



NOVEMBER 26, 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 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do

you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is our response to God's grace and moves us from grace to gratitude. Just as we love because God first loved us (I John 4:14), we give because God first gave to us. The question of the Psalmist 'What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits towards me?' (Ps 116:2), is answered in every liturgy when we pray, 'Let us offer ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.'...As Eucharistic Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God's gift. We offer the world back to God in thanksgiving with the words, 'Thine own of Thine own we offer to Thee....''

- Taken from www.goarch.org. Written by Fr. Jim Kordaris, Director of the Archdiocese Department of Stewardship and Evangelism.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** *“O Merciful One You came from on high, and condescended to Your three day burial, to save us from passions. You are our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to You.”* / Εξ ὕψους κατήλθες...

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

3) **Kontakion:** *“Today the Virgin comes to the cave to ineffably give birth to the eternal Logos. Harkening to this, rejoice, O Universe, and with the angels and shepherds glorify Him, the God before all ages, Who willed to be held as a young child.”* / Η Παρθένος σήμερον...

THE CHURCH IS OUR SPIRITUAL HOME

As members of our Savior’s Church, we are to be of one mind and one heart, united with Christ and with each other in the spirit of faith and humility; with patience, forbearing one another with love in a bond of peace. In contrast to today’s message from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians, we have the image of the ruler from today’s Gospel according to St. Luke, who wanted to know what was required of him to inherit Eternal Life for himself.

At heart, the ruler was interested in his own salvation, not in the salvation of others. The very essence of our Lord’s message to him is that his salvation depended on his faith in God and his love for others. Telling him to sell all that he had and to give to the poor was not intended to turn the ruler into a poor beggar himself. In fact, the Apostles, though not wealthy, were still not poor beggars or burdens to others. In telling him to sell his possessions and give to the poor, our Lord is telling us to avoid being self-centered and to offer care for the welfare of others, having faith in God, with Whom all things are possible, rather than placing our whole faith in material possessions.

Care for others includes praying for others; comforting others; respecting others – giving our time and talents for the welfare of others – all of this is important for our salvation in Christ. If we remember that the Church is our spiritual home, material possessions take on a different meaning than if we think of the Church as a “business.” We do not think of our families as a “business,” even though we know that possessions are important to our physical wellbeing. Ideally, every family addresses its economic concerns in an atmosphere of *love*. In the same way, let us think of our Church as our family, with love for one another and faith in God. +FR. THEODORE

Ὡς μέλη της Αληθινῆς Εκκλησίας του Χριστοῦ, πρέπει να εἴμεθα ἄνθρωποι ενός πνεύματος και μιᾶς καρδιάς, ενωμένοι με τον Χριστό και μεταξύ μας εν πνεύματι της πίστεως και της ταπεινοφροσύνης με υπομονή, ἀνέχοντας ο ἕνας τον ἄλλον με ἀγάπη στην δεσμό της ειρήνης. Σε ἀντίθεση με την σημερινή περικοπή εκ της Επιστολῆς του Αποστόλου Παύλου προς Εφεσίους, ἔχουμε το παράδειγμα του ηγεμόνα εκ της σημερινῆς περικοπῆς του κατὰ Λουκᾶν Ευαγγελίου, ο οποίος ἤθελε να μάθει τι χρειαζόταν για τον εαυτόν του ὥστε να κληρονομήσει ο ἴδιος την Αἰώνιον Ζωήν.

