



JANUARY 19, 2024

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



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- Colossians 3:4 – 11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 17:12 – 19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’s feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him: “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

ST. MAKARIOS THE GREAT – Today, we call to mind St. Makarios the Great, a disciple of St. Anthony the Great, who devoted himself to a life of prayer and spiritual contemplation. He lived between 331 and 391 A.D. Many people around him valued his great wisdom. An episode occurred in which spiritual way of life served to inspire others around him at the time, as well as serving to inspire us today. *“Once he came back to his cell to find a thief taking his things and loading them on a camel. Macarius' non-possessiveness was so great that he helped the thief load the camel. When the camel refused to rise, Macarius returned to his cell and brought a small hoe. It was said that the camel wanted the hoe also, and he loaded it on, and kicked the camel telling it to get up. The camel obeyed Macarius' command, but soon lay down again, and would not move until everything had been returned to Macarius.”*
– Taken in part from www.goarch.org

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** 1) *“O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.”* /Τοῦ Συνάναρχου Λόγου...

2) *“O our Godbearing Father Makarios, you proved yourself a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh and a wonderworker. Having received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigils and prayer, you heal the sick and the souls of those who in faith turn to you. Glory to Him Who gave you power; glory to Him Who crowned you; glory to Him, Who through you, heals all”* / Της ερήμου πολιτῆς... [Hymn for St. Makarios the Great]

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 τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ελευθερωτῆς... [Hymn for St. George]

4) **Kontakion:** *“Your birth sanctified the Virgin’s womb and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon. You have now come and saved us O Christ our God. In troubled times, as the only loving One, give peace to Your commonwealth and strength to those in civil authority, whom You love.”* / Ο Μητρὰν παρθενικὴν αγιάσας τὸ τόκῳ σου...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Fr. Ted will be away from this Sunday evening (January 19) until Tuesday, January 28th. Fr. Simeon Poptelecan will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 26, 2025. We offer prayers and best wishes to **Fr. Euthym Kontaxis** on the occasion of his **Name Day**, Monday, **January 20th. Fr. David Kruse**, pastor of St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms will be available for emergencies: (760) 408-6116.

Monday, January 20th, Tuesday, January 21st & Thursday, January 23rd and Friday, January 24th are **“Festival Baking Days.”** Please check in with **Tina Veroulis** to volunteer. Keep in mind that sometimes baking moves ahead of schedule and, by week’s end the schedule changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

L.A. WILDFIRES – Everyone is reminded that donations are continually in need for helping those suffering from the LA wildfires. Our **Metropolis of San Francisco** and the **National Philoptochos** there offer opportunities to contribute needed funds: San Francisco Metropolis: <https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/news/statement-from-metropolitan-gerasimos-on-the-southern-california-fires...> Or: National Philoptochos: <https://ppay.co/nAf-yuQzn60>. Last week, our **St. George Phloptochos** collected over \$3,000 in donations for the fire victims during our annual Vasilopita celebration.

GREEK FESTIVAL – **Preparations for our Greek Festival** scheduled for February 15-16, 2025 will continue throughout this week. Check in with **Tina Veroulis** to volunteer...volunteers are always needed. Festival flyers are available in our parish hall. See copies of the **“Festival Volunteer Form”** available in our parish hall and indicate your availability to help make our Festival a success. Donations for **“Yiayia’s Attic”** are now being accepted. Contact **Debbie Pousen** to make arrangements.

PHILOPTOCHOS– Save the Date: **Sunday, February 9, 2025 is “Wear Red Day”** in support of the National Women’s Heart Health awareness efforts. Many thanks to those who helped pack food for distribution to the poor at the Narrow Door food bank yesterday.

STEWARDSHIP – **Stewardship Cards for 2025** will be available very soon. **Stewardship Sunday is: Sunday, February 9th.**

ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE – New items are arriving. We take credit card, cash, or checks payable to **St. George Church**. In the memo, write: *bookstore*. **2025 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS** are also now available in our parish hall.