



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, September 14, 2025

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Prokeimenon. Grave Mode

Psalm 98.9,1

Exalt the Lord our God.

*Verse: The Lord reigns; let
the people tremble.*



The Elevation of
the Venerable and
Life-Giving Cross

Priest:

**Fr. Theodore Pantels,
M.Div. Proistamenos
(Pastor)**

Deacon:

**Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.,
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Visit us at:

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.

EPISTLE — 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 24

Brethren, the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.” Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

GOSPEL—St. John 19:6 – 11, 13 – 20, 25 – 28, 30

At that time, the chief priests and the elders held counsel against Jesus, how to destroy him. And they went to Pilate, saying, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.” When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Then when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Liturgical Notes For Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel:

1) Instead of “Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead...,” we sing: **“Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia.”**

2) At the Entrance with the Gospel: *“Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool, for He is holy. Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, as we sing to You, Alleluia.”* / Ὑψοῦτε Κύριον τὸν Θεὸν ἡμῶν ...

3) Hymn for the Elevation of the Holy Cross: *“Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.”* / Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου...

4) *“Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.”* / Ὁ ὑψωθεὶς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ ἐκουσίως...

5) Instead of “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal...,” we sing: **“We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify.” (3 times)**

6) Instead of “Axion Estin...,” we sing: “You are a mystical Paradise, Theotokos; untitled, you brought forth Christ, by Whom the lifegiving tree of the Cross was planted on earth. As It is now elevated, venerating It, we magnify You.” / Μυστικὸς εἶ Θεοτόκε Παράδεισος ...

7) The Communion Hymn for the Day is: “O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. Alleluia. / Ἐσημειώθη ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς τὸ φῶς τοῦ προσώπου σου, Κύριε. Ἀλληλούϊα.

With today’s Divine Services, we will have the Service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORY OF LISA HOLM

Our entire parish expresses the prayers of our Holy Church that our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ will remember His beloved servant and our sister in Christ, Elizabeth, in His Kingdom now and forever and ever. Amen.

Parish Council

The Parish Council will be holding monthly meetings beginning in September on the second Tuesday of every month at 1:30pm.

Here are some highlights from the Parish Council:

- Whether to have a Greek Festival or not? The final decision will be made by the end of the month.
- Working on the revisions of our Parish Bylaws which will be brought to the Parish General Assembly when completed.
- Concerns about Stewardship supporting the operations of the church.
- **The kitchen is clean!** Come and take a tour of our sparkling clean kitchen. Thanks to all those who helped make this possible!

A Note from the Philoptochos President:

Fall is around the corner. It's time for us to plan for our New Philoptochos Year! This is a reminder that our first general meeting will be Monday, September 15, 2025. Lunch will be provided. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting following. Bring with you any ideas you may have for fundraisers, events, and/or projects we need to support or consider for the new year. We will be reviewing our events that are planned for the year. In addition, we will be asking you to sign up for help with coffee hour, visitations, and committee chairs for upcoming events.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Please RSVP to istambolos@stgeorgepd.org or call at 818-517-3169, so that we know how many to plan for lunch. Warm Regards, *Irene Stambolos, President, Philoptochos*

Sunday School:



We are excited for Sunday School to begin Sept 21st! This year's theme is "Be the Light: Living God's Love in the World" (Matthew 5:14–16), reminding us that no matter how small our actions may seem, they have the power to share Christ's love in school, at home, and with friends.

We welcome you to join Presbytera Petula and Mrs. Athena Snarskis EACH Sunday for Preschool through High School throughout the year from Sept to May, even if your family is visiting for the day.

Special lesson dates are also planned once a month (see dates online or in The Ladder) with Mrs Alex Pappas and Ms Nicole Nasser assisting. Each session will include a way for students to add their voice to our bulletin board project, so everyone can be part of the journey! We look forward to a blessed year together with your children!

See **our website** <https://stgeorgepd.org/ministries/sunday-school/> for more about Sunday School!

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, cont.

Philoptochos News

Philoptochos will be selling koulourakia for \$12/dozen starting September 21. We thank Rena Lakovides for her donation!

Mark your calendars for upcoming events. **Socktober** donation event for the homeless begins **September 20th-October 20th**. Help us provide **new socks** to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in helping residents in need & the homeless population in the east valley. Men's, women's & children's socks are needed in casual styles. Only **NEW socks** will be accepted. Contact Board Member **Elaine Grillos for more information at: (650) 224-3636 or email: jgrillos@aol.com**.

The **Annual Pink Walk** (Paint El Paseo Pink) is scheduled for **Saturday, October 11th**.

