



FEBRUARY 23, 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
MEATFARE SUNDAY



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 8:8 – 13; 9:1 – 2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 25:31 – 46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but

the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

### Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** 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.'"*/Ότε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον...

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 God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most Just."*/Όταν έλθης ο Θεός επί της γης...

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Panagiotis Christopoulos (1 year)**, the beloved husband of **Tessie Christopoulos** and the beloved father of **Athena Bertucci** and **Jim Christopoulos**. In today's Memorial service we will also pray for the servants of God, **Christo, Peter and Constance**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to Panagiotis Christopoulos and may He grant peace and comfort to Tessie Christopoulos, **Athena Bertucci** and **Jim Christopoulos** and the entire family. MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 25th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 26th...Orthodox Catechism class (online) - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 1st.....SATURDAY OF SOULS

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

Philoptochos Membership Event – 11:00 a.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GREEK FESTIVAL** – Many thanks and many blessings to all who helped for our 2025 St. George Greek Festival last weekend. We are truly grateful to our **Festival Chairman, George Argyros** and his department chairpersons for making our Festival a success this year. **Pastries and Greek Festival grocery items** are available in our parish hall for purchase following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy today.

**PHILOPTOCHOS**–This is the last day to make reservations to attend the Philoptochos Membership Event scheduled for this coming **Saturday, March 1st, 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m.** 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.