



JANUARY 15, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT
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Palm Desert, California 92260
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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA.92261
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.

Col. EPISTLE - Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL: St. Luke 17: 12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

ST. PAUL OF THEBES

Today we commemorate St. John the "hut-dweller" and St. Paul of Thebes. St. Paul was the first among hermits. He was born about 227 in the Thebaid region of Egypt. In 250 he fled into the wilderness because of the persecution raging at that time under Decius. Having lived a solitary life in a certain cave for ninety-one years, he reposed in 341, at the age of 114, and was buried by St. Anthony the Great, who had been directed to do so by God several days before the Saint's repose. The feast day for St. Anthony the Great is this Tuesday, January 17th.

--Taken in part from the Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel:

- 1) **Entrance hymn:** *"Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead and Mary stood by the grave, seeking Your sacred Body. You destroyed Hades, yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and, through Her, bestowed life. Glory to You Who has risen from the dead."/* / Αγγελικαί Δυνάμεις...
- 2) *"Since childhood, you fervently yearned for the Lord. You abandoned the world and its pleasures and excelled in asceticism. You set your hut before your parent's gate, and broke the snare of demons. Wherefore, O John, worthily did Christ glorify you."/* / Εκ βρέφος τον Κύριον επιποθήσας θερμώς...
- 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 μήτραν παρθενικήν αγιάσας ...

CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL!

St. Paul, in his Epistle to the Colossians, outlines symptoms of what we might call "leprosy of the soul," as follows: fornication, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, slander, lying, idolatry. Little-by-little, the devil can numb our soul to the pain of spiritual leprosy so that, too often, we think nothing of such sins as telling lies; expressing rage; wanting revenge, and idolizing worldly luxuries.

St. Paul implies that the cause for many of our sins is found in the "leprosy" of our souls, which is also characterized by our "need" to give first priority to ourselves and second priority to God and our neighbor, which is the sin of idolatry (self-worship). As such, as St. Paul notes, we fall to temptations to undermine or harm others by abusing them out of jealousy or anger, through falsehood, slander, and evil desire. Sadly, in our society, St. Paul is largely considered to be "old fashioned," and even mean-spirited, giving way for people to think that Christians condemn others. Instead, we must know that *"Christ is all and in all,"* (Col. 3:11) and, He grants forgiveness of sins and the opportunities to repent.

As Apostolic-Orthodox Christians let us not be deceived into thinking that we are better than others, despite our own afflictions and sins. St. Paul tells us that everyone, despite their DNA or nationality is welcome to join in the battle against sin; for it is sin that we are to condemn, not people. Therefore, let us pray that this whole day may be for us and for all people everywhere a day that is perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin. Such a prayer requires from us that we, ourselves, seek our Lord's grace to be holy people and peaceful in our efforts to avoid committing sins and to do God's Will. +FR. THEODORE

Ο Άγ. Παύλος, στην Προς Κολοσσαείς Επιστολή του, περιγράφει τα συμπτώματα της λεγομένης «λέπρας της ψυχής» – συμπτώματα που είναι: η πορνεία, η κακή επιθυμία, η πλεονεξία, η οργή, η κακία, η συκοφαντία, το ψέμα, και η ειδωλολατρία. Σιγά-σιγά, ο διάβολος μουδιάζει την ψυχή μας στον πόνο της «πνευματικής λέπρας.» Δηλαδή, πολύ συχνά δεν αποδεχόμεθα ότι το ψέμα, η έκφρασις οργής, η επιθυμία εκδικήσεως, και η ειδωλοποίηση των κοσμικών πολυτέλειων είναι αμαρτίες.

