



MARCH 10, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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- Fr. Theodore Pantels, M.Div. Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym Kon-taxis, M.D., M.Div.

Holy Communion Or-der

- 1. Please remain standing while following the direc-tions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly re-move lipstick be-fore receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally re-ceive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Com-munion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Chris-tians must be spirit-ually prepared to receive the Sacra-ment of Holy Com-munion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE LADDER
JUDGMENT SUNDAY (MEAT-FARE SUNDAY)



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— 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

GOSPEL— St. Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to

those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

JUDGMENT SUNDAY (MEAT-FARE SUNDAY) – Today is “Judgment Sunday” (or, a.k.a., “Meat-Fare Sunday”). After dedicating the last two Sundays to the theme of forgiveness – a theme which will be emphasized with next Sunday’s Gospel passage – we are reminded today not to be deceived into thinking that we can live carelessly throughout our lives with the idea that “all will be forgiven” anyway. We are reminded now that we are not in control of everything around us and that it is wise for us to be prepared to give an account for our words and deeds at any time when our Lord may call us from this present life, or when He suddenly appears in glory to judge the living and the dead. Forgiving others means that we still care for them – that we visit the sick; feed the hungry, and seek shelter for those in need, even if they are among the “least of our brethren” who may have offended us in the past. +FR. THEODORE

Liturgical Notes for Today

With the Entrance with the Gospel: 1) *By Your Cross O Christ our God You destroyed death. You opened Paradise to the thief. You transformed the lament of the myrrh bearing women, and You commanded the Apostles to proclaim You are risen, granting the world Your great mercy.* / Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ ...

2) *“Since You are a deliverer of captives and a protector of the poor; a physician for the sick; a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the martyrs and glorious George, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.”* / Ως τῶν αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτῆς... [Hymn for St. George]

3) **Kontakion:** : *“O God, when you come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most Just.”* / Όταν ἔλθῃς ὁ Θεός, ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς μετὰ δόξης...

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Chris (Christos) Panopoulos** (2 years), the beloved husband of **Joan Panopoulos**; **Peter (Panagiotis) Vellas** and **Bessie (Vasiliki) Vellas**, the beloved parents of Joan Panopoulos; **Theodoros Panopoulos** and **Athanasia Panopoulos**, the beloved parents of Chris Panopoulos. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Chris Panopoulos, Peter (Panagiotis) Vellas, Bessie (Vasiliki) Vellas, Theodoros Panopoulos** and **Athanasia Panopoulos**, and may He grant peace and comfort to **Joan Panopoulos** and the entire family. MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON’S WELLBEING?

It is not uncommon to find expressions from ancient (as well as modern) thinkers suggesting that the weak and infirm are a “drain” on society’s ability to advance in power. As justification for such a suggestion, we often hear the subtle implication that the weak and infirm are relegated to “sub-humanity” as punishment for their sins. Accordingly, it would be wise to neglect the weak and infirm.

It was Jesus Christ our God, Who silenced such foolish wisdom with the argument for why we *should care about another person’s wellbeing*. Each one of us is God’s personal treasure – the Image and Likeness of God. In his First Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us that our “care” is to extend beyond simply one’s physical wellbeing, and to include one’s spiritual wellbeing, as well. Accordingly, those who would be affected the most by our example of piety or impiety would be the weak – i.e., the children; those suffering from trauma or grief, and those enduring hardships of various kinds.

Dishonoring any person – even, as our Lord said in today’s Gospel passage, “the least of our brethren” – is the same thing as dishonoring God. If we care about God, we must care about the other person. +FR. THEODORE

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 12th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m.
AHEPA – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13th...Online Orthodox Catechism – 6:30 p.m.
(Book study: *Great Lent*, by Fr. Schmemmann)

Thursday, March 14th.....Parish Council – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16th.....SATURDAY OF SOULS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. (followed by Memorial Service)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Today we have **special Sunday School classes** about the loving God with all our heart, and also loving others with all our heart. **Our next Sunday of special Sunday School classes will be held on Sunday, March 24th (Sunday of Orthodoxy).** Parents and students are asked to bring their icons for the procession on Sunday of Orthodoxy.

ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT – Fr. Steven Tschilis will conclude a two-part parish Lenten Retreat series (Part 1 having been held last year) on **Living the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, April 6th.** This year, Fr. Steven will guide us through the phases of the Divine Liturgy – “The Liturgy of the Word,” (the beginning of the Liturgy up to the Gospel reading and Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts) and “The Liturgy of the Eucharist” (the part of the Liturgy after the Great Entrance, including Holy Communion and the final “Dismissal Prayers”). **Save the Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024. See enclosed flier.**

PROSFORO (ALTAR BREAD) - We need parishioners to prepare Altar Bread for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and Feast Days. Contact **Fr. Ted or Christina Kundanis** to set up times for instruction. Preparing the Altar Bread for the Divine Liturgy is a great blessing for family and relatives, who are commemorated during the Service of Preparation” which takes place during the Orthros Service for the celebration of every Liturgy.

LESSONS FOR PREPARING KOLYVA AND “THE FIVE LOAVES” – Lessons are available for those who want to learn how to make Kolyva (the boiled wheat) that is presented during the Memorial Services. Kolyva represents the regeneration of those who have passed from this present life into the Eternal Life with our Lord. The “Five Loaves” of bread are blessed for the health of loved ones during the service of “The Blessing of the Five Loaves” (Artoklasia) on special Church Feast Days. There are ladies of our Philoptochos who are willing to teach! Contact **Fr. Ted, Rhonda Latkovic, or Tina Veroulis.**

ST. GEORGE PARISH SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Plan to join us for our **Spring General Assembly on Sunday, March 31st** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Agenda items will include a review of our **2024 Greek Festival** and a brief report from our recent **Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy-Laity Assembly.**

PRAYER REQUESTS - Please let us know of anyone in need of special prayers. Call Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869. Please pray for: Evangelia, Nancy, Eve Meek, Annette, Ann, Diane, Bess. We also pray for the servants of God, Tanya, Michael, Mary, Remy.

DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE LADDER - Going forward, the deadline for any announcements or fliers to be included in *The Ladder* is every Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which *The Ladder* is to be distributed in church. This way, we will be able to email *The Ladder* to our parishioners on Thursdays.

St. George
Greek Orthodox Church's
2024 Lenten Retreat

Living the Liturgy

with

Father Steven Tschlis

Pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA
Author of *A Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy*

Saturday, April 6, 2024

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Lenten Lunch Included

Session 1

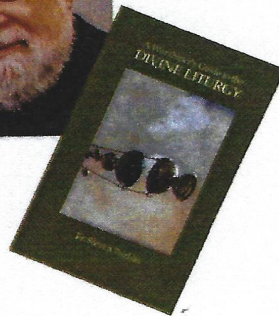
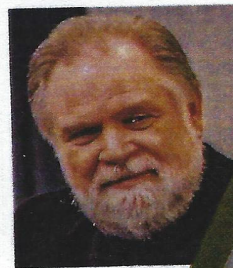
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word

Session 2

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Liturgy of the Eucharist



A freewill
donation of
\$10
is appreciated

To Register:

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