



DECEMBER 10, 2023

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
Kontaxis, M.D.

Holy Communion
Order

- 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 6: 10-17

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit, which is the world of God.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 13: 10-17

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the syna-

gogues on the Sabbath, and behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But, when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus healed on the Sabbath and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for, behold, eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath? And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the righteous things that were done by Him."

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) Entrance hymn: "When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then the light of Your Divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, 'Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'"/Οτε κατήλες προς τον θάνατον...

2) "O martyrs of Christ, through self-control you stilled fiery passions and actions. You Continued on the next page -->

Liturgical Notes for Today, Continued

received the grace to drive out the illnesses of the sick and to work miracles while in life and even after death. From bare bones, healing has sprung forth, truly this is a strange wonder. Glory to our only God."/
Δί' εγκατείας των παθών...

3) *"Since you are a deliverer of captives..."* [Hymn of St. George]/Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...

4) **Kontakion:** *"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 held as a young child."/*Η Παρθένος σήμερον...

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **James Constantinos Carkonen (1 yr.)**, the beloved brother of Paul Carkonen and Diamantis Carkonen and husband of Aimee Carkonen, father of Sophia Carkonen and uncle of Michael, Jenice, Constantina, Nicholas, Mika and Tyke Carkonen. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **James Constantinos Carkonen** and may He grant peace and comfort to Paul Carkonen and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

HYPOCRISY IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING!

In today's Gospel passage, we hear our Lord condemning the sin of hypocrisy. The ruler of the synagogue sought to condemn Jesus, because He healed an afflicted woman on the Sabbath. But, Jesus condemned his hypocrisy, because it is a deception based on our insincerity toward God and others. In the end, the ruler of the synagogue unwittingly condemned himself, since he was guilty of the same thing – i.e., not observing the Sabbath by taking his ox and donkey to be watered.

Hypocrisy is a form of self-deception based on our pride. It leads us to condemning others for their faults, while ignoring our own. In His words to the ruler of the synagogue our Savior warns us all to watch over the true health of our souls. We all must be vigilant against this poison called hypocrisy.

Through hypocrisy, the devil hurts us in two ways: 1) We cannot experience God's forgiveness for our sins if we never repent – for, why would we repent if we think we do not have to be sincere toward God? 2) We become closed-minded to God's Wisdom, ultimately falling in danger of rejecting God. It was the hypocrisy of the Pharisees that led to the crucifixion of Christ.

Christ our God set repentance as the way to salvation. Deceiving ourselves and others by pretending to pray when we don't; by justifying our wayward ways rather than correcting them is not repentance that leads to salvation. Confession of sins and repentance through sincere, heart-felt prayer for our Lord to help us to avoid sin is the way to salvation. +FR. THEODORE

Στη σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ακούσαμε τον Χριστό να καταδικάζει την αμαρτία της υποκρισίας. Ο αρχηγός της συναγωγής προσεπάθησε να καταδικάσει τον Ιησού, επειδή εθεράπευσε μια ταλαιπωρημένη γυναίκα κατά την Ημέρα του Σαββάτου. Όμως, ο Ιησούς καταδικάσε την υποκρισία του, γιατί είναι μια εξαπάτηση που βασίζεται στην ανειλικρίνειά μας απέναντι στον Θεό και στους άλλους. Στο τέλος, ο αρχηγός της συναγωγής καταδικάσε χωρίς να το καταλάβει τον εαυτόν του, αφού ήταν ένοχος για το ίδιο πράγμα - δηλαδή δεν ετηρούσε ο ίδιος την Ημέρα του Σαββάτου ποτιζοντας το βόδι και το γαϊδούρι του.

Η υποκρισία είναι μια μορφή αυταπάτης που βασίζεται στην υπερηφάνιά μας. Μας κάνει να καταδικάζουμε τους άλλους για τα λάθη τους, ενώ αγνοούμε τα δικά μας. Στα λόγια Του προς τον άρχοντα της συναγωγής, ο Χριστός προειδοποιεί όλους μας να προσέχουμε την αληθινή υγεία της ψυχής μας. Όλοι πρέπει να επαγρυπνούμε ενάντια σε αυτό το δηλητήριο που ονομάζεται υποκρισία.

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα-- -->

Διά μέσου της υποκρισίας, ο διάβολος μας πηλώνει με δύο τρόπους: 1) Δεν μπορούμε να βιώσουμε τη συγχώρεση του Θεού για τις αμαρτίες μας εάν δεν μετανοήσουμε ποτέ – δηλ. γιατί να μετανοήσουμε εάν πιστεύουμε ότι δεν χρειάζεται να είμεθα ειλικρινείς απέναντι στον Θεό; 2) Γινόμεθα κλειστοί στη Σοφία του Θεού, κινδυνεύοντας τελικά να απορρίψουμε εντελώς τον Θεό. Ήταν η υποκρισία των Φαρισαίων που οδήγησε προς την σταύρωση του Χριστού.

