



JUNE 22, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

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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



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—Romans 2:10 – 16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL—St. Matthew 4:18 – 23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

ST. EUSEBIUS OF SAMOSATA

Today we commemorate St. Eusebius of Samosata, who was a devout Orthodox Christian bishop during the mid-300s A.D.. It was a turbulent time when heresies arouse against the Apostolic Faith and threatened to divide the Church. With the end of Emperor Jovian's reign over the Byzantine Empire, peace among Christian faithful came to an end, as well. Emperor Valens, who had espoused the heretical Arian doctrines assumed the throne, banished St. Eusebius, because St. Eusebius upheld the teaching of the Orthodox Faith and rejected Arian beliefs. However, later (around 378 A.D.), under the Emperor Gratian, St. Eusebius was allowed to return from exile and was able to ordain Orthodox believing priests throughout Syria to the episcopacy. His life was one of constant prayers, which led to his virtue of divine wisdom. After being struck in the head by a believer in Arian doctrines and departed this life in 380 A.D.

Liturgical Notes

- 1) Entrance with the Holy Gospel: *"Savior, Your tomb was sealed with a stone. Soldiers kept watch over Your sacred body. Yet, You rose on the third day giving life to the world. Wherefore the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of Life, glory to Your Resurrection O Christ; glory to Your Kingdom, glory to Your dispensation who alone are the Loving One." /Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος...*
- 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 των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής... [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 των Χριστιανών...*

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 24th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, June 26th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m. Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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>.

STEWARDSHIP NOTE

We are most grateful to those who have contributed their Stewardship offering to our parish throughout this point in the year! An interesting thought about Orthodox Christian Stewardship was shared by Fr. Anthony Coniaris: *"Money becomes a sacrament when it is offered to God. It is a visible expression of our commitment, faith and love. Once given to God, it is consecrated by the Holy Spirit Who translates it into works of mercy that bring glory to the Trinity...Two books that tell most about us are the date book and the check book. One tells us what we do with our time; the other tells what we do with our treasures – two of the most valuable assets we have. Check to see what they tell you."*

– Taken from *Where Moth and Rust Do Not Consume*, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, pgs. 80-81.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

The divine quality of human beings in general is emphasized in today's passage from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. He writes, in Romans 2:15-16 that the Gentiles, who do not have the law, still do the works of the law, which are written in their hearts, about which their conscience bears witness, accusing them or excusing them in the "day when God will judge their secrets by Jesus Christ." Regarding this, we find this commentary in the *Orthodox Study Bible*: *"Written in their hearts refers to a person's conscience. Because man's conscience is God-given, it has the same power to lead a person to God as the law does. According to St. John Chrysostom, those who are able to follow their conscience to God are more virtuous than those with the law, for they do not have the advantage of concrete instructions, yet they still desire to please God."* See: *Orthodox Study Bible*, pg. 1522.