



APRIL 13, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

ROAD TO RESURRECTION

THE LADDER
PALM SUNDAY



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—Philippians 4:4-9

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL—St. John 12:1-18

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the

poor?” This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, “Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.” When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Mailing Address:

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
M.Div. Proistamenos
(Pastor)
– Deacon Euthym Kon-
taxis, M.D. ,M.Div.

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.

Liturgical Notes for Today

1. **Instead of** “Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead...”, we chant, **“Save us, O Son of God, Who sat on a donkey’s colt, we sing to You, Alleluia.”**
2. **With the Entrance of the Gospel: Instead of** “Come, let us worship and bow down to Christ” ... (Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν...), we chant: **“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Save us, O Son of God, who sat on a donkey’s colt. We sing to You, Alleluia.”** ... (Ευλογημένος ο Ερχόμενος εν ονόματι Κυρίου...)
3. **Entrance Hymn:** “O Christ our God, before Your Passion You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all. Therefore, we carry symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the victor over death, ‘Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.’” ... (Την κοινήν Ανάστασιν...)
4. “O Christ our God, we have been buried with You through Baptism and by Your Resurrection made worthy of Life Immortal. Praising You, we cry out, ‘Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.’” ... (Συνταφέντες σοι διὰ του Βαπτίσματος...)
5. **Kontakion:** “In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne, and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, “Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam.” ... (Τῷ θρόνῳ ἐν οὐρανῶ...)
6. **Communion Hymn:** “Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.” / Ευλογημένος ο Ερχόμενος...
7. **After Holy Communion:** The Entrance Hymn.

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. / **Faithful:** Lord, have mercy.

Chief Celebrant: Lord our God, enthroned above the Cherubim, You have stirred up Your power and sent Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem the world through His Cross, His burial and His Resurrection. When He came to Jerusalem to His voluntary Passion, the people, living in darkness and the shadow of death, taking up the symbols of victory, boughs of trees and palm branches, foretold the Resurrection. Master as we too imitating them, carry Palms and branches on this eve of the feast, watch over us. And as we offer You Hosanna, like those multitudes and the children, safeguard us, so that in hymns and spiritual songs we, too, may worthily witness the life-giving Resurrection on the third day, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL – This Sunday will be “Family Sunday School Sunday,” following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON – Sunday, April 13 in our Parish Hall, donation \$10.

PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS: (Please read carefully in order to be well informed!)

– **Philoptochos Board:** St. George Philoptochos is a ministry of the church that provides support to local worthy organizations and is the hearth of our church. Philoptochos is looking for women of our parish to join in the enjoyment of helping others and run for the Philoptochos Board! If you are interested in running for a seat on our Philoptochos Board, see the attached flier for the instructions and qualifications for running. The deadline for nominations is **April 15**. Elections will be held on **Monday, May 5, 2025** at a Philoptochos General Meeting and a Cinco De Mayo luncheon in our parish hall at 11:30am. Please consider donating your time to this worthy ministry.

Continued on the next page – – – – >

PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS, Continued

– Sunday, April 13th, during coffee hour-Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale with sweet bread and pastries. (See flier)

– Sunday, April 27th, 2:00 PM-Kids-n-Cancer Event sponsored by the Metropolis at Newport Beach Country Club. Register on-line for tickets. **See enclosed two-page flier to support our parish Philoptochos “Kids ‘n’ Cancer” efforts. Visit our updated bookstore.**

– Monday, May 5th, 11:30 AM-Philoptochos General Meeting & Elections for the 2025-2027 term. See the enclosed flier with instructions on running for election to the Philoptochos Board for the 2025-2027 term. PLUS a Cinco De Mayo themed luncheon! More information to follow.

GOLF TOURNAMENT - Saturday, April 26th. To register and make reservations for the Awards Dinner, See: <https://stgeorgepd.org/golf-tournament>. We need **donations of items for raffle at our St. George Golf Tournament Awards Dinner. Items donated must be in good condition. Please schedule times for items may be brought to the parish hall. Call: (760) 568-9901.**

HOLY WEEK 2025

Sunday, April 13thPALM SUNDAY

Orthros-8:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Bridegroom Service – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 14th..... HOLY MONDAY – Bridegroom Service -6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15th..... HOLY TUESDAY – Bridegroom Service - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16th....HOLY WEDNESDAY

Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

Holy Unction Service – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 17th.....HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil-9:00 a.m.

Service of the Redeeming Passion of our Lord -6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 18th.....HOLY FRIDAY

Royal Hours-9:00 a.m.

Spiritual Lesson/Discussion-10:30 a.m.

Service of the Unnailing of our Lord (“Apokathilosis”)-12:00 noon

Lamentation Service- 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19th.....HOLY SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil-9:00 a.m.

Vigil for the Resurrection of our Lord-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20th.....RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD OF CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

Divine Liturgy-12:00 mid-night

Agape Vesper Service-11:30 a.m.



SAINT GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This is an election year for the Saint George Philoptochos Board of Directors for 2025-2027 (a 2-year term). The election will take place on **Monday, May 5, 2025** at our monthly meeting.

