



NOVEMBER 5, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT
74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260
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Mailing Address:
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Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
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- 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 - Gal. 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL-Lk. 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and

licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

## Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own Will, He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection." / Τον Συνάναρχον Λόγον...

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

5) **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." / Προστασία των Χριστιανών...

## THE CROSS OF CHRIST GIVES US PURPOSE IN LIFE

St. Paul pointed out to the Galatians that it is not enough for one to be circumcised by sacrificing a portion of flesh. For followers of Christ, much more is required -- not circumcision, but crucifixion! Crucifixion on the Cross of Christ means that, as Christ gave His life for the life of the world, we give ourselves over to Christ for the salvation of others. Through crucifixion of our egos to Christ, we participate in the reality of His resurrection and our lives become meaningful. Indeed, we have purpose. Rather than neglecting others while living in our boredom or depression, we are empowered! With the honor of being a co-worker with Christ, come the responsibilities of ministering to others for Christ. Neglect of our relationship with God and neglect of the needs of others are sins.

Carrying responsibilities for the good of others is a way of spiritually carrying the Cross of our Lord. It's much easier to carry such crosses when we "get over ourselves" and care about others with Christ-like love. The Gospel passage today teaches us that Christ-like love is not love of things or of people who can give us things. It is love that makes us become concerned for the welfare of the people around us -- a love that gives and offers, rather than takes and consumes.

The wicked rich man was so involved with himself that he could not see his own neglect of Lazarus. He was not a robber or a killer; he was greatly self-absorbed. Such self-absorption bought him a ticket to a place far away from God's Kingdom, filled with misery and separated by a great chasm -- the chasm that exists between good and evil - and the two can never meet or co-exist. +FR. THEODORE

Ο Άγιος Παύλος είπε στους Γαλάτας ότι δεν αρκεί να περιτμηθεί κανείς θυσιάζοντας ένα μέρος της σαρκός του. Για όσους ακολουθούν τον Χριστό, απαιτούνται πολύ περισσότερα -- όχι περιτομή, αλλά σταύρωσις! Η σταύρωσις μας στον Σταυρό του Χριστού σημαίνει ότι, όπως ο Χριστός έδωσε τη ζωή Του για τη ζωή του κόσμου, παραδίδουμε τον εαυτό μας στον Χριστό για τη σωτηρία των άλλων. Μέσω της σταύρωσής του «εγώ» μας στον Χριστό, συμμετέχουμε στην πραγματικότητα της ανάστασής Του και η ζωή μας παίρνει θεϊκό σκοπό. Αντί να παραμελούμε τους άλλους ενώ ζούμε σε πλήξη ή σε κατάπτωση, παίρνουμε μεγάλη πνευματική δύναμη! Με την τιμή μας να είμεθα συνεργάτες με τον Χριστό, έρχονται οι πνευματικές ευθύνες μας προς άλλους για τον Χριστό. Η παραμέληση της σχέσης μας με τον Θεό και η παραμέληση της σωτηρίας των άλλων είναι αμαρτίες.

Η αποδοχή των ευθυνών μας για το καλό των άλλων είναι ένας τρόπος να βαστάμε στους ψυχικούς ώμους μας τον Σταυρό του Κυρίου μας. Είναι πολύ πιό εύκολο να κουβαλάμε τέτοιους σταυρούς όταν αφήνουμε στην άκρη το «εγώ» μας και εννοιαζόμεθα για τους άλλους με την «εν Χριστώ» αγάπη. Η Ευαγγελική περικοπή σήμερα μας διδάσκει ότι η «εν Χριστώ» αγάπη δεν είναι αγάπη για πράγματα ή για ανθρώπους που μπορούν να μας δώσουν πράγματα. Είναι η αγάπη που μας κάνει να ενδιαφερόμεθα για την ευημερία των ανθρώπων γύρω μας -- μιά αγάπη που δίνει και προσφέρει, αντί να αρπάζει και να κατέχει.

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα-- -->

Ο κακός πλούσιος ασχολήθηκε τόσο με τον εαυτό του που δεν μπορούσε να δει την παραμέλησή του προς τον Λάζαρο. Δεν ήταν ληστής ή δολοφόνος. Ήταν πολύ αυτοαπορροφημένος. Με τέτοια αυτοαπορρόφηση αγόρασε εισιτήριο για ένα μέρος μακριά από τη Βασιλεία του Θεού, γεμάτο αποδυστυχία και που χωρίζεται από ένα μεγάλο χάσμα -- το χάσμα που υπάρχει μεταξύ του ενάρτου και της κακίας και που δεν μπορούν ποτέ να ενωθούν ή να συνοπάρξουν. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 7th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 8th.....ARCHANGELS MICHAEL & GABRIEL  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 9th.....ST. NECTARIOS THE WONDERWORKER  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./DivineLiturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 11th.....Philoptochos “Welcome Back to the Desert” Party-4:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, November 12th.....Sunday School classes resume; Christmas Program preparations; “Paint & Sip” Party - 12:00 noon

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL – Regular Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, November 12th, with added attention to our annual Sunday School Christmas Program**, which will be presented on **Sunday, December 10, 2023**, the theme of which is “Living Icons of the Nativity.” See the enclosed Sunday School 2023-2024 Family Calendar.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS -Baking** for the Philoptochos holiday **gift baskets** and the **Christmas Bake Sale** begins tomorrow! Don’t wait to be called. Contact **Tina Veroulis** to volunteer time and effort.  
  
Mark **Saturday** and **Sunday, November 11th and 12th** on your calendars! November 11th is the **Philoptochos “Welcome Back to the Desert” Cocktail Party** beginning at **4:00 p.m.** -- and November 12th is the **Philoptochos “Paint & Sip” Party**, beginning at **12 noon**. See the enclosed flyers.  
  
Enclosed is the “Philoptochos Christmas Party” flyer. This year’s **Philoptochos Christmas Party** and Luncheon will take place at Sun City on Sunday, **December 9th at 11:00 a.m.**
- **VETERANS TO BE HONORED** – Those members of our parish who have served in the Armed Forces, or who are currently serving in the Armed Forces, will be honored following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, November 12, 2023**. Please give names and branch of service to Fr. Ted by Friday, November 10th.
- **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD** – Enclosed, please find a copy of our annual “St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Form.” We look forward to everyone’s participation in sharing the blessings of our Lord’s Nativity.
- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - This upcoming week we are mailing to all of our parish stewards the notification of our **St. George Fall General Assembly Meeting**, which will be held following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in our parish hall on **Sunday, November 19, 2023**. Included in the mailing will be copies of the minutes from the last General Assembly Meeting and financial reports, along with updates regarding our parish programs and ministries. Those who have and are contributing responsible stewardship contributions toward their 2023 Stewardship Pledge may participate in this important Fall General Assembly Meeting.

# 2023 CHRISTMAS CARD



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to 74109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to Tina Veroulis in the office. We would appreciate the return of the form by November 25, 2023.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_


Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: November 25, 2023**



# **Welcome Back to the Desert Cocktail Reception!**



*sponsored by The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society  
(this is a free will donation event)*

**Saturday, November 11th, 2023**  
**4:00 pm - 6:30 pm**  
**St. George Church Hall**



*Join us for complimentary Greek appetizers!*

*Refreshments including soft drinks, wine, &  
beer!*

*Greek music!*



*RSVP by 11/5/23 via text or email to*  
*(714) 875-4661*



Come join us at St. George Church, Palm Desert, CA

# PAINT & SIP Party



**SUNDAY**

**November 12th @ 12:00 PM**

**\$15**  
per person

**Hosted By: Philoptochos**

Bring your friends and join us for a fun  
afternoon with an instructional  
painting class, appetizers and wine!

Makes a perfect gift for the holidays!



**SIGN UP TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR!**

**Or call Rhonda 714-875-4661 or Athena 219-313-6940**

# ***Philoptochos Christmas Party***

**Dec. 9th 11:00 am**

**Sun City Clubhouse**

**38180 Del Webb Blvd, Palm Desert**

*Please Join Us! Bring a Friend!*

**-RSVP by December 4th-**

Luncheon Price \$60.00 per person includes:

Buffet luncheon with Tri-tip steak & baked fish, salad, potatoes, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables & bread plus a special dessert. Coffee, iced tea, & water included. Cash Bar.  
\*Vegetarian meal option is available.

***Cash Bar! Music! Hostess Gift! Raffle!***

\*\*\*\*\*  
I am attending: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

I am bringing a guest: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
Total Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ CC \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer at: \*Vegetarian Meal (circle)

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# ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH






74109 Larrea St, Palm Desert, CA – 760-568-9901

FR. Ted Pantels 760-880-5869 – Mrs. Athena Snarskis 219-313-6940

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023/24 FAMILY CALENDER

*Sunday School Class – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month.*

*Outreach Project events – TBA each month see below*

Sept 10	Regular class schedule	
Sept 17	Regular class schedule for SERVICE PROJECT	
Sept 24	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Oct 1	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Oct 8	Regular class schedule	
Oct 15	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Oct 22	Regular class schedule – HARVEST PATIO PARTY!	
Oct 29	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Nov 5	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Nov 12	Regular class schedule - Nativity Practice	
Nov 19	Regular class schedule - Nativity Practice	
Nov 26	Regular class schedule - Nativity Practice	
Dec 3	Regular class schedule - Nativity Practice	
Dec 10	"LIVING ICONS OF THE NATIVITY" PROGRAM	
Dec 17	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Dec 24	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Dec 31	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Jan 7, 2024	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Jan 14	Regular class schedule	
Jan 21	Family Worship Sunday (class not held)	
Jan 28	Regular class schedule – SERVICE PROJECT TBA	