

**MARCH 13, 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)**

# THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



**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.*

**THE LENTEN PRAYER**

The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian speaks volumes with regard to the essence of the Orthodox Christian frame for mind. It speaks to our Free Will, strongly implying that we are free to choose the things for which we pray. The benefit of choosing to pray for the virtues that enliven our souls, is peace with God and with our neighbor, which, by extension, brings peace to our homes; our community, and ideally, to the whole world.

We specifically pray for Christ to help

us to avoid one kind of “spirit” and to embrace another kind of “spirit.” “Spirit,” in this context, means a certain kind of motive, passion, temptation, inspiration, or desire. We pray for our Lord to take us away from the “spirit” of idolatry, vanity, sloth, anxiety, greed, and pride. We pray that our Lord helps us to develop the “spirit” of patience, sincerity, humility and love. The prayer teaches us that the best way to avoid evil is to pursue good -- and that we must pray for God to help us do all that is good.

*Continued on page 2*

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT** --The Epistle reading for today is taken from Hebrews 11:24-26 and 11:32-40. After the righteous of the Old Testament are mentioned, the Epistle says: And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. The Gospel lesson is John 1: 43-51, and it ends with a explanation of the “something better” of the Epistle: "You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." This reality is depicted through the Holy Icons, which give a vision into heaven.

Accepting Icons means to accept this fact. That is the way the Christians of the 8th and 9th centuries viewed this issue and the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787 A.D. decreed that Icons are to be used in prayer and worship – venerated as statements of faith, but not worshiped as idols. In 843 A.D. the Empress, St. Theodora once and for all affirmed the decree of the 7th Ecumenical Council with a public display of Icons through the streets Constantinople on the first Sunday of Great Lent. Every year, on the first Sunday of Lent, such as today, we commemorate this event as the “Sunday of Orthodoxy” with the Procession of Icons.

+FR. THEODORE



Brethren in Christ our God,

Please note that there is a correction to The Ladder for this Sunday, March 13, 2022. In the announcement for Sunday School, it should read as follows:

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday School students, along with their parents and grandparents are encouraged to bring icons to church for tomorrow's observance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy. In addition, they are to carry their icons in the Procession of Icons, which concludes with the Proclamation of the Orthodox Faith. This special Church Service will take place following the Prayer that is read after Holy Communion. The lesson pertaining to the items of the Holy Altar is rescheduled to take place on Sunday, March 27th in the church.

Also, please circle Friday, April 15th on your calendar in order to participate in our Sunday School Lenten Retreat.

Many blessings from our Christ our Savior,  
Fr. Ted

Η Ευχή του Αγ. Εφραίμ του Σύρου, η οποία ακούεται συχνά κατά την Μ. Τεσσαρακοστή, ομιλεί σχετικά με την ουσία του Ορθόδοξου Χριστιανικού νοοτροπία. Ομιλεί για την Ελεύθερη Βούλησή μας, υπονοώντας έντονα ότι είμεθα ελεύθεροι να επιλέγουμε τα «πράγματα» για τα οποία προσευχόμεθα. Το όφελος από την επιλογή της προσευχής για τις αρετές που ζωντανεύουν τις ψυχές μας είναι ότι κερδίζουμε την «εν Χριστώ» ειρήνη και την πνευματική ειρήνη με τον πλησίον μας, η οποία ειρήνη, κατ' επέκταση, φέρνει ειρήνη στα σπίτια μας, στην κοινότητά μας, και ιδανικά, σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο.

Προσευχόμεθα συγκεκριμένα πως ο Χριστός θα μας βοηθήσει να αποφύγουμε ένα είδος «νοοτροπίας» και να αγκαλιάσουμε ένα άλλο είδος «νοοτροπίας». «Νοοτροπία», σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, σημαίνει ένα ορισμένο είδος κινήτρου, πάθους, πειρασμού, έμπνευσης, ή επιθυμίας. Προσευχόμεθα πως ο Κύριός μας θα μας απομακρύνει από το «πνεύμα» της ειδωλολατρίας, της ματαιοδοξίας, της νωθρότητας, του άγχους, της απλησίας, και την υπερηφάνεια. Προσευχόμεθα πως ο Κύριός μας θα μας βοηθήσει να αναπτύξουμε το «πνεύμα» της υπομονής, της ειλικρίνειας, της ταπεινοφροσύνης, και της αγάπης. Η Ευχή του Αγ. Εφραίμ μας διδάσκει ότι ο καλύτερος τρόπος για να αποφύγουμε το κακό είναι να επιδιώκουμε το καλό -- και ότι πρέπει να προσευχόμεθα να μας βοηθήσει ο Θεός να κάνουμε ό,τι είναι καλό.

