



OCTOBER 30, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert,
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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 -- Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL -- St. Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who

desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.' "

Sts. Zenobios & Zenobia --Today we commemorate Sts. Zenobios & Zenobia. These Saints were from Aegae in Cilicia, brought up in piety by their parents. Zenobios was a physician, and healed many freely by the power of God; because of his virtue he was consecrated Bishop of Aegae. With his sister he was taken by Lysias the Governor, and after many tortures they were beheaded, about the year 290, during the reign of Diocletian. -- Taken from www.goarch.com.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance Hymn:** *“Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord with His mighty arm has created a dominion. He has conquered death by death and become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades and has granted the world great mercy.”* / Ευφραίνεσθω τα ουρανια...; 2) *“For their struggles, O Lord, Your martyrs received the crown of immortality from You our God. Armed with Your might, they defeated the tyrants. They also crushed the arrogance of demons. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.”* / Οι Μαρτυρες Σου, Κυριε... 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 you intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor you.”* / Προστασια των Χριστιανων...

THE GREAT CHASM

There are many things that cannot co-exist, nor can they even come close to co-existing or “bordering” each other. Among those things, oil and water, even if they appear in the same glass, are “miles” apart, and can never come to oneness. Also, and more apropos to today’s Gospel message, sin and virtue, as well as Heaven and hell, cannot co-exist. Thus, when we heard the Lord’s Parable about the Rich Man and Lazarus today, Father Abraham’s words to the rich man who was condemned to hell ring true -- *“between us and you a great chasm has been fixed...”*

One of the tricks of the devil is to make us think that we can always “have it both ways” -- that we can be good Christians, while not living a Christian life-style that is reflective of our prayers; that we can be self-centered (as was the rich man) and still be entitled to have love from God and others. The reality is, however, that there exists a great chasm between self-centeredness and Christ-centeredness; between faith in God and atheism; between obedience and disobedience when it comes to the life of the Church. The rich man’s self-centeredness rendered him all alone, while the righteous Lazarus was in blessed company along with “Father Abraham.”

Yes, self-centeredness gives way to loneliness. Christ-centeredness gives way to peace, contentment and holiness. Indeed, God gave us free will. But, just because we can choose, doesn’t guarantee happiness or blessedness. Choice always has the consequence of either guilt or inner peace. If we choose as God wills we find fulfillment, since we are, after all, created in His Image and Likeness. +FR. THEODORE

Υπάρχουν πολλές πραγματικότητες που δεν μπορούν να συνυπάρξουν, ούτε να πλησιάσουν στο να συνυπάρξουν ή να «συνορευθούν» μεταξύ τους. Ανάμεσά τους, υπάρχουν το λάδι και το νερό. Ακόμα κι αν εμφανίζονται στο ίδιο ποτήρι, δεν μπορούν ποτέ να ενοποιηθούν. Επίσης, και περισσότερο ανάλογα με το σημερινό μήνυμα της Ευαγγελικής περικοπής: η αμαρτία και η αρετή, καθώς και ο Παράδεισος και η κόλαση, δεν μπορούν να συνυπάρχουν. Έτσι, όταν ακούσαμε την Παραβολή του Κυρίου για τον Πλούσιο και τον Λάζαρο σήμερα, τα λόγια του Πατρός Αβραάμ προς τον πλούσιο που καταδικάστηκε στην κόλαση δηλώνουν την αλήθεια: *«μεταξύ ημών και υμών χάσμα μέγα εστήρικται...»*

Μία από τις απάτες του διαβόλου είναι να μας κάνει να πιστεύουμε ότι μπορούμε να είμαστε καλοί Χριστιανοί, ενώ δεν χρειάζεται να ζούμε σαν καλοί Χριστιανοί. Ωστόσο, η πραγματικότητα είναι ότι υπάρχει ένα μεγάλο χάσμα μεταξύ του «εγω-κεντρισμού» και του «Χριστο-κεντρισμού», και επίσης μεταξύ των ανθρώπων που έχουν πίστη στον Θεό και εκείνων που είναι άθεοι. Χάσμα υπάρχει μεταξύ υπακοής και ανυπακοής όταν πρόκειται για τη πνευματική ζωή. Η «εγω-κεντρικότητα» του πλούσιου τον έκανε ολομόναχο, ενώ ο δίκαιος Λάζαρος είχε μια «ευλογημένη παρέα» με τον Πατέρα Αβραάμ.

