

**JULY 24, 2016**

**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT**

**74-109 Larrea Street  
Palm Desert, California 92260**

**Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)**

**Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)**

# THE LADDER

*St. Christina the Great Martyr*



## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

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.*

## ADDRESSING ANGER & FEAR

Christ has authority over dark powers, just as He has authority over all of creation. It is for this reason that we must bring to mind the Name of Christ at every moment possible. Without Christ, we do not have the ability to withstand the attacks of demons. The demoniacs about whom we heard from today's Gospel reading, suffered because evil powers ruled their souls and thoughts. Many people in today's society suffer due to the fact that they do not have

God in their hearts and minds. Demons influence people of our age through fearsome fantasies and frightful temptations, causing them to feel awkward with regard to praying to God and entering His Holy Church.

Yet, all the more so are we to participate in the Divine Liturgy. It is during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy that we are asked to pray The Lord's Prayer. Through this prayer we ask

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## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

**An Orthodox Christian Steward** is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

**Effective stewardship ministry** is not a single event or project. Rather, it is going out to our people wherever they are in their walk with Christ, listening to their concerns, helping them to realize their importance as branches of the True Vine and encouraging them to offer their gifts in His service. We use various resources to support our efforts, but unless we meet with our people personally, sincerely listen to their ideas and concerns, and share a vision for the future of the parish, our efforts will not reach their full potential.

– Taken from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



Ο Χριστός έχει εξουσίαν εναντίον των σκοτεινών δυναμεών όπως έχει εξουσίαν περι της ολοκληρωθείς κτισσεως. Για αυτόν τον λόγον, είναι αναγκη να μελετησούμεν το Άγιο Ονομα του Χριστού καθε στιγμή εαν είναι δυνατον. Χωρίς τον Χριστόν ο άνθρωπος δεν έχει την ικανότητα να αντεχει τις προσβολές των δαιμονών.

Οι δαιμονιζόμενοι της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής υπεφεραν επιδη οι σκοτεινές δυνάμεις εκύριευαν τις ψυχές και τις διανοίες των. Οι σημερινοί άνθρωποι ομοιάζουν με αυτούς τους δαιμονιζόμενους, όχι κατά ακριβείαν, αλλά κατά κάποιον σημαντικο σημειον: δηλαδή, δεν έχουν τον Θεόν στις καρδιές και στις σκεψεις των. Οι δαιμονες επηρεάζουν τους ανθρώπους της δικής μας εποχής με φοβερές φαντασίες και με τρομερούς πειρασμούς ώστε οι άνθρωποι καθονται μακριά από τον Θεόν και απομακρυνονται ολο και περισσότερο από την Εκκλησίαν Του. Σχηματίζουν τις δικές των φιλοσοφίες και ιδεολογίες οι οποίες έχουν ως τέλος την διαλύσιν της οικγενείας και της κοινωνίας.

Όταν ομιλούμεν περι μετανοίας, εννοούμεν ότι πρέπει να παρακαλέσούμεν τον Χριστόν καθε ημέρα να μας ελευθερώση από τις δυνάμεις των πονηρών πνευμάτων και να μας βοηθήση να εκτελεσούμεν τις θείες εντολές Του.

Με αυτές τις σκεψεις ασπλησίασουμεν την Εκκλησίαν μας με ευλαβείαν και με σκοπο να συμμετέχουμε συνεχώς στα Αχραντα Μυστήρια <μετα φόβου Θεού, πίστεως και αγάπης> και να ζούμεν την <εν Χριστώ ζωήν>.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

our Lord and Savior to forgive us as we forgive others and for us not be led into temptation, but delivered from evil. Following this prayer, we are blessed with the words of the liturgist: *"Peace be with you"*. In essence, The Lord's Prayer is a powerful prayer against the demons and for peace in our lives.

The Lord's Prayer is amplified as we participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church with our deepest sincerity. The Sacraments enliven us to live according to God's Will, rather than according to our own will; to live each day as committed servants of Christ, forgiving one another and asking our Lord to forgive us; to guard us from temptation and deliver us from evil. Along these lines, Fr. Philotheos Faros, in his book, *Functional and Dysfunctional Christianity*, reminds us: *"In the Service of the Catechumen which precedes Baptism, the one who comes to be baptized is asked to renounce Satan (and his demons)...The demons that need to be exorcised are the spirit of 'error', the spirit of 'idolatry and of every avarice', and the spirit of 'deceit and every uncleanness'. All this so that the one who comes to be baptized can be united to Christ."* (pg. 33).