This event raises funds and awareness in helping cancer patients. **Pre-race program 7:30 am – Race begins at 8:00 am**. Please join our **St. George Team**. Registration is \$40.00 and includes a new walk tee shirt. Entry fee can be paid via cash, check, or credit card payable to **St. George Ladies Philoptochos**. See Board member **Rhonda Latkovic** to register. Call her at (714) 875-4661 or email her at:

rlatkovic@stgeorgepd.org

WE NEED MORE WALKERS FOR OUR TEAM!

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT FALL RETREAT 2025

Orthodox Young Adults (ages 18–35) from across the West Coast are invited to join us for our **Metropolis Young Adult Fall Retreat** at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA - a weekend of hiking, prayer, and fellowship. Young adults from all Orthodox traditions are welcome. October 16-19, 2025... Website and more information, access: <https://gosfyouth.org/youngadults>.

ORTHODOX PARISH LEADERSHIP WEBINAR

The Metropolis Orthodox Parish Leadership ministry is offering a webinar on “Enhancing Parishioner Engagement Utilizing an Intergenerational Approach” on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. George Ekizian will lead this engaging discussion on enhancing parishioner engagement and utilizing an intergenerational approach as a powerful way to foster community, deepen spiritual growth, and strengthen relationships within the church. Discover how to leverage the unique gifts and perspectives of each generation to strengthen your parish's spiritual life, community outreach, and overall vitality. Register online at: www.sanfran.goarch.org/events.

Celebrating Our Ministries and Honoring Extraordinary Leadership

The **Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco** warmly invites you to a magnificent black-tie Gala on **Saturday, October 11, 2025**, at the **JW Marriott, Anaheim Resort** in **Anaheim, CA**. This event will celebrate the vibrant ministries of the Metropolis and honor two extraordinary stewards, **Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis**, recipients of the 2025 Theofanis Economidis Award. The Gala will provide vital support for the thirteen dynamic Metropolis ministries that enrich the spiritual, educational, cultural, and social life of our faithful. **For information on tickets, sponsorships and donations, please visit: www.sanfran.goarch.org/Gala2025**.

Knowing Your Community - St. George Parish Bookstore

Meet Athena Snarskis!



Athena with a Bookstore visitor

Athena is one of our dedicated parishioners who helps to operate the St. George Parish Bookstore. She and her husband, Pete, joined St. George in 2016 after moving from Indiana to help care for their grandchildren. Athena has been a critical care nurse for more than 30 years and brings her gift of compassion and dedication to both her work and parish life. She has a special love for working with youth and older adults, and she also serves faithfully as our Sunday School Coordinator (aka Mrs Athena). Athena's nurturing nature is a legacy from her mother and grandmother, and she shares that spirit warmly with all she meets. She welcomes you to stop by the bookstore or Sunday School any week to say hello. Our bookstore serves as a resource for our parish community and the public, providing materials to enhance and support spiritual growth and education. It is a ministry of the church, that offers a curated selection of items that reflect the Orthodox Christian faith and ethos.

Spiritual and Liturgical Resources

A core function of the bookstore is to provide items that aid in worship and personal devotion.

These resources include:

- Icons
- Prayer books
- Liturgical books
- Candles and incense
- Religious jewelry

Educational tools

Our Bookstore plays a critical role in religious education for all ages. We offer a wide range of written materials that help to understand and practice our faith:

- Resources for those who are new to the Orthodox faith, preparing for baptism or chrismation.
- Bibles and Bible study guides: Including Orthodox study Bibles.
- Children's books that teach about saints, feasts, and Orthodox traditions in an accessible way.
- Lives of saints

Outreach

Beyond serving our community, the Bookstore also functions as a tool for outreach to others.

- Introduce the faith: A bookstore can be a gentle and inviting place for non-Orthodox visitors to learn about the church.

Our Bookstore is operated by: Presbyteria Petula Pantels, Athena Snarkis and Rhonda Latkovic

Checkout our website for more information about our Bookstore at:

<https://stgeorgepd.org/ministries/bookstore>



Weekly Opportunities:

Monday, September 15th

Philoptochos General Meeting—11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 16th

Bible Study—10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 17th

“Bells Across America” Event—12:45 p.m. (See enclosed flier.)

Thursday, September 18th

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

[Contact Fr. Ted to receive a Zoom link.]

fr.theodore@stgeorgepd.org

Saturday, September 20th

Orthodox Christian Catechism class with Vespers
—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 21st

Sunday School begins!

Upcoming Events:

September 20-October 10 2025

Socktober Event: Donations for the homeless

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Bells Across America Event

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Paint El Paseo Pink Event

Did you Know?



Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the Cross, about the year 325. Upon excavation, she found the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." The Cross was eventually taken to Constantinople as a blessing. – Taken in part from www.goarch.org

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Thank you to Annette Lewis for sponsoring our September Ladder!



Stewardship Update

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence and responsibility before God.

