated in this effort and who helped in meeting the needs required for publication. Copies of the directory (one copy per household) can be received during the coffee hour.

### **WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

**OUR PARISH MASTER CALENDAR 2022-2023 IS TAKING SHAPE!** – As we enter the months of August and September 2022, we find the St. George Parish Master Calendar for 2022-2023 taking shape. Below are the dates and events scheduled for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. Please consult our parish office or Fr. Ted with regard to baptism and wedding requests for the months ahead.

August 31, 2022 – The last day to give toward our August Philoptochos Food & Clothing Drive

Saturday, September 17, 2022- Philoptochos Hygiene Kits & Food Boxing for the Hungry

Sunday, September 18, 2022 – Chanters, Readers and Choir Members: Introductory Session (following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy).

Sunday, September 25, 2022 – Sunday School Begins

Sunday, October 2, 2022 – St. George Parish “Coffee Hour” Open Meeting for Parish Spiritual Renewal for 2022-2023; Philoptochos “Socktober” Drive Begins.

Saturday, October 8, 2022-St. George joins in “Paint El Paseo Pink” Walk for cure of breast cancer.

Sunday, October 16, 2022 – “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church” Sunday

Saturday, November 12, 2022 – St. George Parish Fall Retreat

Saturday, December 3, 2022 – Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon, Holiday Party

Sunday, December 18, 2022 -- Sunday School Christmas Program (following celebration of D. Liturgy)

Saturday, December 31, 2022- AHEPA 528 New Year’s Eve Dinner

Sunday, January 8, 2023 – Philoptochos Vasilopita

Saturday, January 21 or 28th – AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference

February 18-19, 2023 – St. George Greek Festival

Monday, February 27, 2023- Great Lent Begins

Saturday, March 18, 2023 – St. George Parish Lenten Retreat

Saturday, April 9- Sunday, April 16, 2023 – Holy Week and Pascha

Saturday, April 22, 2023 – St. George Golf Tournament

Sunday, April 23, 2023 – St. George Feast Day