Our union with Christ requires effort on our part on a constant basis. For example, St. Paisy the Great, a Russian Orthodox ascetic, had a temper, demonstrating violent rage to the extent that he frightened himself, others and even beasts. He felt "demon-possessed," and he became afraid of himself. He turned to Christ our God, asking to be delivered from anger, which creates such great fear. The Lord answered him, saying, *"O Paisy, if you wish to not get angry, desire nothing; criticize no one and hate no other person— then you will have no anger."* (ref.: *Wisdom From Mt. Athos*, by Archmandrite Sophrony, pg. 98). The by-product of our Lord's answer to St. Paisy is: *peace* within us and with others.

Our world-wide society has become more and more a place of "fierce people", much like the demoniacs of today's Gospel passage. The Bible is misinterpreted by many who disregard Apostolic Tradition. Worst of all, the Bible and Christ's Holy Church are belittled by many. The result is that too many "justifications" have been made — and are being made — for behaviors and attitudes that are contrary to the Bible. Now we have no peace. We are possessed by demons of anger and fear.

In the good grace of Christ our God it is never too late to repent and to turn ourselves over to His authority. But, such repentance is not a "time-to-time" kind of thing, spoken of only when we are in trouble. Repentance is a lasting commitment to Christ our God — a living of the Liturgy; a constant renewal of our baptismal vows; a mentality consistent with the Lord's Prayer. +FR. THEODORE

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Yvonne and George Flessas, George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Kathy Ligeros, Bob Maverick, Nicholas Kyriakou, Jean Chronis, George Megalonakis, Robert Desnoyers, George Nicholas (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

ANTIPHON I: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

Verse 1— Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."

Verse 2—: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

Verse 3— The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

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ANTIPHON II: "Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)

Verse 1— Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: "Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 - Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who Arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3 - The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

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**HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III**— *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**Sunday Resurrection Hymn:** *To fedron tis anastaseos (Tone 4).....(When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel were proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished forever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.)*

**Hymn for St. Christina the Great Martyr:** *Ee amnahs tou Isou krazei meghali ti fonee... (Your own ewe-lamb cries to You loudly, O Jesus, and she says, "For my Bridegroom do I long, and seeking You I now contend; and I am crucified and buried with You in Your baptism. I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with You. I die for You that I may also live in You. Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice as I offer myself to You with love." At her entreaties and intercessions, save our souls, O Merciful Lord.)*

**Hymn for St. George:** *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... ("As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.")*

**Kontakion Hymn:** *Prostasia ton Christianon... (O Protection of Christians unshamable, mediation with the Creator immovable, we sinners beg you, do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since you are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to you with faith: Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who defend now and ever those who honor you.)*

**READINGS:** Epistle - Romans 10: 1-10/ Gospel - St. Matthew 8: 28-34; 9: 1

**Megalinarion:** Axion Estin (page 52 in the Divine Liturgy Books)

**Communion Hymn:** Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Allelouia.)

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life"  
Proverbs 4:23



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Hour: Presvytera Petula and Fr. Ted**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – We will be making a donation in August for the Book Bag Project sponsored by Coachella Valley RescueMission. Our donation will be used to buy book bags and school supplies for the children. If anyone is interested in making a donation for this project, see Linda Kallis. Our Coffee Hour Chairperson is Linda Petalas. She is doing a terrific job. She gives a tip for Coffee Hour volunteers: Coffee Hour is not meant to be a full meal. Keep it simple with a little something to go with our coffee. So next time you see her coming around to the tables to ask for volunteers - say YES! Thank you for volunteering and for your support.

**STEWARDSHIP** – We need to remind one and all that any extra Stewardship offering will be a great blessing for our St. George parish during these summer months. Anyone who has not yet submitted a 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card *and* contributed to the financial needs of our parish by virtue of fulfilling his or her pledge is fervently and prayerfully asked to do so at this time.

**NEEDS LIST** – As we find ourselves in the summer season, our thoughts begin to go toward preparations for the Fall and the **needs** of our parish for the future: donations will be a great blessing as we evaluate the following projects: new flooring for the parish hall.

- 1) new flooring for the parish hall.
- 2) replacement of lights under the dome with LED lights (reducing energy costs);
- 3) cleaning of flagstone floor inside the church;
- 4) cooling fans for the new storage container;
- 5) Archdiocese Liturgy Books for our church pews

**BIBLE STUDY** – Bible Study classes will not meet for two weeks: including this Tuesday (July 26th) and next Tuesday (August 2nd)

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Fr. Ted will be away from tomorrow, July 25th until Wednesday, August 3rd. In case of emergency, contact him at (760) 880-5869. Since he will be away, Fr. David Kruse, pastor of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms will be available. His telephone number is (760) 408-6116.

Saturday, July 30th.....No Vespers

Sunday, July 31st.....Fr. Dionysios Marian will celebrate the Divine Liturgy, substituting for Fr. Ted who will be away until August 3rd.

*The LADDER for June 2016  
is sponsored by  
Eve Meek*

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a “crying room” in the narthex for your use. God Bless.