



JUNE 18, 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



EPISTLE— Romans 2:10-16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) "O 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 λιθου σφραγισθεντος...

2) "Since You are a deliverer of captives..." / Ως των αιχμαλωτων ελευθεροτης... [Hymn for St. George]

3) Kontakion: "Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In Your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You." / Προστασια των Χριστιανων...

A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER

"Enlighten now my mind's eye, open my mouth to study Your words and understand Your commandments, to do Your will and sing to You in heartfelt adoration, and praise Your most Holy Name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Yesterday's Gospel passage, St. Matthew 7:1-8, reminds us of Jesus' words, "Judge not, that you be not judged...First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." This leads us to today's Epistle passage, with these words, "[Gentiles] show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus." (Romans 2:15-16). Thus, we are not allowed to condemn other people, but we are responsible to be examples of a virtuous way of life in reflecting God's love. In this respect, we resemble the Apostles, who, as we heard in today's Gospel passage, left everything behind and followed Jesus throughout His ministry.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to follow Jesus by living the life of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit. Love means that we defend the teaching of our Lord. It does not mean that we compromise His teachings by agreeing that teachings and practices which are contrary to God's Law are in any way virtuous, or helpful in this present life, or beneficial for life in God's Eternal Kingdom. We must be vigilant in defending our Faith, first by following our Lord in living the life of the Church, and, second, by discerning the mentality of our age so that we are not deceived into accepting falsehood as truth. The life of the Church is itself the "guiding rule" by which we can discern whether behaviors, both those performed by us as individuals, as well as those that are popularized by society, are virtuous or sinful – and, in doing so, we are to urge our loved ones and others to avoid sins and cling to virtues. +FR. THEODORE

Η χθεσινή περικοπή, εκ του Ευαγγελίου κατά Ματθαίον, 7:1-8, μας θυμίζει τα λόγια του Ιησού, «Μὴ κρίνετε, ἵνα μὴ κριθήτε· ...ἐκβαλε πρῶτον τὴν δοκὸν ἐκ τοῦ ὀφθαλμοῦ σου, καὶ τότε διαβλέψεις ἐκβαλεῖν τὸ κάρφος ἐκ τοῦ ὀφθαλμοῦ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ σου.» Αυτό μας οδηγεί στη σημερινή περικοπή εκ της Επιστολής του Αγ. Παύλου, που έγραψε, «Ὅταν γὰρ τὰ ἔθνη τὰ μὴ νόμον ἔχοντα φύσει τὰ τοῦ νόμου ποιῆ, οὗτοι νόμον μὴ ἔχοντες εαυτοῖς εἰσι νόμος, οἵτινες ἐνδείκνυνται τὸ ἔργον τοῦ νόμου γραπτὸν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν συμμαρτυροῦσης αὐτῶν τῆς συνειδήσεως καὶ μεταξὺ ἀλλήλων τῶν λογισμῶν κατηγορούντων ἢ καὶ ἀπολογουμένων - ἐν ἡμέρα ὅτε κρινεῖ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ κρυπτά τῶν ἀνθρώπων κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.» (Ρωμ. 2:15-16). Έτσι, δεν επιτρέπεται να καταδικάζουμε άλλους ανθρώπους, αλλά εἴμεθα υπεύθυνοι να εἴμεθα παραδείγματα ἐνάρετου τρόπου ζωῆς ἀντανακλώντας τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀπὸ αὐτὴ τὴν ἀποψη, μοιάζουμε με τοὺς Ἀποστόλους, οἱ ὁποῖοι, ὅπως ἀκούσαμε στὴ σημερινή περικοπή τοῦ Ευαγγελίου, ἀφησαν τὰ πάντα πίσω καὶ ἀκολούθησαν τὸν Ἰησοῦ στὴν διακονία Του.

