



# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, August 31, 2025

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



## 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 do in 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."*



12th Sunday of  
Matthew

### Priest:

**Fr. Theodore Pantels,  
M.Div. Proistamenos  
(Pastor)**

### Deacon:

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

### Mailing Address:

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

### Visit us at:

**[stgeorgepd.org](http://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.

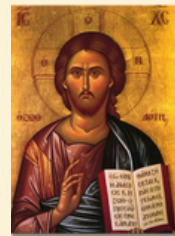


### Prokeimenon. Mode 3

**Luke 1: 46-48**

*My soul magnifies the  
Lord, and my spirit rejoices  
in God my Savior.*

*Verse: For he has regarded  
the humility of his servant.*



## EPISTLE — Hebrews 9:1-7

Brethren, the first tent had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the first one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

## GOSPEL—St. Matthew 18:23 – 35

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## Liturgical Notes For Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel:

**1)** *“Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord, by His Mighty Arm, has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death and become the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy.”/... Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια...*

**2)** *“O Ever-virgin Theotokos, protection of humankind, You have granted to Your city the garment and cincture of Your Immaculate Body, a mighty vesture which through Your Son, seedlessly conceived, remained immutable, for in You, both time and nature are renewed. Wherefore, we beseech You, grant peace to Your world and to our souls great mercy.”/ Θεοτόκε ἀειπάρθενε...*

**2)** *“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.”/ Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτής... [Hymn for St. George]*

**3) Kontakion:** *“O Theotokos, Your precious cincture which encompassed Your God-receiving womb, is an invincible power for Your city and an inexhaustible treasure of good, O only Ever-virgin Birthgiver. ”/Τὴν θεοδόχον γαστέρα σου Θεοτόκε...*

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Parish Council News

The Parish Council will be holding monthly meetings beginning in **September** on the **second Tuesday of every month at 1:30pm**. We will make every effort to post the minutes from every meeting on the bulletin board outside the office. We want you to know what the Parish Council is working on for our church.

We are in the process of deciding whether or not we will continue our annual Greek Festival this coming year. To figure out what we all think, we created a Greek Festival 2026 group led by the Deacon Kontaxis and Rhonda Latkovic. They will be reaching out to our community and they will meet with Parish Council this coming week. Parish Council will make the final decision on whether to have a Greek Festival this year.

### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU BEFORE WE MAKE THIS DECISION...**

We want to know what you think...should we have a festival in 2026? We want to hear your opinion!

Please email Tasia Richards at [trichards@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:trichards@stgeorgepd.org).

### A Note from the Philoptochos President:

Fall is around the corner. It's time for us to plan for our New Philoptochos Year! This is a reminder that our first general meeting will be Monday, September 15, 2025. Lunch will be provided. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting following. Bring with you any ideas you may have for fundraisers, events, and/or projects we need to support or consider for the new year. We will be reviewing our events that are planned for the year. In addition, we will be asking you to sign up for help with coffee hour, visitations, and committee chairs for upcoming events.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to working with all of you. Please RSVP to [istambolos@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:istambolos@stgeorgepd.org) or call at 818-517-3169 So that we know how many to plan for lunch.

Warm Regards, *Irene Stambolos, President, Philoptochos*

### Philoptochos News

Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

**Socktober** donation event for the homeless begins **September 20th-October 20th**. Help us provide **new socks** to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in helping residents in need & the homeless population in the east valley. Men's, women's & children's socks are needed in casual styles. **Only NEW socks** will be accepted. Contact Board Member Elaine Grillos for more information at: (650) 224-3636 or email: [jgrillos@aol.com](mailto:jgrillos@aol.com).

