



MAY 25, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

CHRIST IS RISEN!

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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 BLIND MAN



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—2 Corinthians 4:6 – 15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

GOSPEL—St. John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes,

when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born

Continued on the next page —>

GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be the Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disci-

ples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

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."/*Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη...

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."/*Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε...
2. *"O Faithful, let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos, Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own will He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection."/*Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον...
3. *"O Prophet and Forerunner, Christ revealed your head for us as a sacred treasure hidden in the earth. Wherefore, all who gathered commemorating this discovery praise the Savior with divine hymns, who by your entreaties delivered us from corruption."/*Ὡς θεῖον θησαύρισμα, εγκεκρυμένον τῇ γῇ...
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."/*Ὡς τῶν 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."/*Εἰ καὶ ἐν τᾷ φ...

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, May 27th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, May 29th.....ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m. (Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link)

RECOVERY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S HEAD—Today we commemorate the recovery of the precious head of St. John the Baptist. *"When the veneration of icons was restored in 850, Patriarch Ignatius of Constantinople (847–857) saw in a vision place where the head of St. John had been hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the Emperor Michael III, who sent a delegation to Comana, where the head was found. Afterwards, the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here, on 25 May, it was placed in a church at the court."*

—Compiled from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beheading_of_John_the_Baptist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS – On **Monday, May 19th**, our St. George Philoptochos Board of Directors elected officers for the two-year term of 2025-2027. Upon ratification from the National Philoptochos Board, they will assume their respective duties and all of the officers will be listed accordingly. For now, we congratulate **Irene Stambolos**, who was elected to serve as **Philoptochos President**.

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY – For yet one more Sunday, we want to encourage our parishioners to participate in the **Metropolis of San Francisco “Help Us Improve” Survey**. The weblink is included in the enclosed “survey” flier.

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**.



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>