

APRIL 16, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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**Mailing Address:**

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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 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

*THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD OF CHRIST OUR GOD*



## Archiepiscopal Encyclical on Great and Holy Pascha

April 16, 2023

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

*Who will roll away the stone for us? (Mark 16:3)*

My beloved sisters and brothers in the Risen Lord,

We have finally arrived at the mystery of mysteries, and we approach the Tomb with the holy Myrrh-bearing Women. With them we ask: *"Who will roll away the stone for us?"* The guards have scattered, the garden is empty, and we have brought all our potions and ointments to complete His anointing for death. But He is the Anointed One – the Christ – and He has no need of any anointing. He has no need of the stone being rolled away in order to leave death behind. As the young man said to them when they went inside: *"He is risen! He is not here!"* So, then, why was the stone rolled away?

My beloved Christians, the stone is rolled away in every telling of the story, but not so that the Lord can emerge, but so that we might submerge. The tomb is opened so that we might enter and die to ourselves – to our egos and selfishness. And then we may say, as is chanted in the Paschal Liturgy: *"Yesterday I was buried with you, O Christ; and today, I arise by Your Resurrection"* (Ode 3). The tomb is our place of transformation. The tomb is the very center of our hearts, where we can fulfill the ancient saying: *"If you die before you die, then you won't die when you die."*

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, let us not ask *"who will roll away the stone for us?"* Let us make the effort to roll it back ourselves! God will send His Angels to help us if we are struggling. But it is within the tomb of dying to ourselves, and dying to this world, that we are reborn in the Resurrection. The stone is heavy, laden with our sins and our heartbreaks, but God forgives all and asks us to do the same. Forgiveness is the power that lifts the stone and paves our way to love. There is a very real resurrection to be had in this life, which leads to life everlasting. The arising in our hearts of love, compassion, and mercy for everyone and everything is the sign that we are truly the children of the Resurrection. May this Pascha reveal to you this mystery of mysteries – this gateway to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

## Αρχιεπισκοπική εγκύκλιος για τὸ Ἅγιο Πάσχα.

16 Ἀπριλίου 2023

Προς...όλοκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς:

«Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον;» (Μάρκον 16:3).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀναστάντι,

Φθάσαμε στὸ μυστήριον τῶν μυστηρίων καὶ πλησιάζουμε μὲ παρρησία στὸ μνημεῖο μαζί μὲ τὶς μυροφόρες. Καὶ διερωτώμαστε μαζί τους: «Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον;» Οἱ φύλακες ἐξαφανίσθηκαν, ὁ κῆπος εἶναι ἄδειος καὶ ἐμεῖς προσφέρουμε μύρο καὶ ἀρώματα γιὰ νὰ ἀλείψουμε τὸν πολυτίμητο νεκρό. Ἀλλὰ αὐτὸς εἶναι ὁ Ἕνας ὁ ἤδη κεχρισμένος, ὁ Χριστός, καὶ δὲν ἔχει τὴν ἀνάγκη τῆς δικῆς μας προσφορᾶς! Δὲν χρειάζεται κανὲν νὰ μετακινηθεῖ ὁ λίθος γιὰ νὰ βγεῖ ἀπὸ τὸν τάφο. Ὅμως ὁ ἄγγελος ἐκείνη τὴν ἡμέρα εἶπε στὶς γυναῖκες ποὺ ἔφθασαν στὸ μνημεῖο: «Οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε ἀλλ' ἠγέρθη!» Τότε γιατί μετακινήθηκε ὁ μέγας λίθος;

Ἀγαπητοὶ μου χριστιανοί, στὰ γεγονότα τῆς ἀναστάσεως ὁ λίθος μετακινήθηκε ὄχι γιὰ τὸν ἀναστάντα Κύριο ἀλλὰ γιὰ ἐμᾶς, γιὰ νὰ μπορέσουμε νὰ συναναστηθοῦμε κι ἐμεῖς μαζί του. Ὁ τάφος ἄνοιξε γιὰ νὰ εἰσέλθουμε σὲ αὐτὸν θάπτοντας τὸν ἄνθρωπο τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τοῦ ἐγωῖσμοῦ. Καὶ ἄς ψάλουμε μαζί μὲ τὸν ψαλμωδὸ στὴν πασχαλινὴ λειτουργία: «Χθὲς συνεθαπτόμην σοι, Χριστέ, συνεγείρομαι σήμερον ἀναστάντι σοι» (Κανόνας τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, ῥόδη γ'). Ὁ τάφος εἶναι τὸ Θαβώρ τῆς μεταμορφώσεώς μας. Ὁ τάφος εἶναι τὸ κέντρο τῆς καρδιάς μας, ὅπου ἐκκληρώνεται τὸ ρητὸ τῆς νηπτικῆς σοφίας: «Ἄν πεθάνεις πρὶν πεθάνεις, δὲ θὰ πεθάνεις ὅταν πεθάνεις»!