**Annual Pink Walk** (Paint El Paseo Pink) is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11th**. This event raises funds and awareness in helping cancer patients. Pre-race program 7:30 am – **Race begins at 8:00 am**. Please join our St. George Team. **Registration is \$40.00** and includes a new walk tee shirt. Entry fee can be paid via cash, check, or credit card payable to **St. George Ladies Philoptochos**. See Board member **Rhonda Latkovic** to register. Call her at **(714) 875-4661** or email her at: [rlatkovic@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:rlatkovic@stgeorgepd.org)



### **Weekly Opportunities:**

**Monday, September 1st**

ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

Orthros 8:30 a.m, followed by the celebration of the Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, September 2nd**

Bible Study—10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 3rd**

Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m.

[Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link.]

[fr.theodore@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:fr.theodore@stgeorgepd.org)

### **Upcoming Events:**

**September 20-October 10 2025**

Socktober Event: Donations for the homeless

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

Bells Across America Event

**Saturday, October 11, 2025**

Paint El Paseo Pink Event

### **Thought for the Week by Deacon Euthym:**

*Seek God, and not where God lives...Abba Sisoies*

Often we seek a specific outcome and not a specific relationship in prayer. We desire heaven, but forget God. We want peace and harmony but ignore that it is the Holy Spirit that gives us peace. We want healthy relationships, but reject the perfect relationship that Christ offers us when he offers Himself to us every Liturgy.. If instead, we seek God and establish our relationship with Him... paradise awaits. When we try to make our own paradise apart from God, we have no hope for peace and harmony.

"Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all things shall be added unto you" (Mathew 6:33)



### **Memorial**

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of **Konstantinos Giorgios Tsiamagos (3 yrs.)**, the beloved husband of **Christina Tsiamagos**, father of **Alexandra Haralambous**, father-in-law of **George Haralambous**, father of **George Tsiamagos** and father-in-law of **Angela Tsiamagos**, and grandfather of **Vasili Haralambous**, **Konstantinos Haralambous**, **Giannis Haralambous**, **Konstantinos Tsiamagos** and **Christina Tsiamagos**. Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of **William George Barringer (5 yrs.)**, the beloved husband of **Louise Dobbs Barringer**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Konstantinos Giorgios Tsiamagos** and **William George Barringer** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Christina Tsiamagos** and the entire family, as well as to **Louise Dobbs Barringer**.

**MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**



# STATEMENT OF HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS

## *SHOOTING AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOL IN MINNESOTA*

“There are no words to fully express the grief and sorrow in my heart, nor in the hearts of people around the world who mourn after yet another school shooting. The repercussions of this heinous act will be felt for generations. Parents entrusted their children to school, and while bowing their heads in prayer, innocent lives were taken and many others gravely wounded. Yet in this time of deep pain, we must not allow ourselves to be weakened in our faith. Rather, we are called to stand together in prayer, to seek the Lord’s comfort and peace, and to embrace one another with Christian love and compassion.”

## **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRAYER FOR PROTECTION**

*“We pray for the protection of this holy church, this city and every city and land, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire and the sword, and against enemy invasion, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and kindly-disposed, and may divert and disperse all anger and evil coming against us and that He deliver us from His own just threat hanging over us and have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. ”*

## **SEPTEMBER FEAST DAYS**



### **NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS – SEPTEMBER 8th**

#### **Biblical Story**

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however, this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion,

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at her house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

#### **Icon of the Feast**

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos presents to us the central figures of Saints Joachim and Anna, Mary's parents, and the Mother of our Lord as an infant. Saint Anna is in the middle of the icon with her right hand extended toward her daughter. Likewise, Saint Joachim, Mary's father, is gazing upon the young child with his right hand extended toward her. Anna is surrounded by the attendants who assisted with the birth.

The icon directs attention to Mary as the central figure in this feast. It also acknowledges the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna as new parents with a child received through a promise from God. The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge this joy and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world.



## **EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS—SEPTEMBER 14th**

### **Biblical Story**

In the twentieth Year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the pulpit and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with “Lord have mercy”. This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The feast is an opportunity outside of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world.

### **Icon of the Feast**

The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.



**Saturday, October 11th**  
**Pre-race program 7:30 AM-Race begins 8:00 AM**

Please join our Saint George Team to support cancer care treatment through Desert Cancer Foundation's 19th annual "Pink Walk" and celebrate our **8th year** of participation!



