



# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, April 5, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Palm Sunday

Guest Priest:  
Fr. Tom Zaferes

Deacon:  
Euthym Kontaxis,  
M.D., M.Div.

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Desert, CA. 92260  
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Office Hours: M - F  
10a.m. - 2p.m.

Visit Us At:  
[stgeorgepd.org](http://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 4

Psalm 117.26,1

Blessed is he who comes in  
the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good. His mercy  
endures forever.



### EPISTLE- Phil, 4:4 - 9

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

### GOSPEL- Jn. 12:1 - 18

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took

## GOSPEL- Jn. 12:1 - 18 - CONTINUED

branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

### Liturgical Notes For Today's Divine Liturgy

#### Apolytikion.

To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord."

#### Another.

We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord." [SD]

#### Kontakion.

In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, \* You were carried, O Christ our God; \* and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, \* "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again."



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PARISH COUNCIL

We are very excited with the turnout for our Palm Sunday Luncheon. We are blessed by the fellowship shown by all. A thank you to the council members, Francine Vasilomanolakis, Pat Dalkas and Pete Snarskis, who have worked hard to make this event such a success. We also thank Philoptochos members, Kalitsa Xitco and Irene Stambolos for preparing desserts, and, lastly, to George Argyros for the time, effort and care put into the preparation of the food.

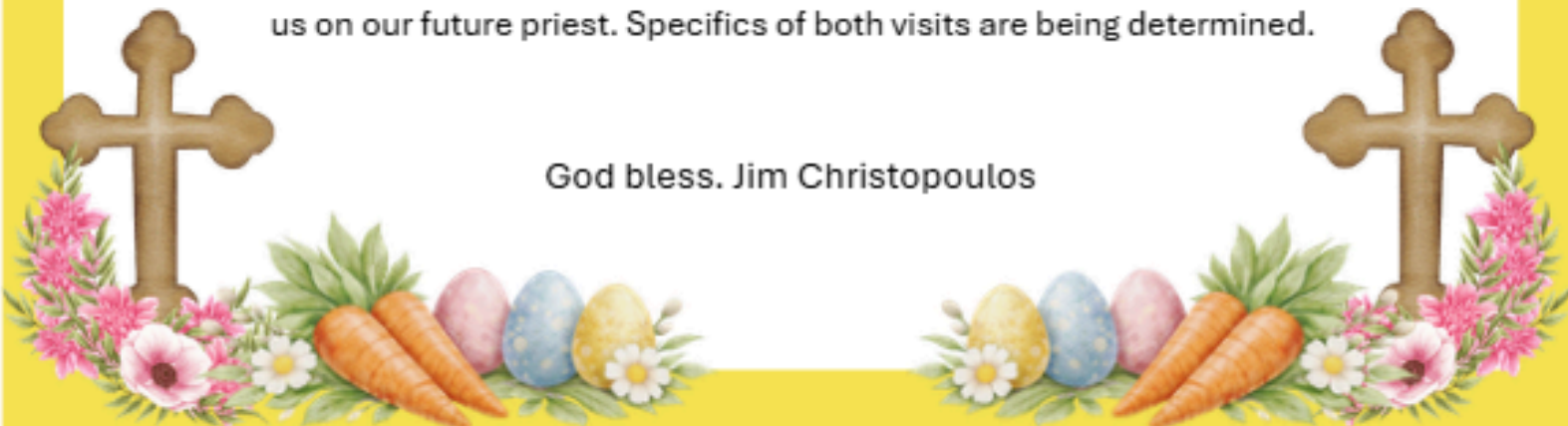
If anyone is interested in helping carry the Epitaphios on Good Friday, please see George Argyros or reach out to me.

We welcome Father Tom Zeferes, from the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension in Oakland, CA. Father will be with us from Lazarus Saturday through the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on early Easter morning. Feel free to introduce yourself to Father Tom and make him feel at home. Father, thank you for supporting our parish!

Join us for a light Anastasi buffet following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy early Easter morning. Enjoy some chicken souvlaki, spanakopita, tyropita, feta and olives as you break eggs and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with your fellow parishioners.

Finally, more information from the Metropolis. Father Jacob Saylor from the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale, AZ will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us on Sunday, April 19th. The following Sunday, His Grace Bishop Ioannis of the Metropolis of San Francisco will be celebrating the Feast Day of St. George with us (though the Feast Day of St. George is on 4/23, we will be celebrating on 4/26). While visiting, His Grace will also continue discussions with us on our future priest. Specifics of both visits are being determined.

God bless. Jim Christopoulos



# PALM SUNDAY

We've had an overwhelming response to the Palm Sunday Luncheon!

**Seating is limited, and we are close to capacity (85 seats).** If you are still interested in attending, please email Francine at [fvasilomanolakis@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:fvasilomanolakis@stgeorgepd.org) to check ticket availability. Walk-in seating on the day of the event will be very limited.

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, please check in at the Palm Sunday Luncheon table to receive your meal ticket. If you have not yet paid, checks will be accepted at check-in.

Thank you to everyone who has reserved a spot. See you Sunday!

## Coffee Hour Sunday, April 5th

Coffee Hour will not be held following Divine Liturgy on Sunday due to our Palm Sunday Luncheon. Thank you for your understanding.



## PALM CROSSES

We need helping hands to make palm crosses on Lazarus Saturday, April 4th, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. If you're able to stay and assist, we would be grateful.





