



JUNE 15, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

Mailing Address:

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— 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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



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—Hebrews 11:33 – 40; 12:1 – 2

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin that easily distracts, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

GOSPEL— Mt. 10:32 – 33; 37 – 38; 19:27 – 30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day to all of our parish's fathers, grandfathers and Godfathers.
Many blessings to all.

Liturgical Notes

- 1) Entrance with the Holy Gospel: *"O merciful One, You came from on high, and condescended to Your three-day burial to save us from passions. You are our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to You."*/ Εξ ὕψους κατήλθες...
- 2) *"Your Church, O Christ our God, clothed itself in the blood of Your martyrs from throughout the world, as though it were a robe of linen and purple; through them, she cries out to You, 'Send down upon Your people compassion, grant peace to Your commonwealth and, to our souls, great mercy.'"*/ Τῶν ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ κόσμῳ Μαρτύρων Σου...[Hymn for All Saints Sunday]
- 3) *"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 ἐλευθερωτῆς...[Hymn for St. George]
- 4) Kontakion: *"The world offers You, the Author of all creation, as the first-fruits of nature, the God-bearing martyrs. O most merciful, by their intercessions, through the Theotokos, maintain Your Church in perfect peace."*/ Ως ἀπαρχὰς τῆς φύσεως...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 17th.....No Bible Study

Thursday, June 19th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m. Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS – Our St. George Philoptochos are looking for volunteers to help with **food bagging on Sat. June 21st at The Narrow Door in Indio**. Start time is 8:45 am and we should finish by 11:15 am. If interested please contact Rhonda Latkovic (tel. 714-875-4661) or Nick Latkovic (760-455-9727) for more information. A sign-up sheet is located in the church hall.

REGIONAL ORTHODOX YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS - St. Nicholas Summer Camp near Fresno has only 18 openings for the July 14-July 20 session. However, both **St. Sophia Summer Camp** near San Bernardino and **St. Nicholas Summer Camp** are accepting camper applications for their "wait lists." For more information about these Greek Orthodox Youth Summer Camps, visit ... the website for St. Sophia Summer Camp: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org> , or the website for St. Nicholas Summer Camp: <https://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp-2024>.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT – Today is the Sunday following Pentecost as it is known as **"All-Saints Sunday."** In his Epistle to the Hebrews, St. Paul writes, *"Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."* (Hebrews 12:1). *"The cloud of witnesses includes...the saints and martyrs of the Lord in all ages. If they made it, so can we. We persevere by getting rid of **sin**, the **weight** of which keeps us from heeding the truth; setting as our destination the heavenly city, running **the race** of faith; and keeping our attention focused on Jesus Christ our Lord and King (Hebrews 12:2). This race is not a sprint, but a marathon of **endurance**: it does not end until we fully enter the age to come (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)." (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1668).*