Ο Άγ. Παύλος υπονοεί ότι η αιτία για πολλές από τις αμαρτίες μας ευρίσκεται ακόμη στη «λέπρα» της ψυχής μας, η οποία χαρακτηρίζεται από την «ανάγκη» μας να δίνουμε πρώτη προτεραιότητα στον εαυτό μας και δεύτερη προτεραιότητα στον Θεό και τον πλησίον μας, κάτι που είναι η αμαρτία της ειδωλολατρίας (ή αυτολατρίας). Ως εκ τούτου, όπως σημειώνει ο Άγ. Παύλος, πέφτουμε σε πειρασμούς να βλάψουμε τους άλλους κακοποιώντας τους από ζήλια, ή θυμό, ή δια ψεύδους, ή δια της συκοφαντίας και της κακής επιθυμίας. Δυστυχώς, στην κοινωνία μας, ο Άγ. Παύλος θεωρείται σε μεγάλο βαθμό «παλιομοδίτικος» και μάλιστα επικριτικός, χωρίς αγάπη. Επομένως, μερικοί έχουν την εσφαλμένη αντίληψη ότι οι Χριστιανοί γενικά καταδικάζουν τους άλλους. Αντίθετα, πρέπει να εξεύρουμε ότι ο Χριστός *«Είναι τα πάντα και εις πάντιν,»* (Κολ. 3:11) και, συγχωρεί τις αμαρτίες και δίνει ευκαιρίες για

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα – – – -->

μετάνοια. Ως Έλληνο-Ορθόδοξοι, λοιπόν, ας μην ξεγελιόμαστε νομίζοντας ότι είμεθα καλύτεροι από άλλους ανθρώπους. Παρά το DNA ή την εθνικότητά του, ο καθένας είναι ευπρόσδεκτος να συμμετάσχει στη μάχη κατά της αμαρτίας. Είναι η αμαρτία που πρέπει να καταδικάσουμε. Δεν πρέπει να καταδικάσουμε τους ανθρώπους. Ας αγαπήσουμε όλους τους άλλους με την αγάπη του Θεού, ώστε και αυτοί να γνωρίσουν την αγάπη του Θεού για τον ολόκληρο κόσμο. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

NOTICE RE: FUNERAL FOR JULIAN GARCIA

On December 31, 2022, **Julian (Richard) Garcia** fell asleep in the Lord. We were able to communicate with one of his sisters, who expressed thanks for our concern and condolences. The family had planned to have him cremated; however, after it was explained to them that Julian was a long-standing member of our Church, the family gave up their plans to have him cremated and gave the task of providing **funeral services for Julian** over to our parish. Julian had no financial resources to provide for standard funeral costs. As a result, we are establishing a **"Julian Garcia Funeral Account"** so that we, as a community, can raise the funds needed to cover very basic funeral costs: **a coffin and a plot for a total of about \$7,000**. Already, Julian's family has paid just over **\$2,000** toward his funeral costs, and an anonymous donation was just received, leaving a balance of less than **\$4,000**. Julian was riddled with cancer over many years, which forced him into disability. Yet, he served our parish as a chanter and as a choir member until Covid struck. We humbly ask for your assistance in covering the funeral costs for our brother in Christ, **Julian Garcia**. The **services for Julian** will take place on **January 26th at 12:00 noon at Coachella Valley Cemetery**. +FR. THEODORE

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, January 16th.....Work throughout this week continues for Festival food item preparation beginning at 9:00 a.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday this week, *work will continue following the celebrations of the Divine Liturgy* (please note the early starts).

Tuesday, January 17th.....ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 p.m./Bible Study-10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 18th.....STS. ATHANASIOS & CYRIL
Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

Friday, January 20th.....ST. EUTHYMIOS
Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OATH OF OFFICE** - Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy today we will issue the **"Oath of Office"** to the members of the **2023 St. George Parish Council: Matthew Holm, Linda Kallis, Nick Kaperonis, Nick Krespis, Nick Latkovic, Chris Maletis, Deborah Pousen, Pete Snarskis, Tina Veroulis**. We pray for health and wellbeing for each of the members of our Parish Council so that they may continue in their work for the glory of our Lord.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** -- Today we welcome back and offer good wishes for the New Year to our students and their families! Please join us for **YOUTH SUNDAY on January 29th** when our Sunday School staff and families assist as ushers, sit together, and actively participate throughout the Divine Liturgy and host Coffee Hour!
- **FESTIVAL** – **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. 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. **Festival flyers** and **lawn signs** are now available for distribution to businesses that our parishioners patronize, as well as being

Continued on the next page ----->

distributed throughout neighborhood developments. The **Festival Program Ad book** will be printed over the next few weeks. Business **logos for the ad book** are \$500 and **individual greeting ads** are \$250. We can all ask the businesses that we patronize for a \$500 "logo" business ad. We are grateful in advance to those who contribute an individual greeting ad.

