

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

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 PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE



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.

SELF-CONDEMNATION

In the Orthodox Church Service book known as *The Great Horologion*, we find the Church Services of "The Hours," read in monasteries at fixed hours throughout the day. In the Service of Hours, there is a prayer read toward the end of each "hour:" *"O Christ our God, Who is long-suffering, rich in mercy and most compassionate; Who loves the righteous and has mercy on sinners... Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; correct our thoughts; make our intentions holy*

and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain." A shorter version of such a prayer, it could be said, is "The Jesus Prayer:" *"O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."* Indeed, a majority of our Church Prayers are patterned after the sentiments of the Publican of today's Gospel passage, who prayed for God's mercy.

There are three points to such prayer: 1) Jesus Christ is the Only-Begotten Son of God and He is our Savior; 2) we acknowledge that Jesus is God, *Continued on page 2*

THE TRIODION -- The Triodion (pronounced in Greek: Tri-oh-dhi-ohn) is a liturgical book used by the Orthodox Church. The book contains the rubrics for the fasting period preceding Easter (Pascha). The "Kanonion" Hymns for weekday Orthros Services in the Triodion contain only three odes and so are known as "tri-odes" after which the Triodion takes its name.

The period which the book covers extends from the **Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee** (this Sunday, February 13th), and concludes with the **Midnight Resurrection Service** in celebration of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead (April 24th). **The Triodion season** begins 3 weeks before Great Lent with a week in which there is no fasting, including on Wednesdays and Fridays, which are normally kept as fast days throughout the year (with few exceptions). The normal fasting rule, however, is restored until "Meatfare Sunday" (a.k.a. "Judgment Sunday"), after which fasting from meat begins. The following Sunday, known as "Cheesefare Sunday" (a.k.a. "Forgiveness Sunday), brings in the fast from dairy.

The day after "Cheesefare Sunday" is **the First Day of Great Lent**, known as "**Clean Monday**," (March 7th) and the fasting diet is strict. People are encouraged to fast as best as they can, regulating their personal fasting discipline in accordance with their medical concerns, ideally, in consultation with their priest-confessor.

FR. THEODORE



Υπάρχει «Προσευχητάριον» της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας, που γνωρίζεται ως *Το Μεγά Ωρολόγιο*, όπου ευρίσκουμε τις Εκκλησιαστικές Ακολουθίες των «Ωρών», που εκτελούνται στα μοναστήρια σε καθορισμένες ώρες όλη την ημέρα κάθε ημέρα. Στην Λειτουργία των Ωρών, υπάρχει μιὰ προσευχή που διαβάζεται προς το τέλος κάθε «Ωρας»:...«*Ο εν παντί καιρώ και πάση ώρα εν Ουρανῶ και επί γης προσκυνούμενος και δοξαζόμενος, Χριστός ο Θεός, ο μακρόθυμος, ο πολυέλεος, ο πολυεύπλαχνος, ο τους δικαίους αγαπών και τους αμαρτωλούς ελεών ... τας ψυχάς ημών αγιάσον, τα σώματα άγιμισον, τους λογισμούς διόρθωσον, τας εννοίας κάθαρων, και ρύσαι ημάς από πάσης θλίψεως...*»

Υπάρχουν τρία θέματα σχετικά σε μια τέτοια προσευχή: 1) Ο Ιησούς Χριστός είναι ο Μονογενής Υιός του Θεού προς σωτηρίαν μας. 2) αναγνωρίζουμε ότι ο Ιησούς είναι Θεός, ο Οποίος είναι ο Μόνος Κριτής, που έχει εξουσία να δείχνει να συγχωρεί τις αμαρτίες, και, 3) έχουμε ανάγκη από το έλεος του Θεού, επειδή διαπράττουμε αμαρτίες μέσω των οποίων αποκρύπτουμε την αγάπη μας από τον Θεό και από τους άλλους. Η προσευχή και η ταπεινοφροσύνη πάνε χέρι-χέρι. Χρειάζεται να είμεθα αρκετά ταπεινοί για να συνειδητοποιήσουμε την ανάγκη που έχουμε για το έλεος του Θεού και να προσευχόμεθα ανάλογα. Ο Τελώνης ήταν ταπεινός.

Η υπερηφάνεια του Φαρισαίου εκδηλώθηκε στο «ευχαριστώ» του επειδή μπορούσε να νηστέψει, να δώσει τα «δέκατα» και να τηρήσει το Σάββατο. Μόλις είπε, όμως, «Δεν είμαι καν σαν αυτόν τον άνθρωπο», έχασε τη σωτηρία, γιατί καταδίκασε τον συνάνθρωπό του.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Who is the Only Judge, having the authority to show mercy and to forgive sins, and, 3) we need God's mercy, because we commit sins by withholding love from God and others. Prayer and humility go hand-in-hand. We need to be humble enough to realize our need for God's mercy and to pray accordingly. Otherwise, we fall into "self-condemnation," the cause of which is our pride.

