



MARCH 3, 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
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



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 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" - and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

GOSPEL—St. Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took

his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His

Continued on the next page --->

GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots,

You killed for him the fatted calf! And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Liturgical Notes for Today

With the Entrance with the Gospel: 1) "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 have risen from the dead!" / Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις...

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 των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...[Hymn for St. George]

3) **Kontakion:** "O Father, I foolishly ran away from Your glory and, in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, 'I have sinned before You, Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants.'" / Της Πατρώας δόξης Σου, αποοκιρήσας άφρονως...

MEMORIAL – Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Anastasia Helen Rellos (5 years)**, the beloved daughter of **Maria and Bill Rellos** and **Anastasia Rellos (10 years)**, the beloved mother of **Bill Rellos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Anastasia Helen Rellos** and **Anastasia Rellos** may He grant peace and comfort to **Maria and Bill Rellos**. **MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!**

THE KINGDOM OF GRATITUDE

Indeed, the Prodigal Son (St. Luke 15:11-32), about whom we heard today, left his father with hateful disrespect; for, he wanted his portion of the inheritance even before his father was dead. His self-centered mentality led him into a life of sin. Nonetheless, his father greatly rejoiced in the fact that he repented. Earlier in St. Luke's Gospel (15:7), our Lord expressed the fact that there is joy in heaven over even one sinner who repents. Forgiveness brings heavenly blessings and joy to all of us.

We must seriously understand that forgiveness is extremely crucial for our salvation. Without forgiveness, we cannot be saved – and if we do not forgive others, we cannot be forgiven. Period. The older brother, out of jealousy and/or "competition," could not forgive his brother, nor could he forgive his own father for receiving his "Prodigal Son" back into his kingdom. His failure to forgive both his brother and his father cost him the joy of his father's banquet. He never joined in the "banquet of joy" (a banquet of gratitude, or "Eucharist") that his father held in his brother's honor.

As we celebrate the Liturgy, we remember that Christ, at the Last Supper, gave thanks for the presence of His Apostles. Likewise, Christ *gives thanks* for our humble presence. He *forgives us*, as we repent of sins and give thanks to God for every blessing that leads to our salvation. +FR. THEODORE

ANNOUNCEMENT: Fr. Ted will be attending the **Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy-Laity Assembly** at St. Nicholas Ranch **from Monday, March 4th – Wednesday, March 6th**. Bible Study and Online Orthodox Catechism will not be held this week. Note: This **Saturday, March 9th** is "**Saturday of Souls**." We will begin services early...Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON—Consistent with the overall theme of the liturgical season of the **Triodion** (which began last Sunday with the "Publican & Pharisee"), the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which is commemorated today, reminds us of the vital, soul-saving virtue of *forgiveness!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today – Holy Water from the “Blessing of the Waters” Service on March 1st is available in Holy Water bottles to be distributed to those who ask.

PHILOPTOCHOS -Today, March 3rd ...Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, **Part One of March's "Paint-n-Sip" Activity**. The "Paint-n-Sip" activity for March 2024 will be in two parts and will feature an opportunity to learn about the art of iconography with the guidance from **Louka** and **Mary Brown**. With prayer and proper technique, participants will create their own icons. See enclosed flier.

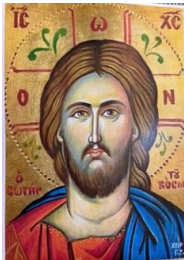
MEMBERSHIP TEA & LUNCHEON - The annual **Philoptochos Membership Tea and Luncheon** will be held at our parish hall next **Saturday, March 9th at 11:30 a.m.** To learn more details, **R.S.V.P. to Rhonda Latkovic. March 1st deadline is extended to tomorrow, March 4th.** See the enclosed flier.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - We encourage our Sunday School students to participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with their parents and to follow lessons that are available from either **Mrs. Athena Snarskis** or **Pres. Petula**. Going forward, **special Sunday School classes** and events are being planned for **next Sunday, March 10th** and **Sunday, March 24th (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**. Parents and students are asked to bring their icons for the procession on Sunday of Orthodoxy.

SATURDAY OF SOULS - Saturday, March 9th - PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE: Orthros will begin at 8:00 a.m./ Divine Liturgy will follow at 9:00 a.m., with the Memorial Service being held following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT – Save the Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024. See enclosed flier.

PRAYER REQUESTS - Please let us know of anyone in need of special prayers. Call Fr. Ted at (760) 880-5869. Please pray for: Eva Canakis, Nancy Breighner, Eve Meek, Annette Lewis, Ann Michas, Diane Young, Bess Heinrich.



Philoptochos invites you to an

ICON PAINTING/WRITING WORKSHOP

Today, MARCH 3rd - Part I

11:00 am - Participants will begin with an Icon painting/writing introduction by **Mary Brown**. Immediately followed with prepping our canvas and step by step instructions by instructions by **Louka**.

Sunday, MARCH 24th – Part II

11:45 am – **Louka** will continue with providing further step by step instructions and finishing Touches to our Icon of Christ immediately following **Mary Brown's** coffee hour presentation on **“Icons from Pascha to Pentecost: Becoming Eyewitnesses to the Resurrection”**.

Last-minute Registration is available: **Limited Seating for 20 participants. \$15.00 Total cost** (includes canvas, paint and supplies)



St George Ladies Philoptochos invites you to a

Membership Tea & Luncheon

Saturday, March 9

11:30 - 2:00 P.M.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church Hall

RSVP By March 1st

Rhonda 714-875-4661



*Wear your favorite hat!
Hat Contest ~ Music ~ Raffle*



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

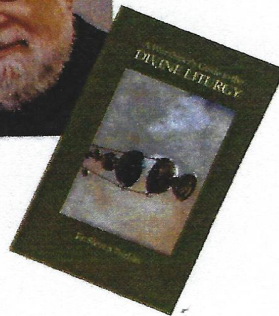
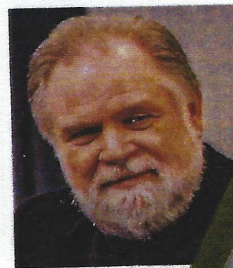
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com | 760-568-9901

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