



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels, Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kon-taxis, 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

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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—GALATIANS 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GOSPEL — MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT – To understand our lives and the world around us from God's point of view helps us to remain steadfast in our efforts to grow closer to Christ our God and to avoid the pitfalls of delusion. While the Cross was understood to be a horrible instrument of death, Christ revealed It to be the True Power for peace in our lives. His Cross gives us discernment!

St. John Cassian writes, "What is it then, that has made [many Christians] stray from the straight path? In my opinion, it was simply that they did not possess the grace of discernment...The power of discernment scrutinizes all the thoughts and actions of an individual and distinguishes and sets aside everything that is base and not pleasing to God. It keeps one free from delusion." (Philokalia, Vol. 1, pg. 99). Also, St. Isaiah the Monk, said, "Let us stand firm in the fear of God, rigorously practicing the virtues and not giving our conscience cause to stumble." (Philokalia, Vol. 1, pg. 22).

+FR. THEODORE

Liturgical Notes for Today

Instead of the usual, "Save us, O Son of God...", we chant, "Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, we sing to You, Alleluia."

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** "O Christ, the Angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the grave, seeking You Sacred Body. You destroyed Hades, yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and, through Her bestowed Life. 'Glory to You, Who have risen from the dead.'/Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις...

2) "Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross."/Σώσον, Κύριε, το λαόν Σου...

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

4) **Kontakion:** "Lifted upon the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your Name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victory over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them, a weapon of peace, and invincible standard."/Ὁ Υψωθείς εν τῷ Σταυρῷ...

BEING CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Let us study the words of St. Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20). For St. Paul, being "crucified" meant that one is dead to the worries and stress that come from the motives of becoming rich, or controlling the affairs of the world and others so that we can find personal satisfaction in our own world, which is often filled with fantasies of fame and power.

Being "with Christ," then, means that the only thing that is important to us is that we are grateful for the love of Christ, Who, out of His own Divine Love, voluntarily accepted crucifixion on the Cross so that we can be saved. Christ absolutely gives meaning to our existence — our lives have so much worth and value that our Creator sacrificed His Only-Begotten Son so that we can be His sons and daughters. Knowing that each of us has such great worth, St. Paul would say that God will always guide each of us in order for us to take part in the Divine work of inspiring and saving others. Self-centeredness tarnishes our worth, which is why sin hurts us and others.

Just as caring for our "creature comforts" involves our whole being of body and soul, so does caring for God's Will involve our whole body and soul. Hence, St. Paul no longer "lived in the flesh," but lived "by faith in the Son of God.

+FR. THEODORE

Ας μελετήσουμε τα λόγια του Αγίου Παύλου, «Χριστώ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζω δε ουκέτι εγώ, ζη δε εν εμοί Χριστός· ό δε νυν ζω εν σαρκί, εν πίστει ζω τη του Υιού του Θεού του αγαπήσαντός με και παραδόντος εαυτὸν υπέρ εμού.» Στην γνώμη του Αγίου Παύλου, το να είναι κανείς «σταυρωμένος» σημαίνει ότι ο άνθρωπος είναι νεκρός από τις ανησυχίες και το άγχος που προέρχονται από τα κίνητρα να γίνει πλούσιος ή να ελέγχει τις υποθέσεις του κόσμου και των άλλων, ώστε να μπορεί να ευρεί προσωπική ικανοποίηση στον δικό του κόσμο, ο οποίος συχνά είναι γεμάτος από φαντασίες.