Ας ζήσουμε όλη την περίοδο της Τεσσαρακοστής, και όλη μας τη ζωή, σύμφωνα με τις θείες αρετές του Κυρίου και Σωτήρος μας.  
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Finally, we pray for two “things” that make the difference between salvation and damnation. The one is the vision of our own personal faults and sins. While this may seem as unpleasant and difficult as an abdominal surgery, the only way we can find peace in our souls is for us to cut away the our bad habits; our prejudices; our anger, and our vanity. Like restoring health to the body by cutting away unhealthy tissue, cutting away our faults and sins through repentance restores health to the soul. In essence, we pray for the grace and ability to repent of our sins; for, without repentance, we are lost.

The second “thing” for which we pray, but which is coupled with the first, is the wisdom to not condemn our fellow human being. There are two reasons for this: 1) by trying to condemn our fellow human being, we fail to give attention to the things we need to do in order to repent, and, 2) by trying to condemn another person, we commit another serious sin by taking upon ourselves the “persons” of God and thereby making ourselves “judges” rather than allowing our Lord to be the Righteous Judge.

Orthodox Christians are asked to condemn sin, not people. We must begin by condemning the sins that we ourselves commit and, instead, practice the virtues that oppose sins. Sins include abuse, lust, greed, and discrimination; the opposing virtues include respect, charity, and love for God. Let us live this Lenten season, and our whole lives, with the divine virtues of our Lord and Savior. In this way we will emulate our Lord and the Saints through whose images we receive many blessings, as we observe this Sunday of Orthodoxy.  
+FR. THEODORE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Today's Sunday School class will be held in the church and 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**.

**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. 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.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT- SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

This year's **St. George Golf Tournament** will be held on **Saturday, April 30, 2022** at the **Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert**. We need golfers and silent auction items!

## 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 - Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had

foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL - St. John 1: 43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

## WEEKDAY CALENDER

Tuesday, March 15th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 16th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 18th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.

Salutations to the Ever-Virgin Mary (2nd Stanza) - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 19th.....Philoptochos volunteer day at the Narrow Door - 8:45 a.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our parish **Spring General Assembly** is scheduled for **next 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.

### CHANTERS & READERS

Many thanks to God for those who have volunteered to be readers for our Church Services throughout Lent. We hope that they continue in their service for God's glory throughout the whole year. In addition, those who want to learn to chant the hymns of Orthros and other special services of the Church are encouraged to contact Fr. Ted. We thank God for the help of **Fr. Michael Pallad** of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Peoria, Arizona for creating CDs to help those who want to learn.



**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."

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**REGISTRATION: \$20 (INCLUDES LUNCH)**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELL PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

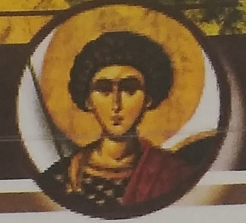
**R.S.V.P BY: FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022**

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



# Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 30, 2022 | 12:30 PM Shotgun Start | Desert Willow Golf Resort



## ENTRY INFORMATION

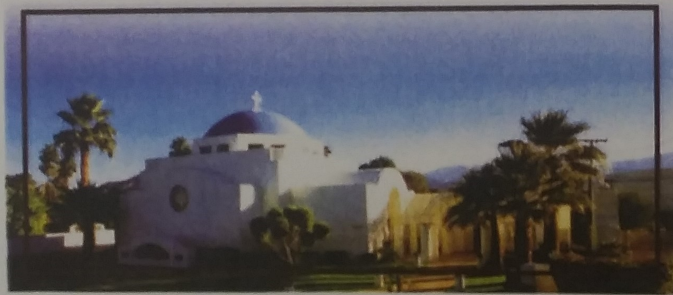
Saturday, April 30, 2022

- \$185 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 12:30 PM Shotgun Start at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 5:00 PM Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00 PM Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

## INDIVIDUALS AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s) \_\_\_ (# of Players) x \$185    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Tee Sponsorship(s) \_\_\_ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Traditional Greek Dinner \_\_\_ (# of Dinners) x \$45    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Donation \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## EVENT REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAYER NAMES

1. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022**  
 Sign up online at [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge)  
 Make Checks Payable To:  
**“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”**  
 Send Checks and Registration Form to:  
 PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261