



JULY 20, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

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 Kon-
taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or- der

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

THE HOLY PROPHET, ST. ELIJAH

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—James. 5:10 – 20

Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall into hypocrisy. Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he

prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 9:1 – 8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he then said to the paralytic — "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

ST. PROPHET ELIJAH— Through his prayers, God brought down fire from Heaven upon Mt. Carmel, and accepted the sacrifice offered by Elijah before all the people of Israel, that they might know the True God and stop worshipping the false god, Baal. In doing all things pleasing to God, while speaking with Him, Elijah was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended into heaven (Gen. 5:24; IV Kings 2: 11). He appeared with Christ at His Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8).

Liturgical Notes

At the Entrance with the Gospel: **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 free will, He went to the Cross in the flesh and suffered death, to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection."* / Τον Συνάναρχον Λόγον...

2) *"The incarnate angel, the Cornerstone of the Prophets, the Second Forerunner of the Coming of Christ, the glorious Elijah, who from above sent down to Elisha the grace to dispel sickness and cleanse lepers, abounds to healing those who honor him."* / Ο ἐνσαρκος ἄγγελος, τῶν Προφητῶν ἡ κρημὶς [Hymn for the Holy Prophet, St. Elijah]

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 τῶν αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτῆς... [Hymn for St. George]

3) **Kontakion:** *"Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In Your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You."* / Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 22th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 24th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)- 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 26th.....ST. PARASKEVI

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-10:30 a.m.

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the **victims of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to the victims of this horrible invasion and may He grant peace and comfort to their families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAJOR FEAST DAYS OF THE CHURCH DISPLAY – Upon entering our parish hall, check out the beautiful display depicting the entire year's Major Feast Days of the Church that is found near the "coffee hour" serving tables. Mark August 6th (The Transfiguration of our Lord) and August 15th (The Dormition of the Holy Theotokos) on your calendars from now and plan to participate in these special Divine Liturgy celebrations.

REGIONAL ORTHODOX YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS – Applications for youth to join the St. Sophia Summer Camp are still being accepted and will be now placed on a "waiting list" in the event that availabilities arise in the near future. For more information, see the website for St. Sophia Summer Camp: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org>.

HOLY METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE CONFERENCE – This year's Metropolis Young Adult Conference will take place in **Seattle, Washington from August 28 to September 1**. If interested, now is the time to prepare to attend. **To stay informed, follow the Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference on Instagram at [@yalconference](https://www.instagram.com/yalconference), or contact the planning team at registration@sfyalconference.org**