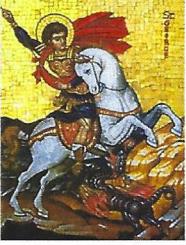


NOVEMBER 27, 2022



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

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.

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 - Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 18: 18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

ST. JAMES, THE GREAT MARTYR OF PERSIA

Today, we commemorate St. James of Persia. He was of noble birth and was the closest friend of Isdiger I, King of Persia (reigned 399-420). Though a Christian from his youth, James renounced Christ because he was allured by the King's friendship and flatteries. When his mother and his wife learned of this, they declared to him by letter that they would have nothing more to do with him, since he had preferred a glory that is temporal to the love of Christ. Wounded in soul by these words and coming to himself, the Saint repented. Therefore, the King Bahram V, Isdiger's son and successor - condemned him to a most bitter death. The courageous Martyr was finally beheaded, in the year 421.

– Taken in part from www.goarch.org

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** "By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the sorrow of the Myrrh-bearing Women and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim that You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy." / Κατελησας τω Σταυρω...; **2) "Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You the crown of incorruption, in that he contested for You our immortal God. Since he possessed Your power, he defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, save our souls." / Ο Μαρτυς Σου Κυριε...; 3) Hymn for St. George. 4) 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...

HEAVENLY TREASURES ON EARTH

St. John Chrysostom explains the meaning of our Lord's words to the rich man in today's Gospel passage. According to the scholars of the *Orthodox Study Bible*, "St. John Chrysostom tells us that giving away possessions is the least of Christ's instructions here; following Him in all things is a far greater and more difficult calling." (pg. 1306). Chrysostom states, "The increase of acquisitions kindles the flame for more, and renders the getters to be poorer, inasmuch as it puts them in greater desire and makes them have more feeling of their want" ("Homily 63 on the Gospel of St. Matthew"). It seems the more we want, the less grateful we are.

Indeed, our Savior is not asking us to become destitute or neglectful of our own wellbeing. By following Him, we find Divine guidance as we go through life. The key to inner peace and self-fulfillment is not found in the pursuit of raw wealth. It is found in having a purpose in life, which, according to our Lord, is to inspire others to follow Him and, in so doing, having fellowship with the saints, none of whom died of starvation, although some died as martyrs for Christ.

Christ God admits that what He asks is not easy. It is difficult for us to handle it on our own. But, He says, that with God, all things are possible. The small miracles in life (that turn out big) are such things as the process of healing by which health is restored, or the "second chances" in life for us to offer care for those in need, and subsequently, to offer thanks to God for such opportunities. These are blessings both for those who pray for miracles, as well as for those who receive miracles. +FR. THEODORE

Ο Άγ. Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος εξηγεί το νόημα για αυτά που είπε ο Χριστός στον πλούσιο κατά την σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή. Σύμφωνα με τους θεολόγους του *Orthodox Study Bible* ο «Άγ. Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος μας λέγει ότι το να δώσουμε περιουσιακά στοιχεία είναι η ελάχιστη από τις οδηγίες του Χριστού εδώ. Το να Τον ακολουθήσουμε σε όλα τα πράγματα είναι μια πολύ μεγαλύτερη και πιο δύσκολη κλήση.» (σελ. 1306). Ο Χρυσόστομος δηλώνει: «Η αύξηση των αποκτήσεων ανάβει τη φλόγα για τα περισσότερα και κάνει τους κτήτορες φτωχότερους, εφόσον τους βάζει σε μεγαλύτερη επιθυμία και τους κάνει να αισθάνονται πιο πολύ την ανάγκη να έχουν τα περισσότερα.» («Ομιλία 63 περί του Ευαγγελίου Ματθ.»).

Πράγματι, ο Χριστός δεν μας ζητά να γίνουμε άποροι ή να παραμελούμε τη δική μας ευημερία. Ακολουθώντας Τον, όμως, ευρίσκουμε τη Θεία καθοδήγηση. Το κλειδί για την εσωτερική μας γαλήνη δεν ευρίσκεται στην επιδίωξη του αψύχου πλούτου. Ευρίσκεται στο να έχουμε έναν σκοπό στη ζωή, ο οποίος, σύμφωνα με το θέλημα του Θεού, είναι να εμπνεύσουμε άλλους να Τον ακολουθήσουν και, με αυτόν τον τρόπο, να έχουμε ψυχική επικοινωνία με τους αγίους. Μάλιστα, κανένας από τους αγίους απέθανε από την πείνα, ενώ μερικοί έγιναν Μάρτυρες του Χριστού.

