



NOVEMBER 20, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

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–Fr. Theodore Pantels,

Proistamenos (Pastor)

–Deacon Euthym Kon-  
taxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Or-  
der

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

# THE LADDER



## PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

*"Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."*

### EPISTLE - Ephesians 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### GOSPEL - St. Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

## THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Today is the eve of tomorrow's major Feast Day, the **Entrance into the temple of the Most Holy Theotokos (Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of God)**. According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph. One of the earliest sources of this tradition is the non-canonical *Protoevangelion of James*.

The Theotokos was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to become Herself the "holy of holies" of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine Child Who was to be born in Her. The Church also sees this feast as marking the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God.

-- Taken from [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org) and [orthodoxwiki.org](http://orthodoxwiki.org).

### Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** "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 has risen from the dead!" / Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις.; **2)** "Today Anna proceeds in calling to mind joy for us. She brings as her yield the antithesis of sorrow, which is the only Ever-Virgin. She brings Her rejoicing to the temple of the Lord, fulfilling her prayers, for truly, She is the temple of God, the Logos." / Χαράν προμνηστεύεται.; **3) Hymn for St. George.** **4) Kontakion Hymn:** "Today the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God enters this house of the Lord bringing with Her the grace of the Divine Spirit. The angels of God praise Her. She is the heavenly tabernacle." / Ευφροσύνης σήμερον.

#### "...THOSE WHO SEEK THE LORD SHALL NOT LACK ANY GOOD THING!"

If anyone would have benefitted the most from the Lord's Parable, which we heard through today's Gospel passage, one would think that it would have been Judas Iscariot. Our Savior's Parable speaks to the question that each person must always answer from one day to the next: "What would you give in exchange for your soul?" When Judas betrayed the Savior, he betrayed salvation. He sought gold at the expense of his soul.

The Gospels tell us that Judas was always interested in money. (See St. John 12:6). Yet, he was still one of the twelve Apostles, who witnessed the many miracles of Jesus, each one worth more than money could ever buy. One would think that Judas should have learned from our Lord that we cannot serve two masters. We either serve for temporary wealth and glory, or we serve for God's Will and salvation.

If given a choice between money and miracles, which would you choose? One miracle that stands out in my mind is the miracle when our Lord fed the multitude with only two fish and five loaves of bread. This miracle is remembered in liturgical fashion on special feast days of the Church, when it is customary to hold the service of the "Blessing of the Five Loaves" (*Artoklasia* in Greek). At the end of the service, we hear a refrain that reminds us of the Biblical verse, Psalm 33/34:10 "The rich have become poor, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good." We ask, "How?" The Psalm gives the answer in the verses that follow, culminating with these words: "Shun evil and do good." (vs. 15). This is how miracles are performed for God's glory - miracles which are more precious than gold. +FR. THEODORE

Εάν θα ήταν κάποιος που θα είχε ωφεληθεί μεγίστως από την Παραβολή του Κυρίου, την οποία ακούσαμε μέσω της σημερινής περικοπής του Ευαγγελίου, θα ήταν ο Ιούδας ο Ισκαριώτης. Η Παραβολή του Σωτήρος μας ομιλά για το ερώτημα που πρέπει να απαντά για τον εαυτόν του κάθε άτομο από τη μια μέρα στην άλλη: «Τι θα δώσεις σε αντάλλαγμα για την ψυχή σου;» Όταν ο Ιούδας επρόδωσε τον Σωτήρα, επρόδωσε τη σωτηρία του. Αναζήτησε χρυσό σε βάρος της ψυχής του.

Τα Ευαγγέλια μας λένουν ότι ο Ιούδας πάντοτε ενδιαφερόταν για τα χρήματα. (Βλέπε Άγ. Ιωάν. 12:6). Ωστόσο, ο Ιούδας ήταν ένας από τους δώδεκα Αποστόλους, οι οποίοι έγιναν μάρτυρες των πολλών θαυμάτων του Ιησού, το καθένα από τα οποία αξίζει περισσότερο από ό,τι θα μπορούσαν ποτέ να αγοράσουν τα χρήματα.