Ο Χριστός έθεσε τη μετάνοια ως τον δρόμο της σωτηρίας μας. Με το να εξαπατάμε τον εαυτό μας και τους άλλους μοιάζοντας σαν να προσευχόμεθα ενώ στην πραγματικότητα δεν προσευχόμεθα ειλικρινά και το να δικαιολογούμε τις αμαρτίες μας αντί να τις διορθώνουμε δεν είναι μετάνοια που οδηγεί προς την σωτηριαν μας. Η Θεία Εξομολόγησις και η μετάνοια μέσω της εγκάρδιας προσευχής για τον Θεό να μας βοηθήσει να αποφύγουμε την αμαρτία είναι ο δρόμος προς την σωτηριαν μας.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 12th.....ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./ Bible Study- 11:00 a.m.
AHEPA Pot-Luck Christmas Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13thOnline Orthodox Christian Catechism class – 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL – Today is the annual Sunday School Christmas Program!** the theme of which is “Living Icons of the Nativity.” **Your attention to this short program is very important for our students and their parents!** See the enclosed flyer. In addition, our Sunday School is selling **stocking stuffers** from \$1.00-\$20.00. Check out the display situated in front of the bookstore.
- **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Today!** To vote, one must be a member in good standing of our St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Palm Desert. The members of the **Election Committee (Annette Laskaris, Ana Storton, and Michael Hallinan)** will meet in the bookstore where the election ballots will be given to those who sign in to vote. There are four candidates to fill three positions on the Parish Council. Vote for only three of the four candidates. The **candidates are** (in alphabetical order): **Linda Kallis, Nicholas Kaperonis, Tasia Richards, and Tina Veroulis.**
- **PHILOPTOCHOS – The Philoptochos Holiday Bake Sale** is underway. Greek pastries are available for purchase today. The enclosed flyer indicates the pastries available and their prices.
 - o Our Philoptochos Chapter would like to thank everyone that attended our annual Christmas Luncheon yesterday. We are grateful for your support. Merry Christmas to you and your family!
 - o On Wednesday, Dec. 13th, Philoptochos will be assembling & delivering Holiday Baskets for the shut-ins in our community. We need volunteers to help us deliver the baskets. Please come to the church hall between 11:30 am-12:30 pm to pick up baskets to be delivered. Contact Rhonda Latkovic in advance so we are able to coordinate the deliveries. (Tel. or Text 714-875-4661).
- **AHEPA – Everyone is invited to join in the AHEPA 528 Pot-luck Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.** See the enclosed flyer.
- **ONLINE ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASS - Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m.** Please contact Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 to receive a “Zoom” link for the online class.
- **GREEK FESTIVAL – Baking of pastitsio and moussaka begins on Monday, December 18th.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE – – – >

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

- **ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE** – Our **St. George Bookstore** has received many new items just in time for Christmas party gift swaps and/or last minute gift ideas for your special someone. We have set up a "**Christmas Shop**" in the **Church Hall**. Items include novelty aprons, Greek flag fleece blankets, pashmina shawls, orthodox jewelry, handmade soaps, ornaments, and much more. Another shipment is arriving by mid-week so if you don't see anything today check back in a few days or next Sunday. We take credit card, cash, or **checks payable to St. George Church -memo-bookstore**.

ST. GEORGE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Koulourakia—\$12.00 per 12 pieces

Paximathia —\$12.00 per 12 pieces

Kourembiethes —\$12.00 per 6 pieces

Melamakarona —\$12.00 per 6 pieces

Baklava— \$12.00 per 4 pieces

Combination Boxes available!

Pick-up dates: Today and Monday, November 20th & 27th

Thank you for supporting our Philoptochos Chapter!

Sunday School Families and Parishioners!

Below is "The Nativity Hymn" we will all sing together at the end of our program "**ICONS OF THE NATIVITY**" on **Sunday, December 10th, 2023.**

We have included a **BEAUTIFUL RECORDING** from our Deaconess Krisann Kontaxis for you to learn and practice together!

Many Blessings!

Fr. Ted Pantels, Presb. Petula Pantels
& Mrs. Athena Snarskis



Thy Nativity Hymn

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
Has shine the light of knowledge upon the world,
For thereby, they that worship the stars,
Were instructed by a star, to worship Thee, the Sun of righteousness,
And to know Thee, the Day-Spring from on high,
O Lord Glory be to Thee!



CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK

EVERYONE IS WELCOME – PLEASE RSVP

This will be a pot-luck dinner, please bring your favorite dish feeds12, please email or call so we do not duplicate dishes, beverages and bar provided by AHEPA Chapter 528.

Tuesday 12/12/2023

6:00 pm at

St George Church

• 74109 Larrea, Palm Desert CA 92260

RSVP by 12/05/2023

Ahepa528.org

Contact@ahempa528.org

*Wynn @ 760.832.2825 mobile/text
or leave message with Fr Ted*

*Please bring a wrapped gift
(no more than \$15 value)
for a fun gift exchange game.*

CHAPTER 528

St. George Greek Orthodox Church – Palm Desert, CA

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTS

“THE ICON OF THE NATIVITY”

Sunday, December 10th, 2023

MARY Angeliki Trapatsas

JOSEPH Kaleb Birca

DONKEY Kostandinos Tsiamagos

ANGEL GABRIEL Eleni Castrale

ANGELS Natalie Cox

Christian Cox

Eleni Hawkins

Claire Barden

SHEPHERDS Pres. Petula Pantels

Ms. Debbie Pousen

George Barden

Vasili Haralambous

Konstantinos Haralambous

Yianni Haralambous

SHEEP Philip Bautier

WISEMEN Colin Hays

Liam Hays

Emma Hays

NARRATORS Mr. Craig Castrale

Melina Hawkins

Mr. Chris Hays

ASSISTANTS Mrs. Julia Hays

Mrs. Alex Pappas

Mrs. Emily Kayaloglou

Mrs. Suzana Cox

Ms. Nicole Nasser

Mr. Pete Snarskis

SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR Mrs. Athena Snarskis



“Thy Nativity” Hymn

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
Has shine the light of knowledge upon the world,
For thereby, they that worship the stars,
Were instructed by a star, to worship Thee, the Sun of righteousness,
And to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high,
O Lord Glory be to Thee!