



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, May 17, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Guest Priest:

Matthew Swehla

Deacon:

**Euthym Kontaxis,
M.D., M.Div.**

**74109 Larrea St. Palm
Desert, CA. 92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901**

**Office Hours: M - F
10a.m. - 2p.m.**

**Visit Us At:
stgeorgepd.org**

Prior to Holy Communion:

1. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
2. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
3. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.



Prokeimenon. Mode 4

Psalm 103.24,10

Lord, how manifold are your works.
You have made all things in wisdom.
Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.



EPISTLE - ACTS 16:16 – 34

In those days, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of

EPISTLE - ACTS 16:16 – 34 - CONTINUED

the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

GOSPEL- JN. 9:1 – 38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be the Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man

were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him.



Liturgical Notes For Today’s Divine Liturgy

Resurrectional Apolytikion

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection.

Kontakion of Pascha

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out “Rejoice” to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL AHEPA CHAPTER 528 LOST BROTHERS

With reverence and love, our Greek Orthodox community and AHEPA Chapter 528 remembers our departed Brothers listed below. We give thanks to God for their lives, their service, and the blessing of their fellowship among us. We pray that the Lord grants rest to their souls "in a place of light, a place of refreshment, a place of repose," and we extend heartfelt condolences to their families and all who mourn.

2011 - FR. THEOPHILIS
2016 - STEVE N. PISANOS
2016 - STEVE GEOTAS
2016 - STAN GEORGALAKIS
2017 - ROBERT MAVERICK
2017 - GEORGE TCHAROS
2018 - THOMAS EVANS
2018 - JJ RICHARDS, SR.
2020 - SPIRO CANAKIS
2021 - NICK KYRIACOU
2021 - CHRIS LASKARIS

Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη — May their memory be eternal.

PARISH COUNCIL

We are honored to welcome Father Matthew Swehla from St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton, Oregon, who joins us to celebrate the Divine Liturgy today. Please join us for coffee hour to greet him and introduce yourselves. We thank you, Father, for traveling to be with our community and ask for your prayers for our parish.

Parish Council President
~ Jim Christopolous

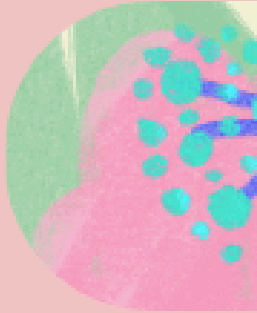
ST. GEORGE IN FULL BLOOM



White flowers of Echinopsis
also known as Sea-urchin or Easter Lily Cactus

The white flowers of Echinopsis cacti are not only a botanical marvel but also carry symbolic weight—representing purity, peace, spiritual clarity, and new beginnings. Their nocturnal bloom adds a layer of meaning, evoking the idea of inner light emerging in darkness.

HAPPENING TODAY SUNDAY, MAY 17th!



SIP 'N' PAINT

Join us Sunday, May 17th - 12PM
Special Session Led by Toufic "Luka" Louka

RSVP with

- Rhonda Latkovic: 714.875.4661
- Athena Snarskis: 219.313.6940

STEWARDSHIP

There are two ways to submit your stewardship:

- Mail or bring your check (address on the first page of The Ladder). Please write "Stewardship" on the check for proper recording.
- Pay online using our secure system:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZN30/campaign/C-151YF>

UP COMING EVENTS & SERVICES

Monday, May 18th - 11 AM

Philoptochos General Meeting - 11 AM

Thursday, May 21st

Zoom Meeting with Deacon Euthym - 5:30 PM

Sunday, May 24th

Orthos 8:30 AM & 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 31st

Orthos 8:30 AM & 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

MEET YOUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR THE SUNDAY'S AHEAD

May 17th - Brothers of AHEPA Chapter 528

May 24th - Mary Ellen

May 31st - Paulette Carkonen

June 7th - Linda Hanna (Memorial)

June 14th - Bernice Shaheen

June 21st - Ron Gregory

June 28th - Elane Grillos

July 5th - Annette Lewis



Available dates

· July 12th

· July 19th

· July 26th

· All August

To sign up or for more information, contact

Marie Mally - Tel: 760-898-2710 ~ Email: m.malley@yahoo.com

Irene Stambolos - Tel: 818-517-3169 ~ Email: istambolos@stgeorge.org

“The Ladder,” for May 2026 is sponsored by Brothers of AHEPA Chapter 528

AHEPA SUNDAY CHAPTER 528



2026

Founded December 17, 2003

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922, in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th-century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence, to the community.

Although most of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, membership application is open to anyone who believes in the organization's mission.

May 17th 2026

The Brothers of AHEPA Chapter 528 are pleased to announce the awarding of scholarships to students within our AHEPA Family and the St. George Stewardship Program, supporting those pursuing graduate, post-graduate, and vocational education.

Following the services, the brothers will host a time of fellowship, and all are warmly invited to join.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued dedication to our church and for your commitment to preserving and promoting Hellenism
ITS STRENGTH BEGINS HERE, WITH ALL OF US.

*Chapter 528 meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month~6:30pm at Dennys Palm Desert
Dark July and August*

*Chapter President - Wynn Storton PSG
760.832.2825 Wynn@ahempa528.org
Vice President -Harry Loukatos PCP
Secretary – Nick Latkovic
Treasurer – Haig Shannazarian
Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Ted Pantels*

Contact@ahempa528.org



**Fr. Theophilos Theophilos
Memorial Scholarship Fund**
Donations accepted at
www.ahempa528.org
or mailed to:
AHEPA 528 Scholarship Fund
42215 Washington St A154
Palm Desert, CA 92211-8031



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Protocol No. 194/2026

Archebiscopal Encyclical on AHEPA Sunday

May 17, 2026

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Presvyteres and Diakonisses, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America:

... the name Hellene suggests no longer a race, but an intelligence....
(Isokrates, Panygeric:50)

My beloved brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Today, when we celebrate our annual observance of AHEPA Sunday, we take a significant moment in our Church Year to acknowledge the contributions of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association to our community. And not only to the Omogeneia, but to the wider American Society as well. This is because, as Isocrates observed nearly 2,400 years ago, to be Greek is truly a civilizational project. AHEPA, with its deep commitment and pride for our shared ethnic, cultural and linguistic roots, also recognizes the inclusiveness that our magnificent Hellenic inheritance naturally fosters.

AHEPA reflects the breadth and openness of its mission by filling its ranks from all the members of our communities, regardless of background. In this way, AHEPA is utterly aligned with the highest goals and aspiration of the Hellenic ideal and, indeed,

the welcoming spirit of Orthodox Christianity. Working in tandem with the local parishes, AHEPA expands the reach of our core communities and brings more and more people into the Fold of the Great Shepherd, our Resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore, on this AHEPA Sunday, let us give thanks for the many and multiform offerings that this vital Association brings to the life of our Church and to the world. Hellenes span the globe with the unique intelligence that gave birth both to Western Civilization and the Christian Church as a world-changing religion. AHEPA serves both these ends, from the shores of America to the shores of the Bosphorus. May God bless their paramount work!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

With much paternal love in our Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in Greek script. The signature reads "Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐπιδοφόρος", which translates to "The Archbishop of America". The handwriting is fluid and cursive.

†ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America