



# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, January 4, 2026

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!



Sunday Before  
Epiphany



**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2**  
**Psalm 27.9,1**

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

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



## EPISTLE – 2 Timothy 4:5 – 8

Timothy, my son, always be watchful, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

## GOSPEL – St. Mark 1:1 – 8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight —' John was baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**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](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 faithful let us sing a hymn of praise and worship to the Logos Who is co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit; Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation. Of His own Will, He went upon the Cross in the flesh and suffered death to raise the dead through His glorious Resurrection.” / Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον...

2. “Make ready, O Zebulum; prepare yourself, O Nephthali; cease to flow, O River Jordan. Receive the Master Who comes to be baptized in joy. Adam rejoice with the first mother. Do not hide in Paradise as before, for He came to see us even naked that He may clothe us as we were before. Christ has appeared to renew all creation.”/Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλών...

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 our God that He may save our souls.” [Hymn of St. George]/ Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...  
[Hymn for St. George]

4. Kontakion: “Appearing in the streams of the Jordan today, the Lord cries out to John, ‘Do not be afraid to Baptize Me for I have come to save Adam, the first to be created.’/Εν τοις ρείσθοις σήμερον του Ιορδάνου...



## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.

### 2026 Festival Preparations

As we enter the first full week of January 2026, plan to join in our festival preparation efforts with the spirit of fellowship and love for God. See the enclosed “Volunteer for the 2026 Festival” form.

As we begin the New Year, 2026 Festival preparations will be in full swing, beginning on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Help is needed to organize initial preparation materials at 8:00 a.m. on January 7<sup>th</sup>. However, since January 7<sup>th</sup> is the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist (with Orthros beginning at 8:30 a.m. followed by the celebration of the Divine Liturgy) every attempt will be made to arrange the day’s work around the morning Church Services.

Everyone is invited to join in the Festival efforts following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

### New Office Manager

Those who have yet to meet our new office manager, Baleria Rodriguez, (who answers to the name “Val”) are encouraged to stop by our office during weekdays to meet her. She is working in a part-time capacity every week, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## Stewardship

How about this for a “New Year’s Resolution?”

*“I will commend myself and others around me, and my whole life to Christ our God.”* This is a succinct and sincere Stewardship statement as we commit our time, talent and treasure to our Loving Lord.

### **There are two ways to submit your stewardship:**

- Mail or bring your check (address on the first page of The Ladder). Please write “Stewardship” on the check for proper recording.
- *Pay online using our secure system:*  
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZN30/campaign/C-151YF>



## St. George Golf Tournament

Our **2026 St. George Golf Tournament** is scheduled to be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2026**. Arrangements are now underway to host this tournament at Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert and to provide for the “Awards Dinner” that follows its conclusion.

As the date draws near, more volunteers will be needed to prepare the golfing groups; the dinner menu; the “closest to the hole” and “longest shot” awards, as well as the prizes for first, second and third places, together with awards-dinner raffle prizes. Volunteers for the success of our 2026 Golf Tournament are welcome starting now.

**Please find the enclosed “Join the 2026 St. George Golf Tournament Committee” form.**



## **Philoptochos News**

### **Coffee Hour**

As many of you know prices have gone up in the past year. In order to continue Coffee Hour, we seek volunteers to host coffee hour for future Sundays; as well as donate in contribution to purchasing coffee, coffee cups, utensils, paper plates, water cups, creamers, food, etc. It is not only coffee hour Sundays, that coffee and supplies are utilized but on Saturdays, during other weekly services, and on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, if we do not receive the help or donations, we will not be able to continue Coffee Hour. Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance in this matter.

Save the date and plan on attending our next general meeting on January 12. 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. Come join us. Lunch will be served at 11:30. RSVP to Irene Stambolos at 818-517-3169, [istambolos@gail.com](mailto:istambolos@gail.com), or [istambolos@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:istambolos@stgeorgepd.org)

Warm Regards,  
Irene Stambolos  
President, Philoptochos  
Tel: 818-517-3169  
Email: [Istambolos@stgeorgepd.org](mailto:Istambolos@stgeorgepd.org)

### **Upcoming events:**

- January 5, 2026: Philoptochos Board Meeting,  
following Church Services
- January 11, 2026: Vasilopita
- January 12, 2026: General Meeting
- January 24, 2026: Game Day  
(Mexican Train Dominos-2:00 p.m., church hall)

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

**“Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”** (St. Matthew 3:2 and 4:17).

Repentance is a gift from God. As such, we understand that God values each of us and knows that we are capable of repenting (i.e., correcting ourselves) of evil and harmful words and behaviors and turning to Christ, whereby we say words and perform behaviors that are beneficial to one another both for this present live and for our eternal life.

Appreciating the gift of repentance begins with comprehending mind-set of our loving God. For, implied in this gift is the fact that our Lord looks for the good in each of us and does not look at only our faults or weaknesses. Likewise, as followers of our Savior Jesus Christ, we should be looking at the good in the people in our lives, rather than focusing on their faults and weaknesses. By looking for the good in us, God wants to help us bring out “the good” and reject “the bad” in us and in those around us.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Monday, January 5, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.**

EVE OF THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY) Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmo)

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.**

HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY) Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmo)

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

PHILOTOCHOS VASILOPITA CELEBRATION Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy

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

