



SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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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.

THE LADDER

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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 2:16 – 20

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GOSPEL—St. Mark . 8:34 – 38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

WHAT IS IT TO "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW CHRIST?"

"To deny oneself means to give up one's bad habits; to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad thoughts and desires; to suppress every evil thought; to avoid occasions of sin; not to desire or to do anything out of self-love, but to do everything out of love for God. To deny oneself, according to St. Paul means 'to be dead to sin. . . but alive to God.' ...To take up one's cross means to bear without grumblings everything unpleasant, painful, sad, difficult and oppressive that may happen to us in life. . .without expecting any earthly reward in return, but to bear it all with love, with joy and with courageous strength....In whatever position you may be, and whatever sufferings of the soul you may feel, do not despair and do not think that the Lord has abandoned you. NO! God will always be with you and will invisibly strengthen you even when it seems to you that you are on the very brink of perdition."

– St. Innocent of Alaska, The Lenten Spring, SVS Press, p. 147, 19th Century

## Liturgical Notes

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *“Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord by His Might, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death, and become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy.”/ Ευφρανέσθω τα ουράνια...*

**2)** *“Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.”/ Σώσον Κύριε τον λαόν Σου...*

**3)** *“Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George, intercede to Christ our God that He may save our souls.”/ Ως τον αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτής...*

**4) Kontakion:** *“Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.”/ Ο Υψωθείς εν τω Σταυρώ...*

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 17th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m./ Local Daughters of the American Revolution “Bells Across America” tribute commemorating the signing of the U.S. Constitution hosted by St. George – 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18th...Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 22nd.....Sunday School Registration following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – 1) Next Sunday, our popular “**Sock-tober Outreach Project**” will begin. We will be collecting socks to benefit the homeless and those being housed in shelters at the . Only NEW socks to be deposited by gender. We can also accept your monetary donations accepted. See enclosed flyer. 2) Plan to join us for the annual “**Paint El Paseo Pink**” Walk for cancer research on **Saturday, October 19th**. See enclosed flyer.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – **Sunday School registration** will be held next Sunday, September 22nd.

**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 12:45 p.m.** We look forward to welcoming various dignitaries. See enclosed flyer.

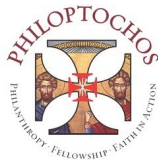
**NEW SOUND SYSTEM-** The Parish Council has agreed that an upgrade is needed for our sound system. To make the necessary improvements, it will require a new system that will improve the quality of sound for our worship services, allow more flexibility for use by clergy and chanters, and feed into the parish hall, if needed. We are hoping to present the costs for the installation of a new sound system at our Fall General Assembly meeting. A handsome donation among those who agree that we need a new system has already been made and we look forward to receiving more donations. If anyone wants to donate toward the costs for a new sound system (which would be in thousands of dollars),it will be a blessing for our parish as a whole. For more information, contact **Peter Snarskis** at [psnarskis@aol.com](mailto:psnarskis@aol.com). A full report for approval will be given to our parish General Assembly in November.

*Continued on the next page -->*

*ANNOUNCEMENTS, Continued*

**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. Make reservations by contacting Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869. **Deadline for registrations is October 1, 2024.**

**SPIRITUAL THOUGHT** – In today's Epistle passage, St. Paul makes it clear that the Law does not save us. It is Christ Who saves us. Christ is the fulfillment of the Law. The Law does not give us life. Christ gives us life. We become children of God through union with Christ our God. The source of this relationship with God, then, is God, not us. The purpose of the Law is to guide us to God's righteousness and to protect us from ourselves, since we are inclined to commit sins. However, with Christ, we have union with God – we are no longer servants under the Law, but children of God. Just as God so loves us that He endured the Cross to save us from death. We are called to join ourselves with God in His love and endure the "pain" of our responsibilities toward the salvation of others around us, as well as the "pain" of repentance for actions and words that pull others away from God's love. By enduring our "crosses" of responsibilities and repentance, we become co-workers with God in the mission of salvation.



## **"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!**



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHBISHOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 273/2024

### **Archepiscopal Encyclical for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross**

September 14, 2024

To the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

*The Cross is exalted today, and the cosmos is sanctified... (Exapostilarion)*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today, we celebrate the Discovery of the True Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For centuries, it had lain hidden beneath the rubble and devastation that the Roman armies had inflicted upon Jerusalem and Her surroundings – until the mission to the Holy Land of Saint Helen, mother to the holy Emperor Constantine, who ended persecution against Christians and called the First Ecumenical Council.

The finding of this sacred relic is the cause for our Feast today, the Universal Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross. Throughout the Sacred Archdiocese of America and around the world, the Cross of the Lord will be lifted up with fragrant basil, and faithful Orthodox Christians will fall down before it, just as they did at its first Elevation, when Saint Makarios, Archbishop of Jerusalem, raised on high the Cross that granted the miracle of resurrection. But as in the days of Saint Helen, before the Cross can be exalted, it must first be discovered.

So, where is the Cross to be found today? Is it only present in the precious fragments that are ensconced in reliquaries around the globe? In truth, the discovery of the Cross is available to every Christian who seeks to follow the example of our Lord's self-sacrificial love. The Cross is buried in our hearts through Baptism, and lies deep within us, waiting to be revealed by our thoughts and intentions, by our words, and by our actions. Its discovery transforms a human being into a self-aware child of God, who then raises up the Cross in their own lives and shares in the divine plan of sanctifying the cosmos.

This is the daily work and calling of the devout men and women studying at our beloved Hellenic College & Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and today is their special Feast day. Let us all make every effort to support them and all those who labor at our precious Theological School, so that the Holy and Lifegiving Cross may manifest more and more in our own lives, and throughout the world.

With paternal love in Christ,  
† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

## **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

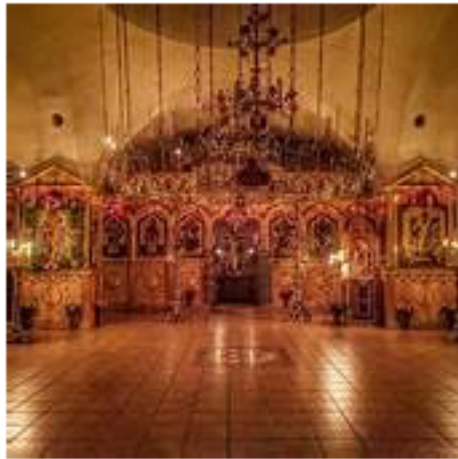
## PALM DESERT, CA

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

