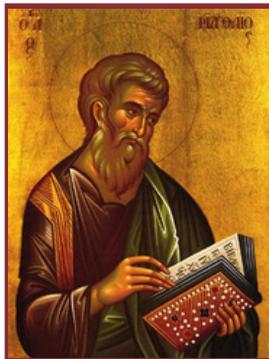




St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, November 16, 2025

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Matthew the Apostle
& Evangelist



Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4
Psalm 18.4,1

*Their voice has gone out into
all the earth.*

*Verse: The heavens declare
the glory of God.*



EPISTLE – Romans 10:11 – 21; 11:1 – 2

GOSPEL – St. Matthew 9:9 – 13

Brethren, the scripture says, “No one who believes in God will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.” Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.” But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.” I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

At that time, as Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”



Priest:
Fr. Theodore Pantels,
M.Div. Proistamenos
(Pastor)

Deacon:
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stgeorgepd.org

Prior to Holy Communion:

1. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
2. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
3. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

Liturgical Notes For Today's Divine Liturgy

1) With the Entrance of the Holy Gospel – *“O Christ, the Angelic Powers appeared at Your tomb. The guards were as dead and Mary stood by Your grave seeking Your sacred Body. You destroyed Hades yet remained untouched by it. You encountered the Virgin and, through Her, bestowed life. Glory to You Who have risen from the dead.”* / Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις...

2) *“O Holy Apostle Matthew, intercede to our merciful God that He may grant to our souls forgiveness of sins.”* / Ἀπόστολε Ἄγιε καὶ Εὐαγγελιστὰ Ματθαῖε... / [Hymn in honor of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist]

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: *“Today the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God enters this house of the Lord brining with Her the grace of the Divine Spirit. The angels of God praise Her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.”* / Ὁ καθαρῶτατος ναὸς τοῦ Σωτῆρος...



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God **Linda Rafeedie (40 days)** and **Matushta Lila (10 years)** beloved sisters of **Bernice Shaheen**, Aunties to **Michele Tasoff** and **Michael Shaheen**. Both loved by many family members and friends. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest to **Linda Rafeedie** and **Matushta Lila** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Bernice Shaheen**, **Michele Tasoff** and **Michael Shaheen** and their family and friends. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

Philoptochos News

Remember our annual **Philoptochos Christmas Party Luncheon** will be on **Sunday, December 7th**. See enclosed flyer for details and to make your reservation. (**Deadline** for reservations is **December 1st**). Philoptochos will be selling koulourakia for \$12 per dozen and melomakarona for \$18 per 6. We will also be accepting reservations for the Christmas Luncheon.

Community Christmas Card

It's almost Christmas and St. George is getting ready! We encourage everyone in the St George family to participate in our annual **Community Christmas Card**. Please see the attached flyer for more details. Return the completed form with donation to our parish office. The **deadline is November 26**.

Stewardship

The end of the year is almost upon us. Please do all that you can to fulfill your Stewardship pledge for 2025. We want to begin 2026 with a clean slate. Thank you for your contributions in 2025. If you have any questions about our Stewardship program, please see Debbie Pousen after church services.

There are 2 ways to send in your stewardship:

- Mail in or bring in your check (our address is on first page of The Ladder) - make sure to write "stewardship" on your check, so it is recorded properly.
- Pay online using our secure online payment system at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZN30/campaign/C-151YF>



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENT SCHEDULING

Our parish master calendar is available on our St. George website at: <https://stgeorgepd.org>. **Everyone is asked to check our master calendar or call Fr. Ted before scheduling any future events in order to avoid scheduling conflicts.**

THE LADDER

Don't forget! All **pictures, announcements** and/or **fliers** that are to be included in each Sunday edition of our weekly bulletin, *The Ladder*, **must be submitted** by the **prior Wednesday** to either Fr. Ted (tpantels@stgeorgepd.org) or Stephanie Christopoulos (stephanie125@gmail.com).

ST. GEORGE FESTIVAL

The dates for our Greek Festival are February 21-22, 2026! The upcoming festival will be produced by all of us – the stewards of St. George. Let us come together united in faith and love. **It will take a “village” to make it a success.** To volunteer to help toward the success of our Greek Festival and for more information, **see Fr. Euthym Kontaxis** following church services on Sundays and sign up in our parish hall. Please see the enclosed “Festival Information Page” explaining how everyone can support our Greek Festival financially and through sacrifices of time and talent.

Parish Council News

Our Fall General Assembly will be held today following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. We will be discussing various important matters concerning our church so we encourage everyone to join. All parishioners are welcomed, however, only stewards can vote on issues. Please complete your Stewardship Pledge Card now or see Debbie Pousen, our Stewardship chairperson. For those looking to participate, sign in once you enter the parish hall at make sure you receive “voting card”. Hand-outs will be available where participants are seated.

Parish Council Elections

For those wanting to serve on the **2026 St. George Parish Council** election must complete the enclosed **“Application for Candidacy for Election to the Parish Council”** form and return it to Fr. Ted no later than **Sunday, November 30, 2026**

In addition, candidates must attend the **Parish Council Seminar** on **Monday, December 1, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** in our parish offices. Failure to attend the seminar will result in the nullification of an individual's candidacy for the election. If there is a special circumstance surrounding the inability to return the “Application” form by November 30th or attend the Parish Council Seminar on December 1st, please contact Fr. Ted at which the validity of the special circumstance will be discussed. **Parish Elections** will be held on **Sunday, December 14, 2025** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Week Ahead:

Tuesday, November 18th

Bible Study -10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 20th

Orthodox Christian Catechism (online) - 6:30 p.m.

email: fr.theodore@stgeorgepd.org

Friday, November 21th

ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE
TEMPLE

Orthros—8:30 a.m. followed by the celebration of
the Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 22nd

Vespers followed by Orthodox Catechism
—5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, November 26th

Deadline for participation in the Community
Christmas Card

Sunday, December 7th

Philoptochos Christmas Party (Luncheon)
—11:30 a.m. (See enclosed flier)

Did you Know?

On Friday, November 21st, we commemorate the Entrance into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos. The word “Theotokos” is a Greek word meaning, “Mother of God,” as it is used in reference to the Ever-Virgin Mary, since She is the Birth-Giver of Christ, Who is God. The Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph. From Apostolic times, She has become also known as the “Second Eve.” “As the first Eve led us away from God, the Second Eve (Mary) brought God to us. Her “yes” was for Herself and for us. She said “yes” to God and He came to dwell in Her womb. She brought God to the world. We, too, can say “yes” to the Highest and He will come to dwell in us so that we, in turn, may bring Him to our world today.”

Taken from <https://www.goarch.org>, and from Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, Light and Life, 1977, pg. 161.

The Ladder sponsor for the month of October is Eve Meek in Memory of Patricia and Katherine!

