



OCTOBER 16, 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)

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 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 - Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some

fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

THE 7th ECUMENICAL COUNCIL – The doctrines of the Orthodox Church are inspired by the Holy Spirit as the Patriarchs and faithful gather for Ecumenical Councils, having as their template the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem described in the Book of Acts (15:1-31). The 7th Ecumenical Council was held in Nicea in 787 A.D., and decreed that Holy Icons are to be placed in churches and in homes to be help-aids for prayer. Holy Icons are justified, since God became Man & so-journed with humankind – as all are in God's Image and Likeness. +FR. TED



### Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance 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 is the Loving One.' / Του Λιθου σφραγισθεντος...; **2)** "You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, Who established the Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the True Faith, O Most Compassionate, glory to You. / Υπερδεδοξαμενος... ; **3) Hymn for St. George.** **4) Kontakion Hymn:** "Champion of Christians put not to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition You. Hasten your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unflinchingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor you." / Προστασια των Χριστιανων...

### THE STRUGGLE

In today's Gospel, we heard our Savior's Parable about of "The Sower and the Seeds." In our current times, unfortunately, God's Word has become just "one more ideology" among others. Especially now, we live in a "culture of science." However, we must realize that science itself can be used against us by the devil in order to turn us away from God. As Orthodox Christians, we know that with love for God, the purpose of science is to glorify God, not for us to "play god." By "playing god," it seems easier to deny the existence of sin, so that we can be "free" to do whatever we want, justifying our actions by virtue of our environment, or by virtue of our mental and physical conditions, rather than allowing *our conscience* to be our guide.

In the culture of Orthodox Christianity, many saints lived in hostile environments and were also afflicted with weakness or with passions of lust, greed, laziness, or anger, to which they admitted.\* Rather than justifying misbehavior, they offered prayers like that in our Divine Liturgy: "I believe and confess that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first... Make me worthy to partake of Your Precious Body and Blood... unto remission of sins and life everlasting..." In their humility, their ultimate goal was to praise God with all of their soul, rather than to disobey God for any reason. They showed that the soul can rule the body! In their struggles, they would fall, yet they rose up again and again -- and, through continued repentance, over years, in our Lord's good time, sinners have become saints.

Orthodoxy is a life-style of struggle against imperfections, passions, and temptations. Yet, because we are all called to struggle against our temptations and passions, knowing that each person struggles according to his or her ability, there is no room to condemn anyone -- nor are we to give up on ourselves. It is the sin that is condemned, not the person. There is always hope for salvation; for, God is ready to forgive our sins.

+FR. THEODORE \*Examples: Prophet Moses (speech impediment), Sts. Mary of Egypt (lust), Moses the Ethiopian (greed), John Cassian (anger), Paul (thorn in the flesh)

Στην σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ακούσαμε την Παραβολή του Σωτήρος μας για τον «Σπορέα και τους Σπόρους». Στη σημερινή εποχή μας, δυστυχώς, ο Λόγος του Θεού έχει γίνει απλώς «μια ακόμη ιδεολογία» μεταξύ άλλων. Ειδικά τώρα, ζούμε σε μια «κουλτούρα της επιστήμης». Ωστόσο, πρέπει να συνειδητοποιήσουμε ότι η ίδια η επιστήμη μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί εναντίον μας από τον διάβολο για να μας απομακρύνει από τον Θεό. Ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, γνωρίζουμε ότι με την αγάπη για τον Θεό, σκοπός της επιστήμης είναι να δοξάζει τον Θεό, όχι εμείς να «παιζουμε σαν θεοί». Με το να «παιζουμε σαν θεοί», φαίνεται πώ εύκολο να αρνηθούμε την ύπαρξη της *αμαρτίας*. Θέλουμε να είμεθα «ελεύθεροι» να κάνουμε ό,τι θέλουμε, δικαιολογώντας τις πράξεις μας λόγω του περιβάλλοντός μας ή των ψυχικών και σωματικών μας συνθηκών, αντί να επιτρέπουμε στη συνείδησή μας να είναι ο οδηγός μας.

Στόχος των αγίων ήταν να δοξάσουν τον Θεό με όλη τους την ψυχή, αντί να ατιμάσουν τον Θεό για οποιονδήποτε λόγο. Έδειξαν ότι η ψυχή μπορεί να κυβερνήσει το σώμα! Στους αγώνες τους ενάντια στους πειρασμούς και τα πάθη, θα έπεφταν, ωστόσο σηκώνονταν ξανά και ξανά -- και, μέσω της συνεχούς μετάνοιας, καθώς περνούσαν τα χρόνια, στην καλή ώρα του Κυρίου, οι αμαρτωλοί έγιναν άγιοι.

Η Ορθοδοξία είναι ένας τρόπος ζωής αγώνος ενάντια στις ατέλειες, τα πάθη και τους πειρασμούς μας.