Εάν σας δινόταν η επιλογή μεταξύ χρημάτων και θαυμάτων, ποιο από τα δυο θα διαλέγατε; Ένα θαύμα είναι το θαύμα όταν ο Κύριός μας ετάισε το πλήθος μόνο με τους πέντε αρτούς. Αυτό το θαύμα μνημονεύεται σε ειδικές εορτές της Εκκλησίας με την ακολουθία της Αρτοκλασίας. Στο τέλος, ακούμε τον ύμνο: «Πλούσιοι επώχευσαν και επείνασαν, οι δε εκζητούντες τον Κύριον, ουκ ελαττωθήσονται παντός αγαθού.» Ερωτάμε, «Πώς γίνεται αυτό;» Ο Ψαλμός 33 δίνει την απάντηση, με τα εξής λόγια: «Αποφύγετε το κακό και κάνετε το καλό» (στίχος 15). Έτσι γίνονται τα θαύματα προς δόξαν Θεού - θαύματα που είναι πιο πολύτιμα από τον χρυσό. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

**MEMORIAL** -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God, **Penelope Koutroubis (26 years)**, the beloved mother of **Kalitsa Xitco**, **Athanasios Koutroubis (3 years)**, the beloved father of **Kalitsa Xitco**, and **Popi Koutroubis (30 years)**, the beloved niece of **Kalitsa Xitco**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Penelope Koutroubis**, **Athanasios Koutroubis** and **Popi Koutroubis** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Kalitsa Xitco** and the family. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

### **WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

Monday, November 21st.....**ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS**  
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy - 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 22rd .....No Bible Study this week.

Thursday, November 24th.....Thanksgiving (office is closed)

Friday, November 25th.....**ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR**  
Orthros -8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.

### **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Please note that our **St. George Fall General Assembly** will be held **today** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. To participate, we ask one and all to be sure that their **2022 Stewardship Commitment is up to date.**

**ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD** - Enclosed is a "St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Form." Deadline for submission is this Friday, November 25th.

**PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY** - **December 10, 2022** at the **Sun City Club House, 38180 Del Webb Boulevard -- 11:30 a.m.** See enclosed flyer.

**PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENT** – **The Narrow Door Food Bank** is in desperate need of **1 and 2 pound bags or boxes of rice** before Thanksgiving! Please drop off at the church hall today!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL –**

-**This Sunday, Nov 20th & Nov 27th** - All students are invited to attend Sunday School in their classroom for fellowship, lesson, Christmas program assignments and to help write/color special note cards for the Philoptochos Christmas baskets!

-**Sunday, Dec 18th** - Presbytera Petula has been working hard organizing the Christmas program this year "Christmas Around the World". Each student will select a country and present individually or as a family in the hall after the Divine Liturgy! Please contact Presbytera Petula or Mrs Athena if you haven't chosen or recieved your country!

-**Starting January 15th, 2023** - We will be returning to having Sunday School sessions each Sunday! Thank you to Alexandra Pappas (Emily Tcharos' niece) and Emily Kayaloglou (Angeliki Trapatsas Yiayia) in joining Presbytera Petula and Mrs Athena each Sunday this year! Fr Ted along with Deacon Euthym will also be making visits to each classroom!

**GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS** - **Next Sunday, November 27th**, our Greek Folk Dance lessons will be held in our parish hall following the conclusion of our Sunday School classes. We will coordinate with the parents of our Sunday School and Dance Group to provide lunch for our students. For more details, please contact Fr. Ted



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to 74109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to Tina Veroulis in the office. We would appreciate the return of the form by November 25, 2022.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: November 25, 2022**

# *Philoptochos Christmas Party*

**12/10/22 11:30 AM**

**Sun City Clubhouse**

**38180 Del Webb Blvd, Palm Desert**



*Please Join Us! Bring a Friend!*

Luncheon Price \$45.00 per person includes:

Appetizers, buffet luncheon with tri-tip steak & baked fish, salad, potatoes & rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, & bread plus a surprise dessert along with a sheet cake. (coffee, iced tea & water included.) \*Vegan or vegetarian meal option is available.

***Cash Bar! Music! Hostess Gift! Raffle!***

\*\*\*\*\*  
I am attending: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

I am bringing a guest: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
Total Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: (Cash) \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a: Vegan Meal/Vegetarian Meal (circle one)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*RSVP by December 4th**