Πράγματι, ο Θεός μας έδωσε το αυτεξούσιον. Αλλά, μόνο και μόνο επειδή μπορούμε να κάνουμε επιλογές, ούτε η ευτυχία, ούτε η ευλογία είναι εγγυημένα. Η επιλογή έχει πάντα ως συνέπεια την ενοχή, από τη μια πλευρά, ή την εσωτερική γαλήνη, από την άλλη. Αν επιλέξουμε όπως θέλει ο Θεός ευρίσκουμε πνευματική γαλήνη, αφού τελικά είμεθα πλασμένοι κατ' εικόνα και καθ' ομοίωσιν του Θεού. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Daniel Margaritis (40 days)**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Salvation to Daniel Margaritis and grant peace and comfort to his entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 1st.....STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN

Orthros - 8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m. / Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.

Friday, November 4th..... Welcome Back to the Desert Reception - 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 5th.....ST. RAPHAEL -- Services will be held at the St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms. Orthros -9:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-10:00 a.m.

Next Sunday, November 6th.....*Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy with the Romanian Orthodox parish from Palm Springs. Orthros- 8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.*

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS "SOCK-TOBER" Drive - Today is the last day for donations of socks to the Philoptochos "new socks" drive to benefit the homeless. Thank you to all who donated so far.

GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS - Registration forms are available in our parish hall.

PHILOPTOCHOS BAKING - From this Tuesday, November 1st (following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in commemoration of Sts. Cosmas and Damian) to Friday, November 4th, Philoptochos members are asked to help begin baking for the Annual **Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale**, which will be held in December.

WELCOME BACK TO THE DESERT COCKTAIL RECEPTION -- Friday, November 4, 2022. from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It's not just for Philoptochos members. All parishioners are welcome! Please join us for this Greek-themed event! RSVP due by 11/1/22 via text, phone or email to:(714) 875-4661; email: r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com. See enclosed flyer.

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

ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - Enclosed is a "**St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Form.**" Deadline for submission is November 25th.

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. See enclosed flyer.

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

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO ABRAMIM RASSI --This past Thursday the funeral services of **Abraham Rassi's** former wife, **Alice**, were held at the Orthodox Church in Turlock, California. **Alice Rassi** was a member of our parish during its formative years. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 240/2022

**Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Holy Unmercenaries,
Saints Cosmas and Damian**

October 30, 2022

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

*O holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, visit our infirmities. Freely have you received, freely give unto us.
(Apolytikion, Plagal of the Fourth Mode)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Holy Saints Cosmas and Damian are the best example to all of us, as we consider the work of our National Philoptochos on behalf of the benevolent and philanthropic ministries of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. By definition, an ἀνάργυρος – which literally means, “one who refuses silver” – is the exact opposite of a φιλάργυρος, a “lover of silver,” the appellation given to the Betrayer of the Lord who took the thirty pieces.

And it is the character of the Philoptochos, giving away the monies that it receives, not hoarding or heaping up “treasures on earth” (Matthew 6:19), which is the character that makes miracles happen in our midst. In all its philanthropies and charitable works, Philoptochos creates the conditions where people rise above their circumstances, and exceed themselves to become the image of God, in which they were created.

Philoptochos knows the truth of our Divine Liturgy: Τὰ σὰ ἐκ τῶν σῶν – Your own of Your own – that everything we have comes from God, and when we return it to Him in thanksgiving, there is transformation. This is what the last part of the Apolytikion of the Patrons Cosmas and Damian means. These words echo the command of Christ to His disciples (Matthew 10:8); these words are the foundation of generosity in the Church.

Therefore, I exhort every parish and parishioner to heed our faith and this consummate teaching of goodness and beneficence. Our Philoptochos Societies are extending their hands in order to the support of the needs of the Mother Church. Especially after the fire at the Balıklı Hospital, which serves so many of our brothers and sisters in the Πόλη, let us help to fill the hands of our Philoptochos Sisters with the means to do good in this world. Through the intercessions of the Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian. Amen!

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Fall Parish Retreat

Saturday, November 12, 2022

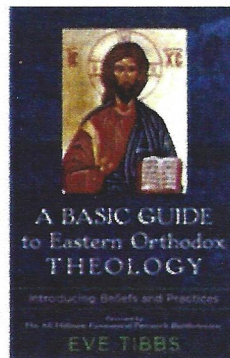
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Luncheon included*)

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



Welcome Back to the Desert Cocktail Reception!



*sponsored by The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society
(this is a free will donation event)*

Friday, November 4th, 2022

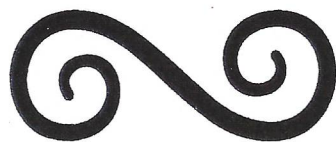
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

St. George Church Hall



Join us for complimentary Greek appetizers!

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

Greek music!



*RSVP by 11/1/22 via text or email to
(714) 875-4661*





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)

***RSVP by December 4th**