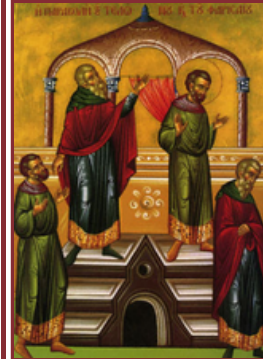




# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sundy, February 1, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Sunday of the  
Publican & Pharisee:  
Triodion Begins

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

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

**74109 Larrea St. Palm**  
**Desert, CA. 92260**  
**Tel: (760) 568-9901**  
**Office Hours: M - F**  
**10a.m. - 2p.m.**

**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 4**  
**Psalm 15.3,8**

*Among the saints who are in  
his land, the Lord has been  
wondrous.*

*Verse: I see the Lord before me  
continually.*



## **EPISTLE – Romans 8:28 - 39**

Brethren, we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **GOSPEL – St. Luke 18:10 - 14**

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## Liturgical Notes For Today's Divine Liturgy

1. **The Entrance with the Holy Gospel – “O Savior, Your tomb was sealed by the Jews with a stone; soldiers kept watch over Your Sacred Body. Yet, You rose on the third day giving life to the world. Wherefore the Powers of Heaven cried out to You, O Giver of Life: ‘Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, Who alone are the loving One.’/ Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος...**
2. **“Bowing toward the earth, the celestial choir of vaults of heaven behold the First Born of all creation being brought to the Temple as a nursing infant by Mary Who knew not man. They now sing with us a hymn of the fore-feast in awesome ecstasy.”/ Οὐράνιος χορός, οὐρανίων ἀψίδων...**
3. **“For his struggle, O Lord, Your martyr received the crown of immortality from You our God. Armed with Your might, he defeated the tyrants. He also crushed the arrogance of demons. By his intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.”/ Ὁ Μάρτυς σου Κύριε, ἐν τῇ ἀθλήσει αὐτοῦ... [Hymn in honor of St. Tryphon]**
4. **“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.”/ Ὡς των αιχμαλώτων...[Hymn in honor of St. George]**
5. **Kontakion: “With our hearts instead of arms today, believers, with most pure and righteous thoughts let us receive in our embrace the Lord and Master who comes to us, and let us offer our fore-festal hymns of praise.”/ Ὡς ἀγκάλας σήμερον, πιστοὶ καρδίας...**



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### DID YOU KNOW?

Today is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and it is the first Sunday of a three-week liturgical season before the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday to Great and Holy Saturday.

This is the tenth Sunday before Pascha (Easter). The next three Sundays are known as the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (February 8<sup>th</sup>); Judgment Sunday (also known as “Meatfare Sunday”) on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and Forgiveness Sunday (also known as Cheesefare Sunday) on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, which, as the day continues, leads into the beginning of Great Lent. The first day of Great Lent is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The six Sundays of Great Lent follow: The Sunday of Orthodoxy on March 1<sup>st</sup>; The Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas on March 8<sup>th</sup>; The Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross on March 15<sup>th</sup>; the Sunday of St. John of the Ladder on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt on March 29<sup>th</sup> and Palm Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

+Fr. Ted

### UPCOMING

#### SERVICES

**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST  
IN THE TEMPLE

Orthros - 8:30 a.m. followed by the  
Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

Vesper Service-5:00 p.m.

#### EVENTS

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Bible Study -10:00 a.m.  
Festival Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)  
– 6:30 p.m. (Contact Fr. Ted at  
[tpantels@steorgepd.org](mailto:tpantels@steorgepd.org) to receive a  
Zoom link.)

**The February 2026 Ladder is sponsored by Father Ted & Presbyteria Petula**

## PHILOPTOCHOS

### National Wear Red Day – American Heart Month

Join us in **February**, including **Wear Red Day on Friday, February 6**, and at St. George Church on **Sunday, February 8**.

Women are asked to stay after the service for a group photo to raise heart health awareness. Wearing red raises awareness of heart disease and promotes heart health as an essential part of self-care and community leadership.

