

MARCH 6, 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

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY (FORGIVENESS SUNDAY)

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.

FORGIVENESS YIELDS PEACE

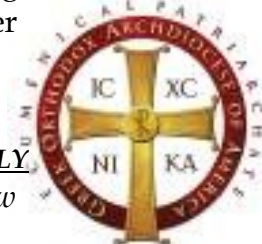
His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew, in His Catechetical Homily at the Opening of Holy and Great Lent for this year, offers educational and inspiring thoughts as we begin the Lenten Season. He writes, “Nothing in the life of the believer is fragmentary or an end in itself. Life in Christ is holistic and undivided. Repentance, humility, prayer, fasting, good deeds – all of these are intertwined and orient the believer to the Eucharist of the Church, the eschatological mystery of the Kingdom. Ascetic struggles are the begin-

ning, the ‘narrow gate’ that leads us to the Holy of Holies. In our tradition, there is never ‘asceticism for the sake of asceticism.’ Ascetic discipline is always a journey; it is fulfilled when it becomes part of the Church, when it leads us to communion of the Sacred Mysteries, which in turn incorporate us into the movement of the Church toward the Kingdom. Let us remind you of the example of St. Mary of Egypt, who is honored on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. After forty years of harsh ascetic struggle and unceasing prayer, she sought to partake at
Continued on page 2

**GREAT LENT, ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE and
THE HOLY SACRAMENTS.**

“There is no Orthodox spirituality without participation in the Divine Eucharist, through which as believers we become one body, a communion of persons, the community of life, participants of the ‘common salvation’ in Christ the Savior, who is the ‘common good.’ Therefore, fasting is submission and obedience to the rule of the Church, a communal experience. Holy and Great Lent is an invitation for us to discover the Church as a place and way of sanctification and sanctity, as a foretaste and image of the splendid radiance, of the fullness of life and of the complete joy in the eschatological Kingdom. Experientially and theologically it is impossible for us to comprehend the spirit of Holy and Great Lent if we do not perceive it as a journey toward Pascha. The entire period of fasting preserves the ‘paschal perception’ of life. Gloomy asceticism is a perversion of the Christian experience; it is the ignorance of the imminent grace and future Kingdom; it is life ‘as if Christ never came,’ without expectation of the resurrection of the dead and of life in the age to come.”

--Taken from the CATECHETICAL HOMILY AT THE OPENING OF HOLY
HOLY AND GREAT LENT by His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew



Καθώς ξεκινάμε την εκτέλεση της Θείας Λειτουργίας, καλούμεθα να προσευχηθούμε για την άνωθεν ειρήνη -- την ειρήνην που προέρχεται από την προσωπική μας σχέση με τον Θεό. Η επόμενη αναφορά είναι για την παγκόσμια ειρήνη. Εάν καταβάλλουμε κάθε προσπάθεια να ζούμε σύμφωνα με τις Εντολές του Θεού, οι προσευχές μας γίνονται μια ζωντανή έκφραση της αγάπης του Θεού για όλους -- και σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, οι προσευχές δεν είναι απλά «λόγια απόγνωσης», αλλά πραγματικές εκφράσεις της ζωογόνου αγάπης του Χριστού για όλους τους ανθρώπους επί της γης.

Αν δεν έχουμε αγάπη, τότε δεν μπορούμε να συγχωρήσουμε κανέναν, ούτε τον εαυτόν μας. Και, αν δεν συγχωρούμε, πώς θα τολμήσουμε να προσευχηθούμε; Διότι, ο ίδιος ο Θεός μας είπε ότι συγχωρούμεθα όπως συγχωρούμε εκείνους που μας αδικούν. Αυτή η ρήτρα στην Προσευχή που μας έδωσε ο Κύριός μας από την καρδιά Του σημαίνει ότι η συγχώρεση είναι το κλειδί για τη σωτηρία, που είναι η ζωή στη Βασιλεία του Θεού εδώ στη γη όπως και στον ουρανό.

Ας ζήσουμε σύμφωνα με την Εντολή του Σωτήρος μας να αγαπάμε τον πλησίον μας, που σημαίνει ότι πρέπει να συγχωρούμε τον πλησίον μας, συνειδητοποιώντας ότι η δική μας συγχώρεση και σωτηρία είναι συνυφασμένα με αυτή του πλησίον μας. Μια τέτοια ουράνια ειρήνη μεταξύ μας και του πλησίον μας θα κυματίσει σε όλη την κοινότητα και οι άλλες προσευχές μας για το καλό του κόσμου θα λάβουν σίγουρα απάντηση -»*υπέρ της ειρήνης του σύμπαντος κόσμου.*»
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

the hands of St. Zosimas in full knowledge that Holy Communion is the source of life and medicine of immortality."

