



SEPTEMBER 3, 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 Street
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

- Fr. Theodore Pantels, Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym Kon-taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or-der

- 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 - 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOSPEL - St. Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?'"

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) *“The Women Disciples of the Lord heard from the angel the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, ‘Death is vanquished. Christ our God is risen, bestowing upon the world His great mercy.’/Το φαιδρον.*

2) *“Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Anthimos. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls .”/Καὶ τρόπων μέτοχος...*

3) *“Since You are a deliverer of captives...”/Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ελευθεροτῆς...[Hymn for St. George]*

4) **Kontakion:** *“In Your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of corruption and death. And so Your people, free of guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: ‘The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, Who nourishes our life.’”/Ἰωακείμ και Αννα ονειδισμού...*

TENDING THE VINEYARD

Many of our Orthodox Christian saints speak about the “vineyard of our soul,” from which spiritual fruits are produced. In today’s passage from his First Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul mentions “watchfulness over our faith,” and being *courageous* and *strong* – and doing so with *love*. In Galatians 5: 22-23, he defines the fruits of the Spirit as being , *love, peace, forbearance, kindness, faithfulness, and self-control*. Such fruits, coming from within us are to be offered to God and others. In doing this, we find ourselves tending to a larger vineyard – the vineyard of our Lord’s Holy Church.

Unfortunately, we live in times when many people consider such fruits of the soul as watchfulness, courage, forbearance, kindness and self-control as *weaknesses*, or simply “out of date.” It almost seems normal to live with the fear of violence that erupts due to the ever-so-common feelings of hate, unrest, impatience, rudeness and self-absorption that serve as evidence of “persecuting” Christ our God by casting Him out of the vineyard of our hearts and souls, ignoring His love and mocking His humility. Our Church today is faced with the challenge of inspiring the very idea of repentance to a world in which people rarely even acknowledge that there are any sins anymore, and we ourselves – Orthodox Christians – are also some of those among them.

Let’s not keep our Savior “in our corner” just for “good luck.” He wants us to follow Him, rather than casting Him out of our vineyard, which means that we love one another as our Lord loves us. As Christ God forgives us, we forgive ourselves and others; as Christ resisted temptation, we fight against temptations, and by doing so, we avoid evil and give glory to God in our every day way of life.

+FR. THEODORE

Πολλοί από τους αγίους μας ομιλούν για τον «αμπέλι της ψυχής μας», από τον οποίο προσφέρονται πνευματικοί καρποί. Στην περικοπή εκ της Πρώτης προς Κορινθίους Επιστολής του, ο Άγ. Παύλος αναφέρει την «ενδυνάμωση της πίστεώς μας στον Θεό» και την ανάγκη να είμεθα *θαρραλέοι και ισχυροί* στην προθυμία μας να κάνουμε καλό – και με *αγάπη*. Στην Επιστολή του προς τους Γαλάτες 5:22-23, ορίζει τους καρπούς του Πνεύματος -- *αγάπη, ειρήνη, υπομονή, καλοσύνη, πίστη και εγκράτεια*. Τέτοιοι καρποί, που προέρχονται από μέσα μας, πρέπει να προσφερθούν στον Θεό και σε άλλους. Κάνοντας αυτό, υπηρετούμε επίσης σε έναν μεγαλύτερο αμπελώνα - τον αμπελώνα της του Χριστού Εκκλησίας.

Δυστυχώς, ζούμε σε μια εποχή που πολλοί άνθρωποι θεωρούν τους καρπούς της ψυχής όπως η *εγρήγορη, το θάρρος, η υπομονή, η καλοσύνη και η εγκράτεια* ως *αδυναμίες*, νομίζοντας ότι η πνευματική ζωή είναι απλώς «*ασυγχρόνιστη*». Φαίνεται σχεδόν φυσιολογικό για τον άνθρωπο να ζει με τον φόβο της βίας που ξεσπά λόγω των ολοένα και τόσο κοινών συναισθημάτων μίσους, αναταραχής, ανυπομονησίας, αγένειας και τον γενικό εγωισμό, που αποτελούν απόδειξη ότι «διώκουμε» τον Χριστό διώχνοντάς Τον έξω από τον αμπελώνα των ψυχών μας, αγνοώντας την αγάπη Του και την ταπεινο-

Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα – – – –>

φροσύνη Του. Η Εκκλησία μας σήμερα παλεύει να εμπνεύσει τον κόσμο σχετικά με την ίδια την ιδέα της μετάνοιας σε έναν κόσμο στον οποίο οι άνθρωποι σπανίως παραδέχονται ότι υπάρχει αυτό που λέγεται *αμαρτία*, και εμείς οι ίδιοι – Ελληνορθόδοξοι – είμεθα επίσης μερικοί από αυτούς.

