



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, September 21, 2025

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Sunday after Holy
Cross

Priest:

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

Deacon:

**Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.,
M.Div.**

Mailing Address:

**74109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901**

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.



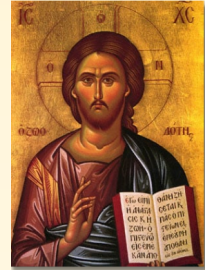
Prokeimenon. Mode

Plagal 2

Psalm 27.9,1

*O Lord, save your
people and bless your
inheritance.*

*Verses: To you, O Lord, I
have cried, O my God.*



EPISTLE — Galatians 2:16 – 20

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GOSPEL — St. Mark 8:34 – 38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."



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) Hymn for this Sunday: *“O Christ the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead and Mary stood by the 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...*

5) *“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]*

6) Kontakion: *“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...*

7) . Instead of “Axion Estin...”, we sing: *“Eating the tree’s forbidden fruit once in Paradise brought death to the human race. But through the Cross, today death has no effect, because the curse that fell on the entire human race through mother Eve was undone by the Offspring of the all pure Mother of God, who now is by all the hosts of heaven magnified.”/ Ὁ διὰ βρώσεως τοῦ ξύλου...*

8) 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.*



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Memorial

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, Valentina Ostapenko (40 days), the beloved mother Galina Vineyard, grandmother of Maryia Dunkel and Andrey Shishmakov, babushka of Max and Teddy Dunkel. Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, John Manesis (5 years), the beloved husband of Bess Manesis, and father of Mary Manesis, Stephanie Manesis, George Manesis and Peter Manesis. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to Valentina Ostapenko and John Manesis, and may He grant peace and comfort to their families.
MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

Parish Council

Kitchen Update — Thank you to all the Philoptochos ladies for their patience when using the kitchen. Parish Council will be working with Philoptochos on keeping our kitchen clean and organized.
Festival Update — Because this is such an important community fundraising event where everyone participates, Parish Council is taking the time to really investigate the ramifications of having a festival or not having a festival. There should be a decision very soon.

The "Greek Army"

On Thursday, September 25th, the City of Palm Desert Mayor, Jan Harnick, will be presenting George Argyros an official City Proclamation in appreciation for all the good work he has done for the City of Palm Desert over the years. The Mayor, who has been a supporter of our parish and has visited us numerous times, is asking for the "Greek Army" to come and support George.
Everyone in our parish is invited to attend this presentation honoring George Argyros at 4:00 PM shortly after the Council's opening at the Palm Desert City Hall, Council Chambers, 73510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA, 92260. Let's all be there and show our appreciation for all the work George has done for us!

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 Presbyteria 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

September 20th – October 20th - Socktober donation event for the homeless.

- Donate **new socks** to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission children's socks are needed.
- Only **NEW socks** will be accepted.
- Contact Board Member **Elaine Grillos for more information at: (650) 224-3636 or email: jgrillos@aol.com.**

Saturday, October 11 - Annual Pink Walk (Paint El Paseo Pink) proceeds go towards helping cancer patients. WE NEED MORE WALKERS TO JOIN THE ST. GEORGE TEAM!

- Pre-race program 7:30 am – **Race begins at 8:00 am.**
- **Registration is \$40.00** and includes a new walk tee shirt. Entry fee 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**

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>.

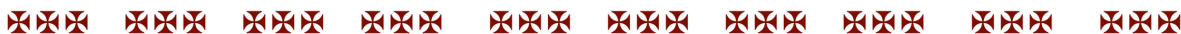
METROPOLIS GALA

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.

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Weekly Opportunities:

Tuesday, September 23rd

CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST-

Orthros-8:30 a.m

Thursday, September 25th

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.

Upcoming Events:

September 20-October 10 2025

Socktober Event: Donations for the homeless

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Paint El Paseo Pink Event

October 16–October 19th 2025

Metropolis Young Adult Fall Retreat—See announcements for more info.

Did you Know?



On September 24, 2025, His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew will receive the Templeton Prize, which is an extremely prestigious award established by John Templeton to honor individuals working at the intersection of science and religion. His All-Holiness has worked tirelessly to impart to the world the Orthodox Christian teachings regarding humanity's responsibilities to cherish God's creation and our environment. Orthodoxy Christianity proclaims that God is good and, therefore, everything that God creates is good.

During the Divine Liturgy, we pray for "temperate weather and for the abundance of the fruits of the earth." Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis, in his book, *The Heavenly Banquet*, writes, "Faith and science are not in opposition...Science covers the empirical: the composition of the universe ('fact') and the way it works. Religion, on the other hand, examines questions of 'ultimate meaning and moral value.'..." --*The Heavenly Banquet*, pg. 88 (Copies of this book are now available in our parish bookstore.)

Thank you to Parish Council Member, Annette Lewis for sponsoring The Ladder for the month of September!

If anyone is interested in sponsoring The Ladder for the month of October, please email Francine Vasilomanolakis at fvasilomanolakis@stgeorgepd.org.