Ὡς Ὀρθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, καλούμεθα να ἀκολουθήσουμε τὸν Χριστὸ ζώντας τὴ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, καθοδηγούμενοι ἀπὸ τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα. Ἀγάπη σημαίνει ὅτι υπερασπιζόμεθα τὴν διδασκαλία τοῦ Κυρίου μας. Δὲν σημαίνει ὅτι συμβιβαζόμεθα με τὶς διδασκαλίες Του συμφωνώντας ὅτι οἱ πολλὲς σημερινὲς διδασκαλίες καὶ πράξεις ποὺ ἀντιτάσσουν τὸν Νόμο τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀκόμα εἶναι ἐνάρετες, ἢ βοηθητικὲς στὴν ἐδῶ μας ζωὴ, ἢ ωφέλιμες γιὰ τὴν Αἰώνιον Ζωή. Πρέπει να εἴμεθα σε ἐγρήγορη στὴν υπεράσπιση τῆς πίστεώς μας, πρῶτα ἀκολουθώντας τὸν Χριστὸ δια μέσου τῆς ζωῆς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ, δεῦτερον, διακρίνοντας τὴ νοοτροπία τῆς ἐποχῆς μας, ὥστε να μὴν ἐξαπατηθούμε να δεχθούμε τὸ ψέμα ὡς ἀλήθεια. Ἡ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας εἶναι ἡ ἴδια ὁ «κάνοντας» με τὸν ὁποῖο μπορούμε να διακρίνουμε ἐὰν οἱ συμπεριφορὲς, τόσο αὐτὲς ποὺ κάνουμε ὡς άτομα ὅσο καὶ ἐκείνες ποὺ διαδίδονται ἀπὸ τὴν κοινωνία, εἶναι ἐνάρετες ἢ ἀμαρτωλὲς – καὶ κάνοντας αὐτὸ, πρέπει να παροτρύνουμε τοὺς ἀγαπημένους μας καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους να ἀποφεύγουν τὶς ἀμαρτίες καὶ να προσκολλῶνται στὶς ἀρετὲς.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Fr. Ted will be away this week from this afternoon, and returning on Friday, June 23rd.** In the event of an emergency, contact **Fr. David Kruse**, pastor of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms, California at **(760) 408-6116**.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS**—One of the important “Summer Projects” of our St. George Philoptochos is the “**Making of No-Sew Throws and Blankets**” for the homebound and/or for hospital patients. Those who are interested in helping may contact our Philoptochos President, **Rhonda Latkovic**.

IN MEMORIUM: We all pray to Christ our God for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for His beloved servant, **Nicholas Demetropoulos**, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, June 2, 2023. **Nicholas Demetropoulos** loved our St. George parish dearly. He contributed toward the costs of the new mosaic icons which grace the north and south walls of our church edifice. In May, we were blessed to receive our new **artophorion (tabernacle)** which is permanently in place on the Holy Altar Table, depicted in this picture:



On Thursday, June 15th, the Funeral Services for our beloved **Nicholas Demetropoulos** were scheduled as follows:

Sunday, July 16th..... Trisagion Service at Forrest Lawn Mortuary at 69855 E, 69855 Ramon Rd, Cathedral City, CA 92234 at: **6:00 p.m.**

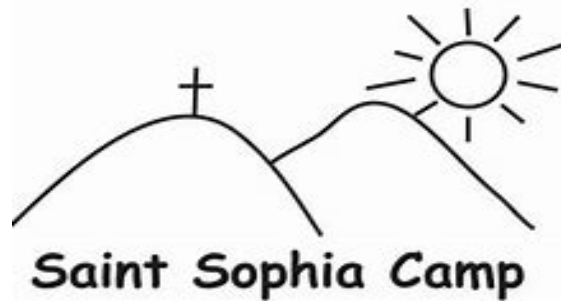
Monday, July 17th.....Funeral Services at our St. George Greek Orthodox Church — **10:00 a.m.**
--Trisagion at Burial- **1:15 p.m.** at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California.



The beauty of our Holy Altar Table was recently enhanced by the addition of our new Altar Candlesticks, lovingly donated by **Ed & Cindy Maletis**. To the left is a close-up of one of the beautiful candlesticks. To the right, both are visible at their place on the Altar Table.



The beauty of our Altar Table was recently further enhanced by the new Green Altar Coverings for the Pentecostal Season. It is a gift given by **Tasia Richards**.



REGISTRATION FOR ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP IS NOW OPEN

Week #1: July 23rd -July 29th, 2023

Week #2: July 29th -August 5th, 2023

Payment Information

- Price if Paying By Check: \$600 per week, per camper.
Please mail checks to:
Saint Sophia Cathedral
c/o Saint Sophia Camp
1324 S. Normandie Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90006
- Price if Paying Online: \$615 per week, per camper. Please make payment [here](#) .

Building Lifelong Memories through Faith, Fellowship and Fun

Saint Sophia Camp continues on, operating at Camp Seely in beautiful Crestline, California for a two week season every summer. The ministry of Saint Sophia Camp continues to have a positive impact on countless lives, many past campers have children of their own who attend camp each summer continuing the legacy and traditions of Saint Sophia Camp.

AHEPA Chapter 528 is offering Grants to help children of St George Orthodox Church of the Desert and AHEPA Chapter 528 attend camp. A letter of support requested by the child must be sent to contact@ahepa528.org stating their request and what it means to them to have the opportunity.

Families must be stewards of St. George Church or members of AHEPA Chapter 528.
The amount is \$250.00 grant per child.