



MAY 18, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**Mailing Address:**

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, CA.92260

Tel: (760) 568-9901

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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

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



**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 11:19 – 30**

In those days, the apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**GOSPEL— St. John 4:5 – 42**

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said

*Continued on the next page —>*

*GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued*

to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Mean-

while the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

**Liturgical Notes for Today**

At the Entrance of the Gospel: *"Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life."/*Χριστός Ανέστη...

1. **As the Gospel is raised:** *"In the congregations bless God, the Lord Who springs out of Israel. Save us, O Son of God Who rose from the dead, as we sing to You, Alleluia."/*Εν εκκλησίαις ευλογείτε...

2. *"The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the angel the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, 'Death is vanquished. Christ our God is risen, bestowing upon the world His great mercy.'"* / Το φαίδρον...

3. *"Mid-way through the feast, refresh my thirsty soul with the flowing waters of piety. For, You cried out to our to all, O Savior, 'Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink.' You, O Christ our God, are the fountain of life. Glory to You."/*Μεσοῦσης της εορτής...

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 των αιχμαλώτων... [Hymn in honor of St. George]

4. **Kontakion:** *"Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God. To the myrrh-bearing women, saying, 'Hail!' and granting peace to Your disciples, You are He Who raised up the fallen."/*Ει και εν τάφω...

5. After Holy Communion: *"Christ is risen..."* / Χριστός Ανέστη...

**MEMORIAL** – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation of the dearly departed members of our **AHEPA Chapter 528: Fr. T. P. Theophilos, Steve Geotas, Stan Georgalakis, Steve Pisanos, Robert Maverick, George Tcharos, Thomas Evans, Demetrios Richards, Spyridon Canakis, Nicholas Kyriakou and Chris Laskaris. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to our departed AHEPA 528 members. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!****

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, May 19th.....Philoptochos Board Meeting-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 20th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 21st.....STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 22nd.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m. (Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link)

*Note: Next week, Thursday, May 29th – THE HOLY ASCENSION OF OUR LORD  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**AHEPA SUNDAY**—Today is “AHEPA SUNDAY.” We honor the members of our **St. George AHEPA Chapter**. Please note the enclosed Encyclical for AHEPA SUNDAY issued by **His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America**.

**METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY** — Following up with a positive and productive **Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly on May 5th-7th**, please note the enclosed “**Help Us Improve**” Survey. All of our parishioners are encouraged to complete this survey (the weblink is also included herein) in the effort to allow our parishes (including our own St. George parish) and Metropolis to improve in efforts of implementing our Holy Church ministries for the salvation of souls.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL - Today** (Sunday, May 18th) is the “**End-of-the-Year**” “**Family Sunday School**” class for 2024-2025. We look forward to seeing our Sunday School students and their parents in September, returning for the new 2025-2026 “Family Sunday School” program.

**PHILOPTOCHOS**—Philoptochos Board Meeting: tomorrow, May 19th at 11:30 a.m.

**STEWARDSHIP** - As we approach the mid-year mark for 2025, we are grateful to those who have submitted their 2025 Stewardship Pledge Cards and we want to remind those who have yet to submit their 2025 Stewardship Pledge Cards to send them to our parish address: 74-109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92260, or to give them to our **Stewardship Chairperson, Debbie Pousen**.

**THE NARROW DOOR**—Many blessings to those who helped box needed food supplies for the poor at the **Narrow Door Food Bank** in Indio on Saturday, May 17th. This outreach ministry, spearheaded by our Philoptochos Chapter, has been a consistent project of our parish throughout the year. Many thanks to members of Philoptochos, AHEPA and our St. George parishioners, in general, for offering their help and support in this important ministry.



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 186/2025

**Archepiscopal Encyclical on AHEPA Sunday**

May 18, 2025

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America:

*So then, while we have the time, let us do good to all people, and especially to those of the household of the Faith. (Galatians 6:10)*

My beloved brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

Today is our annual observance of AHEPA Sunday, a day when we recognize both the interdependence of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, and also the many achievements that AHEPA has accomplished in its 103-year history. AHEPA represents the aspirations of the *Omogeneia* around the Nation and indeed the world, and it expresses these hopes and intentions with dignity and grace.

Whether it is AHEPA's commitment to our All-Venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate, or its representation of Hellenic interests in our Nation's Capital, as well as State legislatures around the Country, AHEPA provides expertise, energy and resources to the issues that are vital to our communities. It partners with our parishes in order to give expression to what is best and brightest in Hellenic and Philhellenic causes within our communities. And its philanthropy and educational initiatives are well known to all.

Therefore, on this Third Sunday in May, let us recognize our friends and family who make up AHEPA, and acknowledge their positive impact in the life of Greek-America and the world. We are grateful for the courage and resilience that founded this Association of Hellenes, and we continue to marvel at their impact in the lives of our faithful and around the globe.

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America



# 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>**