



JULY 27, 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 Street

Palm Desert, CA.92260

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

— Fr. Theodore Pantels,
M.Div. Proistamenos
(Pastor)

— Deacon Euthym Kon-
taxis, M.D. ,M.Div.

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

ST. PANTELEIMON THE GREAT MARTYR



PRAYER FOR HOLY SCRIPTURES DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY

"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—2 Tim. 2:1 – 10

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 9:27 – 35

At that time, as Jesus went on, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

ST. PANTELEIMON — St. Panteleimon practiced medicine in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Because of the compassion he showed for all, he became known as *Panteleimon*, meaning "all-merciful." In his life-saving ministry, he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, enlightening this man's soul to the knowledge of Christ. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened. In imitation of that blind man of the Gospel, he confessed to both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this St. Panteleimon was put to death immediately, beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. — Taken in part from: www.goarch.org/

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1. *"O Christ the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead and Mary stood by the grave, seeking Your sacred Body. You destroyed Hades, yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin, and through Her, bestowed life. Glory to You who have risen from the dead."* / Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις...

2. *"Panteleimon, saintly champion and healer, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls remission of sins."* / Ἀθλοφόρε ἅγιε, καὶ ἱαματικὲ Παντελεήμον... [Hymn for St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr]

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 that He may save our souls."* / Ως τῶν αἰχμαλώτων... [Hymn in honor of St. George]

4. **Kontakion:** *"You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father."* / Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθης...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 29th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 31st.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) -6:30 p.m. (Contact Fr. Ted for Zoom link)

Friday, August 1st.....Holy Water Service- 10:00 a.m./ Paraklisis Service – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 2nd.....Paraklisis Service – 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARAKLISIS SERVICE FORMS – Enclosed, please find a **"Paraklisis Service Form"** which is available for our parishioners to **list the names of loved ones and friends** to be added to the prayers **for health** that are included in the **Orthodox Paraklisis Service** held in honor of the **Holy Theotokos** as scheduled throughout the August 1st-August 15th Dormition of the Theotokos fasting season. Note the **"Parish Calendar"** on our church website: www.stgeorgepd.org/.

THE PARAKLISIS SERVICE OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH – The Service of the Paraclesis to the Theotokos consists of hymns of supplication to obtain consolation and courage. It should be recited in times of temptation, discouragement or sickness. It is used more particularly during the two weeks before the Dormition, or Assumption, of the Theotokos, from August 1 to August 14. The theme of these Paraklisis Services centres around the petition. *"Most Holy Mother of God, save us."* ... Names for the Health and Well Being of Loved Ones are Submitted at the Service. The Paraklisis service is a supplication specifically for the well-being of the living. During the services, the priest will commemorate the names of the living faithful for whom prayers have been asked...if you have family members, godparents, godchildren, friends, etc., who you would like to have commemorated at these services, please make a list of their names and provide it to the parish priest. A copy of the service can be obtained by accessing the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website link: <https://www.goarch.org/-/small-paraklisis>

– Taken in part from: <https://orthodoxtimes.com/explanation-of-the-paraclesis/>



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 336/2025

Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Day of Remembrance of Hagia Sophia

July 24, 2025

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Ἡ Σοφία γὰρ ἀληθῶς τοῦ Πατρὸς ἀνφικοδόμησεν ἑαυτῇ σαρκώσεως οἶκον, καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν ὑπὲρ νοῦν.... (Κοντάκιον Ἐγκαίνιων τῆς Ἁγίας Σοφίας 562 μ.Χ.)

For truly the Wisdom of the Father built for Herself a House of Incarnation and tabernacled among us beyond understanding (Reconsecration Kontakion of Hagia Sophia 562 A.D.)

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

This fifth year since the re-conversion of the Great Church of Holy Wisdom to a mosque should remind us all how — in our world of increasing conflict — the inversion of Her purpose has become almost matter-of-fact. The great dome of Hagia Sophia, which for centuries was the largest the world had ever known, was designed to manifest the pleroma of God's creativity and the possibility for humanity to conceive within ourselves and within our society the grace of transformation, of theosis. After 1453, Her dome was reduced to mere architecture and then replicated throughout the Ottoman world as a sign of heavenly beauty, but a beauty hollowed out by lack of understanding.

The Great Church, as She was rightly called, is an image of the Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, Who, in the fulness of the Divine Plan for Salvation (οἰκονομία), came forth as a perfect Human Being from the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, uniting and perfecting both male and female — Logos and Sophia — in Himself, the Theanthropos, Jesus Christ. Hagia Sophia did, and still does — despite the alien function to which She is now subject — manifest the "House of Incarnation," bearing witness to the embodiment of God Who recapitulates in Himself all the potentiality and capacity of humanity for Divinity, so that we, as Saint Peter says, "might be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

Our Day of Remembrance for Hagia Sophia remains a bittersweet reality for all Orthodox Christians, and indeed for every Christian of any historical awareness. The day and memory are bitter because spiritual error and lack of consciousness fail to ascribe Her full meaning. And yet sweet, because we have the Great Church incarnate in our Venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate, which abides as a spirit-filled space leading the Faithful to embody in their own lives the Mystery of the Incarnation and the reality of God. May the Great Church continue to always give birth to Her spiritual children throughout the world, so that the Tabernacle of Holy Wisdom continues to proclaim the glory of Logos and Sophia, our Savior Jesus Christ.

With paternal love and prayerful consolation in the Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



**NAMES FOR THE PARAKLISIS SERVICES HELD DURING THE SEASON OF SPIRITUAL
PREPARATION TOWARD THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DORMITION OF THE
MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS ON AUGUST 15th**

**(Write the First Name of loved ones and friends that to be included in the PARAKLISIS
SERVICE in honor of the Holy Theotokos as we pray for their health and wellbeing.)**