### Upcoming Events

- \*February 2, 2026: Philoptochos Board Meeting (11a.m.)
- \*February 8<sup>th</sup> - Wear Red Day
- \*February 9, 2026: Philoptochos General Meeting (11:30a.m.)
- \*February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> ONLY - Festival Baking (8:30-1 p.m.)
- \*February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - Festival Baking (8:30-1p.m.)
- \*February 18<sup>th</sup> - Packaging



## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEMORIAL

Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God, **Presvytera Mary Kosturos (8 yrs.)**, the beloved mother of **Paul Kosturos; Despina Estel (40 days)**, the beloved mother of **Lynanne Steele** and grandmother of **Elle and Alec Steele**.

Also, today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servant of God, **Zaharoula (Lula) Valissarakos (40 days)**, the beloved mother of **Costa Valissarakos** and who served over many years, as a dynamic member of our Parish Council and our St. George Philoptochos. She donated her time and efforts to make many of the covering for our Altar table and memorial tables.

May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Presvytera Mary Kosturos, Despina Estel and Zaharoula (Lula) Valissarakos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Paul Kosturos, Lynanne Steele and Costa Valissarakos** and their entire families.

**MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**



## NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Why should one serve on the Parish Council?

Per **Father Jim Kordaris**, *“The calling to serve on the Parish Council is a calling to serve God, His Church and your fellow parishioners. For a few years, you will offer your time in order that others may worship freely. You will welcome, assist, fix, organize, evaluate, implement, and cooperate, in service to your church. Most of all, you will love. You will love God. You will love those with whom you serve. You will love those who enter the doors of your church – those you know and those who may enter for the first time.”*

The present group of council members is here to serve and dedicate time for you and for God. Let’s first meet our officers:

-**Nick Speliopoulos** is our Vice President. Amongst other responsibilities, Nick oversees and supports our paid help and resumes the duties of the President, should that be needed.

-**Annette Lewis**, our Treasurer, is tasked with organizing and managing our church finances. She is the CFO of the church.

-As the Recording Secretary, **Athena Snarskis** helps to develop the meeting agendas, takes notes at the meetings, and develops the minutes, which document all motions and outcomes.

In addition, the council includes:

-**Pat Dalkas**, our assistant Treasurer, who helps in the day-to-day financial operations of the church.

-**Nick Krespis**, a past council President and Festival Chair.

-**Tasia Richards**, our past President.

-**Pete Snarskis** has had treasurer experience and maintains our church buildings and grounds.

-**Francine Vasilomanolakis**, our past Treasurer.

This year, one of the primary goals of the council is to increase involvement of our parishioners in the operations of the church through committee memberships. In addition, we encourage parishioners to volunteer in supporting our Sunday school, usher services and Bookstore, amongst other ministries.

We thank you for your support and welcome your input and expertise during the upcoming year. God bless!

**Jim Christopoulos, Parish Council President**

## STEWARDSHIP 2026

**\*Mail or bring checks in.**

**Make your check “Happy” by writing “Stewardship” on the memo for proper recording.**

**\*Pay online using our secure system:**

**<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZN30/campaign/C-151YF>**

## A Note From The Treasurer



### **Year End statement:**

All your donations for 2025 were sent out Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Please, let the office know if you do not received it.

## Committee Sunday Update from the Parish Council

Thank you to all our parishioners who participated and “listened” to our Committee Sunday presentations!

It was a big success! Why you may think...because we had quite a few people who signed up for a committee!

We will be following up and contacting everyone after the Festival. Thank you for participating!

Francine

# 2026 GOLF TOURNAMENT

## Volunteers Needed: Annual Parish Golf Tournament & Taverna Dinner

Our Parish Golf Tournament and Taverna Dinner are cherished traditions—and vital fundraisers for our church. With your help, we can continue this meaningful event in the coming year.

We’re looking for a small, committed team to help plan and organize the tournament. **No golf experience is needed**—there are many ways to contribute. The time commitment is manageable, with most planning taking place after the Festival and only one initial organizational meeting.

