



JUNE 11, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT
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- Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym
Kontaxis, M.D.

Holy Communion
Order

- 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
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



EPISTLE - Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

GOSPEL- St. Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS - During the Divine Liturgy, we all share in communion with Christ our God in three ways: 1) we participate in the same Sacrament as that in which the Apostolic Saints participated... and we participate in the Sacrament equally among ourselves and with all the faithful of the Church throughout the world. 2) When we recite the Creed and the Communion Prayers, each one of us addresses our Lord as an individual, saying "I believe..." As individuals, then, we recite these prayers equally with the other faithful and we pray and confess the same words as those exclaimed by the saints of every generation. 3) When we gather for worship and pray for the descent of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we know that the saints and the angels are around us, since also "Christ is in our midst," which we confess collectively and with equal dignity as we pray the "Lord's Prayer." +FR. THEODORE

**MEMORIAL**— Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Fr. Anthony Kosturos (19 years)**, our beloved presbyter and co-celebrant, and the beloved father of **Paul Kosturos**, father-in-law of **Constantina Kosturos**, and grandfather of **Anthony, George, and Tiffany**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Fr. Anthony Kosturos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Paul Kosturos** and the entire family. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

### **Liturgical Notes for Today**

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) *"O Merciful One, You came from on High and condescended to Your three-day burial to save us from passions. You are our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to You."/Εξ ύψους...*

2) *"Your Church, O Christ our God, clothed Itself in the blood of Your martyrs from throughout the world as though it were a robe of linen and purple; through them She cries out to You, 'Send down upon Your people compassion, grant peace to Your commonwealth, and to our souls, great mercy.'"/Των εν όλω τω κόσμω...*

3) *"Since You are a deliverer of captives..." / Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθεροτής... [Hymn for St. George]*

4) **Kontakion:** *"The world offers You, the Author of all creation, as the first-fruits of nature, the God-bearing martyrs. O most Merciful One, by their intercessions, through the Theotokos, maintain Your Church in perfect peace."/Ως απαρχάς της φύσεως...*

### **THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS**

Throughout history, some saints suffered more pain and in different ways than did others. In this, St. Paul wrote: *"Some were tortured; others had trial of mocking and scourging...others were stoned, sawed in two...and tempted."* (Hebrews 11:35-36). Certainly, there was no equality in the type of crosses that they carried on their journey through life. Regardless, in today's Gospel passage, our Savior tells us, *"Many that are first shall be last and the last shall be first."*

The Divine Liturgy is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, because Christ is in our midst. We all have different kinds of trials, tribulations, joys and accomplishments. Whether or not we see them as being "equal" in measure, every tribulation, temptation, joy and accomplishment that a person experiences for God's glory is of "equal" value from His point of view. Thus, we are equal participants in the Divine Liturgy, regardless of whether we are clergy or laity and regardless of our social status.

In the mind of our Church, the saints are all equally saints. They share in a common relationship with Christ, whether they were theologians, martyrs, or ascetics. Today, we celebrate all the saints of our Lord — some whose names we know, and others whose names only the Lord knows. In Matthew 20:1-16, Christ our God explains the meaning of "the first and last," through the parable of the landowner, who is representative of Himself. He paid those who toiled from the first hour the same wage as for those who worked at the eleventh hour. When those who toiled from the first hour complained, the landowner said, *"Did you not agree with me for a denarius?... I wish to give to the last man the same as to you...Or is your eye evil because I am good? So the last will be first and the first last."* In this world we can be deceived by the constant obsession with "equality" over "rights." The reality is that, just as God loves all people equally, it is our *responsibility* before God to do the same.

+FR. THEODORE

Σε όλη την ιστορία, ορισμένοι άγιοι υπέφεραν περισσότερο πόνο και με διαφορετικούς τρόπους από άλλους αγίους. Σε αυτό, ο Άγιος Παύλος έγραψε: «[Μερικοί] εμπαιγμών και μαστίγων πείραν έλαβον, [άλλοι] ελιθάσθησαν, επρίσθησαν, επειράσθησαν». (Εβραίους 11:35-36). Σίγουρα, δεν υπήρχε ισότητα στο είδος των «σταυρών» που εκουβαλούσαν στο ταξίδι τους σε αυτήν την επίγειον ζωή. Ανεξάρτητα από αυτό, στην σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ο Χριστός μας λέει: «Πολλοί δε έσονται πρώτοι έσχατοι και έσχατοι πρώτοι.»

Η Θεία Λειτουργία είναι η Βασιλεία των Ουρανών στη γη, γιατί ο Χριστός είναι ανάμεσά μας. Όλοι έχουμε διαφορετικά είδη δοκιμασιών, θλίψεων, χαρών και επιτευγμάτων. Είτε τους βλέπουμε ως «ίσους» είτε όχι, κάθε θλίψη, πειρασμός, χαρά και επίτευγμα που βιώνει ο «οποιοσδήποτε» προς δόξαν Θεού έχει ιση αξία από την άποψη του Θεού. Έτσι, συμμετέχουμε ισότιμα στη Θεία Λειτουργία, ανεξάρτητα από το αν είμεθα κληρικοί ή λαϊκοί και ανεξάρτητα από την κοινωνική μας θέση.

