



AUGUST 11, 2024

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 St.

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—Romans 15:1-7: Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 9: 27-35: At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of

David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE WORLD – In today's passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans (15:1-7) we hear that we are to minister to one another so as to glorify God and to acquire our own salvation, as well as that of others. Imitating Christ in terms of sacrificing ourselves in applying the virtues of endurance and patience for the benefit of others is the main message. This message had an element that the ancient Romans and Greeks had not comprehended before. *"Both Epicurean and Stoic philosophers believed that fulfillment could be achieved in this life through emotional calm and impassivity. However, they pursued this aim differently. The Epicureans pursued pleasure, while the Stoics renounced it."* (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1501). Much of modern thinking resembles Epicurean and Stoic thinking, which often clashes with the Christ-like mentality of sacrificial love. Seeking fulfillment only for this present life is in itself a dead-end. A truly fulfilled life is lived in Christ, Who resurrected from the dead; forgives us of our sins and raises us up to live with Him in His Eternal Kingdom. +FR . THEODORE

Liturgical Notes

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *“O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the sepulcher, seeking Your sacred body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and through her, bestowed Life. Glory to You who has risen from the dead!”/Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις...*

2) *“You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You. ”/Μετεμορφώθης εν τῷ ὄρει Χριστέ ο Θεός...*

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 τῶν αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτῆς...[Hymn for St. George]*

4) 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.” / Επὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθης...*

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Panagiotis Christopoulos (6 months)**, the beloved husband of **Anastasia Christopoulos** and father of **Jim Christopoulos** and **Athe**grandfather of Peter and Stephanie Christopoulosna **Bertucci**, father-in-law of **Gloria Christopoulos**, father-in-law of **Al Bertucci**; grandfather of **Peter** and **Stephanie Christopoulos** and **Thomas** and **Alex Bertucci**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to Panagiotis Christopoulos and may He grant peace and comfort to Anastasia Christopoulos and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, August 12th.....Paraklisis Service- 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 13th.....Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 14th....Great Vespers – 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15th.....DORMITION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Available through our Holy Archdiocese website is a video ministry for our youth. Click the following: [Be the Bee - Complete Series - YouTube](#) and choose from a multitude of various videos to discuss a particular Church-related topic as part of a weekly home-study "quality time" experience. Tentatively, our Sunday School classes are to begin on **Sunday, September 22nd.**

Cashless Giving to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert

We have had comments recently from parishioners that they and others are carrying less and less cash—especially among the younger generations for items such as candles and donations. Couple these comments with the security issues involved with cash and checks, there is an increased need for cashless giving. Of course, we will still accept cash and checks.

Beginning August 11th, 2024, you will see a “Point of Sale” Credit Card Machine place near the Coffee serving line similar to the units we use at the Festival **for Cashless Giving**. The unit is ICON driven and intuitive – similar to the units we used at the festival.

I will be there to assist when there are user questions. There will be posted directions as well.

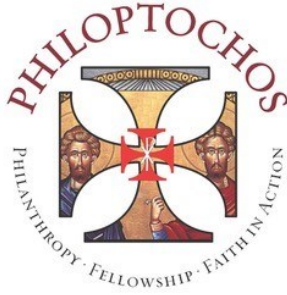
This machine will be set up for self service of **Stewardship, Candles, Sunday School Donations, Endowment, and General Giving**.

When waiting for your after service coffee or even upon entering, you are welcome to use the machine to contribute to the church to the before mentioned areas. A receipt will print which is yours to record the transaction. The office will record your transactions automatically from our Wells Fargo Bank partner.

We will partner this with our upcoming new website which will also offer on-line giving making your donation seamless and instant. This will also reduce office work done by volunteers and improve the security of our volunteers.

Nick Latkovic, Parish Treasurer.





“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!