



AUGUST 3, 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



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—1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 14:14 – 22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

THE MIRACLE OF THE FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD

Based on this miracle, the Orthodox Church often performs the Church Service known as the "Blessing of the Five Loaves" (in Greek: *Artoklasia*). *"This miracle, reported by all four Evangelists, shows Jesus feeding a great multitude of His people as He fed the Israelites in the desert (See Exodus 16)...Jesus shows that we should never act without first giving thanks to God. The terminology points to the Last Supper (26:26) and leads to a eucharistic interpretation of this miracle. Just as the disciples distribute the bread to the multitudes, so also Jesus feeds the Eucharist to His flock through the hands of His bishops and presbyters."* (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1296)

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of 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 to the world Your great mercy."* / Κατέλυσας τὸ Σταυρῶ...

2. *"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 to Christ that He may save our souls."* / Ως τῶν αἰχμαλώτων... [Hymn in honor of St. George]

3. **Kontakion:** *"You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father."* / Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθης...

MEMORIAL— Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servants of God, **Emily Tcharos (3 yrs.)** and **George Tcharos (8 yrs.)**, the beloved parents of **Nicholas Tcharos** and **Stephanie Kourakis** and their families and also for their uncle, **Kenneth (Kyriakos) Pappas (40 days)**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Emily Tcharos, George Tcharos and Kenneth (Kyriakos) Pappas** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Nicholas Tcharos, Stephanie Kourakis** and their families. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

— Monday, August 4th.....Paraklisis Service— 6:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, August 6th....TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

— Thursday, August 7th.....Orthodox Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m. (Contact Fr. Ted for Zoom link)

— Friday, August 8th.....Paraklisis Service—6:00 p.m.

— Saturday, August 9th.....Paraklisis Service— 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEAST DAY LUNCHEON: IN HONOR OF THE THEOTOKOS— Following Church Services on Sunday, August 17th in our parish hall. Please join us! See enclosed flyer for details.

PHILOPTOCHOS — Philoptochos welcomes all parishioners to join us in the church hall for coffee hour after church services. As many of you know the costs for food have risen. The costs for coffee hour supplies, coffee, food, and condiments have also risen. In order to continue our service, we graciously accept donations to cover these costs. We also need your help in hosting coffee hour. Sign ups are in the church hall or you may contact **Marie Malley 760-898-2713**. We will continue to serve refreshments. Once everyone has been served, you're more than welcome to help yourself to seconds. Warm Regards, Irene Stambolos, President, Philoptochos Tel: 818-517-3169— Email: Istambolos@stgeorgepd.org

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS— Included in this week's *Ladder* are a page explaining the beauty of the upcoming Church Feast Days, **The Transfiguration of our Lord** and the **Dormition of the Holy Theotokos**. Also included is a form to list the names of family and friends to be included in the **Paraklisis Services** which are scheduled throughout the first 15 days of August. *Your attendance and participation in these sacred services are essential for inspiring others and carrying on the flame of our Orthodox Christian Faith!*

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE-Begins August 28th. For more details and registration access: www.sanfran.goarch.org

O MOTHER OF GOD, WE GLORIFY YOU

**WE CELEBRATE YOUR DORMITION AND WE ASK FOR HEALING
OF SOUL AND BODY**

**JOIN US! SUNDAY,
AUGUST 17**

Following Liturgy

for a fellowship
luncheon. Lunch
is free.

Donations are
graciously
accepted.

Your presence is
a blessing, and
we look forward
to sharing this
special day
together.





THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

AUGUST 6th

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5). Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.



THE DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

AUGUST 15

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God. With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens. These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God.

—Information taken from our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org

Many thanks to Rhonda Latkovic who prepared an educational kiosk located in our parish hall to learn more about these two special Feast Days of our Church and the corresponding Church iconography.



**NAMES FOR THE PARAKLISIS SERVICES HELD DURING THE SEASON OF SPIRITUAL
PREPARATION TOWARD THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DORMITION OF THE
MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS ON AUGUST 15th**

**(Write the First Name of loved ones and friends that to be included in the PARAKLISIS
SERVICE in honor of the Holy Theotokos as we pray for their health and wellbeing.)**