The Pharisee of today's Gospel shows us how easy it is to fall into such a peril as "self-condemnation," and, therefore, how important it is to be aware of our thoughts and motives and to evaluate them, through prayer, as to whether they are reflective of God's love. Of course, if they are not reflective of God's love, we are responsible to pray for God's help for us to correct such thoughts and motives.

The pride of the Pharisee was manifested in the following way: 1) he praised himself for tithing and fasting. 2) his own words, "I am not like others, not even like this man (referring to the Publican), were the very words which condemned him. Thanking God for being able to fast and tithe was the good part of his prayer. As soon as he said, "not even like this guy," he lost salvation, because he condemned his fellow human being. By condemning others we condemn ourselves. We lose salvation and inherit eternal torment.

Let us strive to be careful with our thoughts and motives so that we do not condemn ourselves to eternal torment outside of God's Kingdom. Let us, instead, be steadfast in mind, soul and body in committing ourselves and one another to Christ our God.
+FR. THEODORE

PHILOPTOCHOS

The **Annual Philoptochos Membership Luncheon** will take place at our St. George parish hall on **Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.** Paid Philoptochos membership for 2022 is the ticket for participating. The luncheon promises to feature a delicious entree, followed with fellowship and fun. **RSVP by Monday, February 14th** would be most appreciated. Please see the flier enclosed.

AHEPA

Our AHEPA 528 Chapter is organizing a **group screening** for the movie *Man of God*, which is scheduled to be shown in theaters on a one-time basis. The movie is an inspiring documentary about the life of our beloved **St. Nectarios of Aigina, the Wonderworker**. We are inviting all our St. George parishioners to become members of our group, joining together to see this movie at the **Century Theater at the River on Monday, March 21, 2022. Showtime is 7:00 p.m;** we want to **assemble** as a group at the theater at **6:30 p.m.** For tickets, information and more details, see **Wynn Storton, Nick Latkovic, Fr. Ted, or other AHEPA members** after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, beginning this Sunday.

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,

Epistle -- 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL --St. Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

NOTE: Our parish AHEPA Super Bowl party originally scheduled for today has been cancelled.

Tuesday, February 15th....."Social Tuesday!" Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Fellowship activities to follow.
Zoom link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82779591017?pwd=VGNYSUZpb1E3NIA1QlozRUc4SzBxZz09>

Wednesday, February 16th....Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111452564>

Saturday, February 19th.....Annual Philoptochos Membership Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.

SOCIAL TUESDAY

"Social Tuesdays" will begin on **Tuesday, February 15, 2022** (this coming Tuesday). "Social Tuesday" every week is dedicated to bringing together our St. George parishioners at our parish hall for fellowship, beginning with Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and continuing with various fellowship activities into the early afternoon. Please contact **Fr. Ted** or our parish office assistant, **Vincent Gandrillon** to RSVP.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE, Rhonda Latkovic, Chair

Last week was designated "Stewardship Sunday" and we asked our parishioners to offer their 2022 pledge card for this year. We are grateful to announce that we received 50 pledges totaling \$65k. And we have 3 new members! Thank you to all who gave the church your pledge thus far.

Last year we had 113 stewards make pledges to St. George. That means that this year we are missing 63 stewards who have not yet offered a stewardship pledge card.

If you are one that has not yet offered your stewardship pledge for 2022, we humbly ask that you do so sooner rather than later. Why? Because our offering to God's church and attendance at Divine Liturgy with participation in Holy Communion are important and should be prioritized in our lives. Offering our pledge is an act of faith and obedience to our Church and to our Savior, Jesus Christ. **We are grateful for your continued generosity to St. George.**

SAVE THE DATE - St. George Golf Tournament.....Saturday, April 30, 2022 at Desert Willow Resort.

**THE ST. GEORGE PHILOTOCHOS
OF THE DESERT
INVITES YOU TO THEIR
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

**ST. GEORGE
PARISH HALL**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

11:30 a.m.

**Your paid 2022 Philoptochos membership *is* your ticket
for the event**

Come join us for food, fun & fellowship

KINDLY RSVP BY FEBRUARY 14th

NAME: _____

Yes, I will attend

No, I cannot attend. Sending renewal by mail.



**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH LENTEN RETREAT
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,**

74-109 LARREA STREET, PALM DESERT, CA

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND - 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

(ST. GEORGE PARISH HALL)

SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD - ORTHROS - 8:30 A.M. / DIVINE LITURGY - 9:30 A.M.

(ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH)

SPEAKER:

FR. PHILIP ZYMARIS, THD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LITURGICS

**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

CHURCH TOURS

Sat. April 2, 2022

12:30 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

"THE DIVINE LITURGY: THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN FLOURISHING"

- "THE MEANING BEHIND THE LITURGICAL MOVEMENTS"
- "BECOMING CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM: THE PRAYERS, HYMNOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE AND ICONOGRAPHY THAT FORM US."

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REGISTRATION: \$20 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

NAME _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

R.S.V.P BY: FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH. IN MEMO, WRITE: "PARISH RETREAT."