- **HOUSE BLESSINGS** - Throughout this month, Fr. Ted will be available to **bless homes** with the Holy Water from our **Holy Theophany Church** services (January 5th & 6th). Please feel free to contact Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 for an appointment.
- **AHEPA** - Our parish AHEPA Chapter 528 will be hosting the **AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference** at the Homewood Suites in Palm Desert on **Saturday, January 28, 2023**. All of our St. George parishioners are invited to join in the **Mid-Winter Conference banquet**, which will be held at the **Desert Willow Golf Resort** in Palm Desert following the day's proceedings. See the enclosed flyer. 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 Tschlis, 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.

ST. GEORGE FESTIVAL MONEY REGISTER TRAINING



St George Festival Register Training Begins –

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 will be utilizing **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 – 760-455-9727 or stgeorgeoffice7@gmail.com**

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.

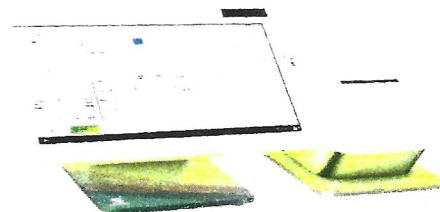
There will be regular updates in The Ladder regarding this system. Training Sessions for the Festival CLOVER Cashless Register users will occur in the church hall on the following days:

Monday 1/9/23 @ 6:30 PM – This session will be for the training and assist team

Monday 1/23/23 @ 9 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules

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



Volunteer for the Festival

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.

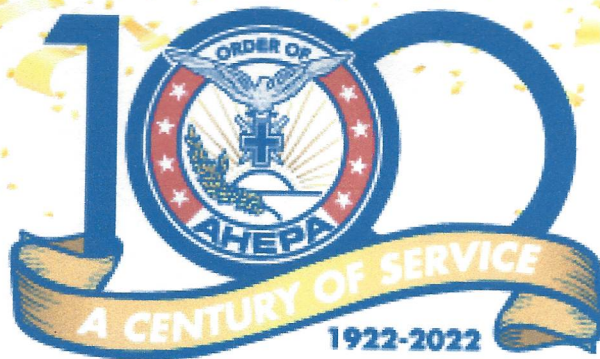


Please complete the brief form below and leave it at the church office, with Jim Christopoulos or with Father Ted. If you'd like more information, feel free to call the church office at 760-568-9901 or Jim Christopoulos at 760-902-8460. You may also email Jim at goofy_328@yahoo.com.

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Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Shift Availability: Saturday 2/18: ___ 9:45-3:00 ___ 3:00-8:15
 Sunday 2/19: ___ 9:45-3:00 ___ 3:00-8:15



*Join AHEPA Chapter 528
for a Greek Island Dinner*



January 28th, 2023

Desert Willow Golf Resort

38995 Desert Willow Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260



No host Cocktails 5pm, 6pm Dinner / Cocktail Attire Preferred

RSVP Required by 01/16/2023

\$75.00 per person

Group Name _____ Qty _____

Payable to: AHEPA CHAPTER 528

42-215 Washington St A-154 Palm Desert, CA 92211-8031

contact@ahempa528.org - 760.832.2825

Website payments - ahempa528.org/event

First Course - Greek Salad / Romaine Lettuce, Olives, Feta, Cucumber,
Roasted Bell Peppers, Roasted Tomatoes, and Lemon Dressing.

Entree - Duet Plate / Lamb Chop and Chicken Satay Served with Rice and
Roasted Vegetables.

Dessert - Family-Style at Tables / Caramelized Apple Tarte, Baklava.

Beverages - Freshly Brewed Coffee & Iced Tea Service. No-Host Bar.

/Following AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference /

