



MARCH 2, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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– Fr. Theodore Pantels, Proistamenos (Pastor) – Deacon Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.

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 FORGIVENESS 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—Romans 13:11 – 14; 14:1 – 4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 6:14 – 21

The Lord said, “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

GREAT LENT BEGINS – Tomorrow is “Clean Monday” and it is the first day of Great Lent in preparation to properly celebrate the Resurrection from the dead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a liturgical season of fasting. “Fasting is not merely abstinence from food, but consists of self-denial in all areas of life in order to escape the control of passions. (“Passions” in the language of the Church are the inner drives that prompt us to satisfy our own desires, often at the expense of others. Passions include greed, lust, vanity, jealousy, gluttony, anger, laziness and other such characteristics that tempt us to fall to sins of hatred and immorality.) On the eve of Great Lent, we sing, ‘Let us abstain from passions as we abstain from food.’ St. John Chrysostom writes, ‘What good is it if we abstain from eating birds and fish, but bite and devour our brothers?’” (See: Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1278)

### Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** 1) "Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord, by His Mighty Arm has created a Dominion. He has conquered death by death and become the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy." /Ευφρανέσθω τα ουράνια...

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:** "O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, 'O Merciful One, have mercy on me who have fallen.'" /Της σοφίας οδηγε...

**MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the servant of God, **Michael Carroll (40 days)**, the beloved husband of **Karla Carroll**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Michael Carroll** and may He grant blessings to **Karla Carroll**, beloved friends and fellow parishioners. MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

### MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Parish Council welcomes **Pat Dallas and Nick Kaperonis** to the board. Parish Council appointed by majority **Pat Dalkas** to fill the position due to a vacancy. Pat has been donating her time and talents to the altar. She is an upstanding Parishioner who has been attending our church for many years. Thank you, Pat for again serving our church by being on Parish Council.

**Nick Kaperonis** was sworn in by Fr. Ted on our February 27th meeting following the Youth Training approval from Metropolis. Nick Kaperonis is a long-time parishioner who has given his time and service to our church. When you see them at church, congratulate them.

We are looking for parishioners to help with ushering on Sundays. Please contact **Tasia Richards** at [trichards@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:trichards@stgeorgepd.org)

### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

– Monday, March 3rd.....GREAT LENT BEGINS. Lenten Orthros-10:00 a.m.

Compline Service-6:00 p.m.

– Tuesday, March 4th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m./Orthodox Catechism-6:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

– Wednesday, March 5th..Presanctified Divine Liturgy-6:00 p.m.

– Friday, March 7th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m./First Salutations-6:00 p.m.

– Saturday, March 8th.....MIRACLE OF THE KOLLYVA (ST. THEODORE THE COMMANDER)

Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**– Next **Sunday, March 9th** is the **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**. We ask parents to bring their children to church with their icons and participate in the **Procession of the Holy Icons**. We ask that our children and their families participate fully in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, which begins at 9:30 a.m. For questions and/or more information, please contact **Athena Snarskis** or **Presvytera Petula Pantels**.

**PHILOPTOCHOS** – Our Annual Philoptochos Membership Event held yesterday, March 1st, was very successful. Many thanks to the volunteers and participants who helped make this event a success.

**GREEK FESTIVAL** – Pastries and items from our Greek Festival which was held a few weeks ago are available today in our parish hall. See **Tina Veroulis** and/or **Rhonda Latkovic**.