Stewardship is important in the Greek Orthodox Church because it is a form of giving back to God, demonstrating love and gratitude for His blessings by offering one's time, talent, and treasure to support the Church's mission. This faithful commitment allows our parish fund essential ministries, such as religious services, education, and charity, while also serving as a path for personal spiritual growth and a tangible expression of faith in action.

The end of the year is four months away! Complete your Stewardship Pledge before the November Parish General Assembly meeting so you may be a Steward in good standing which enable you to vote for issues presented. When submitting checks, please add "Stewardship" to the memo section of your check. When submitting online, it's already selected for Stewardship donation."

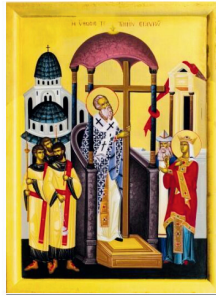
Listed below are all the Stewards for 2025. The names with a cross next to them indicates those who do not have Pledge Cards on file for this year.

Allen ,Becky (Nicoletta)	Holm, Matthew & Lisa	Pagoulatos, Margarita
Andrikos, Demetri & Diane	Iakovides, Paul & Irene	Pallis, Chris & Vicki
Andros, Nick	Jaskulski, Thomas & Debra	Panopoulos, Joan
Argyros, George & Stacey	Jefferson, Virginia P +	Pantels, Fr. Theodore & Pres Petula
Barringer, Louise Dobbs	Kallis, Linda	Petalas, John & Linda
Basiliko, Constantine +	Karagianis, Lou & Penny	Pettis, Tony
Berz, Diana & Robert	Karris, Emmy +	Piggott, Mary
Bischoff, Jeffrey & Katrina +	Kassotakis, George & Mary Ellen	Pilafidis, Olympia
Bozigian, Linda Jean	Kezios, Rev Spencer T. (Bishop Spyridon)	Platis, Harry PLLC
Borgman, James +	Kontaxis, Euthym & Krisann	Pousen, Debbie (DJ)
Carکنون, Paul & Paulette	Kosturos, Anthony & Tatum	Prineas, Anna +
Castrale, Craig	Kosturos, Paul & Dena	Psaltis, Harry
Chiotis, Antony & Penny	Krespis, Nick & Fotini	Psihogis, Peter & Lisa Marie
Christodoulelis, Charles & Eva	Kuchulis, William & Terri	Rassi, Abraham & Geraloine
Christopoulos, Dr Jim & Gloria	Kundanis, Christine	Rellos, Bill & Maria +
Clark, Susan (Segaar)	Laskaris, Annette	Richards, Tasia
Constantine, Kay & Odysseus	Latkovic, Elaine +	Sarikas, Kiriakos & Delores
Dalkas, Anthony & Patricia	Latkovic, Nicholas & Rhonda	Sellas, Dr James & Anastasia
Diamond, George & Paula +	Latkovic, Pauline C.	Shaheen, Bernice
Diamond, Mari Lou	Lee, Bill & Mary	Snarskis, Peter & Athena
Dilberakis, Anastasia	Lekas, Bill & Denise	Spanos, George & Angie
Dixon, Ann & Richard	Lewis, Annette	Speliopoulos, Nick & Carol +
Dunkel, Mariya & Gregory	Loukatos, Constantine & Leslie	Stambolos, Irene
Dymond, Donald & Alexandra	Lucas, Delphine & Steve Brown	Steele, Dr. Stephen & Lynanne
Evrigenis, Sophia	Lyons, Douglas & Carol	Storton, Mychael
Fakinos, Joan	Makrianis, Julie M.	Storton, Wynn & Ana
Gannon, Robert & Sandy +	Maletis, Chris & Kristi +	Sustaita, Jazmine
George, Mark & Jenny	Maletis, Edward & Cyndy	Vasilomanolakis, Francine
Ginos, Nicole M	Maletis, John & Kait	Veroulis, Angelo & Tina
Guinn, Melani	Mckee, Dennis +	Xitco, John V & Kalitsa Z
Hanna, Linda	Meek, Eve	Young, Diane
Hector, Tim & Nadia	Nicholas, Fanny	Zagas, Sophie
Hoffman, Kenneth	Nicholau, George & Gaye	

Why is it important for Parishioners to fill out a Pledge Card each year?

Pledge cards help the Parish Council to set the budget for the coming year. Stewardship pays for the operations of the church, such as utilities, pastoral salaries and their benefits, candles, maintenance of all facilities and additional costs that are directly related to church programs. Without those cards, it is uncertain how to plan for the bills to be paid for the operations of the church.

Check out our website regarding Stewardship at: <https://stgeorgepd.org/donate/stewardship/>



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS—SEPTEMBER 14th

Biblical Story

In the twentieth Year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the pulpit and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with “Lord have mercy”. This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The feast is an opportunity outside of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Feast of the Precious Cross tells the story of the finding of the Cross and of its Exaltation. Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.