Hence, as we begin the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we are each summoned to pray for *heavenly peace* -- the peace that comes from our personal relationship with God. The next petition is for *world peace*. If we make every effort to live according to God's Commandments, our prayers become a living expression of God's love for everyone -- and in that context, prayers are not simple "words of desperation," but real expressions of Christ's life-giving love for everyone.

If we do not have love, then we cannot forgive. And, if we do not forgive, how do we dare to pray? For, our God Himself said that we are forgiven "*as we forgive those who trespass against us.*" This clause in the Prayer that our Lord gave to us from His own heart means that forgiveness is the key to salvation, which is life in God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

Amidst the fears that we are encountering with war being headlined in the news, and remembering that only two years ago nearly to the date, our world was closed due to a pandemic, let us live according to our Savior's Commandment to love our neighbor, which means that we are to forgive our neighbor, realizing that our own forgiveness and salvation is interwoven with that of our neighbor. Such heavenly peace between us and our neighbor will ripple throughout the community and our other prayers for the good of the world will most assuredly be answered, indeed, "*for the peace of the whole world.*"
+FR. THEODORE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS - Our National Philoptochos Society approved the disbursement of **\$10,000** to IOCC to support humanitarian relief efforts in the **crisis in Ukraine**. Everyone is asked to offer donations to Philoptochos for this purpose. Our St. George Philoptochos Chapter is dedicated to supporting this effort on the local basis. Please contact **Rhonda Latkovic** or **Tina Veroulis** to offer a donation for the crisis in Ukraine. Donations should be marked "National Philoptochos Ukraine Relief Fund."

The Philoptochos is sponsoring a **volunteer day at the Narrow Door on Saturday, March 19th**. Volunteers will be packing food boxes that will later be distributed to families in need. Please see the sign-up sheet posted to the bulletin board in the church hall and/or contact **Nick or Rhonda Latkovic** with any questions. Deadline for sign-up is **March 13th**.

The **family of Josie Desnoyers** will be holding a "Celebration of Life" on **Sunday, March 20th** from **1:00-3:00 PM at the Monterey Country Club Clubhouse**. Please contact **Rhonda Latkovic** about RSVP details.

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 -Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

WEEKDAY CALENDER

Monday, March 7th.....FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT. Compline Service - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Meeting with Readers for Lenten & Holy Week Services - 12 noon
AHEPA Meeting - (Bible Study-6:00 p.m.) - Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9th..... Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 10th.....Parish Council - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, March 11th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.
Salutations - First Stanza- 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12th.....SATURDAY OF SOULS. Orthros -8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, continued

PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR:

Monday, March 7th-Philoptochos Board Meeting at 11:30 AM.

Saturday, March 19th-Philoptochos/Narrow Door Volunteer Day at 8:45 AM.

Sunday, March 20th-Celebration of Life for Josie Desnoyers at 1:00 PM.

Monday, March 28th-Philoptochos General Members Meeting at 11:30 AM.

AHEPA

The **March 2022 AHEPA 528 meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, April 8, 2022**, with Bible Study beginning at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be available to all members. For anyone having difficulty in accessing the meeting on Zoom, please contact AHEPA President **Wynn Storton**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, Continued

MAN OF GOD

Speaking of AHEPA, we are grateful to God for the tireless efforts of our **AHEPA President Wynn Storton** in organizing and providing tickets for our parish-group viewing of the movie **Man of God on Monday, March 21, 2022**. This movie is about the life of **St. Nectarios of Pentapolis**. Please plan on gathering at the **Century Theater at the River in Rancho Mirage** by **6:30 p.m.** so that we can **be ready to enter the theater for the 7:00 p.m. showing**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, February 27th, our Sunday School students had a special class session in church with Fr. Ted, who explained the purpose and meaning of each of the vestments worn by the priest and the deacon when the Divine Liturgy is celebrated. Another such class session will include lessons on meaning and significance of the items that adorn the Altar Table, as well as items used throughout our worship services. Also, please circle **Friday, April 15, 2022 (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)** to attend our **Lenten Sunday School retreat**. Details and program will be provided soon.

ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Fr. Philip Zymaris, ThD, professor of liturgics at **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology**, will offer two discussions related to the meaning of the prayers and hymns of the Divine Liturgy and the influence they are to have on our day-to-day way of life. We thank God for the efforts of our St. George Philoptochos for offering to prepare the luncheon for this morning/afternoon spiritual event. The complete schedule of the retreat will be provided in the very near future. A donation of **\$20** is most appreciated. Please RSVP as soon as possible, because people from throughout our region are also interested in attending.

GREEK FOLK DANCE GROUP

For those who have signed-up, lessons begin this Sunday, March 6th, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Please meet with **Angeliki Pagoulatos** at our parish court yard.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our parish **Spring General Assembly** is scheduled for **Sunday, March 20, 2022** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to the participation of all of our parish members who are up-to-date with their 2022 St. George Stewardship Pledge.



**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.

5:00 - 5:30 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."

.....
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."