The Parish Council will soon decide whether the event can move forward. A strong volunteer committee will make all the difference.

If you’d like to lend your time and talents to support the life and ministries of our church, we’d love to hear from you.

Please contact: Jim Christopoulos (goofy\_328@yahoo.com) or Nick Speliopoulos (nspelio@me.com) to learn more.

Together, we can keep this tradition alive.

## Festival Committee:

Sign up to help at the Greek Festival!

We need you to sign up to VOLUNTEER on Sunday at the Festival Committee table or see Jim Christopoulos, Katrina Bischoff or Krisann. It’s all about working together to make a successful event for our church.

The Festival Committee along with the St. George Parish Council would like to give our sincere thank you to the following donors for Festival 2026:

Albers, Alexandra	His & Hers (V)	Mallen, Andi
Andros, Nick	MG Pottery (V)	McEvoy, Peter & Stephanie
Argyros, George & Stacey	Nay International	Meek, Eve
Bautier, Anastasia	Shakeel's Concepts (V)	Monios, Melanie
Bischoff, Jeffrey & Katrina	Sunnys Concepts	Nicholas, Fanny
Boatwright, Jonathan	Gandrillon, Vincent	Pagoulatos, Margarita
Borgman, James	Gannon, Robert & Sandy	Pallis, Chris & Vicki
Boudoures, Anastasia	Hanna, Linda	Panopoulos, Joan
Bozigian, Linda Jean	Holm, Matthew	Pousen, Debbie (DJ)
Brown, Alex & Mary	Hurd, Paula Rene	Richards, Anastasia
Bystrzycki, Denise	Jefferson, Virginia P	Rodger, Thomas
Carkonen, Paul & Paulette	Karris, Emmy	Rodriguez, Sergio
Cook, Alexandra	Kezios, Rev Spencer T. (Bishop Spyridon)	Sarantos, Dean
Cooper, Sandy	Knee Family Foundation	Shaheen, Bernice
Dalkas, Anthony & Patricia	Kontaxis, Constantine	Spanos, George & Angie
Dariotis, Michael	Kontaxis, Euthym & Krisann	Speliopoulos, Nick & Carol
Diamond, George & Paula	Kosturos, Paul & Dena	Steele, Dr. Stephen & Lynanne
Dixon, Ann & Richard	Krespis, Nick & Fotini	Talieres, Maria
Dovlatyan, Asmik	Kundanis, Christine	Vasilomanolakis, Francine
Dunkel, Mariya & Gregory	Lekas, Bill & Denise	Veroulis, Angelo & Tina
Azar Souvenirs, Inc (V)	Lewis, Annette	Walter Clark Legal Group
Capri Laguna	Luv JJ Gold Plated Jewelry	Wanta, Shawn
Cassidy Rocke	Lyons, Douglas & Carol	Wiefels & Son
	Makrianis, Julie M.	

Help us promote our Festival! Come to church and get some fliers to put around town!

Go to: PDGREEKFESTIVAL.ORG or @PDGREEKFEST in Facebook or Instagram.

GO **RED** for Women  
Sunday February 8th



## Keep Going Red in February & Beyond

Can't celebrate on National Wear Red Day? Don't worry, February is American Heart Month, which means you can celebrate all month long. But remember, supporting women's health isn't just important on a certain day or month. We need to raise our voices about cardiovascular disease being a woman's greatest health threat all year long. Go Red in February and then find ways to support your health and well-being every day, in ways that work for you.

### QUESTIONS?

We've got the answers at [WearRedDay.org](https://www.WearRedDay.org).

### STAY CONNECTED ALL YEAR.

For the latest news, tips and resources, join the Go Red for Women movement at [GoRedforWomen.org](https://www.GoRedforWomen.org) and follow @GoRedforWomen on social media.



American Heart Association.



Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by  
**CVS Health.**

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## SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

2026 ST. GEORGE  
PHILOTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP  
TEA & LUNCHEON

