



OCTOBER 15, 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



"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—Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some

fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

THE 7th ECUMENICAL COUNCIL – On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate the holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council, gathered in Nicaea in 787, which upheld the use of Holy Icons for prayer and worship. Icons teach that Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of the Living God -- "True God of True God" -- was Incarnated by the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit and became Man for our salvation.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** *“When You descended to death, O Immortal Life,, then the light of Your divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, ‘Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.’”/ Οτε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον...*

2) *“You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You.”/Υπερδεδοξαομένος...*

3) *“Since you are a deliverer of captives...” [Hymn of St. George]/Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...*

4) **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 BIBLE & THE CHURCH

The first Christians lived in a world in which philosophical schools and non-Christian ideologies abounded. In our own age, however, we have modern Biblical scholarship which began to allow for more liberal interpretations of the Bible, based on conjectures that spring from various types of “research,” or “philosophies,” while dismissing the divine character of Apostolic Tradition. Over time, individuals began to claim the right to interpret the Bible as they see fit, based on personal “research,” giving way to the idea that the Bible is somehow up for debate as to its meaning in our lives, regardless of the teachings of the Church, which was first established by Christ Himself with His Apostles.

Under the current mind-set, as was also the case in St. Paul’s era, when people do not agree with the teachings of the Church, they feel offended when the Church does not agree with them. From St. Paul’s point of view, as noted in his Epistle to Titus, they are “self-condemned,” because they choose to follow their own way, rather than that of Church. In addition, today’s Gospel passage warns us to look into our hearts and souls in order to determine the direction that we want to take in our lives. God’s Word is not at fault if our souls are “choked with the cares of the world,” or if we are unwilling to fight against the devil’s deceptions and temptations. God’s Word is the Eternal Truth manifested in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who Himself is God.

To continue learning about the meaning of the Bible and how it is to be lived, it is necessary to understand the meaning of our prayers in Orthodox worship; to attend Orthodox retreats and Bible studies, and to read Orthodox Christian inspirational writings. In doing so, we adopt the “mind of the Church,” which is, at the same time, the “mind of the Bible” – and, it is in this “mind” that we find peace in our souls. +FR. THEODORE

Οι πρώτοι Χριστιανοί εξηούσαν σε έναν κόσμο στον οποίο οι φιλοσοφικές σχολές και οι μη-Χριστιανικές ιδεολογίες ερύθμιζαν τους τρόπους της κοινωνίας του αρχαίου κόσμου. Στη δική μας εποχή, ωστόσο, έχουμε σύγχρονες θεολογικές σπουδές της Αγίας Γραφής, οι οποίες άρχισαν να επιτρέπουν πιο φιλελεύθερες ερμηνείες της Αγίας Γραφής, βασισμένες σε σκέψεις που πηγάζουν από διάφορους τύπους «έρευνας» ή «φιλοσοφίες», ενώ απορρίπτουν τον θεϊκό χαρακτήρα της Αποστολικής Παραδόσεως. Μετά από πολλά χρόνια, οι άνθρωποι άρχισαν να παίρνουν επάνω τους το δικαίωμα να ερμηνεύουν την Αγία Γραφή όπως θέλουν, σε βάση προσωπικής «έρευνας», μέσω της οποίας έχουν την ιδέα ότι η Αγία Γραφή είναι ένα θέμα για φιλοσοφική συζήτηση ως προς το νόημά της για την σημερινή ζωή μας, ανεξάρτητα από τις διδασκαλίες της Εκκλησίας, που αρχικά ιδρύθηκε από τον Ιδιο τον Χριστό με τους Αποστόλους Του.