Ας μην έχουμε τον Χριστό στη διάθεσή μας μόνο για «καλή τύχη». Θέλει να Τον ακολουθήσουμε, αντί να Τον διώξουμε από τον αμπελώνα μας, που σημαίνει ότι πρέπει να αγαπάμε ο ένας τον άλλον όπως μας αγαπά ο Χριστός. Όπως μας συγχωρεί ο Χριστός, πρέπει να συγχωρούμε τον εαυτό μας και τους άλλους. Καθώς ο Χριστός αντιστάθηκε στον πειρασμό, πρέπει επίσης να πολεμήσουμε ενάντια στους πειρασμούς -- και με αυτόν τον τρόπο αποφεύγουμε το κακό και προσφέρουμε δόξα στον Θεό μέσω του καθημερινού μας τρόπου ζωής.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Emily Tcharos (1 year)**, the beloved wife of our departed brother in Christ, **George Tcharos** and mother of **Nicholas Tcharos** and **Stephanie Kourakis**, as well as grandmother of **Theoharis** and **Alexander Tcharos** and **Jacob and Anisia Kourakis**. Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Konstantinos Giorgios Tsiamagos (1 year)**, the beloved wife of **Christina Tsiamagos**, and father of **Alexandra Haralambous**, father-in-law of **George Haralambous**; father of **Giorgos Tsiamagos** and father-in-law of **Angela Tsiamagos**, and also, grandfather of **Vasilios, Konstantinos, Giannis and Konstantine Tsiamagos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Emily Tcharos** and **Konstantinos Giorgios Tsiamagos** and may He grant peace and comfort to their families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, September 5th...Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 8th.....THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** classes begin again next Sunday! We look forward to welcoming our Sunday School parents and students on Sunday, September 10, 2023. See attached Sunday School Flyer!
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** – The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Chapter has donated **\$500.00** to the **Greek Orthodox Mission on Maui, Hawaii**. The Maui WildFire Relief Fund donation will assist Orthodox families on Maui who suffered loss. Join the members of our Philoptochos for a viewing at the **Pickford Theater on September 13th of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3" at 5:00 p.m.** Our group has the theater to ourselves. It's **\$20 to join**, proceeds going to the support of our Philoptochos ministries. The \$20 include the movie, refreshments and popcorn! See the enclosed flyer!
- **AHEPA** – Post **Saturday, September 30, 2023** on your calendars and plan to attend the **AHEPA "Dinner Night Out"** celebrating the New Ecclesiastical Year, which begins every year on September 1st. See enclosed flyer. Proceeds to benefit AHEPA scholarships and philanthropic efforts.
- **ST. GEORGE "BELL ACROSS AMERICA EVENT"** – On **Sunday, September 17th**, we will mark the 236th anniversary of the Signing of the United States Constitution which is commemorated annually by the **"Ring of the Bells" across America at 1:00 PM (PST)**. Our St. George Church was chosen as the location for this year's bell ringing event sponsored by the **Daughters of the American Revolution** local Cahuilla Chapter, of which two of our St. George parishioners are members! We are honored to have this event at our parish in recognition of the fact that **the foundations of our American Constitution & Democracy were laid by our ancient Greek ancestors!** Also to let

Continued on the next page – – – –>

you know, **Mayor Kathleen Kelly** is planning to attend the Bell Ringing event as of now unless something comes up. We invite our St. George family to participate! See the attached flyer!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. "PAINT EL PASEO PINK!" More details to follow.

OCTOBER SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The following is being scheduled during the month of October this year, along with our weekly Bible Study group meetings held on every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. (unless otherwise posted):

1. **Wednesday evening Bible Study**, with commentary related to Orthodox worship- Every Wednesday evening, beginning on **October 11th, at 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (in-person and on Zoom).**

2. **Re-Imagine Orthodoxy** – Question and Answer format on basic Orthodox Christian teachings and liturgical life at 10:00 a.m.- 12 noon (in-person and on Zoom) on Saturdays, **October 7th, November 11th, and December 2nd**. – Topics will be: "'Orthodox Teaching regarding the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ our God' and 'Life after Death'" (October 7th); "Worship: Orthodox Hymns, Icons and Readings" (November 11th); "Parish Ministries" (December 2nd).

3. **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. Questions and Answers to follow at 2:00 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

At will donation: \$15.00 (Lunch included)

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:
Telephone: (760) 880-5869

ST GEORGE'S 2023-2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL THEME



**“GROWING
TOGETHER
IN CHRIST”**

**“I am the vine, you are the
branches. He who abides in Me,
and I in him, bears much fruit; for
without Me you can do nothing.”**

John 15:5

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
RESUMES ON
SEPTEMBER 10TH**



REGISTER YOUR CHILD

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES. CALL OR TEXT EITHER

Fr Ted Pantels 760-880-5869 or Mrs. Athena Snarskis 219-313-6940



**Don't worry about anything.
Instead pray about everything.
Tell God what you need.
And thank him for all He has done.
Amen. - Philippians 4:6**



**“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”
- Matthew 19:14**

Welcome Back Sunday School Families!

SEPTEMBER 10th - Sunday School Class resumes today!

EACH STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL TAKE HOME GIFT TODAY!

