



JANUARY 22, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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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."

EPISTLE - 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named

Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

ST. TIMOTHY THE APOSTLE – The Apostle Timothy, who was from Lystra of Lycaonia, was born of a Greek (that is, pagan) father and a Jewish mother. His mother's name was Eunice, and his grandmother's name was Lois (II Tim. 1:5). He became the disciple of the Apostle Paul when the latter first preached there, and he followed St. Paul during the whole period of the Apostle's preaching. Afterwards, Timothy was consecrated by him as first Bishop of the church in Ephesus. Under the supervision of John the Evangelist, who governed all the churches in Asia, he completed his life as a martyr in the year 97. He was stoned to death by the heathens, because, as some surmise, he opposed the festival held in honor of Artemis (Diana). The Apostle Paul's First and Second Epistles to Timothy were written to him. – From Archdiocese website: www.goarch.com

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel:

- 1) **Entrance hymn:** *"By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the Myrrh-bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy."/* /Κατέλησας τῷ Σταυρῷ...
- 2) *"O Apostle Timothy, thoroughly schooled in goodness and temperate in all things, a good conscience reverently adorns you. You drew forth from the Chosen Vessel the unrevealable. You kept the faith and completed the straight path. Intercede to Christ our God to save our souls."/* /Χρηστότητα εκδιδαχθεὶς καὶ νηφῶν...
- 3) *"Since you are a deliverer of captives..."* [Hymn of St. George]/Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ελευθερωτῆς...
- 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."/* /Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν αγιάσας...

THE EXAMPLE OF ZACCHAEUS

In today's Gospel passage, we have before us the example of Zacchaeus. Being a tax-collector, Zacchaeus committed the sins of betrayal and theft. He betrayed the Chosen People of God by collecting taxes from them in order to support the Roman Empire. He also defrauded the people from whom he collected taxes. None the less, Zacchaeus provides for each of us the example of repentance.

According to the Law, Zacchaeus was worthy of death. People who knew Zacchaeus had given up on him to such a degree that they condemned Jesus for wanting to be a guest at Zacchaeus' house. As such, Christ teaches us that repentance brings Christ into our "spiritual homes."

This same Gospel passage is read at the House Blessing Service for our faithful. Like with Zacchaeus, Jesus seeks to be the guest in our homes. But, like Zacchaeus, we need to repent of our sin of betrayal against our Lord and our fellow human beings, as well of our sin of self-centeredness. Just as we welcome any guest to our home by cleaning it and straightening it up, it would be a mistake for us to consider welcoming Christ into our home without cleaning up our souls – meaning that we set our motives aright and seek to do all that is according to His Will.

Repentance of sins gives a strong message of hope for everyone, because our Savior always shows that, with our repentance, He forgives our sins. In turn, by way of our example, we can give a strong message of faith and love for our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

+FR. THEODORE

Στὴ σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ἔχουμε μπροστά μας τὸ παράδειγμα τοῦ Ζακχαίου. Ὁ Ζακχαῖος διέπραξε πολλές αμαρτίες. Επρόδωσε τὸν λαὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ εισπράττοντας φόρους γιὰ νὰ υποστηρίξει τὴ Ρωμαϊκή Αυτοκρατορία. Ἐπισης, ἐξαπάτησε καὶ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἀπὸ τοὺς ὁποίους εἰσέπραττε φόρους. Παρόλα αὐτὰ, ὁ Ζακχαῖος παρέχει στὸν καθένα μας τὸ παράδειγμα τῆς μετάνοιας.

Σύμφωνα με τὸ Νόμο, ὁ Ζακχαῖος ἔπρεπε νὰ πεθάνει. Οἱ ἀνθρώποι ποὺ ἐγνώριζαν τὸν Ζακχαῖο τὸν ἐκαταδίκασαν καὶ ἐκαταδίκασαν καὶ τὸν Χριστὸ ποὺ ἐζήτησε ἀπὸ τὸν Ζακχαῖο τὴν φιλοξενίαν του. Ὡστόσο, ὁ Χριστὸς μας διδάσκει ὅτι ἡ μετάνοια φέρνει τὸν Χριστὸ στὸ «ψυχικὸ μας σπιτι.»

