



APRIL 9, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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- Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym Kon-
taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or-
der

- 1. Please remain
standing while
following the direc-
tions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly re-
move lipstick be-
fore receiving.
3. When receiving
Holy Communion,
make the Sign of
the Cross, state
your name
(baptismal name),
and naturally re-
ceive as if being
fed.
4. Non-Orthodox
Christians may not
receive Holy Com-
munion, but they
may receive the
Holy Bread at the
end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Chris-
tians must be spirit-
ually prepared to
receive the Sacra-
ment of Holy Com-
munion. 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—Philippians 4:4-9

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel—St. John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why

was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

See the Prayer for the blessing of the Palms on Page 4

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "O Christ our God, before Your Passion, You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all. Therefore, we carry the symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the victor over death, 'Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.'" / Την κοινήν Ανάστασιν...

2) "O Christ Our God, we have been buried with You through baptism and by Your Resurrection made worthy of Life immortal. Praising You, we cry out, 'Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.'" / Συνταφέντες σοι του Βαπτίσματος...

3) **Kontakion:** "In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne, and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the children who cry out to You, 'Blessed are You Who come to recall Adam.'" / Τω θρόνω εν Ουρανώ...

Communion Hymn: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia."

"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING"!

"Lord, if You had been here, our brother would not have died!" These are the words of both Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, who "complained" that Jesus was not present when their brother Lazarus was ill and dying. This was what yesterday's Gospel passage revealed. In our own lives today, we, also, find ourselves wondering if God has abandoned us in times of our own personal sorrows. Such thinking needs correction, however, or else it can lead to anger and many sins.

We often fail to consider the fact that Christ God has something for us that is greater than whatever we think we need. This is evident from the event of the miracle of Christ bringing Lazarus back from the dead, which makes the issue of His presence at the time of Lazarus' illness a moot point. Christ our God called him back to life and, in doing so, our Lord shows that He is the Life and Resurrection of all of humanity. As Lazarus is personally raised from the dead, as the result of our Lord's own voluntary death and His Resurrection, each one of us is personally to be raised from the dead, as well.

In light of this reality, St. Paul exhorts us, through his Epistle to the Philippians: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with all thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the God of peace, Who transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 4-8). +FR. THEODORE

«Κύριε, ει ής ώδε, ο αδελφός μου ουκ αν ετεθνήκει!» Αυτά είναι τα λόγια και της Μαρίας και της Μάρθας, οι οποίες ήσαν οι αδερφές του Λαζάρου, και οι οποίες «επαραπονέθηκαν» ότι ο Ιησούς δεν ήταν παρών όταν ο αδελφός των, ο Λάζαρος, ήταν άρρωστος και τελικά απέθανε. Πράγματι, αυτό ακούσθηκε στη χθεσινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή. Στη δική μας ζωή σήμερα, επίσης, αναρωτιόμεθα αν ο Θεός μας έχει εγκαταλείψει σε περιόδους δικών μας προσωπικών θλίψεων. Αλλά, μια τέτοια νοοτροπία χρειάζεται διόρθωση, γιατί μπορεί να οδηγήσει σε θυμό και πολλές αμαρτίες.

Συχνά αποτυγχάνουμε να μελετήσουμε την πραγματικότητα ότι ο Χριστός έχει κάτι για εμάς που είναι πίο σημαντικό από αυτό που νομίζουμε είναι ανάγκη. Αυτό φαίνεται από το γεγονός του θαύματος του Χριστού που ανέστησε τον Λάζαρο εκ των νεκρών – γεγονός που καθιστά το ζήτημα της παρουσίας Του την ώρα της αρρώστιας του Λαζάρου δεν ωφελεί. Ο Χριστός τον εκάλεσε στη ζωή και, κάνοντάς το αυτό, μας δείχνει ότι είναι ο Ιδιος η Ζωή και η Ανάστασις όλης της ανθρωπότητας. Καθώς ο Λάζαρος αναστήθηκε προσωπικώς εκ των νεκρών, ως αποτέλεσμα του εκουσίου θανάτου του Χριστού και της Ανάστασώς Του, ο καθένας από εμάς επίσης θα αναστηθεί προσωπικώς.

Μέσα σε αυτήν την πραγματικότητα, ο Άγ. Παύλος γράφει, «Μηδέν μεριμνάτε, αλλά εν παντι τη προσευχή και τη δεήσει μετά ευχαριστίας τὰ αιτήματα υμών γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν Θεόν - και η ειρήνη του Θεού η υπερ- έχουσα πάντα νουν φρουρήσει τας καρδίας υμών και τα νοήματα υμών εν Χριστώ Ίησού.» (Φιλ. 4:4-8).

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

HOLY WEEK 2023

Saturday, April 8th... SATURDAY OF LAZARUS – Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 9th ... PALM SUNDAY – Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Bridegroom Service – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 10th...HOLY MONDAY – Bridegroom Service -6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11th...HOLY TUESDAY – Bridegroom Service - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12th..HOLY WEDNESDAY-PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
- Holy Unction Service – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 13th...HOLY THURSDAY – DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
Service of the Redeeming Passion of our Lord -6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14th...HOLY FRIDAY – Royal Hours-9:00 a.m.
– Service of the Unnailing of our Lord – 12:00 noon
– Lamentation Service- 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15th..HOLY SATURDAY – DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
– Vigil for the Resurrection of our Lord – 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16th – THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST – Resurrection Service-12:00 midnight
– Divine Liturgy – 12:30 a.m.
– Agape Vesper Service – 1:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PHILOPTOCHOS**– Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy today, our Philoptochos Chapter will hold its annual **Easter Bake Sale** in our parish hall. At the same time, please note the enclosed April Outreach Project: We are collecting non-perishable food to benefit families in need. Also...the Philoptochos will have a table set up after church to sell **Luminary Candles for Holy Friday**. See enclosed flyers – one side is for health of family/friends; the other side is for eternal memory of family/friends who have departed this life.
- Women from our parish Philoptochos will be **dying Easter eggs** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on **Holy Thursday**. Help is always welcome.
- **AHEPA** - Our AHEPA Chapter 528 is accepting student applications for the **AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship**. **Applications are due now**. Do not delay another week! Please see our AHEPA 528 website at ahepa528.org to download a copy of the application. Applications are also available in our parish hall. Scholarships will be announced and delivered on AHEPA Sunday in May.
- **BOOK STORE** - Holy Week Books are available in our parish book store.
- **ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT** - Our St. George Golf Tournament will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2023** at the **Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert**. Enclosed is the registration and reservation form. We ask everyone to help make this event successful by having golfers register for the tournament and making reservations for the awards dinner which will follow. In addition, we are in need of silent auction items for the awards dinner ceremony.

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Faithful: Lord, have mercy.

Chief Celebrant: Lord our God, enthroned above the Cherubim, You have stirred up Your power and sent Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem the world through His Cross, His burial and His Resurrection. When He came to Jerusalem to His voluntary Passion, the people, living in darkness and the shadow of death, taking up the symbols of victory, boughs of trees and palm branches, foretold the Resurrection. Master as we too imitating them, carry Palms and branches on this eve of the feast, watch over us. And as we offer You Hosanna, like those multitudes and the children, safeguard us, so that in hymns and spiritual songs we, too, may worthily witness the life-giving Resurrection on the third day, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit now and always and forever and ever. Amen

HOLY WEEK NEEDS

Holy Week begins today, with the celebration of Palm Sunday. As we turn our attention to Holy Week preparations, parishioners may donate various liturgical needs for the performance of our Sacred Holy Week services:

- . Decoration of Nymphios Icon for Palm Sunday, Holy Monday & Holy Tuesday Evenings.
- . Q-tips and olive oil for Holy Wednesday Evening (Holy Unction)
- . Decoration of Crown of Thorns (donated)
- . The cost of flowers for the decoration of the Epitaphio and Holy Week Icons.
- . White linen sheet for the Service of the "Apokathylosis" on Holy Friday.
- . Altar Candles for Pascha (donated)
- . The cost for the candles and candle cups for Holy Friday and Holy Saturday night services.
- . Easter lilies on Pascha. (donated)
- . Rose water for the Epitaphio Service on Holy Friday night. (donated)
- . Those who want to serve as readers for Holy Week services are welcome to participate by reading the Epistle passages during the Sacrament of Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday Evening.. In addition, volunteers are needed to carry the Epitaphio; to help decorate the Epitaphio and Holy Week Icons; to offer prosforo, etc.

Please see **Fr. Ted**, or contact him at (760) 880-5869, to indicate the items that you would like to offer to Christ our God in our celebration of His death and Resurrection for our Eternal Salvation.



Luminary Candles to Light the Church on Holy Friday

Let's light the path around our Church during Holy Friday Evening services with the names of our loved ones who have passed on or our wishes for the health of our family and friends.

Each candle-lit bag will be personalized with either: "In Memory" (name) or "In Health" (name) depending on your choice.

There is a \$10 donation for each luminary bag and up to two names maximum may be displayed on a bag.

Luminary Orders will be taken beginning Sunday, March 26th to April 9th.

Please complete your form, make your check payable to St. George Ladies Philoptochos and either mail back the form & your check or give it in person to the church office or a Philoptochos board member. Project Chairperson: Margarita Pagoulatos.

Total Bags _____ Donation Amt. Total \$ _____
Check _____ Cash _____ Credit Card _____

\$10 Luminary "In Health" (Max of 2 names for each luminary bag)

Ordered By: _____

Contact Info (Tel. or email): _____

Name 1: Last _____ First _____

Name 2: Last _____ First _____



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Total Bags _____ **Donation Amt. Total \$** _____
Check _____ **Cash** _____ **Credit Card** _____

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Ordered By: _____

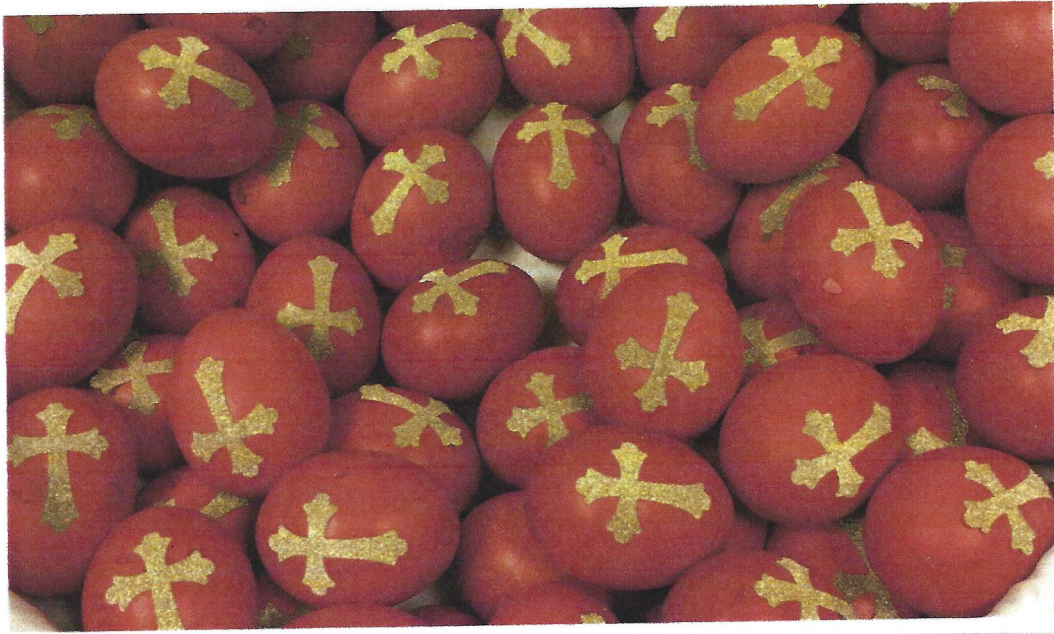
Contact Info (Tel. or email): _____

Name 1: Last _____ First _____

Name 2: Last _____ First _____

Easter **BAKE SALE**

Ladies Philoptochos Society, Chapter 4035



Koulourakia
\$10.00 per dozen
with or w/o sesame



Baklava
\$14.00 per 4 pcs.
box



Easter Bread
\$20.00 per 2 lb. loaf
with or w/o dyed egg

Easter Bake Sale - Palm Sunday 4/9

We will be selling Greek pastries & bread after church services on Palm Sunday, April 9th.

We have limited quantities of Easter bake sale items available, so please plan on getting your pastries & bread on this day.

Contact Tina Veroulis @ (406) 431-9516 for alternate pick-up dates/times.

1

PALM SUNDAY SALE

April 9th-Available after church services in the hall.

2

ALTERNATE PICK-UP DATE/TIME

Contact Tina Veroulis
tel. (406) 431-9516

3

CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD

Pay any one of three ways.



Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 1:00 PM Shotgun Start | Desert Willow Golf Resort



ENTRY INFORMATION

Saturday, April 22, 2023

- \$185 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 1:00pm Shotgun Start at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Traditional Greek Dinner, Silent Auction, and Live Music at St. George Greek Orthodox Church

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 8, 2023

Sign up online at www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

"Saint George Greek Orthodox Church"

Send Checks and Registration Form to:

74-109 Larrea | Palm Desert, CA | 92260