Join us in welcoming back our Sunday School students and their families to an exciting year we have planned with our 2023-2024 theme **“GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST”**. Our relationships with our family, friends and communities are important to our mental and physical health, but, even more so is our spiritual health. Through the many examples in the bible and of our saints we begin to experience and understand from right and wrong and that forgiveness is in the light of God’s love. Our prayer life starts growing and we start showing others love and respect and loving God unconditionally.

SEPTEMBER 17TH - Sunday School Outreach Project for Homeless after the Divine Liturgy. Also we will be celebrating American Veterans Constitution day with Philoptochos.

SEPTEMBER 24TH and OCTOBER 1ST - FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY (CLASSES NOT HELD)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SESSIONS - Will be held once a month, as last year. We’ve dedicated a set schedule of the 2nd Sunday of each month in hopes to provide families opportunities to plan and grow in their commitment to not only Sunday school but also church attendance along side their other family activities. Much planning from our volunteer teachers goes into preparing to assure each student has proper books, lessons, activity supplies and even the amount of food when lunch is provided.

OUTREACH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES -We’ve added another Sunday each month, that will vary, so we can actively participate, grow, experience and discover ways to use our talents and passions to help disciple others in God’s faith, hope and love for all. We’ve been participating with our St George Philoptochos in their many community initiatives, on a local and national level. Last year we packaged many Hygiene kits, wrote personalized cards for each bag with messages of God’s love and our prayers for them; folded over 400 pairs of socks and helped at THE NARROW DOOR to sort and package donated food items that is distributed to those families in need in the Coachella Valley.

FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY – Other Sundays of the month where classes are not held. This provides families the opportunity to plan and attend the Divine Liturgy, maybe even bring a friend, and come, see and learn with all your senses and prepare your heart, mind and body to receive the Holy Eucharist. We have a few varieties of children Divine Liturgy books if you are interested let us know.

MEET OUR TEACHERS – Each month we will highlight one of our volunteers. We have two classrooms and two small groups. Our roster has 27 students and 16 families.

Returning this year for Preschool – 2nd grade is **Alexandra Pappas and Angela Tsiamagos** who answered our prayers last year and volunteered to teach. The children enjoy their enthusiasm, story telling and both have the sweetest voice! We are blessed to have you both!

Elementary to High School group (yes that’s a big range in age, but it works for now) we are so blessed to have **Presb. Petula Pantels** helping our students and families. She has been my right hand in planning lessons, ordering supplies, lunch setup, cleanup etc. The children love her knowledge especially of the bible, the saints and is always eager to help out anywhere! **Julia Hays and Emily Kayalogou** are a tremendous gift to our class group in energetically keeping the lessons and projects in order and moving along while encouraging discussions. Much needed for this age group! We are blessed to have you also!

NOTE: Due to Archdiocese Youth Protection Policies, anyone who has not had a background check or completed the online training...may not go into the classroom and interact with the children, However, if you would like to complete the training (takes about one hour), please contact Fr Ted or myself, Athena Snarskis. Once you complete the training, the Archdiocese notifies us, and you will be able to remain in the classroom and assist the teacher (s) as needed.

God Bless!

Mrs. Athena Snarskis, Sunday School Coordinator

If you ever have any ideas, suggestions or are interested in becoming a volunteer for our Sunday School program please let us know. Contact Fr Ted Pantels at 760-880-5869 or Mrs. Athena Snarskis, Sunday School Coordinator at 219-313-6940. -

**"I am the vine, you are the
branches. He who abides in
Me, and I in him, bears much
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John 15:5



**“THE
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SEPTEMBER 30th 2023

DINNER



Night Out

AHEPA Chapter 528 invites you

Please, join us for a dinner night out
cooked by your local AHEPA Chapter 528 brothers.
Vegetarian Yemista with traditional sides
Donation of \$25.00 requested, beer and wine available
At St. George Church, Palm Desert, CA. Seating at 5:30pm



\$25

ahepa528.org

RSVP at contact@ahepa28.org / Bill Rellos Chair; 818.371.7995
Chapter 528 President, Wynn Storton; 760.832.2825

All proceeds benefit AHEPA Scholarships and Philanthropic projects

Bells Across America Event!



*You're invited to help us celebrate the 236th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution!
Please join us in the annual Bells Across America bell ringing event to kick off Constitution Week on Sunday, September 17th, 1:00 PM!*

Refreshments and light snacks will be served after the bell ringing!

Location:

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74109 Larrea St.
Palm Desert, CA*



Bell Tower

GET YOUR TICKET NOW!

Enjoy a private theater for our group to view the new movie
at the Mary Pickford Theater in Cathedral City.

\$20.00 donation* to Philoptochos
includes the movie, refreshment & popcorn!



(Maximum theater capacity of 40)

*Purchase ticket in advance from Debbie Pousen or Rhonda Latkovic

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS

i'm just like you



6-8pm

friday september 8

high line nine gallery

507 w 27th st **nyc**

**UTA
ARTIST
SPACE**