



# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, January 11, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Sunday After  
Epiphany



**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode**  
**Psalm 115.5,3 (116.15,12)**

*Precious in the sight of the  
Lord is the death of his saints.  
Verse: What shall I render to  
the Lord for all that he has  
given me?*



## EPISTLE – Hebrews 13:7 - 16

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So, Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore, let us go forth to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## GOSPEL – St. Matthew 4:12 - 17

At that time, Jesus when heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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

**Deacon:**  
**Euthym Kontaxis,**  
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**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.

## Liturgical Notes For Today's Divine Liturgy

1. The Entrance with the Holy Gospel – “O Christ, the Angelic Powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as though 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...
2. “As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity became manifest. For the voice of the Father gave added witness, naming You His beloved Son and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of that word. O Christ, Who revealed Yourself as God and brought light to the world, glory to You.”/Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε...
3. “With the rivers of your tears, you have made fertile the barren desert. From sighs of sorrow from deep within you your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles, you have become a shining light upon the world. O Theodosius our venerable Father, intercede to Christ our God to save our souls.” /Ταῖς τῶν δακρύων σου ῥοαῖς...[Hymn for St. Theodosios the Cenobite]
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: “Today You appeared to the world, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us as in fully understanding we sing to You: ‘You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light.’”/ Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον...



## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### VASILOPITA

Today, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, everyone is invited to our parish hall to join in the annual Vasilopita celebration. Many thanks to Tina Veroulis and her committee of Philoptochos members who prepared the Vasilopita again this year.

### Bake Sale

50% of the proceeds will continue to support the administries of St. Basi lincluding the children currently being served & others residing. The remaining 50% will be used to support youth social services & other youth programs throughout the Archdiocese of America.

### HOUSE BLESSINGS

Throughout this month, Fr. Ted will be most happy to visit those who request the priest to bless their homes with Holy Water. Make an appointment with Father Ted at (760) 880-5869.

### STEWARDSHIP

It's a New Year.....let's look at Stewardship

A blessed and happy 2026 to our returning and full-time members! Stewardship is on our minds as this new year starts off. Wouldn't it be great if we could surpass 2025!

Pick up and fill out a 2026 Stewardship Commitment Card and make your pledge.

Return the completed card at the office. You can also fill out a pledge card online at:

<https://stgeorgepd.org/donate/stewardship/>.

Remember to make your checks **“happy”** by adding “stewardship” in the memo section of your check.

Let's look inside ourselves and give a little more for our church. Let's surpass 100 stewards from last year!



## St. George Golf Tournament

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

**This is an important request to find a committed group to work together for this important church fundraiser.**

Our parish is at a crossroads as we look ahead to this year's Annual Golf Tournament and Taverna-style Dinner. This event has long been a valued tradition and a vital fundraiser for our church—but it can only happen if we form a dedicated group of volunteers to help plan and carry it out. You don't need to be a golfer or know anything about golf. There's a variety of things to accomplish.

The Parish Council must soon decide whether we will host the tournament this year. With a committed volunteer committee, it is likely that we can continue the tournament and the Taverna dinner again this year.

Other than an initial organizational meeting, most of the work will take place after the Festival, making this a manageable commitment for many.

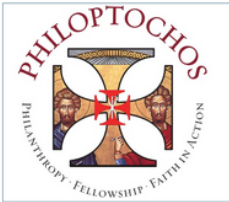
This event is more than a day on the course—it is an important fundraiser that supports the life and ministries of our church. Your time, talent, and willingness to help can make the difference between continuing this tradition or seeing it come to an end in 2026.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please e-mail **Jim Christopoulos at [goofy\\_328@yahoo.com](mailto:goofy_328@yahoo.com)** or **Nick Speliopoulos at [nspelio@me.com](mailto:nspelio@me.com)**. Let us come together to ensure the success of this meaningful parish event.



## **Philoptochos News**

Come join us at our next general meeting this January 12th. We will be having a guest speaker - **Kimberly Lee** founder and primary attorney at Desert Law Group in Indian Wells. She has dedicated her career to guiding individuals and families through the complexities of estate planning, trust, and probate administration and wealth preservation. A lunch will be served at 11:30. RSVP with Irene Stambolos at 818-517-3169, [istambolos@gail.com](mailto:istambolos@gail.com), or [istambolos@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:istambolos@stgeorgepd.org)



### **Upcoming events:**

- January 12, 2026: General Meeting
- January 24, 2026: Game Day  
(Mexican Train Dominos-2:00 p.m., church hall)

## **ST. GEORGE FESTIVAL**

Save the dates! Our Greek Festival will be held February 21–22, 2026. This joyful event is produced by all of us—the stewards of St. George. Let us come together in faith and love to make it a success.

To volunteer, please see Fr. Euthym Kontaxis after Sunday services and sign up in the parish hall. Be sure to check the updated “Feed the Festival/Nourish the Faith” chart posted in the hall, along with the printed Festival Baking Schedule, which is also posted in our parish hall. Donations of time, talent, and treasure are always welcome and deeply appreciated.

## ***Did you Know?***

### **Question: What is Vasilopita?**

Vasilopita, meaning "Basil's pie," is a traditional cake or bread served on New Year's Day in Greece. It is typically baked with a hidden coin (which, in Greek is called "flourie" φλουρί) inside, which is believed to bring good luck to the person who finds it. The tradition is linked to the feast day of Saint Basil, celebrated on January 1st, and is a way to honor his legacy of generosity and kindness. The origins of vasilopita can be traced back to the story of St. Basil of Caesarea, since he would conceal coins in bread to return valuables to his followers during a time of crisis. This act of kindness evolved into the modern custom of baking vasilopita, where the hidden coin symbolizes fortune and blessings for the coming year.

## **UPCOMING**

### **Events**

#### **NOTE: Festival Baking - 8:30a.m.**

(Koulourakia/Paximathia)

Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>,  
&

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m.**

Bible Study

### **Services**

#### **Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.**

Orthodox Christian Catechism  
(online)

[Email Fr. Ted at  
tpantels@stgeorgepd.org to receive a  
Zoom link.]

#### **Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT Orthros  
followed by the celebration of the  
Divine Liturgy - **8:30 a.m.**

**&**

VESPER SERVICE followed by  
Catechumen Lesson - **5:00p.m.**

**The January 2026 Ladder is sponsored by Nicholas and Carol Speliopoulos**