



FEBRUARY 5, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT
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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 --2 Timothy 3:10-15
Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 18:10-14
The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

THE TRIODION

Today is the Sunday of the Publican (Tax-Collector) and the Pharisee. This Sunday every year marks the beginning of a short liturgical season of the Greek Orthodox Church, which is known as "The Triodion." The Triodion (Greek: Tri-oh-dhi-ohn) is the liturgical book used by the Orthodox Church. The book contains the rubrics for the fasting period preceding Easter and for the weeks leading up to Great Lent. The "Kanonion Hymns for weekday Orthros Services in the Triodion contain only three odes and so are known as "triodes" after which the Triodion takes its name. The Triodion season begins with a week in which there is no fasting, including on Wednesdays and Fridays, which are normally kept as fast days throughout the year (with few exceptions).
+FR. THEODORE

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "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, O Christ; glory to Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation who alone are the Loving One." / Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος...

2) "Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from You, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in your arms, the Deliverance of our souls, Who grants us Resurrection." / Χαίρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε...

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

4) **Kontakion:** "Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and fittingly blessed the hands of Symeon. You have now come and saved us O Christ, our God. In troubled times, as the only loving One, give peace to Your commonwealth and strength to those in civil authority, whom You love." / Ο μητραν παρθενικην αγιασας...

THE PERILS OF PRIDE

Today we heard the Parable of our Lord about the Pharisee and the tax-collector (Publican). The *pride* of the Pharisee was exposed at the very moment when he passed judgment upon the tax-collector, which cancelled any good that he might have had accomplished through fasting and tithing. Pride draws us into comparing ourselves with others, often causing depression for not feeling "good enough," or causing us to consider ourselves to be even better than others, and, thus, we fall into the nets of self-righteousness and the condemnation of others. Depression and self-righteousness often lead to a multitude of conflicts with others, giving way to the perils of anger and/or hatred.

The *humility* of the tax-collector was the beginning of his salvation. Humility is made up of love for God, along with faith in God's mercy. Love for God means that we want to be with God in everything we do. It also means that we have faith in God's mercy, guiding us in our words and actions, and protecting us from evil — both from the evil that can come from within us via anger or hatred, as well as from the evil that comes at us from the forces of the world. Our Lord's mercy is also His forgiveness.

If depression and self-righteousness leading to anger or hatred are the perils of pride, faith in the mercy of our God and Savior Jesus Christ, leading to forgiveness, peace and love is the reward of humility.

+FR. THEODORE

Σήμερα ακούσαμε την Παραβολή του Κυρίου μας για τον Φαρισαίο και τον Τελώνη. Η *υπερηφάνεια* του Φαρισαίου αποκαλύφθηκε ακριβώς τη στιγμή που εκαταδίκασε τον Τελώνη, η οποία καταδίκη ακύρωσε κάθε καλό που θα ερχόταν από τη νηστεία και τις θρησκευτικές προσφορές του. Η υπερηφάνεια μας κάνει να συγκρίνουμε τους εαυτούς μας με τους άλλους, που μερικές φορές μας κάνει να πέφτουμε σε κατάθλιψη επειδή δεν νιώθουμε «αρκετά καλοί», ή μας κάνει να θεωρούμε τον εαυτόν μας ως ακόμα καλύτεροι από τους άλλους. Έτσι πέφτουμε στα δίχτυα της αυτοδικίας και της καταδίκησως των άλλων. Η κατάθλιψη και η αυτοδικία συχνά οδηγούν σε ένα πλήθος συγκρούσεων με τους άλλους, δίνοντας τη θέση τους στις ζημιές από τον θυμό ή/ και από το μίσος.

Η ταπεινοφροσύνη του Τελώνου ήταν η αρχή της σωτηρίας του. Η ταπεινοφροσύνη αποτελείται από αγάπη για τον Θεό, μαζί με πίστη στο έλεος του Θεού. Αγάπη για τον Θεό σημαίνει ότι θέλουμε να είμεθα με τον Θεό σε ό,τι κάνουμε. Σημαίνει επίσης ότι έχουμε πίστη στο έλεος του Θεού — ότι θα μας καθοδηγεί στα λόγια και στις πράξεις μας, και θα μας προστατεύει από το κακό — τόσο από το κακό που μπορεί να προέλθει από μέσα μας μέσω θυμού ή μίσους, όσο και από το κακό που μπορεί να μας έλθει από τις δυνάμεις του κόσμου. Το έλεος του Θεού είναι και η συγχώρεσις των αμαρτιών.

Εάν η κατάθλιψη και η αυτοδικία που οδηγούν σε θυμό ή μίσος είναι οι ζημιές από την υπερηφάνεια, η πίστη στον Κύριο που οδηγεί σε συγχώρεση των αμαρτιών, ειρήνη και αγάπη είναι η ανταμοιβή από την ταπεινόφροσνη.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL -Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and salvation for the servant of God, **Julian Richard Garcia (40 days)**. Richard Garcia's Patron Saint is St. Juliana the Martyr. He served our parish as Parish Council President, chanter and choir member. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and salvation to **Julian Richard Garcia** and may He grant peace and comfort to his family and friends. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, February 6th.....Preparations for the Greek Festival throughout this week, Monday through Friday (9:00 a.m.). Festival Meeting – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. / AHEPA Meeting – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 9th.....Parish Council – 2:00 p.m.

