



APRIL 14, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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

Holy Communion Or-der

- 1. Please remain standing while following the direc-tions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly re-move lipstick be-fore receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name) , and naturally re-ceive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Com-munion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Chris-tians must be spirit-ually prepared to receive the Sacra-ment of Holy Com-munion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE LADDER
ST. JOHN OF 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 - Hebrews 6:13-20

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL - St. Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you?

How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Liturgical Notes for Today

With the Entrance with 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 φαιδρόν της αναστάσεως...

2) *"With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls."/*

Ταις των δακρύων σου ροαίς...[Hymn for St. John of the Ladder]

3) *"Since You are a deliverer of captives and a protector of the poor; a physician for the sick; a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the martyrs and glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls."/*Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...[Hymn for St. George]

4) **Kontakion:** *"To You, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, Your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In Your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to You: 'Hail, Unwedded Bride.'"*/Τη Υπερμάχω...

MEMORIAL— Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God:

Margaret George (40 days), the beloved aunt of **Bernice Shaheen, Michele Tasoff** and **Michael Shaheen; Doris Holmes (6 years)** the beloved sister of **Bernice Shaheen**, the beloved Godmother of **Michele Tasoff** and aunt of **Michael Shaheen**.

Christos Chiotis (1 year), the beloved son of **Penny and Anthony Chiotis** and sister of **Maria Morrison**.

Chris Laskaris (3 years), the beloved husband of **Annette Laskaris**.

May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Margaret George, Doris Holmes, Christos Chiotis** and **Chris Laskaris** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Bernice Shaheen, Penny and Anthony Chiotis** and **Annette Laskaris** and their families.

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

St. John was Abbot of the Monastery at Mount Sinai. He is celebrated today because his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a guide to our spiritual life on our journey through Great Lent. It teaches those seeking salvation how to lay a sound foundation for their struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions and how to avoid the snares laid by the demons who harass us with many deceptions and temptations. Such instruction is a gift for which we must be *grateful*.

Given the fabric of our modern society, we are each faced with a critical spiritual question: Are we to feel *entitled* to receiving blessings, or are we to be *grateful* for receiving blessings? Our way of life and our attitude toward life depends on how we answer such a question.

Orthodox Christian Saints, like St. John of the Ladder, whom we commemorate today, were always grateful to our Lord and Savior for everything and offered prayers of thanksgiving to Him. Being grateful inspires us to pray... and prayer strengthens our faith -- and faith helps us to give of ourselves for the salvation of others. Such is that which we call "living prayer." In St. Basil's Liturgy we find these words, giving us our reason for living in gratitude: *"...We give thanks to You...[You are] the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the great God and Savior, the Object of our hope...[For] through Him the Holy Spirit was made manifest, the Spirit of Truth, the gift of adoption, the foretaste of the future inheritance..."*

+FR. THEODORE

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 16th.....Bible Study (with Online Orthodox Catechism on Zoom) -10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 17th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 19th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.
SERVICE OF THE AKATHIST HYMN - 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Today is a Special School class for our students: "The Light of Christ Enlightens All."

HOLY CONFESSION- Appointments are available over the next few weeks for those who want to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Call Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869, or email at: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com.

PHILOPTOCHOS – The Metropolis Philoptochos Kids-n-Cancer event will be held next Sunday, April 14, 2024 at Newport Beach Country Club (\$100 per person). Representing our St. George Philoptochos Chapter are: **Rhonda Latkovic, Irene Stambolos, Athena Snarskis, and Margarita Pagoulatos.**

AHEPA – Applications for the AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship are available in our parish hall and online at: www.ahepa528.org. Applications must be submitted by **May 1st.**

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON – Enclosed, please find a "**Reservation Form**" for participating in our St. George Palm Sunday Luncheon on **Sunday, April 28, 2024** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, April 23.**

BOOKSTORE - Now available: *The Akathist Hymn* (for Friday Salutation services) & *Services for Holy Week and Easter.* (Narthex Press Publications).

GOLF TOURNAMENT - Saturday, May 18th at 12:15 p.m. at Eldorado Country Club. The Tournament Registration/Reservation Form is available in our parish hall.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS FOR WORSHIP - Lessons are available to learn to prepare Altar Bread (Prosforo), Kollyva (boiled wheat) & "The Five Loaves" (Artoklasia). Contact our office to sign up.

PRAYER REQUESTS - Call Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869. Please pray for: Evangelia, Nancy, Ann, Diane, Bess, Michael, Mary, Athanasios, Nicholas.



ST GEORGE PARISH

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 28, 2024

Dear Parishioners

This year, St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will hold the annual **Palm Sunday Luncheon**. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this meaningful holiday celebration.

The cost for the luncheon will be **\$10.00 per person**. We would appreciate your support. Please enclose your payment with this form made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to 74109 Larrea St, Palm Desert, CA 92260 or give it to the office. Also, credit card payments can be processed through our office. **The deadline is April 23, 2024.**

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AMOUNT _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 12:15pm Shotgun Start | Eldorado Country Club



ENTRY INFORMATION

Saturday, May 18, 2024

- \$185 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 12:15 PM Shotgun Start at Eldorado Country Club
- 5:00 PM Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00 PM Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Action and Live Music

ENTRY INFORMATION

- Individual Player(s) ____ (# of players) x \$185 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s) ____ (# of sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek Dinner ____ (# of dinners) x \$50 \$ _____
- Donation \$ _____
- Total Amount \$ _____**

CREDIT CARD (please mark one) VISA MASTER CARD

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

EXP. DATE: ____/____ 3-DIGIT SECURITY NO: _____

CARD HOLDER NAME: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (____) _____-____ FAX: (____) _____-____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAMES

1. _____	INDEX _____
2. _____	INDEX _____
3. _____	INDEX _____
4. _____	INDEX _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

Sign up online at www.go-stgeorge.org/Events/Golf/

Mail Checks and Registration Form to:
74109 Larrea Street | Palm Desert, CA | 92260

Make Checks Payable To:
"Saint George Greek Orthodox Church"