Ο Χριστός παραδέχεται ότι είναι δύσκολο να πετύχουμε σε αυτό που θέλει. Όμως, με τον Θεό, όλα γίνονται. Τα μικρά θαύματα (που αποδεικνύονται μεγάλα) είναι κάτι πράγματα όπως η ίδια η διαδικασία αποκατάστασης της υγείας, ή τις «δεύτερες ευκαιρίες» που έχουμε μερικές φορές για να βοηθήσουμε αυτούς που έχουν ανάγκη και, συνεπώς, να δοξάζουμε τον Θεό, ο Οποίος μας χαρίζει τέτοιες ευκαιρίες. Αυτές είναι ευλογίες τόσο για εκείνον που προσεύχεται για θαύματα όσο και για εκείνον στον οποίο γίνονται θαύματα.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God, **James Nicholas Zagas (25 years)**, beloved step-father of **Francine Vasilomanolakis** and **George A. Thomas (66 years)**, beloved father of **Francine Vasilomanolakis**, as well as the following family members:

Anastasia Hrones	Efrosini Bolimos
William Hrones	James Bolimos
Thomas Harshbarger	Connie Pastis
Stella Harshbarger	Nick Palamiotis
Andrew Bolimos	Thetis Palamiotis

May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **James Nicholas Zagas, George A. Thomas** and the family members of **Francine Vasilomanolakis**, who have been laid to pious rest, and may He grant peace and comfort to the entire family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, November 28th.....Funeral Service for Theresa Ayanopolis - 11:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. viewing)
Tuesday, November 29thBible Study – 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 30th....ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
Orthros -8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS – Parish Council Candidacy Forms now **available** for those who would like to become candidates for election to the Parish Council for 2023. Candidates must be baptized/christened members of the Orthodox Christian Faith; if married, married according to the Rites of the Orthodox Christian Church; an up-to-date stewardship member of the St. George parish of Palm Desert, and a regular participant in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **Deadline** for submission of the Parish Council Candidacy Forms is - **next Sunday, December 4th.**

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS -Elections for candidates to serve as members of the 2023 St. George Parish Council will be held on **Sunday, December 11th**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

PHILOTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY - **December 10, 2022** at the **Sun City Club House, 38180 Del Webb Boulevard** -- **11:30 a.m.** See enclosed flyer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL -Today, Nov 27th - All students are invited to attend Sunday School in their classroom for fellowship, lesson, Christmas program assignments and to help write/color special note cards for the Philoptochos Christmas baskets!

-**Sunday, Dec 18th** - Presbytera Petula has been working hard organizing the **Christmas program this year "Christmas Around the World"**. Each student will select a country and present individually or as a family in the hall after the Divine Liturgy! Please contact Presbytera Petula or Mrs Athena if you haven't chosen or received your country!

-**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 in our parish hall following the conclusion of our Sunday School classes. We will coordinate with the parents of our Sunday School and Dance Group to provide lunch for our students. For more details, please contact Fr. Ted.

FESTIVAL MEETING - Everyone is asked to come to the planning meeting for our 2023 St. George Greek Festival on **Monday, December 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at our parish hall.**



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ENCYCLICAL Prot. No. 273/2022

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for Thanksgiving

November 24, 2022

«Μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλὰ ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθε πρὸς τὸν Θεόν.» (Πρὸς Φιλιππησίους 4:6)

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Unto...the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The wonderful American National Day of Thanksgiving is a moment when our entire society pauses, to give thanks to God for the blessings we have found in the New World. To acknowledge this connection to the Divine, President John F. Kennedy issued Proclamation 3560 on November 5, 1963, which said: *"Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together, and for the faith which united them with their God."*

The early days of these first pioneers and settlers were not ones of abundance. But following the counsel of the Apostle to the Nations, they made their petitions to God "with thanksgiving," embracing their trials without worry. It should be the same for us as well, who live in this land of such beneficence and opportunity. As Saint Peter exhorts, let us 'cast all our cares upon Him, for He cares for us' (I Peter 5:7). The worries of this life are nothing compared to the glories of life in God - both here and hereafter. For it is a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving that empowers our relationship to God in the first place. Hence, the Eucharist is our principal devotional act of worship.

Therefore, my beloved Christians, on this Thanksgiving, let us exercise our faith in Christ by putting it in action. May we let go of worry and anxiety, which can neither add the slightest measure to our length of days, nor make us fairer than the lilies of the field (Matthew 6:27-29). But with grateful hearts to God for all His blessings, let us live every day as a Day of Thanksgiving.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,
† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

Philoptochos *Christmas Party*

12/10/22 11:30 AM

Sun City Clubhouse

38180 Del Webb Blvd, Palm Desert



Please Join Us! Bring a Friend!

Luncheon Price \$45.00 per person includes:

Appetizers, buffet luncheon with tri-tip steak & baked fish, salad, potatoes & rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, & bread plus a surprise dessert along with a sheet cake. (coffee, iced tea & water included.) *Vegan or vegetarian meal option is available.

Cash Bar! Music! Hostess Gift! Raffle!

I am attending: (Name) _____

I am bringing a guest: (Name) _____

Total Number Attending: _____

Payment Type: (Cash) _____ Check _____

Total Payment Amount: _____

I prefer a: Vegan Meal/Vegetarian Meal (circle one)

***RSVP by December 4th**