



JUNE 16, 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 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
THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



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 20:16 – 18; 28 – 36

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of the Lord and God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

GOSPEL — St. John 17:1 – 13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they 6 Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on Sunday, June 16 know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we

Continued on the next page—>

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS and GODFATHERS!

GOSPEL PASSAGE, Continued

are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scrip-

ture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Liturgical Notes

1. Instead of "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead...", we chant, "Save us, O Son of God, Who ascended from us in glory into heaven..."
2. Resurrection Hymn: "O Christ, the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the guards were as dead, and Mary stood by the sepulchre, 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...
3. "O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world." / Ανελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ... [Feast Day Hymn]
4. "You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You." / Υπερδεδοξαμένος εἶ... [Hymn for the Holy Fathers]
5. "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 αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς... [Hymn for St. George]
6. Kontakion: "O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, 'I am with you and no one is against you.'" / Τὴν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν πληρώσας οἰκονομίαν...
7. Dismissal Prayer: "May Christ our True God, Who arose from the dead and ascended from us in glory and is seated at the Right Hand of God the Father, through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos..."

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 18th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 19th.....Orthodox Christian Catechism (online)-6:30 p.m. Email to pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link.

Saturday, June 22nd.....SATURDAY OF SOULS
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Next Sunday, June 23rd.....PENTECOST SUNDAY
Orthros 8:00 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy and the "Office of the Great Vespers of Pentecost (The Kneeling)" [Abridged]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGIONAL ORTHODOX YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS - This year the **St. Sophia Summer Camp** near San Bernardino is accepting camper applications for their "wait list," since camp sessions are filled to capacity. As of this current week, **St. Nicholas Summer Camp** near Fresno has 26 openings for the July 14-July 20 session. However, both summer camps are **accepting applicants to be placed on a waiting list**. For more information and to apply for the Greek Orthodox Youth Sum-

Continued on the next page -->

ANNOUNCEMENTS, Continued

mer Camps, visit the website for St. Sophia Summer Camp: <https://www.saintsophiacamp.org> or the website for St. Nicholas Summer Camp: <https://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp-2024>.

PHILOPTOCHOS –

- 1) In celebration of **Father's Day today**, our **Philoptochos members** are offering **complimentary Greek cookies** to the fathers, grandfathers and Godfathers of our parish.
- 2) Philoptochos needs your help to **bag 1000 koulourakia cookies** that were made for the June 30th-July 4th **National Convention and Clergy-Laity in San Diego**. We have scheduled two work "parties" for **Tuesday, June 18th & 25th from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM** in the church hall. If you can only come for an hour that would be appreciated! We will be preparing 300 plus bags, so many hands will make fast work! Please RSVP to President **Rhonda Latkovic** if you are able to volunteer. Tel. (714) 875-4661



Today is the **Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**. In the Gospel reading for today (St. John 17:1-13), our Lord defines eternal life (St. John 17:3) through His prayer to God the Father: "*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*" (St. John 17:3). The *Orthodox Study Bible* offers insight into this teaching, stating, "*To know the only true God transcends mere intellectual understanding. It involves participating in His divine life and communion with Him. Therefore, eternal life is a continuous, loving relationship with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit*" (pg. 1458). Thus, we are invited to partake in eternal life now and on in to the everlasting Kingdom to come. +FR. THEODORE