## Myrrh-bearers Girls – Holy Friday

All school-age girls are invited to participate as Myrrh-bearers for the Holy Friday Lamentations Service.

- Wear white (dress, shoes, sweater, etc.)
- Service begins at 7:00 PM
- Please arrive at 6:30 PM in the Sunday School classroom for a short practice

Each girl will be provided with a white basket and red rose petals. We will all sit in the front row on the right side.

**For participation & coordination, please call/text Mrs. Athena Snarskis at 219-313-6940 by Thursday, April 9.**



## Holy Week In The Bookstore

Stop by our church bookstore to purchase your own Holy Week book for \$20 each.

We also offer a beautiful selection of Lenten and Orthodox items, including books, icons, prayer ropes, red wooden eggs and Pascha cards.

Come browse and find meaningful items to enrich your spiritual journey during this sacred season.

**Athena**



## Support the Beautiful Adornment of the Epitaphio

As we prepare our hearts for the solemn and sacred days of Holy Week, we invite you to consider offering a donation toward the flowers decorating the Epitaphio. These flowers are a heartfelt expression of our love, devotion, and reverence as we honor the Body of Christ on Holy Friday.

May this Holy Season bring blessings, peace, and renewal to all.



## PHILOPTOCHOS

Our next general meeting will take place on April 13 in the church hall. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM.

We are pleased to welcome Laura Tavares as our guest speaker. Laura is a coordinator and cardiology nurse at Eisenhower Hospital, where she leads the cardiology program. She will be speaking on women's heart health—an important and informative topic.

To attend, please RSVP with Irene Stambolos:

- Phone: 818-517-3169
- Email: [istambolos@gmail.com](mailto:istambolos@gmail.com)

**BAKE  
SALE**  
Today 4/5

Today 4/5  
Last day to get your  
**LUMINARY CANDLES**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Board Meeting: April 6th
- General Meeting: April 13th
- Kids 'n' Cancer: Newport Beach - April 19th
- Sip 'n' Paint: April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Cinco de Mayo celebration at Maracas, Rancho Mirage

**“The Ladder,” for April 2026 is sponsored by Louise Dobbs Barringer**

## **JOIN THE GOLF COMMITTEE**

### **WE NEED YOU...**

Please sign up to help with this 2027 event.

Our first meeting will focus on ideas and options.

We're looking for those of you with creativity, event planning & a desire to be helpful.

**Nick Speliopoulos**

**nspelio@me.com**

Parish Council Fundraising Committee

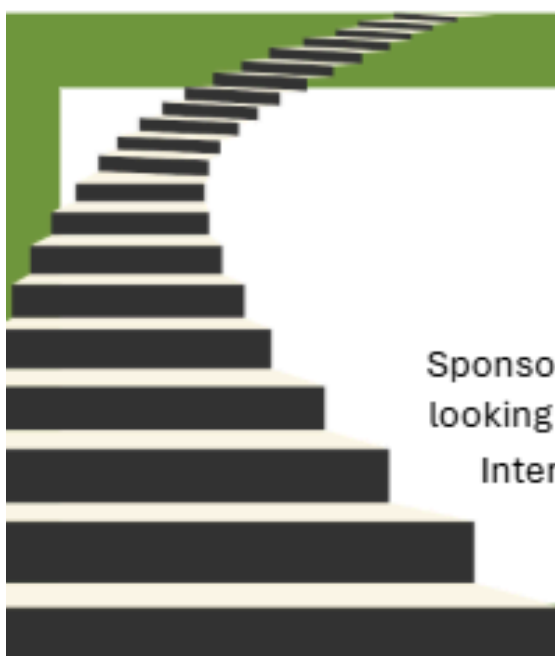


## **SPONSOR THE LADDER**

Help keep our weekly bulletin climbing strong!

Sponsoring The Ladder is an easy way to support the church—looking for sponsors for the months of **May through October**.

Interested? Just call the office at 760.568.9901 or email [officemanager@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:officemanager@stgeorgepd.org)



## **EVENTS & SERVICES COMING UP**

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

#### **4/5/26 Palm Sunday**

8:30 AM Orthos

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Followed by Palm Sunday luncheon

6:00 PM Service of the Nymphios

#### **4/6/26 Monday of Holy Week**

6:00 PM Service of the Nymphios

#### **4/7/26 Tuesday of Holy Week**

6:00 PM Service of the Nymphios

(Hymn of Kassiani)

#### **4/8/26 Wednesday of Holy Week**

9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy

6:00 PM Holy Unction (anointing of the sick)

#### **4/9/26 Thursday of Holy Week**

9:00 AM Vesper Liturgy of Saint Basil (Institution of the Eucharist)

6:00 PM The Service of the 12 Gospels (crucifixion of our Lord)

#### **4/10/26 Good Friday**

7:30AM Decoration of the Epitaphios

9:00 AM Royal Hours followed by a mini retreat

12 noon Vespers of our Lord's Descent from the Cross

7:00 PM The Service of the Lamentations with the Procession of the Epitaphios

#### **4/11/26**

9:00 AM Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil

(Hymn of the Three Youths)

11:00 PM Pre- Resurrection Service

11:45 PM Resurrection Service

12:00 midnight Orthos and Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

Followed by the blessing of the eggs and first fruits

Anastasi light dinner to follow with exchange of eggs

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no Agape Aervice on Sunday**