



AUGUST 4, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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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—Romans 12:6 – 14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL-- St. Matthew 9:1 – 8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he then said to the paralytic — "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

HONORING THE HOLY THEOTOKOS OVER THE 15 DAYS OF AUGUST

The 15-day Fasting season, beginning on August 1st is held in honor of the Dormition ("the falling asleep in the Lord) of the Theotokos. At the time when the Holy Theotokos fell asleep in the Lord (August 15th), except for the Apostle Thomas, all of the Apostles including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at Her bedside. Apostolic Tradition verifies that, at the moment of Her physical death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried Her soul into heaven. Following Her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after Her repose and desired to see Her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

— Taken in part from www.goarch.com

Mailing Address:

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Tel: (760) 568-9901

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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.

Liturgical Notes

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *“O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.”/Τοῦ Συνάναρχου Λόγου...*

2) *“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 ελευθεροτής...[Hymn for St. George]*

3) Kontakion: *“You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.” /Επί του ὄρους μετεμορφώθης...*

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

– Monday, August 5th.....Great Vespers-6:00 p.m.

– Tuesday, August 6th.....TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. (No Bible Study)

– Wednesday, August 7th..Paraklisis Service-6:00 p.m.(postponed until Saturday, Aug. 10th at 5 p.m)

– Friday, August 9thParaklisis Service-6:00 p.m.

– Saturday, August 10th...Special Orthodox Christian Catechism Class (online)-5:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

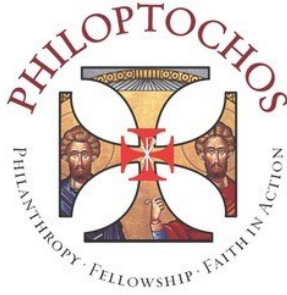
PHILOPTOCHOS – 1)The Narrow Door Food Bank in Indio, CA is requesting our Philoptochos Chapter to assist them again to prepare food bags for food insecure families on **Saturday, August 17th starting at 8:45 AM to approximate finish at 11:00 AM**. Both men and women are needed. If interested in volunteering, please contact **Rhonda or Nick Latkovic at (714) 875-4661**. A sign-up sheet is located on the bar area in the church hall. We can arrange for transportation for volunteers if needed.

2)Philoptochos is repeating our successful **"NO-SEW Blanket Outreach Project"** from last year to benefit two non-profits; **The SafeHouse of the Desert** and **Birth Choice of the Desert**. Our goal is to make a total of forty blankets that will be donated to benefit the children being assisted at each agency. We are supplying the blankets and need volunteers to actually make them. It takes about two hours of your time to make one blanket. No sewing involved! Please see President Rhonda Latkovic if you wish to help.

3) Our popular **"Sock-tober Outreach Project"** will be starting in September and we will be collecting socks to benefit the homeless and those being housed in shelters at the **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission**. Collection bins will be set up in the church hall for NEW socks to be deposited by gender. We can also accept your monetary donation and do the sock shopping for you. Please support this worthwhile project.

4) Coming **October 19th...Paint El Paseo Pink Walk** to benefit **cancer patients** through Desert Cancer Foundation. Save the date and plan to be a part of our walk team this year!

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT – *“We live out our faithful relationship to God in the Church, the body of Christ, with humility, sober thoughts, and the proper use of spiritual gifts (as St. Paul outlines in Romans 12:3-6). Ministry requires functioning together in diversity. The gifts mentioned in Romans 12:4-8 (prophecy, exhortation, patience, charity, mercy) should not be understood as being exhaustive; rather these gifts represent all the infinite gifts God has given to us. While the believer is justified by faith, this faith is intimately united to good works, which are genuine expression of true faith. Faith and works cannot be separated.” (Orthodox Study Bible, page 1544)*



“SOCK-TOBER”

DONATION EVENT for the HOMELESS

September 15th-October 15th

- o Did you know that the number 1 needed clothing item for a homeless person is a pair of socks?
- o Please help the St. George Ladies Philoptochos provide new socks to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission for the in-program residents & homeless population in the east valley.
- o Deposit socks in the bins provided that are located in the church hall. Monetary donations can be made & we will do the shopping if you are not able.
- o Men's, women's, & children's socks are needed in Casual styles. Please note that: **ONLY NEW SOCKS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Thank you!