Κατά τον «νουν» της Εκκλησίας μας, οι άγιοι είναι όλοι εξίσου άγιοι. Μοιράζονται μια κοινή σχέση με τον Χριστό, είτε ένας ήταν θεολόγος, μάρτυρας ή ασκητής. Σήμερα, εορτάζουμε όλους τους αγίους του Χριστού – μερικούς των οποίων τα ονόματα γνωρίζουμε και άλλους των οποίων τα ονόματα μόνο ο Χριστός γνωρίζει. Στο Ευαγγέλιο κατα Ματθαίον 20:1-16, ο Χριστός μας εξηγεί την έννοια του «πρώτου και έσχατου», μέσω της παραβολής του οικοδεσπότη, ο οποίος αντιπροσωπεύει τον Χριστό. Αυτός επλήρωσε εκείνους που μοχθούσαν από την πρώτη ώρα το ίδιο «μισθό» όπως και για εκείνους που εργάσθηκαν κατά την ενδέκατη ώρα. Όταν αυτοί που μοχθούσαν από την πρώτη ώρα επαραπονέθηκαν, ο οικοδεσπότης είπε: «..Ουχί δηναρίου συνεφώνησάς μοι;...Θέλω δε τούτω τω εσχάτω δούναι ως και σοι...ει ο οφθαλμός σου πονηρός εστίν ότι εγώ αγαθός ειμι; Ούτως έσονται πρώτοι έσχατοι και έσχατοι πρώτοι.» Σε αυτόν τον κόσμο μπορούμε να παραπλανηθούμε από τη συνεχή εμμονή με την «ισότητα» όσον αφορά τα «δικαιώματα». Η πραγματικότητα είναι ότι, όπως ο Θεός αγαπά όλους τους ανθρώπους εξίσου, είναι η θεία ευθύνη μας να κάνουμε το ίδιο. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, June 13th..... Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.



43RD ANNUAL  
**IRVINE GREEK FEST**  
JUNE 16, 17, 18, 2023  
FRIDAY: 5PM - 10PM · SATURDAY: NOON - 10PM · SUNDAY: NOON - 9PM

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL DADS  
ON FATHER'S DAY (SUNDAY, JUNE 18)

<b>GREEK FOOD</b> DELICIOUS FOOD · PASTRIES · TAVERNA	<b>LIVE GREEK BAND</b> MUSIC ALL WEEKEND
<b>DANKING</b> GREEK FOLK DANCE	<b>PLAKA</b> MARKET PLACE & BOOKSTORE
<b>CHURCH TOURS</b> ANCIENT FAITH & MOSAIC ART	<b>KIDS' PLAY ZONE</b> ACTIVITIES & FUN

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**ONE FREE ADMISSION**  
VALID 6/16 - 6/18/23 ONE PER FAMILY

ADMISSION \$3, CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE  
SENIORS 65+ FREE ADMISSION SATURDAY NOON TO 5PM  
VETERANS/ACTIVE SERVICE MILITARY & FAMILIES ALWAYS FREE  
STUDENTS WITH STUDENT I.D. FREE FRIDAY 5PM - 10PM

## ST. PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH in Irvine, California

### IRVINE GREEK FEST June 16, 17, 18, 2023

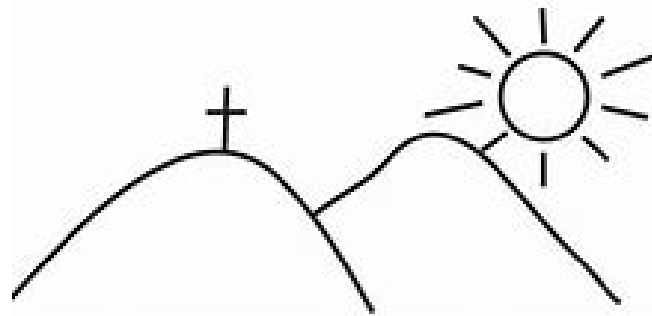
Friday, June 16th - 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 17th - Noon - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 18th - Noon - 9:00 p.m.

Admission- \$3.00

4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, California



## **Saint Sophia Camp**

### **REGISTRATION FOR ST. SOPHIA SUMMER CAMP IS NOW OPEN**

**Week #1: July 23rd -July 29th, 2023**

**Week #2: July 29th -August 5th, 2023**

#### **Payment Information**

- Price if Paying By Check: \$600 per week, per camper.  
Please mail checks to:  
Saint Sophia Cathedral  
c/o Saint Sophia Camp  
1324 S. Normandie Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90006
- Price if Paying Online: \$615 per week, per camper. Please make payment [here](#) .

#### **Building Lifelong Memories through Faith, Fellowship and Fun**

**Saint Sophia Camp continues on, operating at Camp Seely in beautiful Crestline, California for a two week season every summer. The ministry of Saint Sophia Camp continues to have a positive impact on countless lives, many past campers have children of their own who attend camp each summer continuing the legacy and traditions of Saint Sophia Camp.**