

JUNE 3, 2018

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,

Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,

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.*

MANY KINDS OF SAINTS

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous..."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the list of the hymn. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they

are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ.

The order of these six types of saints is given in this herein mentioned hymn of the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

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THE RELICS OF THE SAINTS

Saints are usually recognized by a local community, often by people who directly knew them. As their popularity grows they are often then recognized by the entire church. The formal process of recognition involves deliberation by a synod of bishops. One of many ways the holiness (sanctity) of a person is revealed, is through the sanctifying power of their relics (remains) for the spiritual benefit of others. This does not, however, make the person a saint; the person already was a saint and the Church ultimately recognized it.

The reason relics are considered sacred is because, for the Orthodox, the body and soul both comprise the person, and in the end, body and soul will be reunited; therefore, the body of a saint shares in the "Holiness" of the soul of the saint. As a general rule only clergy will touch relics in order to move them or carry them in procession. However, in veneration, the faithful will kiss the relic to show love and respect toward the saint. The altar in an Orthodox church contains relics of saints, often of martyrs. Church interiors are covered with the Icons of saints. Because the Church shows no true distinction between the living and the dead (the saints are considered to be alive in Heaven), saints are referred to as if they were still alive. Saints are venerated but not worshipped. They intercede for salvation and help mankind either through direct communion with God, or by personal intervention.

--Taken from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint>



Η υμνογραφία για την εορτή των Αγίων Παντών κατατάσσει έξι κατηγορίες αγίων: <Συν προφηταις, Αποστολοι, συν διδασκαλοι, συν ιερομαρτυσι, αθλησασαι, δικαιοι των Αγίων η πληθους...>. Μερικοί αγίοι περιγράφονται ως ομολογητοί. Εφόσον είναι παρομοίοι με τους μαρτυρές, θεωρείται ότι ανήκουν στην κατηγορία των μαρτυρών.

Η σειρά αυτών των έξι κατηγοριών αγίων δίδεται στον αναφερόμενο ύμνο, επειδή ήσαν οι πρώτοι που έδωσαν το Ευαγγέλιο στον κόσμον όλον.

Οι μαρτυρές έρχονται έπειτα εξαιτίας του θάρρους των να παραμείνουν πιστοί στον Χριστόν μέχρι θανάτου.

Οι προφητές παρατίθενται στην συνέχεια διότι εκηρύξαν τα γεγονότα της σωτηρίας μας δια μέσου του Ιησού Χριστού.

Οι ιεραρχές έδιδασκαν τον κόσμον με τα κηρύγματα των και το γενικό παράδειγμα της <εν Χριστώ> ζωής των.

Οι μοναχοί είναι εκείνοι οι οποίοι εγκατέλειψαν τον κόσμον για να αφιερωθούν στο έργο της προσευχής, δια μέσου της οποίας απέκτησαν την Σοφία του Θεού.

Οι δικαιοί είναι εκείνοι οι οποίοι επέτυχαν ιεροτρόπον ζωής, παρόλο που έζουσαν στον κόσμον.

Η εορτή των Αγίων Παντών εγκαταστάθηκε από τον αυτοκράτορα Λεόντα προς τιμήν της συζύγου του, της αυτοκρατειρας Θεοφανίας κατά το έτος 893 ή 894. Δια της εορτής αυτής τιμούμεν όλους τους Αγίους του Κυρίου – εκείνους που γνωρίζουμε, και εκείνους που μόνον ο Θεός γνωρίζει.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church; they encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: “*Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men*” (*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St. Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

--The above is taken from the website: <https://oca.org/saints/lives>, the website of the *Orthodox Church in America*.

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Erika Aguilar, Jim Alex, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards, Chris Panopoulos, Nicholas Kontaxis, Louise Scott, Gaylord Washington, Patsy Bruckens, Herline Williams, Jean Chronis (*Many faithful on our Prayer List face chronic/serious illness*).

ANTIPHON I: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

Verse 1—Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me; bless His holy name.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 2-Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 3—The Lord prepared His throne in heaven and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson"

ANTIPHON II: "Soson imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)

Verse 1-Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 -Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who is Risen from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3 -The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous aonas ton aonon. Amin. "O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."

ANTIPHON III-This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Sunday Hymn : Ex ipsous katilthes [Tone 8]... (O Lord by Your Sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the theif blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world for evermore.)

Hymn for All-Saints Sunday ... Ton en olo to kosmo Martyron Sou...(Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them She cried to You, Christ our God, 'Send down to Your people Your tender love; grant peace from above to Your commonwealth and, to our souls, Your great mercy.)

Hymn for St. George : Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (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 with Christ God that He may save our souls.)

Sunday Kontakion Hymn: Os aparchahs tis physeos... (O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature's first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord abundantly merciful.)

READINGS: Epistle:-Hebrews 11: 33-40; 12 :1-2 / Gospel: St. Matthew 10: 32-33; 27-38; 19: 27-30

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated

Communion Hymn: "Aghaliasthe dhyke-ei en Kyrio, tis efthesi prepi enesis, Alleluia." (Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O Righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright. Alleluia)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Celebrating the birthday of the Lady, Geraldine (Catherine)

MEMORIAL - Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of our brother in Christ, the servant of God, **Fr. Anthony Kosturos (14 years)**, the beloved father of **Paul Kosturos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Fr. Anthony Kosturos** and may He grant comfort and peace to **Paul Kosturos** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

PHILOPTOCHOS -- We are looking for Coffee Hour sponsors for July. If you are interested, please see **Pat Dalkas**. This is a reminder that Memorial koliva and cookies are usually prepared by Philoptochos. If you are planning a Memorial Service, contact Fr. Ted and he will contact Philoptochos with your needs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL-End-of-the-Year Ceremony- today following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. This afternoon students and parents will join in bowling with a luncheon.

ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP - The two sessions for this year's youth **St. Sophia Summer Camp program** are: Session 1: July 22-July 28; Session 2: July 28-August 4, 2018. Fliers are available in our parish hall. **Registration forms are online at: www.SaintSophiaCamp.org.**

NEW RED ALTAR COVERINGS --We are grateful to God for the efforts of **Lula Valissarakos**, who is currently making the **red Altar Coverings** for our Church. Anyone who would like to offer a donation towards the cost of the fabrics needed for our red Altar coverings is asked to see **Lula Valissarakos** for more information.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 5th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 6th.....AHEPA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

"The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven."

--St. Matthew 10: 32-33

**The Ladder for June 2018 is sponsored
by
Tina & Angelo Veroulis
And
Joan & Frank Fakinos**

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.