



NOVEMBER 19, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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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-Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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.”* / Κατέλυσας τὸ Σταυρῶ...

2) *“Since you are a deliverer of captives...”* [Hymn of St. George] / Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς...

3) **Kontakion:** *“Today the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God enters this house of the Lord bringing with Her the grace of the Divine Spirit. The angels of God praise Her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.”* / Ὁ Καθαρῶτατος Ναός...

"HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR"

Our Lord concluded the parable that we heard from today's Gospel passage, saying, *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”* These words of our Savior are found at least 14 times throughout the New Testament. These are words of God's love! They are words that are the essence of any relationship that we can have with God and with the people around us.

Our very livelihoods are based on listening. Doing any business and/or living harmoniously as members of a family is a matter of listening to the needs expressed by the customer or the loved one in order to know how to respond. Children need to listen to their parents in order to know what is good for them. In the same way, we, being children of God, need to listen to the voice God that is found in the Bible, as well as in our conscience in order for us to know what is good for us. It's hard to listen when we are focused on our own agenda, or daydreaming, or when we are doing all the talking. Prayer is not so much a matter of talking, but of listening to God. Ultimately, it is a lifestyle of spiritual contemplation and “the silence” that is spoken of by our Saints. It requires humility, knowing that what God wants is not always what we want – and what we want is not always good for us.

Today, our Lord tells us that whatever is good for our soul is more precious than all the treasures of the world, because God treasures our soul far more. We know this from our Saints; for, with God, miracles occur that cannot be bought with all the treasures of the world. +FR. THEODORE

Ο Χριστός ετελείωσε την παραβολή που ακούσαμε κατά το ανάγνωσμα της σημερινής περικοπής του Ευαγγελίου, λέγοντας: «*Ὁ ἔχων ὠτα ἀκούειν, ἀκουέτω!*» Αυτά τα λόγια του Σωτήρος μας ευρίσκονται τουλάχιστον 14 φορές στην Καινή Διαθήκη. Αυτά είναι λόγια της του Θεού αγάπης! Είναι λέξεις που αποτελούν την ουσία κάθε σχέσης που μπορούμε να έχουμε με τον Θεό και με τους ανθρώπους γύρω μας.

Η ίδια η ζωή μας βασίζεται στην προθυμία μας να ακούσουμε με προσοχή τον άλλον. Το να κάνουμε οποιαδήποτε επιχείρηση ή/και να ζούμε αρμονικά ως μέλη μίας οικογένειας είναι θέμα προσεκτικής ακρόασης για να γνωρίσουμε τις σκέψεις και τις ανάγκες που εκφράζονται από τον πελάτη, ή από το αγαπημένο πρόσωπο για να ανταποκριθούμε όπως πρέπει. Τα παιδιά πρέπει να ακούν τους γονείς τους για να ξέρουν τι είναι για το καλό τους. Με τον ίδιο τρόπο, εμείς, ως τέκνα του Θεού, χρειάζεται να ακούμε προσεκτικώς τη φωνή του Θεού που ευρίσκεται στη Αγία Γραφή, καθώς και στη συνείδησή μας για να ξέρουμε τι είναι το καλό για εμάς. Είναι δύσκολο να ακούμε για τις ανάγκες των άλλων όταν ενδιαφερόμεθα μόνον για τα δικά μας θέματα, ή όταν όλο μιλάμε συνέχεια. Η προσευχή δεν είναι τόσο θέμα ομιλίας, αλλά προσοχή στην φωνή του Θεού. Τελικά, είναι μια πνευματική ζωή και «η σιωπή» περί της οποίας ομιλούν οι Άγιοι μας. Η πνευματική ζωή απαιτεί από εμάς ταπεινοφροσύνη, γνωρίζοντας ότι αυτό που θέλει ο Θεός δεν είναι πάντοτε αυτό που θέλουμε – και αυτό που θέλουμε δεν είναι πάντοτε για το καλό εμάς.

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα-- -->

Σήμερα, ο Χριστός μας λέει ότι ό,τι είναι καλό για την ψυχή μας είναι πιο πολύτιμη από όλους τους θησαυρούς του κόσμου, γιατί ο Θεός εκτιμά την ψυχή μας πολύ περισσότερο από όλο τον χρυσό του κόσμου. Αυτό το μαθαίνουμε γνωρίζοντας τους Αγίους μας, γιατί, με τον Θεό, γίνονται θαύματα που δεν μπορούν να αγοραστούν με όλους τους θησαυρούς του κόσμου. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Naomi Haralambidis (40 days)**, the beloved cousin of Tasia Richards. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Naomi Haralambidis** and may He grant peace and comfort to Tasia Richards and family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 21st.....PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Bible Study-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 23rd....Thanksgiving Day (office closed)

Saturday, November 25th.....ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Today, ST. GEORGE FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY** -Those who have and are contributing responsible stewardship contributions toward next their 2023 Stewardship Pledge may participate in this important Fall General Assembly Meeting.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Regular Sunday School classes resume today, 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** – 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.**
- **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.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 325/2023

Archepiscopal Encyclical for Thanksgiving

November 23, 2023

Unto the...entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Give thanks in everything, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
(I Thessalonians 5:18)

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our National Day of Thanksgiving arrives in a time when the world is in turmoil, and “wars and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6) cast a pall over the global community. It is often difficult to muster the intention to be thankful in such moments. But as the Apostle Paul reminds us in his first letter to the nascent Christian community in Thessaloniki, we fulfill the will of God by our gratitude. This does not mean that we are thankful for the miseries that afflict the world, but that even in such distressing and sad circumstances, we persist through them.

President Abraham Lincoln, in one of his precursor “Thanksgiving” proclamations (July 15, 1863), just days after the bloody victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, said: “It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father, and the power of His hand, equally in these triumphs and in these sorrows.” In the midst of the brutal Civil War, Lincoln acknowledged the “presence” of God. And this is what giving thanks in all things really means.

The gratitude that is expressed in our Thanksgiving meals and gatherings is an acknowledgment of God’s ultimate will in our lives. We pass through suffering in this world, but like the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we also pass-over to Resurrection. We can look around and give in to despair, or we can give thanks to God for His will that “all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).

Therefore, my beloved Christians, on this Thanksgiving Day, let us look beyond to the truth of God’s providential love for us, and offer Him the gratitude which can transform our world into His Kingdom.

With gratitude for each and every one of you
in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

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

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)

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 2nd 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	

Sunday School Families and Parishioners!

Below is “The Nativity Hymn” we will all sing together at the end of our program “**ICONS OF THE NATIVITY**” on **Sunday, December 10th, 2023**.

We have included a **BEAUTIFUL RECORDING** from our Deaconess Krisann Kontaxis for you to learn and practice together!

Many Blessings!

Fr. Ted Pantels, Presb. Petula Pantels
& Mrs. Athena Snarskis



Thy Nativity Hymn

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
Has shine the light of knowledge upon the world,
For thereby, they that worship the stars,
Were instructed by a star, to worship Thee, the Sun of righteousness,
And to know Thee, the Day-Spring from on high,
O Lord Glory be to Thee!