



JANUARY 12, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.stgeorgepd.org

Email: tpantels@stgeorgepd.org

Mailing Address:
74-109 Larrea St.
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

– 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 AFTER EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY)



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—Ephesians 4:7 – 13

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 4:12 – 17

At that time, Jesus when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

ST. TATIANA THE MARTYR

Today we commemorate St. Tatiana of Rome. St. Tatiana was the daughter of a most distinguished consul of Rome. Thus, Roman jurors captured Tatiana and attempted to force her to make a sacrifice to Apollo. She prayed, and miraculously, an earthquake destroyed the statue of Apollo and part of the temple. The demon inhabiting the idol fled screeching from that place. Those present saw its shadow flying through the air. As she was suffering, angels punished her tormentors with the same torments they inflicted on her, until they cried out that they could no longer endure the scourges invisibly brought upon them. None the less, she was imprisoned and beheaded during the reign of Alexander Severus (111-135 A.D.).
– Taken in part from www.orthodoxwiki.org.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** 1) *"The Women Disciples of the Lord heard from the angel the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride, they said to the Apostles, 'Death is vanquished, Christ our God is risen, bestowing upon the world His great mercy.'"*/Το φαιδρὸν της αναστάσεως...

2) *"Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved Son, and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world."* /Εν Ιορδάνη Βαπτιζομένου...

3) *"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 our God that He may save our souls."* [Hymn of St. George]/Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής... [Hymn for St. George]

4) **Kontakion:** *"You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light.""* /Επεφάνης σήμερον...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 12th.....Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy our **Family Sunday School program** resumes and the **Vasilopita Celebration** will be held in our parish hall (sponsored by our Philoptochos)

Monday, January 13th.....Philoptochos General Members' Meeting – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 14th.....Festival Preparations begin –9:00 a.m./Bible Study-10:00 a.m. (in the church sanctuary)/AHEPA meeting– 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 15th..Orthodox Christian Catechism-6:30 p.m. (online). Contact Fr. Ted by email at tpantels@stgeorgepd.org to receive a link to join on Zoom.)

Friday, January 17th.....ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 18th.....ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Family Sunday School program will resume on **Sunday, January 12, 2025.**

PHILOPTOCHOS – Vasliopita Sunday is Sunday, January 12th with a limited amount of vasilopita for purchase. Also, a great **lunch & meeting** is planned for this coming **Monday January 13th.** Lunch will be served at 11:30 am. Please remember to **RSVP to Philoptochos President Rhonda by this Saturday via text or phone or email!**

GREEK FESTIVAL – Preparations for our Greek Festival scheduled for February 15-16, 2025 will begin this week on **Tuesday, January 14th** and will continue on **Thursday, January 16th** and **Friday, January 17th.** Volunteers are to arrive at our parish hall by **9:00 a.m.** Festival flyers are available in our parish hall.

ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE – New items are arriving, so keep checking out our bookstore every week. We take credit card, cash, or checks payable to **St. George Church.** In the memo, write: *bookstore.*

2025 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS are now available in our parish hall.