



JUNE 1, 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 Kontaxis, M.D. ,M.Div.

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 OF THE HOLY FATHERS of the 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

**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—Acts 20:16 – 18, 28 – 36

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of the Lord and God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

GOSPEL—St. John 17:1 – 13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name; those whom you have given me I have guarded, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”

### Liturgical Notes

1. Instead of "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead...", we chant, "Save us, O Son of God, Who ascended from us in glory into heaven..."
2. Resurrection Hymn: "O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the sepulchre, seeking Your sacred body. You destroyed Hades yet remained un touched by it. You encountered the Virgin and through her, bestowed Life. Glory to You who has ris- en from the dead!" / Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις...
3. "O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world." / Ανελήφθης εν δόξη... [Feast Day Hymn]
4. "You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You." / Υπερδεδοξασμένος ει... [Hymn for the Holy Fathers]
5. "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]
6. Kontakion: "O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, 'I am with you and no one is against you.'" / Την υπέρ ημών πληρώσας οικονομίαν...
7. Dismissal Prayer: "May Christ our True God, Who arose from the dead and ascended from us in glory and is seated at the Right Hand of God the Father, through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos..."

**MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **Fr. Anthony Kosturos, (21 years)**, the beloved husband of **Presvytera Maria Kosturos**, father of **Paul Kosturos** and father-in-law of **Constantina Kosturos**. Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation of the servant of God, **George Nicholau (40 days)**, the beloved wife of **Gaye Nicholau**, and father of **Edie Delegans** and grandson, **George Delegans**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Fr. Anthony Kosturos** and **George Nicholau** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Paul Kosturos** and **Edie Delegans** and their entire families. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, June 2nd.....Philoptochos General Members' Luncheon at the Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Mirage – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 3rd.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 5th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) -6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 7th..... **SATURDAY OF SOULS**  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. (Enclosed, please find a form to print the names of loved ones to be included in the Memorial Service.)
- Please Note: Next **Sunday, June 8, 2025** is **PENTECOST SUNDAY**. Orthros will begin at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy and the "Office of the Great Vespers of Pentecost (The Kneeling)" [Abridged]

## METROPOLIS-WIDE SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS FOR OUR YOUTH

Those interested in having their children join in our Greek Orthodox Summer Camp programs are encouraged to register their children as soon as possible. Space is limited. There are two summer camp programs available:

– St. Sophia Summer Camp... easily accessible to residents of Southern California. It is sponsored by our St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles. Registration is now open for both sessions: **July 20-26** and **July 27-August 2**. Contact: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org>.

– St. Nicholas Summer Camp... located east of Fresno, California. It is sponsored by our Holy Metropolis of San Francisco. Registration is now open for the three camp sessions: **July 6-12**; **July 13-19**, and **July 20-26**. Contact: <https://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp#/summer-camp-2025>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Our **St. George Philoptochos** members will meet at the **Spaghetti Factory** in Rancho Mirage tomorrow at **11:30 a.m.** Contact **Linda Kallis** for more details. The members of the Philoptochos Board of Directors were ratified by the National office. The officers are: **Irene Stamboulos**, President; **Susan Segaar**, First Vice-President; **Margarita Pagoulatos**, Second Vice-President; **Tina Veroulis**, Recording Secretary; **Linda Kallis**, Corresponding Secretary; **Debbie Pousen**, Assistant Treasurer; Rhonda Latkovic, Advisor/Treasurer. The other Board members include: **Paulette Carkonen**, **Elaine Grillos**, **Marie Malley**, **Kalitsa Xitco**.

**ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE** – The following parish members are to be members of our St. George Endowment Fund Committee: **Ed Maletis**, Chairman, **Jeff Bischoff**, **Nick Latkovic**, **Annette Lewis**, and **Mark George**.

**PARISH BYLAW COMMITTEE** – Our **Parish Bylaw Committee** has been meeting over the past few months to update our parish bylaws. The recommended updates to our bylaws will be reviewed by our Parish Council and presented at the **Fall Parish General Assembly Meeting**. The members of our Bylaw Committee are: **Jim Christopoulos**, Chairman, **Francine Vasilomanolakis**, **Annette Lewis** and **Presvytera Petula Pantels**.

## SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS

Today is the **Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**. In the Gospel reading for today (St. John 17:1-13), our Lord defines eternal life (St. John 17:3) through His prayer to God the Father: "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (St. John 17:3). The Orthodox Study Bible offers insight into this teaching, stating, "*To know the only true God transcends mere intellectual understanding. It involves participating in His divine life and communion with Him. Therefore, eternal life is a continuous, loving relationship with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit*" (pg. 1458). Thus, we are invited to partake in eternal life now and on in to the everlasting Kingdom to come. +FR. THEODORE





# HELP US IMPROVE!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT  
OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES



Scan to  
Complete

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is risen!

The ministries of our Metropolis exist to serve you—the faithful of our parishes. But how do we know what's working and what needs to improve? With your help.

We're inviting all parishioners across the Metropolis of San Francisco to complete a short Ministry Survey to help guide and strengthen the work we do together in Christ's name. Your feedback will help us better support our youth, families, seniors, clergy, and parish leaders—now and for the future.

🕒 Takes just 10 minutes

📅 Please complete it before June 15, 2025

Take the Survey Now (or scan QR code above): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZD68367>

**We ask you to share this survey with others in your parish.  
Forward it to your email list, include it in your Sunday bulletin,  
post it in your parish hall—every voice matters!**

**Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZD68367>**