



DECEMBER 11, 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)

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# 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."*

### Mailing Address:

74-109 Larrea St.  
Palm Desert, CA.92260  
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.

### EPISTLE - Colossians 3: 4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

### GOSPEL - St. Luke 14: 16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS** -- On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the 11th of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law. Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). God called him to forsake his country and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, it was called the "Promised Land." -- Taken from the Archdiocese website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

### Liturgical Notes for Today

Entrance with the Gospel: **1) Hymn:** "O 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; Glory to your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, Who alone are the loving One.' / Του Λιθου..; **2)** "By faith, You justified the forefathers, and through them You betrothed Yourself to the Church taken out of the Gentiles. The saints boast in glory, for from their seed there exists a noble crop; it is She Who without seed has given You birth. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls./ Εν πιστει τους Προπατορας.; **4) Hymn for St. George.** **5) Kontakion Hymn:** "Today the Virgin comes to the cave to ineffably give birth to the eternal Logos. Harkening to this, rejoice, O Universe, and with the angels and shepherds glorify Him, the God before all ages, Who willed to be beheld as a young child." / Η Παρθενος σημερον...

#### THE HEAVENLY BANQUET

The "Banquet" about which Christ speaks through the Parable from today's Gospel passage is the Divine Liturgy, to which we are all invited. To those who attend, it provides rich spiritual nourishment. It is life-giving, because we form a bond with Christ our God and Savior through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In this way, we begin to acquire the Divine Wisdom of Christ our God, through which we are able to discern the consequences that we would face, based on the choices that we might make, assuming that we would like to avoid evil and embrace "every good and perfect gift from above."

I do not believe that I have emphasized enough how vital it is to accept the invitation from our Lord for us all to attend this Mystical Supper faithfully. I fear that we fall into the deception that it is not necessary to attend this Banquet all the time; but this is only a deception, because it's like saying that it is not necessary to eat food every day in order to sustain our bodies -- which we would agree is nonsense.

Nourishment for the soul is life-saving both in this present world, as well as in the eternal world. The signs of neglect in this regard can already be seen in our daily lives. We experience a taste of Heaven in the form of a peaceful conscience when we do good deeds; we experience hell in the form of guilt when we do evil. Neglecting our invitation to the Heavenly Banquet puts us in danger of falling to the many temptations which lead to unnecessary difficulties and suffering in the long run. Let us, then, answer our Lord's invitation to His Heavenly Banquet! +FR. THEODORE

Το «συμπόσιο» περί του οποίου ομιλεί ο Χριστός δια μέσου της Παραβολής Του, την οποίαν ακούσαμεν κατά την σημερινήν Ευαγγελικήν περικοπή, είναι η Θεία Λειτουργία, προς την οποίαν είμεθα όλοι καλεσμένοι. Αυτό το «συμπόσιο» -- ο Μυστικός Δείπνος -- παρέχει πλούσια πνευματική τροφή σε όσους παρευρίσκονται. Μας χαρίζει Ζωή, γιατί δεσμεύουμε με τον Χριστό μέσω του Μυστηρίου της Θείας Κοινωνίας. Συμμετέχουμε στη Θεία Σοφία του Κυρίου και Θεού ημών Ιησού Χριστού, μέσω της οποίας είμεθα σε θέση να διακρίνουμε τις συνέπειες που είναι να αντιμετωπιζουμε σύμφωνα με τις αποφάσεις μας, ενώ υποτίθεται ότι θέλουμε να αποφύγουμε το κακό και να ασπαζώμεθα το «παν δώρημα τέλειον άνωθεν εστί.»

Δεν πιστεύω ότι έχω τονίσει αρκετά πόσο σημαντικό είναι να αποδεχθούμε την πρόσκληση από τον Κύριο για να παρευρισκόμεθα όλοι σε αυτό το Μυστικό Δείπνο πιστά. Φοβάμαι ότι έχουμε πέσει στην εξαπάτηση ότι δεν είναι απαραίτητο να παρευρισκόμεθα συχνά σε αυτό το Δείπνο, αλλά αυτό είναι απλώς μια εξαπάτηση, γιατί είναι σαν να λέμε ότι δεν είναι απαραίτητο να τρώμε κάθε ημέρα για να συντηρούμε το σώμα μας -- κάτι που θα συμφωνήσουμε ότι είναι μιά ανοησία.