Friday, February 10th.....ST. HARALAMBOS – Orthros, 8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday, February 12th.....Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m./ "Agiasmo" Service – 11:15 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SAVE THE DATE!** - Please join us for our annual **Philoptochos membership event** on Saturday, March 11th from 11:30 am-2:00 pm at the church. Our theme is "**Membership & Aloha!**" and will be an Hawaiian Luau.
- **GO RED FOR WOMEN – GO RED SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th** - please wear red this Sunday to show support for women's cardiovascular health and the GO RED national campaign.
- **ORTHODOX ACADEMY** – During our Coffee Hour **today**, a special presentation regarding a newly formed **St. Andrews Academy**, an Orthodox Christian elementary school in the Inland Empire. We look forward to welcoming back to our parish **Jonathan Brubaker!**
- **FESTIVAL** – 1) **Volunteer Forms** are included in today's *Ladder*, as is information related to **tutorial lessons** for Festival booth chairpersons to learn the new **Clovis Register system** for Festival income.
 - 2) Everyone is needed to help for **Festival food preparations** throughout **this week**. We are grateful to those who have been helping over these past few weeks.
 - 3) **Festival flyers** and **lawn signs** are now available for distribution to businesses that our parishioners patronize, as well as being distributed throughout neighborhood developments.
 - 4) **Help Underwrite Festival Expenses!**
- **AHEPA** - The AHEPA 528 "**Super Bowl Party**" will not take place at our parish hall this year. However, the raffle of "**Super Bowl Squares**" will be held off-site. Contact our parish office, or see **Bill Rellos** for more details.
- **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT** - Please circle the date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 in order to join us for our annual **St. George Parish Lenten Retreat**. **Fr. Steven Tsichlis**, pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church and author of the pamphlet entitled "**Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy,**" will be the speaker for this Retreat. Please see the enclosed flyer!

American Heart Month

Go Red Sunday - February 5

American Heart Association.



***Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1
killer of women, causing 1 in 3
deaths each year.***



American Heart Association
www.goredforwomen.org

02/03/2023



*******St George Festival Register Training*******

The good news is we are expecting +6,000 visitors at our Festival on February 18th and 19th with good weather. This will amount to over 18,000 transactions at our booths.

The 2023 St George Festival will accept Credit / Debit Cards only for payment to improve transactional efficiency, eliminate manual bookkeeping and reduce the security concerns related to handling large amounts of cash.

We are using CLOVER Electronic Registers to process all transactions. These registers are like today's smartphones – ICON driven and intuitive after a short training session. I highly recommend Chairman and Cashiers attend at least 1 Hands On class to be comfortable with the new machines. **See or contact Nick Latkovic with questions.**

As with any new technology, there will be questions during the festival. We will have a roaming "Help Desk" team to assist cashiers with questions during the hours of operation.

CLOVER Cashless Register user's training will occur in the church hall on the following days:

Monday 2/06/23 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules.

Monday 2/13/23 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules.

Please contact me at 760-455-9727 to arrange another time if you cannot attend the above sessions. I will also be at the church hall during the next 2 weeks prior to the festival to answer questions as well.



Nick Latkovic

St George Sunday School News

Palm Desert, CA

 **FEBRUARY** 

(UPDATED VERSION)

Feb 3rd, 2023

Hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying the weather. We had a great turnout last Sunday for Youth Sunday! So many parishioners expressed how they loved all our families sitting together up front and especially participating with our choir. Maybe we should do that each Sunday? Let me know your thoughts, Fr Ted said he would love that! We learned about the feast day of the Three Holy Hierarchs on Jan 30th and also made 30 Health Kits with special Valentine bags for our Philoptochos Homeless Outreach! Here's what's happening in February!

Sunday, FEB 5th

Sunday School

After Holy Communion all grades will meet near my classroom.

In preparation for our St George Greek Festival our classrooms are now being used for pastry storage and becomes the pastry hub during the festival. Our Philoptochos and others have been working very hard baking, packaging, meal preps, grounds setup etc. Please consider volunteering!

Sunday, FEB 12th

Family Sunday School Event

Fr Ted has invited us all into church for an Explanatory Agiasmos service (Holy Water Blessing). Do an online search below for info about this beautiful service.

Online Search: †
BE THE BEE Episode # 16 Holy Water for the Whole World

Sat/Sun, FEB 18 & 19

GREEK FESTIVAL

Please consider volunteering at any of our booths, especially in the KIDS ZONE!

Contact Kid Zone Chairman

Julia Hays: 760-272-7864

Festival Volunteers

Jim Christopoulos: 760 902-8460

Sunday, FEB 26

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT RETURNS!

In preparation for the beginning of Lent, on **Monday, Feb 27th**, we are having a special event for Sunday School families!