***New This Year!***

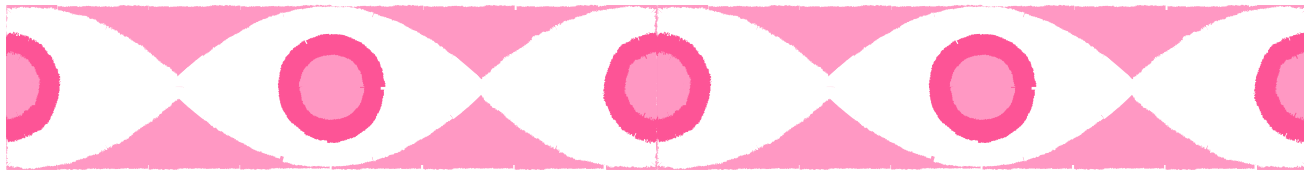
Registration is \$40.00 – includes a new walk tee shirt! (\$5.00 less than last year.)

The Pink Walk requires ten members and our team name will be featured in event programming!  
We will provide assistance for signing up!

The entry fee can be paid via cash, check, or credit card payable to **St.**  
***George Ladies Philoptochos.***

Help us raise our goal of **\$500.00** in assisting cancer patients in our community!

See Board Member Rhonda Latkovic to register.  
Tel. (714) 875-4661 Email: [rlatkovic@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:rlatkovic@stgeorgepd.org)





# JOIN US FOR SOCKTOBER DONATION DRIVE

**Did you know that the #1 needed clothing item for a homeless person is a pair of socks?**

Please help the **St. George Ladies Philoptochos** provide new socks to **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** for the in-program residents & homeless population in the east valley.

Socks can be in the bins provided that are located in the church hall. Monetary donations can be made & we will do the shopping if you are not able.

Men's, women's, & children's socks are needed in Casual styles.

Please note that: ONLY NEW SOCKS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

**Dates: September 20th–October 20th!**

**Contact Board Member Elaine Grillos for more info.**

Tel. (650) 224-3636 or Email: [jgrillos@aol.com](mailto:jgrillos@aol.com)

## ST. GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS

### **Memorial Pricing** **eff. 04/01/2024**



#### **Kolyva & Greek Pastries**

Our Philoptochos volunteers are available to prepare kolyva for your loved one's memorial if you are unable to do so. The cost for a large tray of kolyva has been increased from \$50.00 to \$75.00 due to escalating food ingredient prices in the stores. In addition, Greek paximathia and/or koulourakia are available for purchase for your memorial. The price is \$12.00 per dozen. We encourage a two-week minimum notice to ensure that a volunteer is available to make kolyva. Contact both Father Theodore Pantels and Philoptochos President Irene Stambolos with your memorial date request.

#### **Memorial Luncheons**

We encourage families wanting a Memorial Luncheon after church service to personally arrange their memorial luncheon themselves using a local caterer. Families can also purchase & prepare the food to be served. This includes set-up & clean-up, paper products, etc. Our Philoptochos volunteers can assist with the set-up, coffee serving, & clean-up if needed, for a donation to the chapter.

Contact both the priest, Father Theodore Pantels and Philoptochos President, Irene Stambolos with your request two-weeks in advance.

We thank everyone for their understanding & support.

2025 Philoptochos Board Members

# Memorial Pricing Effective April 1, 2024

*Kolyva and Greek Pastries Available*



# **Bells Across America Event!**



*You're invited to help us celebrate the 238th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution! Please join us at the annual "Bells Across America" bell ringing event to kick off Constitution Week*

**Wednesday, September 17th, 12:45 PM!**

*Short program will commence at 12:45 PM with the bell ringing to follow at 1:00 PM. Refreshments & lunch will be served after the bell ringing! Live music featuring the Joselyn Desert Strummers!*

## **Location:**

*St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
74109 Larrea St.  
Palm Desert, CA 92260*



*Bell Tower*