If you are interested in running for a seat on the Board, please indicate it in a letter and mail or drop it off at the Church office, addressed to Philoptochos. You may also send it by email to: rlatkovic@stgeorgepd.org Your correspondence must be received **by the April 15, 2025 deadline.**

In order to run, you must meet the following qualifications:

- 0 Be a full member of the Philoptochos Society.
- 0 Be a member in good standing with the Parish, as a pledged steward.
- 0 Be a member of the Philoptochos chapter at least one full year prior to the election.
- 0 Have attended at least 4 meetings/activities of the chapter in the previous year.
- 0 Be present at the election meeting unless such absence is excused.

As Board members we are called to keep our National Philoptochos Mission in the forefront of our hearts, minds, and work.

As a Board member, you will be expected to attend monthly Board & General Assembly meetings, to help on committees, and to assist and attend events we host.

Please consider leading with us!

Rhonda Latkovic, 2023-2025 President

Easter BAKE SALE

St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society, Chapter 4035



Koulourakia & Paximathia

\$12.00 per dozen

Melamakerona & Kourembiethes

\$10.00 per 6 pcs.

Baklava

\$10.00 per 6 pcs.



Easter Bread

\$20.00 per 2 1/4 lb. loaf with or without dyed egg

Easter Bake Sale - Sunday 4/6 & 4/13

We will be selling Greek pastries & Easter bread after church services on Sunday April 6th and April 13th.

We have limited quantities of Easter bake sale items available, so please plan on purchasing your needs on these days.

Contact Tina Veroulis @ (406) 431-9516 for alternate pick-up dates/times.

1

SUNDAY SALE

April 6th & 13th-
Available after church services in the hall.

2

ALTERNATE PICK-UP DATE/TIME

Contact Tina Veroulis
tel. (406) 431-9516

3

CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD

Pay any one of three ways.

"Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me"

~ Matthew 18:5

Kids 'N' Cancer/Camp Agape Philoptochos Fundraiser

🌟 *Word Bead Bracelets* 🌟

\$10 Donation

Sold in our new updated bookstore !



Beautiful inspirational
bracelets made by our
Sunday School students
and families!



Contact Rhonda @ 714-875-4661
Or Mrs. Athena @ 219-313-6940

100% of proceeds benefit San Fran Metropolis Kids 'N' Cancer / Camp Agape, a ministry supporting children with cancer and their families. It offers a loving, Christ-centered environment where lasting friendships and cherished memories are made.

Give your
heart to
a child



Nothing Can Stop the Love – Virtual Camp Agape Shines

Camp Agape. Two small words, yet they are full of power and love. For over 35 years, Camp Agape has been a signature ministry for the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos, and not even the Coronavirus pandemic could stop the love that is shared unconditionally with these children who are battling cancer and their families.

“I have had the privilege of meeting several Camp Agape families and their courage and resilience are inspiring. I know that Camp Agape is a highlight for them, but the circumstances of the pandemic, coupled with their compromised health conditions, made it impossible for any type of in-person gathering, but the Metropolis Philoptochos, with their boundless enthusiasm and love, brought Camp Agape into their homes, and made an indelible mark on their hearts, especially during this time of great need,” remarked His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas, along with Board and Chapter members, quickly mobilized so that these special families did not miss out on the opportunity to participate in Camp Agape in a virtual format. The program included reunion night with former Camp Agape families, a trivia challenge, scavenger hunt, family puzzles, campfire songs, and sharing many memories of this life-changing camp. “Sharing agape is at the heart of our ministry. We often say when promoting Camp Agape, ‘Give your heart to a child’, and this is what is at the core of our efforts,” stated Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas. “I am proud to be a part of this truly life-changing program. And while we have sadly lost many of our campers to cancer over nearly four decades, we also celebrate the survivors – the thrivers – who have conquered the mountain called cancer and continue to live life to its fullest.”

One unique component about Camp Agape is that it is not just for the children who are battling cancer. Rather, it is for the entire family – parents, siblings, and grandparents, too! Agape boxes – filled with love, activities, camp memorabilia and more – were sent to each family, and these care packages were a welcome surprise. Each year, the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos offers four Camp Agape programs in the following locations: Orme School in Mayer, AZ; Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA; Whispering Winds in Julian, CA; and Camp Angelos in Corbett, OR. For 2020, Camp Agape was planned for each of these four camps in a virtual setting and welcomed over 100 families to celebrate the spirit and love of Camp Agape.

There are many memorable experiences associated with Camp Agape over the years, but the one thing that stands out is the hospitality – the true philoxenia – offered by the Metropolis Philoptochos to the Camp Agape families. Included in their care packages were restaurant and Amazon gift cards, puzzles, board games, arts and crafts supplies, Camp Agape t-shirts with the 2020 logo “United in Peace and Love”, and a special gift for each camper from their personal wish list.

The Kids ‘n’ Cancer – Agape Celebration of Love is a yearly event held to bring awareness to the ministry by providing a beautiful, fun-filled afternoon giving those in attendance the opportunity to participate in fundraising, meet Camp Agape families, and fellowship together.

Kids ‘N’ Cancer – Give your heart to a child.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

74109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92260

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Invites you and your friends to our ...

PAINT N SIP

Grecian Style

OPA!

11 X 16 Santorini
scene on canvas



Saturday, May 3rd

11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

\$20.00 per person



RSVP by April 30

Rhonda 714-875-4661 or
Athena 219-313-6940



**GREEK APPETIZERS,
WINE &
REFRESHMENTS**