



JUNE 29, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

Mailing Address:

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

THE LADDER

STS. PETER & PAUL



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— 2 Cor. 11:21 – 33; 12:1 – 9

Brethren, whatever anyone dares to boast of — I am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one — I am talking like a madman — with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus and wanted to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his

hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 16:13 – 19

At that time, when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, Who do men say that the Son of man is? And they said, Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one

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*GOSPEL PASSAGE, CONTINUED*

of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I

tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**Liturgical Notes**

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **1)** *"When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then the light of Your divinity destroyed Hades. When You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out, 'Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'"* / Ὅτε κατήλθες...

**2)** *"First in prominence among the Apostles, and teachers of the universe, intercede to the Master of all for peace in the world and for our souls, great mercy."* / Οἱ τῶν Ἀποστόλων πρωτόθρονοι ... [Hymn for Sts. Peter and Paul]

**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 ελευθεροτῆς... [Hymn for St. George]

**4) Kontakion:** *"Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In Your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You."* / Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν...

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Monday, June 30th .....SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 1st.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, July 3rd...Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)- 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 4th.....American Independence Day (office closed)

**STEWARDSHIP** – We are grateful to our St. George parishioners for their Stewardship contributions to our parish through this first part of the year.

The early Church followed principles of Christian stewardship as articulated in St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians , Chapters 8 and 9. *"The proof of God's love for us is that He gave us His Son through His Incarnation and death (Rom.5:8). The proof of our love for God is in the giving of our gifts to Him and the churches."* (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1582).

Chapter 9: 6-15 are verses from this Epistle that make up Paul's landmark teaching on Stewardship: *"But this I say: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in the heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."*

An anonymous commentator once quipped: *"By giving for others to be able to worship with us, we help heal souls and, through our prayers, God's wisdom is given to those all around. By bringing others to salvation, we find salvation for ourselves."*