



MARCH 30, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT
74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260
ROAD TO RESURRECTION

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 direc-
tions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly re-
move lipstick be-
fore receiving.
3. When receiving
Holy Communion,
make the Sign of
the Cross, state
your name
(baptismal name) ,
and naturally re-
ceive as if being
fed.
4. Non-Orthodox
Christians may not
receive Holy Com-
munion, but they
may receive the
Holy Bread at the
end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Chris-
tians must be spirit-
ually prepared to
receive the Sacra-
ment of Holy Com-
munion. Please see
the priest if you have
any questions.

THE LADDER
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



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 - Hebrews 6:13-20

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL - St. Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless

generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Liturgical Notes for Today

With the Entrance with the Gospel: 1) "By Your Cross O Christ our God You destroyed death. You opened Paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the myrrh bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy." / Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ Σου...

2) "With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls." / Ταῖς τῶν δακρυῶν σου ροαῖς... [Hymn for St. John Climacus]

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." / Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς ... [Hymn for St. George]

4) **Kontakion:** "To You, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, Your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In Your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to You: 'Hail, Unwedded Bride.'" / Τῇ Υπερμάχῳ...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, April 1st.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m./Holy Water (Agiasmo) Service-11:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 2nd.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 3rd.....Orthodox Christian Catechism-6:30 p.m. (online) Contact Fr. Ted for link.
- Friday, April 4th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.
Akathist Hymn - 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS:

- 1) **Mini-Icon Painting Workshop Part I** is **today** in our parish hall at **11:00 a.m.** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **Part II of the Mini-Icon Painting Workshop** will be held next **Sunday, April 6th.** For more information, see our parish website <https://www.stgeorgepd.org/news/news>.
- 2) Philoptochos General Meeting-April 7th;
- 3) Kids 'n' Cancer Luncheon-April 27th;
- 4) Philoptochos Board Elections-May 4th.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON – Sunday, April 13 in our Parish Hall, donation \$10. **Deadline to sign up is April 7th.** Please see the attached flier to sign up so we can plan the food for the luncheon adequately.

BOOKSTORE - Now available: *The Akathist Hymn; Services for Holy Week and Easter.* (Narthex Press Publications). A new book is also available, entitled, *Living as a Christian in a World that Rejects God.* See enclosed announcement.

GOLF TOURNAMENT - Saturday, April 26th. See: <https://stgeorgepd.org/golf-tournament>

Living as a Christian in a World that Rejects God

One new book is by a Romanian monk-priest, Fr. Roman Braga, who suffered in Communist prison camps. Our parishioner, Mary Brown, interviewed Fr. Roman and these conversations have now been published as ***Living as a Christian in a World that Rejects God.*** Fr. Roman leads us to a clear understanding of Holy Orthodoxy, and how it transforms us, fills us with the light of Christ, heals our souls and enables us to pour out love for others. Father shows us that this process produces a deep humility and contrition; when we look up to God from the certainty of our own sinfulness, the glory of his love for us is indescribable. The book is organized into three sections: fundamental understandings, practical ways to grow in the image of God, and family life in Christ which includes ways to explain and live aspects of our Orthodox faith with children. Frederica Mathewes-Green writes in her introduction to this book that "what Fr. Roman has to say about living as a Christian in a world that rejects God is well worth hearing. Because he did it--under unimaginable circumstances."



ST GEORGE PARISH

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 13, 2025

Dear Parishioners

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will hold the annual Palm Sunday Luncheon on Sunday April 13 following liturgy. It's all about Fellowship! We are certain that all of you will want to attend this meaningful and holy holiday celebration.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$10.00 per person. The menu will consist of appetizers, fish, our famous skordalia and a Lenten dessert. *Your support is greatly appreciated.*

Contact Tina Veroulis at (760) 568-9901 to make your reservations or complete this flyer and enclose your payment with this form. Checks can be made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to 74109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92260 or bring it to the office. **The deadline is April 7, 2025.**

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ AMOUNT _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____

Philoptochos invites you to a



MINI ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP

Sunday, MARCH 30TH - Part I

11:00 am – After the Divine Liturgy we will begin with prepping our canvas and step by step instructions by Louka.

Sunday, APRIL 6th - Part II

1145am – Louka will continue providing further step by step instructions and finishing touches to our Icon of Holy Theotokos.

Limited seating for 20

Register now to
Athena 219-313-6940
or sign up during
coffee hour



\$15.00 Total cost

includes canvas,
paint and supplies



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and
the Greek Orthodox Metropolis
of San Francisco Philoptochos
cordially invite you to attend

Agape

A Celebration of Love

"Whoever received one little child like this in
My name receives Me." Matthew 18:5

Visit www.sfphiloptochos.org
to make a secure
donation **TODAY!**

Camp Agape is dedicated to
providing support for children
afflicted with cancer and their
families. This beloved ministry
offers a compassionate and
caring environment, exemplary
of Christ's unconditional love,
along with an opportunity to
shape meaningful friendships
and create precious memories.

To benefit our Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry

Sunday, April 27, 2025
2:00 p.m. PDT

Newport Beach Country Club

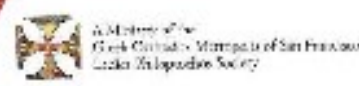
One Clubhouse Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660

RSVP Date: April 20, 2025

While enjoying an afternoon of fabulous music,
delectable food, and good friends, guests will have
the opportunity to purchase Mystery Hat Boxes
filled with
exciting gifts and
participate in
an Opportunity
Drawing!



Kids 'n' Cancer
Camp Agape



**Opportunity
Drawing**
The Louis Vuitton
Neverfull MM Tote Bag



Register at
www.sfphiloptochos.org or
by calling 415-431-2600 by April 20, 2025

Cost: \$100 person