Το να είμεθα «εν Χριστώ,» λοιπόν, σημαίνει ότι αυτό που είναι σημαντικό για εμάς είναι να είμεθα ευγνώμονες για την αγάπη του Χριστού, Ο Οποίος, από τη δική Του Θεία Αγάπη, εδέχθηκε εθελοντικώς τη σταύρωση επάνω στον Σταυρό για την σωτηρία μας. Ο Χριστός χαρίζει απολύτως νόημα στην ύπαρξή μας — η ζωή μας έχει τόσο μεγάλη αξία που ο Δημιουργός μας εθυσίασε τον Μονογενή Του Υιό για να είμεθα οι υιοί και θυγατέρες Του. Γνωρίζοντας ότι ο καθένας από εμάς έχει τόσο μεγάλη αξία, ο Άγιος Παύλος θα έλεγε ότι ο Θεός πάντοτε θα καθοδηγεί τον καθένα μας για να λάβουμε όλοι μέρος στο Θεϊκό έργο της εμπνεύσεως και της σωτηρίας των άλλων. Ο εγωκεντρισμός αμαυρώνει την αξία μας, για αυτό και η αμαρτία πληγώνει εμάς και τους άλλους.

Συνεχεια στην επομενη σελιδα — — — >

Ακριβώς όπως η φροντίδα για τις «πολυτέλειες» μας περιλαμβάνει ολόκληρο το σώμα και την ψυχή μας, έτσι και η φροντίδα για το Θέλημα του Θεού είναι να περιλαμβάνει ολόκληρο το σώμα και την ψυχή μας. Ως εκ τούτου, ο Άγιος Παύλος δεν εξούσε πλέον κατά τις σαρκικές επιθυμίες, αλλά εξούσε με πίστη στον Υιό του Θεού.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God **Bill Jacobs (40 days)**, the beloved uncle of **Bernice Shaheen**. Also, today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Jack Shaheen**, the beloved husband of **Bernice Shaheen**, and **Albert Rafeedie and Wedad Rafeedie**, the beloved father and mother of **Bernice Shaheen**. They are also Uncle, Godfather, Father, & Grandparents to **Michele Tasoff** and **Michael Shaheen**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Bill Jacobs, Jack Shaheen, Albert Rafeedie and Wedad Rafeedie**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Bernice Shaheen** and the entire family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, September 19th..... Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Today – Ceremony** marking the “**Bells Across the Country Event**” at our parish bell tower, commemorating the **Signing of the U.S. Constitution – 1:00 p.m.**
- **PHILOPTOCHOS**-The **Philoptochos General Meeting** planned for Monday, Sept. 25th is cancelled. We have **rescheduled our October meeting to the 23rd**, to allow time for our “snowbird” members to return to the desert.

-The “**Paint El Paseo Pink Walk**” is coming up on **Saturday, October 14th @ 8:00 AM**. Registration is a \$ 35.00 donation and includes a walk tee-shirt. We will have a table set-up to take registrations for the walk over the next three Sundays.

- **2024 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL MEETING** – Our first **planning meeting for our Greek Festival**, scheduled for **February 17-18, 2024**, will be held on **Monday, September 25th at 4:00 p.m.** at our church. Everyone is invited!
- **AHEPA – Saturday, September 30, 2023** plan to attend the AHEPA “**Dinner Night Out.**” Proceeds to benefit AHEPA scholarships and philanthropic efforts. See enclosed flyer.
- **OCTOBER SPIRITUAL RENEWAL –**

1. **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). See Fr. Ted this week to sign up!

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!



2024
GREEK FESTIVAL
MEETING

Monday,
September 25, 2023

At

4:00 p.m.

Join Us!



**“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

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



Paint El Paseo Pink is a beloved community walk that takes place on Oct. 14th to help raise awareness for breast cancer and to raise much needed funds for Desert Cancer Foundation (DCF). Your support and all funds raised will help provide for residents who need financial assistance with cancer care and treatment.

Saturday, October 14th

Please join our Saint George Team to support cancer care treatment through Desert Cancer Foundation's annual "Pink Walk" and celebrate our **6th year** of participation!

\$35 Donation

Registration closes Oct. 8th

(Event Tee shirts will be distributed a few days prior to the walk.)

You can register directly through this link:

<https://www.paintelpaseopink.org/join-a-team/saint-george-2023>

OR

Donate \$35 directly to Philoptochos and we will register you.
(Indicate tee shirt size wanted.)



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