



JUNE 2, 2024

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

- 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 SAMARITAN WOMAN



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- Acts 11:19 – 30

In those days, the apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul .

GOSPEL—St. John 4:5 – 42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your

Continued on the next page—>

GOSPEL PASSAGE CONTINUED

husband; this you said truly.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, “What do you wish?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the

city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him food?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony. “He told me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world.”

Liturgical Notes

1. Following “Blessed is the Kingdom...”, Christ is Risen from the dead” is chanted 3 times.
2. Entrance Hymn: “*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death and bestowing life on those in the graves.*” / Χριστός Ανέστη...
3. Instead of “Come, let us worship...”, “*In the congregations bless God, the Lord who springs out of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who rose from the dead, as we sing to You, Alleluia.*” / Εν εκκλησίαις...
4. Resurrection Hymn: “*The Women disciples of the Lord heard from the angel the joyful news of the Resurrection and the repeal of the sentence imposed upon our forefathers. With pride they said to the Apostles, ‘Death is vanquished. Christ our God is risen, bestowing upon the world His great mercy.’*” / Το φαίδρον της Αναστάσεως...
5. “*Mid-way in the feast, refresh my thirsty soul with the flowing waters of piety. For You cried out to all, O Savior, ‘Let him who thirsts come to me and drink.’ You, O Christ our God, are the Fountain of Life, glory to You.*” / Μεσούσης της εορτής...
6. “*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]
7. Kontakion: “*Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades’ power, and You rose as the victor, Christ God, to the myrrh-bearing women, saying ‘Hail’ and granting peace to Your disciples. You are He Who raises up the fallen.*” / Ει και εν τάφω κατήλθες αθάνατε...
8. Instead of “It is truly fitting to call You blessed...” (“Axion Estin”), “*The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has truly risen from the grave on the third day. Be glad and exultant, divine gate of the light. For your Son, namely Jesus, having set within the tomb, rose and is shining more brightly than the sun, and He has fully illumined all the faithful, O Lady full of the grace of God.*” / Ο άγγελος εβόα...

MEMORIAL – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Frank (Frangeskos) Fakin**os (1 year), the beloved husband of **Joan Fakin**os, beloved father of **Larry, George, Robert, Frank, Jr., Talana, Anne** and **Anna** – and a founding member of our St. George Greek Orthodox Church here in Palm Desert. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Rest and Salvation to **Frank Fakin**os and may He grant peace and comfort to **Joan Fakin**os and the entire family. MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Tuesday, June 4th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 5th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)-6:30 p.m. Email to pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILOPTOCHOS – “The Narrow Door” food bank is asking us for help with food-boxing on **Saturday, June 15th** from 8:45 a.m. to about 11:45 a.m. Those who are available are asked to sign-up by contacting **Rhonda and/or Nick Latkovic**...or by placing their names on the “Food-Boxing Signup Sheet; The Narrow Door, Indio, CA,” in the parish hall.

AHEPA – The **AHEPA Western Regional District Convention** will be in **Reno, Nevada: June 9th-June 12, 2024**. Contact ahepa-wrdc.org for more information.

Today: **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**: The Gospel passage is John 4:1-42. From today’s Gospel passage, there are a few themes that are presented:

1. That Christ is both fully Man and fully God. He became weary and thirsty from His journey into Samaria according to His human nature (John 4:6) and He knows the motives and life-style of each person in the world in accordance with His Divine nature (John 4:16-19).
2. God is Spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and truth. “*The Father is worshiped in spirit – that is in the Holy Spirit – and in truth – that is in Christ Himself and according to Christ’s revelation. God is Spirit: God cannot be confined to a particular location. Those who receive the Holy Spirit and believe in Jesus Christ can worship God the Father with purity of heart... While the gift of salvation in Christ is to all nations, it has come from within Judaism. The hour (in John 4:21) refers to the death and Resurrection of Christ and to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which inaugurates the worship of the new covenant.” (Orthodox Study Bible, pg. 1429).*



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 143/2024

Archepiscopal Encyclical on the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday

June 2, 2024

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Presvyteres and Diakonisses, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

Come! See a man who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Christ?
(John 4:29)

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

The fact that this year's National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday falls on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman is most auspicious, indeed. For in the narrative of Saint Photini, who was ultimately martyred for her faith with her companions, we behold a wisdom-holder of the highest order, even though her beginnings were less than ideal – certainly far less than those wondrous women of our Church who are the spouses of our clergy.

The Presvyteres of our Church are wisdom-holders, ones whose contribution to the life of our parishes is truly indispensable. Many possess deep theological education, and all have the profound experiential knowledge of seeing the parish from a panoramic perspective, i.e., from the point of view of the minister and those ministered unto. The offerings of our Presvyteres to our communities are invaluable; for they manifest a perspective that is inherent in the Church through the Panagia and countless women Saints, but is sometimes diminished on account of the clergy. Together with all their sisters in the parishes, who assume roles from the Parish Council to the philanthropies of Philoptochos, our Presvyteres call the entire Body of the Faithful to see God's activities and energies in persons, places and events, as they query along with Saint Photini, "Could this be the Christ?"

Therefore, let us listen with attention and respect to our Presvyteres, and benefit from the well-gained wisdom that they hold. Let us hold them in honor on this National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday, thankful for their many and diverse contributions to the life of our Church.

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,
† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America