



APRIL 27, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

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.*

THE LADDER

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



PRAYER FOR HOLY SCRIPTURES DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY

"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 - Acts 5:12 – 20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

GOSPEL - St. John 20:19 – 31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he

showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Liturgical Notes for Today

1. With the Entrance of the Gospel: Instead of “Come, let us worship and bow down to Christ”... (Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν...), we chant: “In the congregations bless God, the Lord Who springs out of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia.”/ Εὐ εκκλησίαις...
2. Entrance Hymn: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death and bestowing life on those in the graves.”/ Χριστός Ανέστη...
3. “Christ our God, You are the Life that dawned from the grave, though the tomb was sealed. Through closed doors You came to the Apostles.. You are the Resurrection of all., and You renewed us through them with an upright spirit, according to Your great mercy.”/Εσφραγισμένου του μνήματος... [Hymn for St. Thomas Sunday]
4. Kontakion: “Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades’ power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, ‘Hail!’ and granting peace to Your disciples, You Who raise up the fallen.”/ Εὐ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ...
5. After the consecration of the Holy Gifts: “Mother of our God, we praise You as the brightly shining lamp, the illustrious glory of all creation, of which you are the highest. With sacred hymns we magnify you.”/Σὲ τὴν φαεινὴν λαμπάδα...
6. Communion Hymn: “Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. Alleluia.”/Επαίνει, Ἱερουσαλὴμ, τὸν Κύριον...
7. After Holy Communion: The hymn “Chistos Anesti.”

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 29th..... Bible Study– 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 1st..... Orthodox Christian Catechism - 6:30 p.m. (online) - Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link.

Saturday, May 3rd..... Paint ‘n’ Sip Event – 11:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS:

– Today, 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 – PLUS a Cinco De Mayo themed luncheon! More information to follow.

PAINT ‘N’ SIP EVENT – Saturday, May 3rd at our parish hall – 11:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. (See enclosed flier.)

"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**