



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

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

NATIVITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL — St. John 3:13 – 17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS — St. Helen traveled to Jerusalem in 325. She found that Emperor Hadrian had built a temple to Aphrodite at Golgotha to defile the place where Christ was crucified. Upon ordering the destruction of the temple, three crosses were discovered. Basil plants covered over one of the crosses. As is noted on our Archdiocese website, (www.goarch.org), "At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, 'Lord have mercy.' It should be noted that after Its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was

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*THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Continued*

taken to Constantinople as a blessing." On **Saturday, September 14th** we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in commemoration of the **Elevation of the Holy Cross**. This commemoration is marked by a liturgical "season," beginning today with the **Sunday Before the Elevation**, and continuing into next Sunday, the **Sunday After the Elevation**. The commemoration of the Elevation of the Holy Cross is also observed as a strict fasting day. +FR. THEODORE

**Liturgical Notes**

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *"When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then, the light of Your divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, "Glory to You our Christ, the Giver of Life." /Ότε κατήλθες...*

**2)** *"Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world, for from you dawned the sun of righteousness, Christ our God. Freeing us from the curse, He gave us His blessings. Abolishing death, He granted us eternal life. "/Η Γέννησις Σου, Θεοτόκε...*

**3) Kontakion:** *"In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life." /Ίωακείμ και Άννα ονειδισμού...*

**MEMORIAL** -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Konstandinos Tsiamagos (3 years)**, the beloved husband of **Christina Tsiamangos**, father of **George Tsiamangos** and **Alexandria Haralambous**, father-in-law of **Angela Tsiamangos** and **George Haralambous** and grandfather of **Konstantinos and Christiana Tsiamangos** and **Vasili, Konstandinos and Gianni Haralambous**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Konstandinos Tsiamangos** and may He grant peace and comfort to his beloved wife, **Christina Tsiamangos** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- Monday, September 9th.....Philoptochos Board Meeting – 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 10th....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 11th...Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, September 12th.....Parish Council – 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 13th.....Great Vespers – 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 14th.....ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. (strict fasting day)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – 1)Philoptochos is repeating the 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**. 2) 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**. Only NEW socks to be deposited by gender. We can also accept your monetary donations accepted. See enclosed flyer.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Click the following: [Be the Bee - Complete Series - YouTube](#). This will link you with our Archdiocese videos on Church-related topics as part of a weekly home-study "quality time" experience. Sunday School registration will be held on **Sunday, September 22nd**.

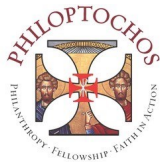
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, *Continued*

**BELLS ACROSS AMERICA** - Our St. George parish has the honor of hosting the local chapter of **The Daughters of the American Revolution** for their annual **"Bell Ringing" Tribute** to our American Nation for *Constitution Week* on **Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** We look forward to welcoming various dignitaries. See enclosed flyer.

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT** – Please see the enclosed flyer announcing our Fall St. George Spiritual Retreat – an overnight pilgrimage to St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, Arizona from Friday, October 25th-Saturday, October 26th, 2024.

**SPIRITUAL THOUGHT** – Today, we commemorate the **Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos**. The hymns of the Church remind us of Her great humility and obedience to God's Will, through which, together with the Holy Spirit, Christ our God came into the world to save us; for, He *"freed us from the curse of sin, abolishing death and granting us Eternal Life."* Thus, we see the connection between the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos and the crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ our God and Savior by way of the Holy Cross. From today's Gospel passage (St. John 3: 13-17), we understand that, *"Moses lifted up an image of the serpent to cure the Israelites from the deadly bites of poisonous snakes (Nm. 21:4-9). This miracle-working image prefigured Christ being lifted up on the Cross. As believers behold the crucified Christ in faith, the power of sin and death is overthrown in them. Just as the image of the serpent was a weapon that destroyed the power of the serpents, so the instrument of Christ's death becomes the weapon that over-throws death itself...To show the reason the Son must be crucified ('lifted up' – v.14), Jesus declares God's great love not only for Israel, but for the world. This single verse [John 3:16] expresses the whole message of John's Gospel and indeed, of salvation history."* (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1427). +FR. THEODORE



## **"SOCK-TOBER"**

### **DONATION EVENT for the HOMELESS**

**September 15th-October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**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!**

## **Bells Across America Event!**



*You're invited to help us celebrate the 237th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution! Please join us at the annual "Bells Across America" bell ringing event to kick off Constitution Week*  
**Tuesday, September 17th, 12:45 PM!**

*Short program will commence at 12:45 PM with the bell ringing to follow at 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*

18th ANNUAL

*Paint* EL PASEO  
**PINK**  
PRESENTED BY DESERT CANCER FOUNDATION

***Saturday, October 19th***

***Pre-race program 7:30 AM-Race begins 8:00 AM***

Please join our Saint George Team to support cancer care treatment through Desert Cancer Foundation's annual "**Pink Walk**" and celebrate our **7th year** of participation!

**NEW THIS YEAR:**

Register to walk for as little as a \$ 5.00 donation!  
Registration is \$40.00 if you want a new \*tee shirt.

Registration closes Oct. 8th, 2024.

\*(Event Tee shirts will be distributed Wed.10/16-Fri.10/18 from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM-this year you must pick up your own tee at the Hotel Paseo)

Register directly via the Desert Cancer Foundation website by clicking on the pink **#PEPP** box in the upper left hand corner, then click on the pink box "Join a Team" and select Saint George, then enter your personal information & submit.

For those needing help signing up, please see Rhonda or Athena.

# ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

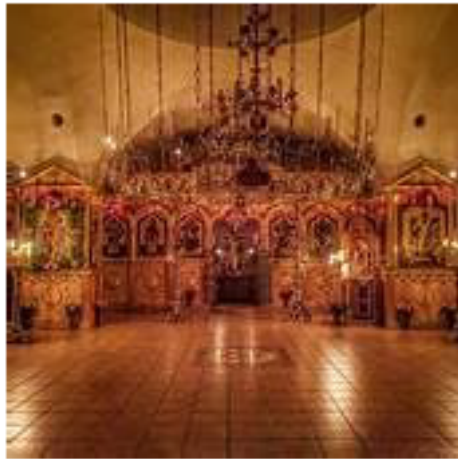
## PALM DESERT, CA

Join us for Monastery Worship services and discussions about the spiritual way of life in Orthodox Christian Monasteries

# SPIRITUAL RETREAT TO ST. ANTHONY MONASTERY

## FLORENCE, ARIZONA

OCTOBER 25-26, 2024



St. Anthony Monastery was established in the mid-1990s with Fr. Ephraim serving as the first abbot. It has now become an Orthodox Christian spiritual center to where many Orthodox Christians come for spiritual enlightenment.

No more than 35 adults can be accommodated.

No charge for overnight arrangements (donations are welcome).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2024.

Contact Fr. Ted at: (760) 880-5869

ST. ANTHONY MONASTERY VISITOR'S GUIDE will be available for those who register to participate.

SAVE THE DATE

ST. GEORGE GREEK  
FESTIVAL



FEBRUARY 15-16, 2025

(Presidents Day  
Weekend)

More details to follow



SAVE THE DATE

ST. GEORGE GOLF  
TOURNAMENT

APRIL 26, 2025



**Desert Willow Golf Resort**

38995 Desert Willow Dr.

Palm Desert, California

More details to follow