Αὐτὴ ἡ ἴδια Ευαγγελική περικοπή διαβάζεται ὅταν ὁ ἱερέας ἐκτελεῖ τὴν ἀκολουθία τοῦ Ἀγιασμοῦ γιὰ νὰ εὐλογήσει ἕνα καινούριο σπιτι τῶν ἐνοριτῶν. Ὅπως καὶ με τὸν Ζακχαῖο, ὁ Ἰησοῦς ζητᾷ νὰ εἶναι φιλοξενούμενος στα σπιτία μας. Ὅμως, σαν τὸν Ζακχαῖο, χρειάζεται νὰ μετανοήσουμε γιὰ τὶς αμαρτίες μας, ὅπως σαν τὴν προδοσία ἐναντίον τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ τῶν συνανθρώπων μας, καθὼς καὶ γιὰ τὴν αμαρτία τοῦ ἐγωκεντρισμοῦ μας. Ἀκριβῶς ὅπως καλωσορίζουμε ὁποιοδήποτε ἐπισκέπτη στὸ σπιτι μας καὶ τὸ καθαρίζουμε καὶ τὸ τακτοποιούμε, θὰ ἦταν λάθος νὰ καλωσορίσουμε τὸν Χριστὸ στὸ σπιτι μας χωρὶς νὰ καθαρίσουμε τὶς ψυχές μας, καὶ νὰ ἐπιδιώκουμε ὅ,τι εἶναι σύμφωνα με τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ.

+Ὁ ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, January 23rd.....Work throughout this week continues for Festival food item preparation beginning at 9:00 a.m. On Wednesday this week, *work will continue following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.* (please note the early start).
- Wednesday, January 25th.....ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN
Orthros-8:00 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 28th.....Welcome to AHEPA District 20 delegates - Homewood Suites Hotel, 36999 Cook St., Palm Desert, CA. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 29th.....AHEPA District 20 Mid-Week Conference- Homewood Suites Hotel, 36999 Cook St., Palm Desert / AHEPA Chapter 528 "Greek Island Dinner" at Desert Willow Golf Resort, 38995 Desert Willow Dr., Palm Desert, California - No Host Cocktails-5:00 p.m.; Dinner-6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** -- 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** – 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) The **Festival Program** will be printed over the next few weeks. 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 for \$250**. See enclosed Festival Ad Form.
- **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. Flyers are available in our parish hall. 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. Please see the enclosed flyer!
- **ORTHODOX ACADEMY** – **Sunday, February 5th** during our coffee hour – a special presentation regarding a newly formed **Orthodox Christian elementary school** in the Inland Empire.

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.

.....
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

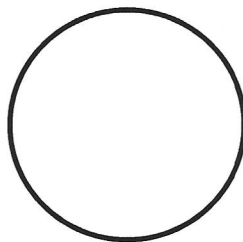


2023 ST. GEORGE PALM DESERT FESTIVAL ADS

The details for our 2023 Festival ads are as follows:

1. A business logo**\$500**

Sample size:



2. A personal greeting ad of best wishes from family and/or friends of our parish.....**\$250**

Sample:

“Best wishes for success of the St. George 2023 St.
George Greek Festival:

X

”

(PRINT family or individual name as it is to appear in the greeting ad on the line above)

.....
Please include our business (or us) a supporters or the 2023 St. George Greek Festival.

(Please check your choice)

- 1) Enclosed is a check, made out to “St. George Greek Orthodox Church” for a business ad (\$500)
2) Enclosed is a check, made out to “St. George Greek Orthodox Church” for a personal greeting ad (\$250)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

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

Living the Liturgy

with

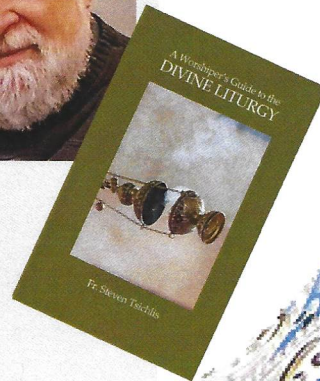
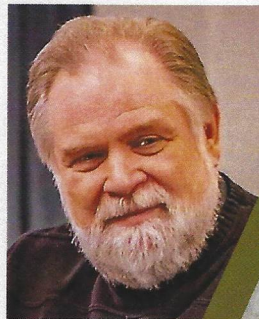
Father Steven Tsihlis

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