Κατὰ βάθος, ο ηγεμὼν ενδιαφερόταν για τη δική του σωτηρία, ὄχι για τη σωτηρία των ἄλλων. Η ουσία του λόγου του Κυρίου προς αὐτόν ἦταν ὅτι η σωτηρία του εἶναι θέμα της πίστεώς του στον Θεό και της ἀγάπης του για τους ἄλλους. Εκεί που ο Χριστός του εἶπε να πουλήσει ὅ,τι εἶχε και να δώσει στους φτωχοὺς δεν εἶχε σκοπὸ να μετατρέψει τον ἴδιο τον ηγεμόνα σε φτωχὸ ζητιάνο. Στην πραγματικότητα, οι Απόστολοι, αν και δεν ἦσαν πλούσιοι, δεν ἦσαν ἀκόμη φτωχοὶ ζητιάνοι εις βάρος των ἄλλων. Εκεί ὅπου ο Χριστός του εἶπε να πουλήσει τα υπάρχοντά του και να δώσει στους φτωχοὺς, μας λέει να μην ενδιαφερόμεθα μόνον για τον εαυτόν μας, ἀλλὰ να προσφέρουμε καλὰ ἔργα γὰ την ευημερία των ἄλλων, ἔχοντας πίστη στον Θεό, με τον Οποῖο ὅλα εἶναι δυνατὰ, παρά να ἔχουμε ἀπόλυτη πίστη στα υλικά αγαθὰ.

Συνέχεια στην ἐπόμενη σελίδα-- -->

Η φροντίδα για τους άλλους περιλαμβάνει προσευχή για τους άλλους, παρηγοριά για όσους υποφέρουν, σεβασμό για τους άλλους γύρω μας – το να προσφέρουμε τον χρόνο, τις οικονομικές δωρεές, και τα ταλέντα μας για την ευημερία των άλλων – όλα χρειάζονται επίσης για την εν Χριστώ σωτηρία μας. Στην αλήθεια, η Εκκλησία είναι το πνευματικό μας σπίτι, και τα υλικά υπάρχοντα πρέπει να έχουν για εμάς διαφορετική θέση από ό,τι θα είχαν εάν θεωρούσαμε την Εκκλησία ως «εμπόριον». Δεν θεωρούμε τις οικογένειές μας ως «εμπόριον», παρόλο που γνωρίζουμε ότι τα υλικά υπάρχοντα είναι σημαντικά για την σωματική μας ζωή. Ιδανικώς, η οικογένεια κρατά τα «οικονομικά» της σε ατμόσφαιρα αγάπης. Με τον ίδιο τρόπο, ας θεωρήσουμε την Εκκλησία μας σαν οικογένεια, με αγάπη ο ένας για τον άλλον και με πίστη στον Θεό. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Mary Chakos Andros (5 yrs.)**, the beloved mother of Nicholas Andros. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Mary Chakos Andros** and may He grant peace and comfort to Nicholas Andros. MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 28th..... No Bible Study class this week.

Wednesday, November 29th....Online Orthodox Catechism Class – 6:30 p.m. Contact Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 to receive a “Zoom” link.

Thursday, November 30th.....ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 1st Service of the **Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmo)** - 10:00 a.m. Those who cannot participate in the Agiasmo Service may receive Holy Water on Sunday, December 3rd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Regular Sunday School classes continue 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 flyer.
- **ONLINE ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASS** - Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869 to receive a “Zoom” link for the online class.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** – The **Philoptochos Holiday Bake Sale** is underway. Greek pastries are available for purchase today and tomorrow (November 27th). The enclosed flyer indicates the pastries available and their prices. Also 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 is the “**St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Form**” to share in the blessings of our Lord’s Nativity. **Today is the deadline!**
- **PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS** - Those who want to be considered for candidacy for election to the Parish Council for 2024 may receive a “Parish Council Candidacy Form.” Fr. Ted. The forms should be completed and **returned to our office by next Sunday, December 3rd.** A Parish Council member must be a **member of the parish for at least one year** and have been **baptized and, if married, married according to the Rites of the Greek Orthodox Church**, as well as being a **regular participant in the worship life** of our Church. It is also required for one to participate in **Archdiocese Youth Safety Program** by completing the **youth training course** and **background check** in conformity to the requirements of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

ST. GEORGE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS
HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Koulourakia—\$12.00 per 12 pieces

Paximathia —\$12.00 per 12 pieces

Kourembiethes —\$12.00 per 6 pieces

Melamakarona —\$12.00 per 6 pieces

Baklava— \$12.00 per 4 pieces

Combination Boxes available!

Pick-up dates: Today and Monday, November 20th & 27th

Thank you for supporting our Philoptochos Chapter!

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 a: *Vegetarian Meal (circle)

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!