Σύμφωνα με τη σημερινή νοοτροπία, όπως συνέβαινε και στην εποχή του Αγίου Παύλου, όταν οι άνθρωποι δεν συμφωνούν με τις διδασκαλίες της Εκκλησίας, αισθάνονται προσβεβλημένοι όταν η

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα-- -->

Εκκλησία δεν συμφωνεί μαζί τους. Από την άποψη του Αγ. Παύλου, όπως σημειώνεται στην Επιστολή του προς τον Τίτο, είναι «αυτοκαταδικασμένοι», επειδή επιλέγουν να ακολουθήσουν τον δικό τους δρόμο, παρά αυτόν της Εκκλησίας. Επιπλέον, η σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή μάς προειδοποιεί να εξετάσουμε τις καρδιές και τις ψυχές μας για να προσδιορίσουμε τον δρόμο που θέλουμε να ακολουθήσουμε στη ζωή μας. Ο Λόγος του Θεού δεν φταίει εάν οι ψυχές μας «πνίγονται από τις μέριμνες του κόσμου» ή αν είμεθα απρόθυμοι να πολεμήσουμε ενάντια στις απάτες και τους πειρασμούς του διαβόλου. Ο Λόγος του Θεού είναι η Αιώνια Αλήθεια που φανερώνεται στο Πρόσωπο του Χριστού, ο Οποίος είναι ο Ιδιος ο Θεός.

Ας συνεχίσουμε να μαθαίνουμε περί της Αγίας Γραφής και πώς πρέπει να την ζούμε. Για αυτό είναι απαραίτητο να κατανοήσουμε το νόημα των προσευχών της Ελληνο-Ορθόδοξου λατρείας μας και να παρακολουθούμε μελέτες της Αγίας Γραφής σύμφωνα με τις διδασκαλίες των Αγίων και να διαβάζουμε Ελληνο-ορθόδοξα βιβλία. Κάνοντας αυτό, θα πάρουμε επάνω μας τον «νου της Εκκλησίας», που είναι, ταυτοχρόνως, ο «νους της Αγίας Γραφής» – και, με αυτήν την νοοτροπία ας έχουμε ειρήνη μεσ' στις ψυχές μας. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 17th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Friday, October 20th.....ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALLONIA
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Let us bring our students together to learn about living the Orthodox Faith and for fellowship! Next **Sunday, October 22nd** is designated as “**Sunday School ‘Bring a Friend Sunday’ and Pumpkin Painting Pizza Party !**” To ensure that each child will have supplies, lunch and more, please R.S.V.P. to Mrs. Athena Snarskis at athna2@aol.com or text 219-313-6940. See the enclosed flyer.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** –
 - 1) We need **Coffee Hour hostesses** for now through the end of the year. Please see the sign-up sheet at the bar area in the parish hall.
 - 2) Philoptochos Board Meeting – Tomorrow, **October 16, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**
 - 3) Philoptochos General Members Meeting – **Monday, October 23, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.**
SAVE THE DATE! Philoptochos Welcome Back Party – Saturday, November 11, 2023
- **OCTOBER SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**
 1. **Our Adult Bible Study sessions originally scheduled for every Wednesday evenings beginning on October 11th is to be rescheduled.** Those who are unable to attend our Tuesday morning Adult Bible Study and are interested in joining an evening or weekend Adult Bible Study are asked to send their email addresses to our parish office at pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com, so that a Zoom link can be provided. Please indicate a preference as to day and evening time that would be convenient. Those who would like to attend an evening or weekend Bible Study in person, inform Fr. Ted accordingly.
 2. **St. George Fall Spiritual Retreat - Saturday, October 28th.** Fr. Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church in Riverside, California, and founder of Patristic Nectar Publications will be our speaker on the theme, “*The Theotokos, Mother of the Light.*” It will be a two-part presentation: 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Luncheon will be provided. Q and A to follow at 2:30 p.m. Plan to join us! See enclosed flyer!



**“THE
THEOTOKOS,
THE MOTHER
OF THE LIGHT”**



Father Josiah Trenham is the Pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church, Riverside, California and he is the founder and director of Patristic Nectar Publications.

**ST. GEORGE
FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT
Saturday, October 28, 2023
Father Josiah Trenham, Guest Speaker
10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

R.S.V. P. to: St. George Fall Spiritual Retreat:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea St.
Palm Desert, California 92260

Telephone; (760) 568-9901/ email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Or, contact Fr. Theodore Pantels, pastor, St. George Greek Orthodox Church:
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