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα ---->



Ωστόσο, επειδή όλοι καλούμεθα να αγωνισθούμε ενάντια στους πειρασμούς και τα πάθη μας, γνωρίζοντας ότι ο καθένας αγωνίζεται σύμφωνα με τις δυνατότητές του, δεν υπάρχει λόγος να καταδικάσουμε κανέναν -- ούτε να απελπιζόμεθα για τη δική μας σωτηρία. Είναι η αμαρτία που καταδικάζεται, όχι ο άνθρωπος. Υπάρχει πάντα ελπίδα για την σωτηρία μας, γνωρίζοντας ότι ο Θεός είναι έτοιμος να συγχωρήσει τις αμαρτίες μας. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 18th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.  
Thursday, October 20th.....ST.GERASIMOS OF CEPHALLONIA  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.  
Friday, October 21st.....Parish Council - 2:00 p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS- UPCOMING EVENTS

#### PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1). Our **"Sock-Tober"** event runs the month of October. We are taking donations of new men's & women's socks to be distributed at month end to The Narrow Door and Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. A \$20 donation buys 18-20 pairs of socks!
- 3). SAVE. THE. DATE. **November 4, 2022.** Philoptochos is sponsoring a **"Welcome Back to the Desert"** cocktail party from 4-6 pm. More info to follow.

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**"SUPER SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL – Today, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy – "Super Sunday" Sunday School!** Sunday School lesson with arts and Crafts for our Sunday School students (also: adult religious discussion group) Lunch will be provided!

**PROJECT MEXICO SUNDAY: OCTOBER 23rd – Next Sunday: Fr. Nicholas Andruchow**, executive director of **Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage**, will be joining us to co-celebrate the Divine Liturgy and will speak about the **Orthodox Christian ministry to orphans in Mexico**, many of whom have grown to become members of our Greek Orthodox Church throughout our country and the world. Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage is a ministry under the auspices of our Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Fr. Nicholas will also offer a special informational program during our coffee hour.

**GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS –** All who want to join our Greek Folk Dance classes (children and adults) are asked to attend an organizational meeting next Sunday, October 23rd following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with our Greek Dance Director, **Angeliki Pagoulatos**.

**PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKING –** Philoptochos members are asked to come together and **help begin baking** for the Annual Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale in December. Baking begins the first week of November – **November 1st-4th**.

**WELCOME BACK TO THE DESERT RECEPTION –** We want to welcome back our snowbirds with a special reception on **Friday, November 4th**. Our parish Philoptochos is organizing a "Greek-Style" welcome back reception at our parish hall from **4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited. Please R.S.V.P. by texting or calling Rhonda Latkovic or our parish office at (760) 568-9901.

**PAN-ORTHODOX CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY –** The **Sts. Michael and Gabriel Romanian Orthodox parishioners from Palm Springs** will be joining us for the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 6, 2022**. Their fundraiser for construction of their new church edifice on Vella Rd. in Palm Springs will be held in our St. George parish hall.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

**ST. GEORGE PARISH FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT** – Please reserve **Saturday, November 12, 2022** to join in our St. George Parish Fall Retreat. The theme is: “Understanding, the Divine Liturgy.” The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m., with a superb lunch being served for all in attendance....Our speaker for our Fall Retreat is Dr. Eve Tibbs. Dr. Tibbs received her PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary and she is the affiliate assistant professor of theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She just recently authored a most educational book about our Greek Orthodox Faith, entitled, *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology*. In addition, Eve Tibbs is the director of our Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry.

**PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY** – December 10, 2022 at Sun City Clubhouse 38180 Del Webb Blvd. – 11:30 a.m ....See enclosed flier!

### **“SOCK-TOBER”**

#### **DONATION EVENT FOR THE HOMELESS October 2-23rd**

- Did you know that the number one item needed for a homeless person is a pair of socks?
- Please help St. George Ladies Philoptochos provide new socks for the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for the in-program residents & homeless population of the east valley.
- Deposit new socks in the bins provided that are located in the church hall. Monetary donations can be made and we do the shopping if you are not able.
- Both women’s and men’s sock are needed in Casual or Dress styles.  
**Please donate only new socks!**

### **Welcome Back to the Desert Cocktail Reception**

**Sponsored by the St. George Ladies  
Philoptochos Society**  
(This is a free will donation event)

**Friday, November 4, 2022  
4:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.  
St. George Church Hall**

**Join us for complementary Greek  
appetizers!**

**Refreshments including soft  
drinks, wine & beer!**

**Greek music!**

**RSVP by 11/1/2022 via text or  
email to (714) 875-4661**



# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

## Fall Parish Retreat

Saturday, November 12, 2022

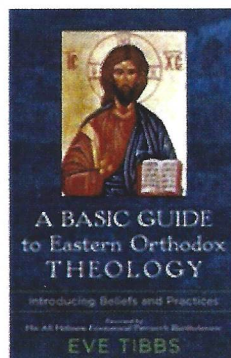
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Luncheon included\*)

OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR:  
UNDERSTANDING THE DIVINE LITURGY

**Our Speaker is Dr. Eve Tibbs**

**Dr. Tibbs is the celebrated author of the newly published book, *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology*.**

Copies of Dr. Eve Tibbs' book will be available in our parish book store. In addition, Dr. Tibbs is the affiliate assistant professor of theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. and the director of our Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry.



The Topics for the day:

- 1) "Why Do We Worship the Way We Do?"
- 2) "Understanding the Great Feasts Through Icons and Hymns"

Dr. Tibbs' presentations are fast-moving, interactive, visually interesting, and accessible!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, California 92260  
Phone: (760) 568-9901

\*Registration: \$10.00 payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to 74109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to Tina Veroulis in the office. We would appreciate the return of the form by November 25, 2022.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: November 25, 2022



# *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)

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**\*RSVP by December 4th**