



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, September 28, 2025

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



1st Sunday of
Luke

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:

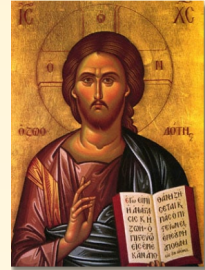
1. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
2. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
3. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you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



Prokeimenon. Grave Mode

Psalm 28.11,1

*The Lord will give
strength to his people.
Verse: Bring to the Lord,
O sons of God, bring to
the Lord honor and
glory.*



EPISTLE — 2 Corinthians 6:1 – 10

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.” Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL— St. Luke 5:1 – 11

At that time, while Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council News

Parish Council is working on the new budget for 2026. Stewardship pledges help us to calculate the next year's budget. When Stewardship is down so is our budget.

General Assembly meeting will be held on **November 16**. Please plan to attend as we have lots of reports and issues to discuss about the operation of our church. Mark your calendar and come to hear how our church is doing.

Question: Who can attend a General Assembly meeting?

Answer: Anyone attending our church.

Question: Who can vote at our General Assembly meeting?

Answer: Only those who are paid up or paying towards their Stewardship pledge to the church can vote. Others are welcomed to stay for the meeting but cannot vote.

Philoptochos News

Philoptochos will be selling **Kouroulakia for \$12/dozen** after church in the hall. We thank **Rena Iakovidis** for her hard work and donation to Philoptochos.

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

If you haven't signed up to **host a coffee hour**, please do so. Sign-ups are in the hall. We need people to host in the **month of November**. Please contact **Mariee Malley** at 760-898-2713.

Thank You for your support.

Stewardship

We are coming up to the end of the year for Stewardship 2025 and Stewardship 2026 will be beginning in January 2026! Complete and send in your 2025 contribution.

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>

Sunday School:



Sunday School has begun and it's not too late to attend! 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!

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.

Knowing Your Community - St. George Bulletin

Meet Christian Hernandez!



Christian with some friends at St. George

Christian was baptized into our faith in February 2023. His first encounter in the coffee hour was his soon-to-be Godparents Matt and Lisa Holm, whom helped guide him into the faith. Throughout his spiritual journey within our parish, Christian was asked to help St. George with the new website and weekly bulletin. He gladly accepted to help and has become a vital part of the stylish design that newly comprises St. George Greek Orthodox Church. He is currently a student at CSUSB Palm Desert, where he majors in information systems and business.

Liturgical Notes For Today

- 1)** At the Entrance of the Gospel: *“By Your Cross, O Christ our God, You destroyed death. You opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the Myrrh-bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy.”*/ Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ...
- 2)** *“With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrows from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles, you have become a light shining upon the world. O Hariton, our venerable Father, intercede to Christ our God to save our souls.”*/ Ταῖς τῶν δακρύων σου ῥοαῖς...[Hymn for St. Chariton the Confessor]
- 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)** 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.”*/Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις...
- 5) Kontakion:** *“Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners’ voices raised in prayer. In Your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You.”*/ Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν...



Weekly Opportunities:

Tuesday, September 30th

Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 2nd

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

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

fr.theodore@stgeorgepd.org

Saturday, October 4th

Vespers—5:00 p.m. with Catechism class to follow

Upcoming Events:

September 20-October 10 2025

Socktober Event: Donations for the homeless

Thursday, October 2nd 2025

Parish Council Board meeting

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?



The reason why the intonation “Again let us pray to the Lord,” is repeated during our Church services is explained by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis in his book, *The Heavenly Banquet*. “ ‘Again and again...’ Yes, again. Nobody said it was going to be easy. It is not. The Lord says, ‘Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened (St. Matthew 7:7-8). In the original Greek, the meaning of the words of the Lord is very clear. The Lord does not say, ‘ask...seek...knock,’ but “keep asking...keep seeking...keep knocking.” Why then when we pray, we don’t receive? Because we don’t persevere.” (pg. 113). Remember, St. Paul asks that we “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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

Sponsorship for The Ladder in October is Parish Council! We already have a sponsor for November

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

