



SAINT GEORGE
Melkite Greek-Catholic Church
of Sacramento

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 ~ SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:30 pm Vespers
Sunday - 9:30 am Orthros (Morning Prayer)
Sunday - 10:30 am Divine Liturgy
Feast Days - please consult website schedule
* Confession available before all services.

CLERGY

Pastor: Rev. Hezekias Carnazzo
Assisting Clergy: Hieromonk Brendan,
Deacon Dorotheos, Reader Fredrick,
Seminarian Steven

CHURCH GROUPS

- Pastoral Council**
Contact: Steve Rosenzweig (knoinfo@aol.com)
- Finance Council**
Contact: Sonia Zumout (sohzu@comcast.net)
- Property Council**
Contact: Austin Roundtree (roundtreecottage@me.com)
- Events Committee**
Contact: Rhonda Houssein (rhonda.housein1@gmail.com)
- Coffee Social**
Contact: Rania Sweidan (Randas001@yahoo.com)
- Ladies Guild**
Contact: Ghada Salhani (ghadafares62@hotmail.com)
- Samaritan Society (Charity)**
Contact: Laura Struck (lmstruck@aol.com)
- Education & Evangelization Committee**
Contact: Raymond Vincent (rvincent.hop@gmail.com)
- Icon & Book Corner**
Contact: Charles Tieszen (tieszen@gmail.com)
- Sunday School**
Contact: Mary Struck (marylstruck@hotmail.com)
Carlos Overstreet (carlosoverstreet@gmail.com)
- Flower Committee**
Contact: Mary Struck (marylstruck@hotmail.com)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Health & Salvation:**
Bishop John, Cecile & Michael Monier, Joseph Monier, Odette Abcarius, Samia Zumout, Rosalie Kost, Conor Haag, Rhonda Houssein (Qurban), Hope Natale, the Priest August Deasio, Paul and Silvia Bryan, Gloria Roundtree, Harold Gomes, Mary Ann Chaisson, Kevin & Ghita Dipsia, Nawal Torres
- Memory Eternal:** Suhail Tarazi, Elias & Lulu Dabbagh, Robert Karczewski, Wayne Chaisson, Ibrahim and Lulu Snobar, Fawaz Ammari, Mary and Saverio Parisi, Vita and Vincent Virga, Virginia Lagomarsino, George Procida, Archimandrite Francis Vivone, Nazeera Haddad, Hanna Hishmeh

Place this list in your prayer corner each week and remember those in need of prayer.

STONE 8 RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION

You descended from on high O compassionate One; and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, * glory to You.

انْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ الْعَلَاءِ أَيُّهَا الْمُتَحَنِّنُ، وَقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ، لِكِي تُعْتَقِنَا مِنَ الْآلَامِ، فَيَا حَيَاتِنَا وَقِيَامَتِنَا، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

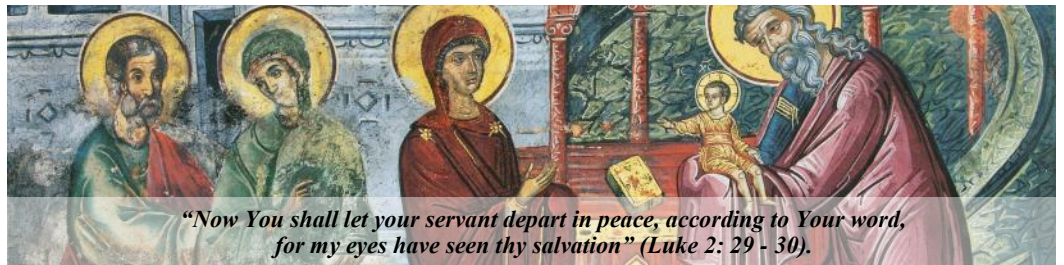
Scriptures - Epistle: 2 Tim 3:10 | Gospel: Lk 18:10 - 14

CALLING ALL LADIES! St George Ladies Guild meets NEXT SUNDAY, January 28 following Divine Liturgy. All ladies are welcome to attend and help make plans for 2018. For more information, please contact Ghada Salhani at ghadafares62@hotmail.com

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FAST! While it is our Orthodox custom to fast on Wednesdays, because it was on a Wednesday that Judas betrayed our Lord, and on Fridays, because it was on a Friday that our Lord was crucified, the week of the Publican and Pharisee is FAST-FREE. The Orthodox tradition stipulate that we are not to fast at all this coming week so that we can avoid becoming self-righteous like the Pharisee. Don't worry, Great Lent is coming!

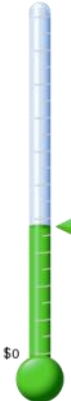
The Feast of the Encounter (Presentation) of the Lord is Friday, February 2

- **Wednesday, February 1 @ 6:30 pm** ~ Great Vespers with *Litita* and *Artoclasia*
- **Thursday, February 2 @ 6:30 pm** ~ Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles
A Festal dinner will be served following Divine Liturgy.



"Now You shall let your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2: 29 - 30).

Goal \$200,000



We are on our way to buying our new church!

\$74,850 raised so far! Our goal is \$200k

Please help us meet our goal by offering a sacrificial donation today. If all members of Saint George give generously, we will meet and even surpass our goal.



On the eve of [the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee], on Saturday at Vespers, the liturgical book of the Lenten season-- the *Triodion*-- makes its first appearance and texts from it are added to the usual hymns and prayers of the weekly resurrection service. The develop the next major aspect of repentance: *humility*.

The Gospel lesson (Lk. 18:10-4) pictures a man who is always pleased with himself and who thinks that he complies with all the requirements of religion. He is self-assured and proud of himself. In reality, however, he has falsified the meaning of religion. He has reduced it to external observations and he measures his piety by the amount of money he contributes to the temple. As for the Publican, he humbles himself and his humility justifies him before God. If there is a moral quality almost completely disregarded and even denied today, it is indeed humility. The culture in which we live constantly instills in us the sense of pride, of self-glorification, and of self-righteousness. It is built on the assumption that man can achieve anything by himself and it even pictures God as the one who all the time "gives credit" for man's achievements and good deeds. Humility-- be it individual or corporate, ethnic or national-- is viewed as a sign of weakness, as something unbecoming a real man. Even our churches-- are they not imbued with that same spirit as the Pharisee? Do we not want our every contribution, every "good deed," all that we do "for the Church" to be acknowledged, praised, publicized?

.....

The Lenten season begins then by a quest, a prayer for humility which is the beginning of true repentance. For repentance, above everything else, is *a return to the genuine order of things*, the restoration of the right vision. It is, therefore, rooted in humility, and humility-- the divine and beautiful humility-- is its fruit and end. "Let us avoid the high-flown speech of the Pharisee," says the *Kontakion* of this day, "and *learn the majesty* of the Publican's humble words..." We are at the gates of repentance and at the most solemn moment of the Sunday vigil; After the Resurrection and the appearance of Christ have been announced-- "having beheld the Resurrection...."-- we sing for the first time the *troparia* which will accompany us throughout the entire Lent:

Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life,
For my spirit rises early to pray towards thy holy temple.
Bearing the temple of my body all defiled;
But in Thy compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Thy mercy.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God,
For I have profaned my soul with shameful sins,
and have wasted my life in laziness.
But by your intercessions, deliver me from all impurity.

When I think of the many evil things I have done, wretch that I am,
I tremble at the fearful day of judgement.
But trusting in Thy living kindness, like David I cry to Thee:
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy.

Please keep a copy of this prayer for your morning prayer during the Lenten season.