Fr Ted will help guide us through the many ways families can participate at home, in our communities and with several of our Lenten services! **Helpful resource materials will be distributed!**

If you ever have any questions or concerns please contact us? We're looking forward to our next family gathering! God Bless!

Fr Ted Pantels: 760-880-5869

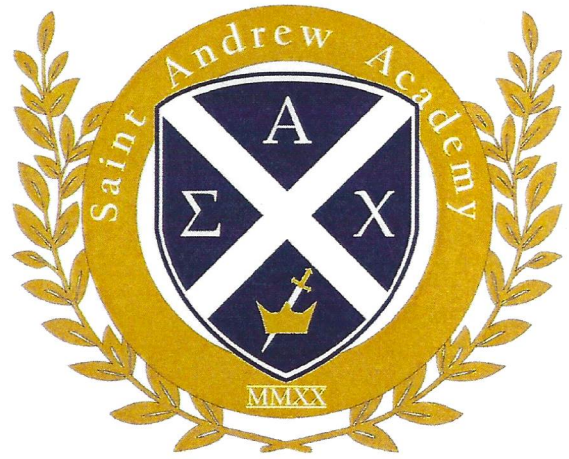
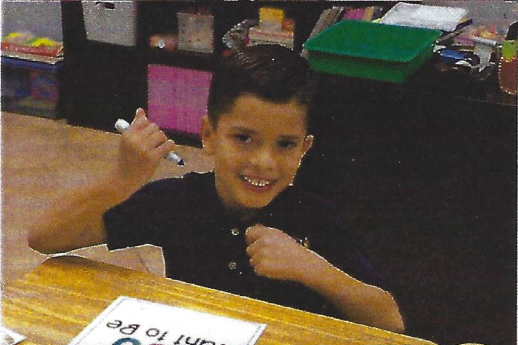
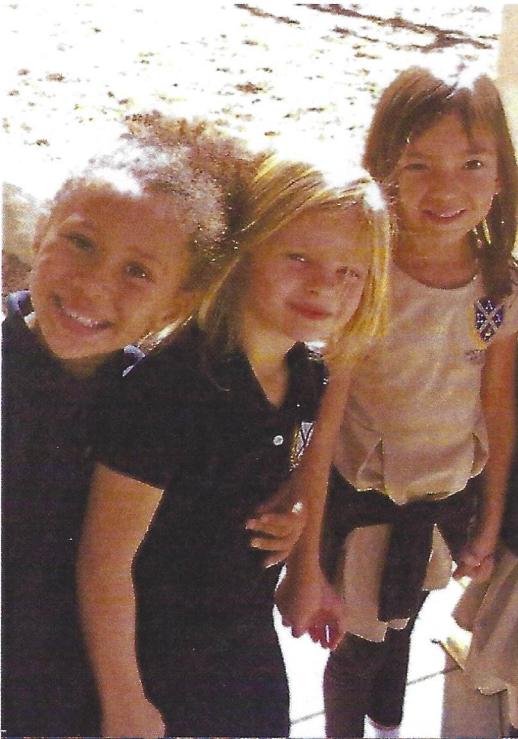
Presb Petula Pantels: 909-539-7542

Mrs. Athena Snarskis: 219-313-6940

SAVE THE DATE! *** Friday, APRIL 7th**

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN RETREAT (9:00 am -1:30 pm)

This is not on our Holy Friday, but on "American Good Friday" and most students are off school. More info to come, but did someone say we're having a LENTEN ESCAPE ROOM this year!!!



Wisdom, Love, and Joy!

Saint Andrew Academy

Now enrolling for our third academic year 2023-24. 5-day, and 3-day MWF, and single class options for all ages.



Visit

www.saintandrewacademy.com to get to know us.

Also accepting applications for teachers, coaches, and more!

To donate or support our scholarship endowment, www.bit.ly/pg-saa.

**St. George Greek Orthodox Church's
2023 Lenten Retreat**

Living the Liturgy

with

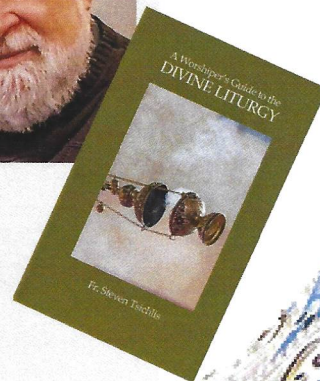
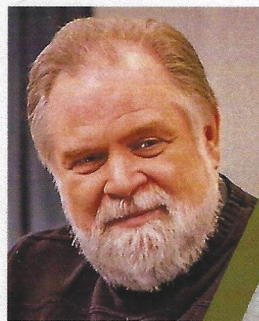
Father Steven Tsihlis

Pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA
Author of *A Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy*

Saturday, March 18

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Lenten Lunch Included



Session 1

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

"The Lord's Table: How Our
Participation in Liturgy Impacts
Our Lives"

Session 2

1:00 - 2:30 PM

"Living the Liturgy: Eating and Drinking
the Lord Jesus"



A freewill
donation of
\$10
is appreciated

To Register:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com | 760-568-9901

74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA