



**SAINT GEORGE**  
Melkite Greek-Catholic Church  
*of Sacramento*

**CHRIST IS RISEN! ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 8 ~ THOMAS SUNDAY ~ CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**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 Hosein (rhonda.hosein1@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:**  
Jacob Daniel, Serenity, Maximos & Tiernan,  
Brahm Tieszen, Cecile, Michael & Joseph  
Monier, Odette Abcarius, Samia Zumout,  
Rosalie Kost, Conor Haag, Rema Habeebi,  
Kevin & Ghita Dipsia, George, Janette, Mar-  
garet & Michael Dahdouh, Nawal Torres,  
Beth Roundtree, Samia Bati

**Memory Eternal:**  
Ibrahim & Lulu Snobar, Mary and Saverio  
Parisi, Vita & Vincent Virga, Virginia Lago-  
marsino, George Procida, Jude DelRio, Nas-  
seb Elya, Nehmeh, Blanche Fares

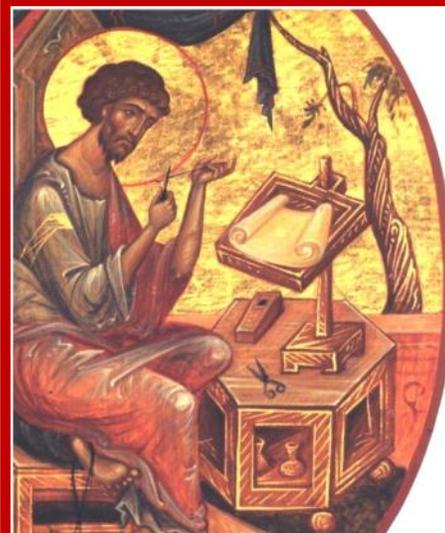
*Place this list in your prayer corner each week and  
remember those in need of prayer.*

**Troparion for the Sunday of Saint Thomas**

While the tomb was sealed You shone forth from it, O Christ our Life, and while the doors re-  
mained closed, You stood among your Disciples, O Resurrection of all, and through them You  
restored a new spirit in us according to your great Mercy.

إذ كان القبر مختوماً اشرق من ايها الحياة. ولما كانت الابواب مغلقة وقفنا بالتلاميذ، ايها المسيح الاله قيامة الكل  
وجددت لنا بهم روحاً مستقيماً بعظيم رحمتك.

**SCRIPTURES - EPISTLE: ACTS 5:12 - 20 | GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19 - 31**



Mark your calendars!

**WEDNESDAYS OF PASCHA**  
APRIL 11—MAY 9  
**GOSPEL OF SAINT JOHN**  
**BIBLE STUDY**

Divine Liturgy at 6:30  
followed by  
the Bible study & dinner

**STARTING NEXT**



**PATRIARCH YUSEF ABSI IS COMING  
TO ST GEORGE!**  
**SAVE THE DATE! JULY 19, 2018**

Our Patriarch Yusef Absi has heard about our growing and  
active community and has chosen to make a Patriarchal  
Visitation to meet us and celebrate with us.  
Please save the date for the Patriarchal Liturgy for the Feast of  
St. Elias and a cocktail reception at our new church!

The Feast of St. George the Great-Martyr is coming  
up in a few weeks! We'll be having a barbecue  
luncheon after Divine Liturgy on Sunday April 22nd  
to celebrate! Make plans now to join us!



We have a new church! On Bright Wednesday we closed escrow and were handed the keys to  
our future church building at 9501 Folsom Blvd. Now it's time to get to work! Do you have an  
hour or two to lend a hand? Please contact Fr. Hezekias at 703-504-8733 or  
fatherhezekias@gmail.com. No matter your talents, there is something for everyone!

# CHRIST IS RISEN!

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE CHRISTIANS GONE?

One week ago, dressed in their Sunday best, all faithful disciples of Jesus gathered for the Feast of the Resurrection. The Churches were filled to overflowing, and the excitement of the event could be felt, if not heard. Today, those same Churches have returned to their normal routine, and we look in vain for the procession of faithful that filled the communion lines only one week ago. Where have all the Christians gone?

What is the Church's teaching on Sunday observance, and what is the reason behind it? From the earliest days, followers of Jesus have focused upon one event as the pinnacle of the Christian life: the Resurrection of Christ. This event reversed the curse of death that mankind had inherited from our first parents, and changed our sadness into joy. As Saint Paul teaches in his epistle to the Romans, Jesus Christ, having risen from the tomb, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him (Rom 6:9). From this truth, the entire Christian Faith is formed, and it is this truth that is our salvation. As we have considered many times in past columns, the Word of God became man, was born of the Virgin, suffered in the flesh, died upon the cross, and was buried in a stranger's tomb for one reason: that he may raise our human nature from the dead, so that "we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4). This is the Christian Faith! Death no longer has dominion over Christ, and for those of us who have been joined to Christ in Baptism, death no longer has dominion over us.

But one important detail remains, one detail critical to our salvation. Our union with Christ in his death, burial, and Resurrection accomplished in us on the day of our Baptism, is only a beginning. As a baby born from its mother's womb must grow and mature throughout its life, so the Christian reborn from the womb of the Church (the baptismal font) and joined to Christ's Resurrection, must continue to walk in the new life which has been bestowed upon him. As Saint Paul teaches, we must "press on toward the goal" (Phil 3:14). This goal is the full and complete giving of ourselves to Christ, and thus our full and complete union with the Resurrected Lord. Just as no one can rise from the dead without first entering the tomb, so no one will enjoy the fruits of the Resurrection who has not been fully incorporated into the Risen Christ.

This is where our Sunday obligation comes into the picture. As we were reminded only one short week ago, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Sunday. Therefore, Sunday, the day of the resurrection, has always been the day of the Christians. Saint Justin the Martyr states, "We all gather on the day of the sun, for it is the first day when God separated matter from darkness, made the world; and on this same day Jesus Christ our Savior rose from the dead" (I Apol. 67). And Saint Ignatius of Antioch, in his letter to the Magnesians writes, "Those who lived according to the old order of things have come to a new hope, no longer keeping the Sabbath, but the Lord's Day, in which our life is blessed by him and by his death" (Ad Magn. 9:1).

Though each day calls us to a greater union with Christ, Sunday is the day of union with Christ *par excellence*. If one seeks to rise from the dead with Christ, if one seeks to throw off the yoke of sin and death inherited from our first parents, one must have communion with Christ in his resurrection. Our Sunday obligation is simply the gift the Resurrected Lord extended to each one of us. On our part, we must present ourselves at the banquet table of the Lamb, the altar of the Church, and receive this gift of Christ into our hearts and souls. Far from an archaic teaching of an oppressive Church, the Catholic teaching on our Sunday obligation is a fundamental tenet of Christianity, and is the foundation of our Christian life. It is for this reason that the Church speaks in such serious terms regarding this responsibility. Like a mother watching over her children, the Church warns "the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (CCC 2181). If we desire to live the resurrected life with our loving God, let us attend to our union with Christ as our fundamental obligation and never take lightly what our gracious Lord has accomplished for us in his passion, death, and resurrection from the dead.

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