Ἔτσι, λοιπόν, ἀγαπητοὶ μου ἀδελφοί, ἄς μὴ ἀναρωτηθοῦμε «Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον;». Ἄς κάνουμε κάθε προσπάθεια γιὰ νὰ τὸν μετακινήσουμε μὲ τὶς δυνάμεις μας! Ὁ Θεὸς θὰ μᾶς βοηθήσει στὸν ἀγώνα αὐτόν! Καὶ νὰ εἴμαστε σίγουροι ὅτι στὸν τάφο θάβουμε τὸν κακὸ ἑαυτὸ μας, θάβουμε τὰ ἐγκόσμια, γιὰ νὰ ἀναγεννηθοῦμε μὲ τὴν ἀνάσταση τοῦ Χριστοῦ! Ὁ λίθος εἶναι ἀσήκωτος ἐξαιτίας τῶν θλίψεων καὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν μας, ἀλλὰ ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς συγχωρεῖ κατὰ πάντα καὶ μᾶς ζητᾷ νὰ πράξουμε τὸ ἴδιο γιὰ τοὺς συνανθρώπους μας. Ἡ συγχώρηση εἶναι ἡ δύναμη ποὺ μετακινεῖ τὸν λίθο τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ στρώνει τὸ δρόμο τῆς ἀγάπης. Αὐτὴ ἐξάλλου εἶναι καὶ ἡ πραγματικὴ ἀνάσταση στὴ ζωὴ αὐτὴ, ποὺ ὁδηγεῖ στὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ. Ἄς ἀναστηθοῦν στὴν καρδιά μας ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ συγχώρηση καὶ ἡ φιλανθρωπία γιὰ ὅλους, καὶ ἄς γίνουμε ἔτσι γνήσια τέκνα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως. Ἄς γίνει αὐτὸ τὸ Πάσχα γιὰ ὅλους μας τὸ μυστήριον τῶν μυστηρίων, ἡ πύλη πρὸς τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ διὰ μέσῳ τοῦ ἀναστάντος Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

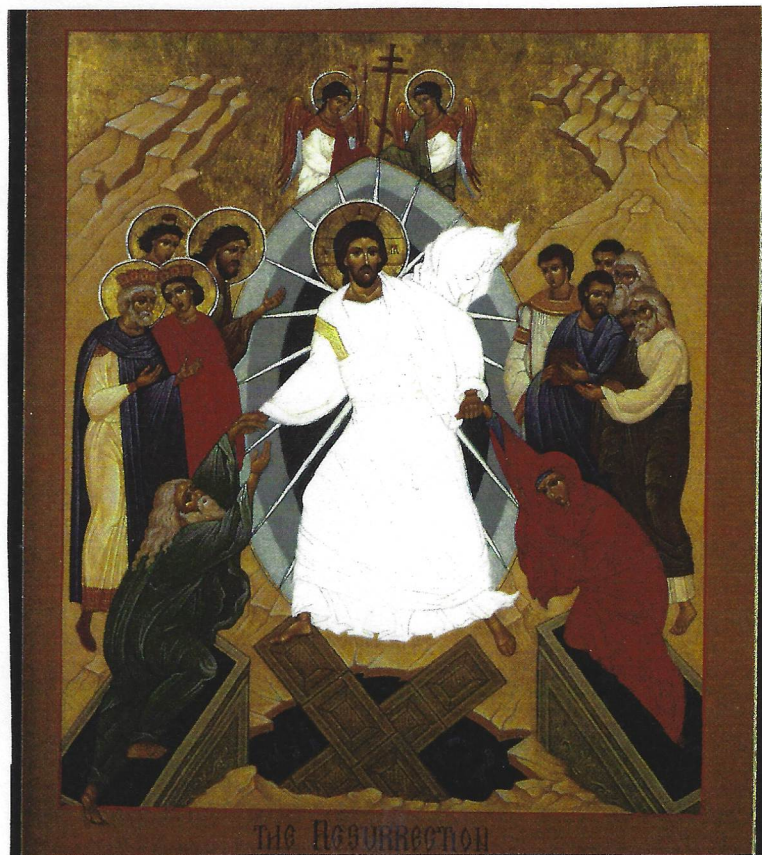
Tuesday, April 18th.....AHEPA 528 Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 21st.....FEAST OF THE LIFE-GIVING FONT  
Orthros – 8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 22nd...St. George Annual Golf Tournament at Desert Willow Golf Resort, Palm Desert  
Tee-off – 1:00 p.m.  
...VESPERS FOR ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY – 4:00 p.m.  
...Golf Tournament Awards Dinner (Greek Style Cuisine) - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 23rd.....FEAST DAY OF OUR PATRON SAINT, ST. GEORGE  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

- **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](http://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
- **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.





# 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](http://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

