



FEBRUARY 16, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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- 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.

THE LADDER
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



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—1 Corinthians 6:12 – 20

Brethren, "all things are permitted for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are permitted for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

GOSPEL— St. Luke 15:11 – 32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later,

the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he

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GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many

years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

**Liturgical Notes for Today**

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** 1) "O Merciful One, You came from on high, and condescended to Your three-day burial to save us from passions. You are our life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory to You." / Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος...

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 ελευθερωτής... [Hymn for St. George]

3) **Kontakion:** "O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory and, in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, 'I have sinned before You, Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants.'" / Της πατρῶας δόξης σου...

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Monday, February 17th.....Festival Workers Appreciation Dinner – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 19th...Orthodox Catechism class (online) - 6:30 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DIVINE LITURGY – This Sunday, February 16th Orthros will begin at 7:45 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy at approximately 8:45 a.m.** This will allow parishioners who are helping with the Festival to participate in the Divine Liturgy and then get ready for the Festival.

**GREEK FESTIVAL – Appreciation Dinner:** We appreciate the help that our parishioners offered toward the success of our Greek Festival 2025. Many blessings to all! **All volunteers are invited to our freely offered Greek Festival Appreciation Dinner – Monday, February 17, 2025 at 5:00 pm.**

**PHILOPTOCHOS- SAVE THE DATE** for the **Philoptochos Membership Event** scheduled on **Saturday, March 1st, 2025.** We encourage prospective members and all current members to attend. This includes both Orthodox women and men! The minimum annual "donation" for our chapter membership is \$50.00.

# Thank You!



To all the St George Ladies and Men,

A heartfelt thank you for your abounding help in creating PASTRIES MAGIC that will be enjoyed by many. The pastries are a true and loving expression of our Greek heritage.

Stacy and I appreciated your smiles, laughter, food for the daily lunches and countless hours of work.

Because of all of you, we will have a successful festival.

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU

Stacy and Tina