Τα συμπτώματα της παραμελήσεως περί τούτο φαίνονται ήδη στην καθημερινή μας ζωή. Βιώνουμε μιά γεύση του Παραδείσου όταν κάνουμε καλές πράξεις και νιώθουμε ψυχική γαλήνη. Βιώνουμε κολασμένες ενοχές όταν κάνουμε το κακό. Η παραμέληση της προσκλήσεώς μας για το Μυστικό Δείπνο μας θέτει σε κίνδυνο να πέσουμε σε πειρασμούς που οδηγούν σε περιττές δυσκολίες και βάσανα. Ας κάνουμε την απόφαση να παρευρισκόμεθα στον Μυστικόν Δείπνον! +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

**MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God, **Spyridon Canakis (2 years)**, the beloved husband of **Evangelia Canakis** and father of **Rubina Canakis** and **Maria Canakis-Angelos**, and grandfather of **Nicholas Canakis-Angelos; Christ Drossos (3 months)**, the beloved mother of **Nicholas Andros**, and **Dimitris Elliniadis (1 year)**, the beloved brother of **Tina Veroulis**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Spyridon Canakis, Christ Drossos**, and **Dimitris Elliniadis**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Evangelia Canakis, Nicholas Andros**, and **Tina Veroulis** and their families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

#### **WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Monday, December 12th.....**ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER**  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, December 13th .....Bible Study-10:00 a.m./ AHEPA Christmas Party -6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 14th...Philoptochos Holiday Baskets delivery to homebound parishioners  
*Next Sunday, December 18th... ..Sunday School Christmas Program -11:00 a.m.*

#### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** –Elections for candidates to serve as members of the 2023 St. George Parish Council will be held **today**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Those who wish to vote must be up-to-date stewardship members of our St. George Greek Orthodox parish. **Parish Election Ballots** may be acquired by visiting our **Election Committee** in the parish book store in the social hall. **Only up-to-date stewardship members** of our St. George Greek Orthodox parish may vote. The four candidates for election to three positions on the Parish Council are (alphabetically listed): **Nicoletta (Becky) Allen, Nick Krespis, Deborah (Debbie) Pousen, & Pete Snarskis.**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – **Holiday Gift Baskets** project for our shut-ins is planned for **Wednesday, December 14th**. Time frame approximately 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for prep and wrapping and then 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for delivery to the home. Volunteers are needed for both tasks. Please contact **Rhonda Latkovic** to volunteer. Thank you!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**--Next Sunday, Dec 18th - **Our Sunday School Christmas program** will take place in our parish hall following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **The theme this year is: "Christmas Around the World"**. Each student individually or as a family will share how different countries celebrate Christmas. Please contact **Presbytera Petula** or **Mrs Athena** if you haven't signed up to participate yet!

--Starting January 15th, 2023 - We will be returning to having Sunday School sessions **each Sunday!** Thank you to **Alexandra Pappas** (Emily Tcharos' niece) and **Emily Kayaloglou** (Angeliki Trapatsas' Yiayia) in joining **Presbytera Petula** and **Mrs Athena** each Sunday this year! **Fr Ted** along with **Deacon Euthym** will also be making visits to each classroom!

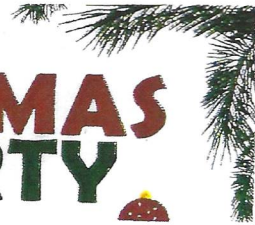
**GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS** - Today, our Greek Folk Dance lessons will be held in our parish hall following the conclusion of our Sunday School classes. We will coordinate with the parents to help provide lunch for our students. For more details, please contact Fr. Ted.

**AHEPA** – **AHEPA Chapter 528** -**Tuesday, December 13th, 6:00 p.m.** at our parish hall. This will be an **Open House Christmas Party** for our Chapter, bringing friends, potential members, and family. We have a lot to be thankful for this year.

– **January 28, 2023...Join AHEPA Chapter 528 for a Greek Island Dinner at Desert Willow Golf Resort** in Palm Desert. **R.S.V.P. by January 16, 2023. \$75 per person.** See enclosed flyer.



# CHRISTMAS PARTY



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 – AHEPA 528 CHRISTMAS PARTY at our parish hall at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Party for our AHEPA Chapter – Open House! Bring friends, potential members, and family!



## Join AHEPA Chapter 528 for a Greek Island Dinner



**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Desert Willow Golf Resort**

**38995 Desert Willow Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260**



**No host Cocktails 5pm, 6pm Dinner / Cocktail Attire Preferred**

**RSVP Required by 01/16/2023**

**\$75.00 per person**

**Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ Qty \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payable to: AHEPA CHAPTER 528**

**42-215 Washington St A-154 Palm Desert, CA 92211-8031**

**contact@ahempa528.org - 760.832.2825**

**Website payments - ahempa528.org/event**

**First Course - Greek Salad / Romaine Lettuce, Olives, Feta, Cucumber,  
Roasted Bell Peppers, Roasted Tomatoes, and Lemon Dressing.**

**Entree - Duet Plate / Lamb Chop and Chicken Satay Served with Rice and  
Roasted Vegetables.**

**Dessert - Family-Style at Tables / Caramelized Apple Tarte, Baklava.**

**Beverages - Freshly Brewed Coffee & Iced Tea Service. No-Host Bar.**

**/ Following AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference /**