



The Prophet Elias Church

Address: 223 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA
95060

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Web: <http://www.propheteliassc.org>

Email: info@propheteliassc.org

Visiting Clergy

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Email: info@propheteliassc.org

Services Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday Orthros

10:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Sunday School - As announced

12:00 PM Sunday, Fellowship after Divine Liturgy

Bulletin for Sunday, June 28, 2026

Service Schedule

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof" - Matthew 8:8

Sunday, June 28: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Milutin Janjic**

Sunday, July 5: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, July 12: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, July 19: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, July 26: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

Presvytera Naomi (Robin) Takahashi, Father Marin State, David Zomer, Dafina Molman, Harriet Mainis, Maura, Vlad Voinea, Fotini Ballas, Bob Rible, Jim Deamant, Yorgos Hadzis, Connie Mellis, Karen Krilanovich, Inna Shkolnik, Sam Khalil, Lesley, Leola, Dawn

Sculley, John Demas, Twan, Athena Wolfe, Evangelia, Marie, Adam Nikolopoulos, Bob Roberts, Selah, Stacy, Evangelia, Helene Doss, Panos Kakaris, Helen Sirakides, Cynthia (Anna) Baldwin-Thanos, Brad Dyer, John, Muriel, Irina Sanchez, Eleni, Maria, Paraskevi, Constantine Mellis, Spiro Mellis, Steve, Alexandra, Jim, Michael Panelli

Call the church office (831) 429-6500 to add the name of someone in need of prayers.

NOTICE

Attention: We request everyone in attendance for services to please be respectful and silence your phone. We greatly appreciate your cooperation, thank you everyone.

Our News

GROUP PARISH PHOTO

Dear Prophet Elias Church Family,

We are getting ready to launch our GoFundMe Campaign and need a group photo of our entire, beautiful Prophet Elias Church Family. **Please come to Prophet Elias on Sunday, June 28th for a group Photo in front of the Iconostasis.**

Bring everyone in your family . . . adults, young adults, children, and babies, to help us show everyone who we are! Please share this information with others in our parish who might not see this notice and encourage them to come for the photo, as well.

This photo will be used for our GoFundMe campaign which we plan to launch for our Prophet Elais Greek Orthodox Church. The funds raised will be used to repair our roof including the interior ceilings and for our new backyard.

Fellowship on June 28 will be a potluck luncheon. We invite all of you to participate by bringing one of your favorite dishes to share with everyone. Remember that we are in a fasting period. Please respond to Petka Hernandez who will coordinate the luncheon. Let her know what you will be bringing so share and she will make sure we don't all bring the same food item. Thank you for participating. Looking forward to seeing you upstairs. Petka's contact email: petka@earthlink.net

Looking forward to seeing everyone in church!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Sunday School Families,

As we wrap up another blessed Sunday school year, I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and restful summer to each and every one of you.

We will resume Sunday school in the fall. Please keep a look out for an announcement with more information about registration and the upcoming schedule in late August.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

With love in Christ, Angela Santiago

Sunday School Teacher

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church Sunday School Teacher

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church of Santa Cruz is our parish home. It is the place where we meet God when we partake of the Holy Eucharist – Holy Communion. It is a place for prayers to ask for strength to meet the challenges in our lives. It is where we come together as the Body of Christ. Our church family shares the Orthodox Faith, which is the glue we find nowhere else but within the Church.

But like any parish, we have material needs and operating expenses (utilities, clergy salaries, ect). We must cover these expenses in order to keep our Prophet Elias functioning properly so we are able to worship the Lord.

Stewardship consists of our time, talent, and treasure, and this is where the treasure part of Stewardship becomes so important. It's imperative that we all work together and each do our part to provide and secure our future so we may continue to grow together.

Our stewardship goal for this year has been set to **\$120,000**. Let us pray, hope, and work together to exceed our expectations.

If you would like to become a Steward, please fill out a Commitment Card (scroll down to special announcements to download the PDF file), or email **info@propheteliassc.org** for more information if you have any questions.

If you would like to make a general donation to Prophet Elias please follow the link below for instructions:

<https://www.propheteliassc.org/about-things-to-know/donate>

Kostas Amberiadis
Stewardship Chairman

THE PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Hello everyone,

Our yard sale was a great success. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship, as always, was the best part of the day. Everyone there visited between their sales!

Thank you, thank you for all of your hard work. Our philoptochos is small, but mighty! I never hear a no, it's always "sure, I can do that."

Summer is here and as always we will not have meetings until September. Until then, enjoy your time off and I hope to see you all at church.

Your sister in Christ
Respectfully,
Aphrodite

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Alexa Bolas continues to lead our recycling efforts. Please remember to bring your recyclable items when you come to church. If you are unable to bring the recyclable items to church, please call **Alexa (650-868-5015)** to make arrangements for pickup.

Ask neighbors and friends to help out. Any containers that have CA-CRV can be recycled such as:

- Aluminum cans
- Bi-metal cans
- Glass bottles: Including wine and liquor bottles
- Plastic bottles: including juice

Please do NOT bring us any other types of plastic containers for our recycling fundraising, ONLY plastic bottles please.

The recycling directly helps the church. Here are some ways it contributed this year:

- New lamp for choir area
- Supplies for the bathrooms and fellowship
- Vacuum cleaner repair
- Donation for new stove

Thank you to all who have brought in recycling.
Together we are making a difference!

DECLUTTER Books/CD/DVD

Also, the Philoptochos declutter fundraiser is back in action!! If you have books, CDs, or DVDs that you no longer want, please tell us what you wish to donate in an email to:

stkatherine@propheteliassc.org or contact Alexa Bolas

Thank you again for supporting St. Katherine Philoptochos philanthropic missions.
Together we are making a difference!

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome to our weekly fellowship at **Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church!** We gather immediately following the liturgy in the church hall upstairs. Whether you are a longtime member of our church or visiting us for the first time, we are glad you are here. Please continue to join us for fellowship and the opportunity to know more about you.

We all love our Sunday Fellowship time after Liturgy. It is a special time when we can meet visitors to our church and visit with each other. Refreshments and coffee are always provided.

As all of you know, the price for shopping at the market has skyrocketed and it is getting very expensive to provide refreshments, but we are not willing to give it up.

If you are able to, we are asking you to consider making a donation knowing it would be welcomed and appreciated. No amount is too small (\$1) nor too large (\$1 million). For special events and banquets there will be a set price and you will know the amount ahead of time.

We are entering a strict fasting period in **June**. Look at your church calendar and you will see that starting on **June 8** until **June 28** is a **strict fasting period** with fish allowed on some days. **Sunday the 14, 21, 28** are fasting days. If you are hosting fellowship hour, remember to have enough food available for those who are strictly fasting. As always, fellowship can be something simple, and doesn't need to be a full meal.

Thank you everyone. See you upstairs for fellowship after liturgy.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Fourth Orthros Gospel

The Reading is from Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking spices, which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." And they remembered His words and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the Apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths

by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 3rd Mode. Psalm 46.6,1.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:18-23.

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading

4th Sunday of Matthew

The Reading is from Matthew 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the 3rd Mode

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the power of his reign. He has conquered death by death and become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades and has granted the world great mercy.

Hymn to Prophet Elias in the 1st Mode

The incarnate messenger and cornerstone of the Prophets. The second forerunner of the second coming of Christ. Elias the Glorious! He sent down upon Elisha the gift from above. He drives away diseases and cleanses lepers. Wherefore he is the source of healing to those who honor him.

Seasonal Kontakion in the 2nd Mode

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, please reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.







When a family's long vigil for their unconscious father is interrupted by a surreal event, the experience awakens the author's desire to understand its profound meaning. *A Moment of Clarity* is an endearing story of a dying man's journey and the author's memories of his family's life in Greece and the United States. Anecdotes and Greek expressions sprinkled throughout the book capture the cultural dynamics of both societies, including the unique dynamics of the Greek-American community, the joy of the family's journey and the grief of their loss.

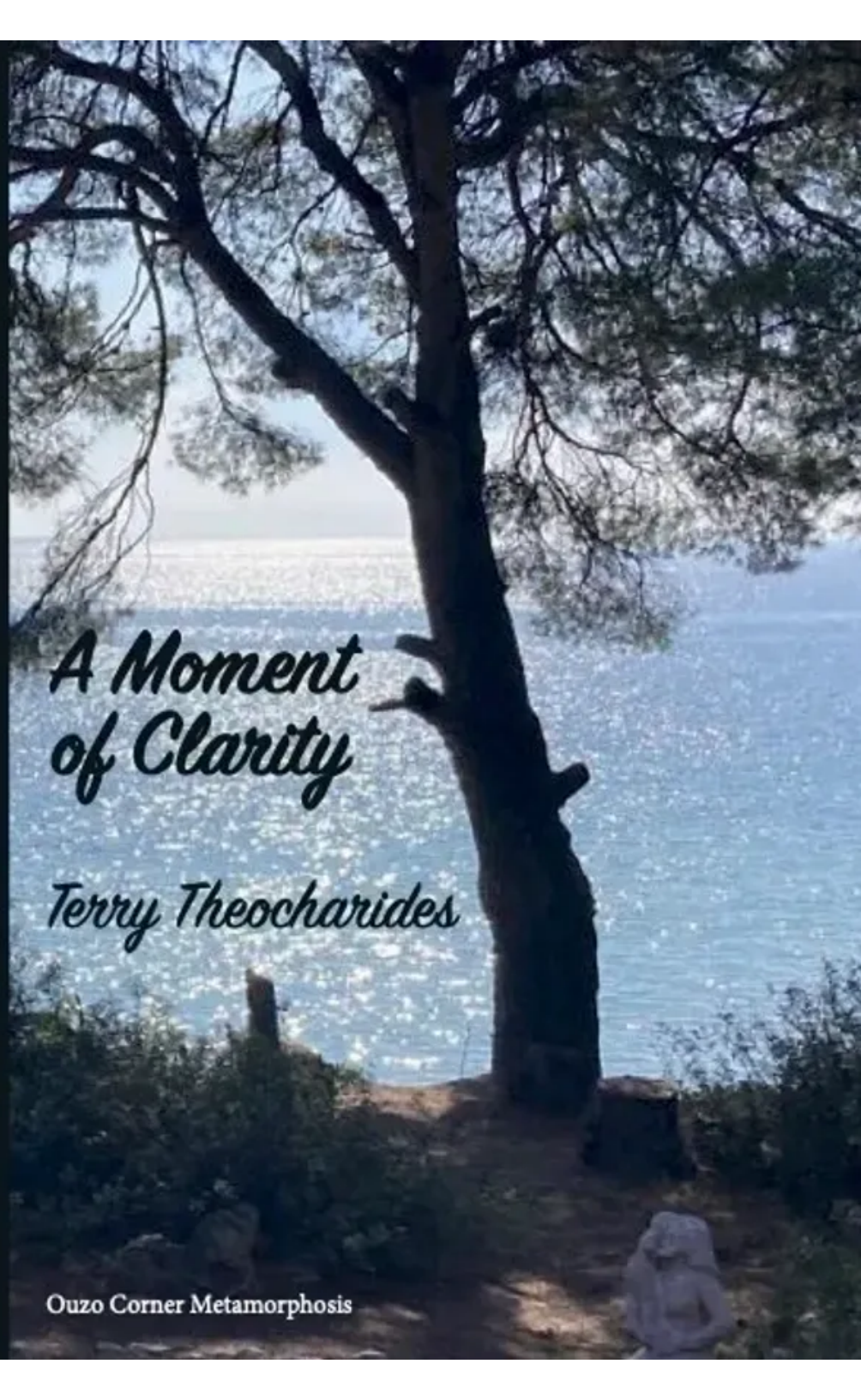
*Praise from Jeff Lansdale, Ph.D.,
President of the American Farm School*

Terry has delved deeply into his soul and memories to bring his experiences to life. This book is both a personal journey and a rendition of history. During our childhood and as adults - whether in our neighborhood gatherings to serenade the campus residents with Christmas carols or participating in sports and recreational fun - Terry has always emanated a joy which he generously and contagiously shares with us in his writing. He has managed to find meaning in sorrow and grief and bring joy into our lives.

As you read this book, think of the author this way, and enjoy his life's journey.

A Moment of Clarity

Terry Theocharides



A Moment of Clarity

Terry Theocharides

Ouzo Corner Metamorphosis

STEWARDSHIP



PROPHET ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

Name _____

Home Phone () _____

Spouse Name _____

Cell () _____

Address _____

Email: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email of letters/bulletins: Yes ____ No ____

Children's Names/Ages _____

COMMITMENT DATE: _____

\$_____ per week, month, year (circle one)

Please choose method of payment:

____ Cash ____ Check ____ PayPal ____ Bill Pay

Please contact the Church Office, if any questions: (831) 429-6500

I would like to be contacted by the following Church Ministries:

____ Adult Religious Education

____ Epistle Reading

____ Philoptochos

____ Altar Service

____ Fellowship Hour

____ Stewardship Support

____ Building/Grounds Maintenance

____ Festival/Events

____ Youth Ministry

____ Carpentry

____ Fundraising

____ Visitation to Homebound

____ Choir/Chanting

____ Greek Language School

____ Web/Media Support

____ Church School for Young Children

____ Missions & Outreach

____ Other

____ Cleaning

____ Office Work

____ Cooking

____ Parish Council

**The Stewardship campaign goal is 100% participation of The Prophet Elias Community.
Please return this Stewardship Commitment Card to the Church Office or Church Narthex.**



DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | *Matthew 8:5-13*

“Seek the good of the city”

Fr. George Parsenios

The Roman centurion in today's Gospel reading shocks Jesus, because the centurion has more faith than anyone in Israel. Most modern readers are less shocked, because we do not understand what a Roman centurion was. A centurion was an army officer whose authority extended over 100 men (a century), which was a basic unit in the Roman military. Roman centurions were the tip of the Roman spear of occupation over the Jewish people. The Roman army was not only respected and feared; it was often violent and oppressive. Ancient inscriptions tell us, for instance, how Roman soldiers would force local civilians into carrying their packs or weapons. Jesus seems to have precisely this in mind when he says that, if someone forces you to walk one mile with him, you should



walk two (Matthew 5:41). Centurions were the face of this oppressive force. Nor is the centurion in today's Gospel reading the only one who turns to Christ. Another centurion stands at the foot of the cross and confesses Jesus to be the Christ (Mark 15:39), and yet another one, named Cornelius, converts to Christianity under the guidance of St. Peter (Acts 10). There was no one more hostile in Judea than the Roman army, but three of its chief representatives were converted and followed Christ. We should cherish this truth in our current environment. We live in an age that is increasingly hostile to the Christian message. We cannot allow this opposition to quiet our witness or discourage our faith. Christianity entered a hostile world that killed the Savior. But he rose from death and converted that world. Let us face the world with confidence and zeal to go and do likewise.

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. www.hchc.edu



*Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from **Leadership 100***

Scan for today's service text

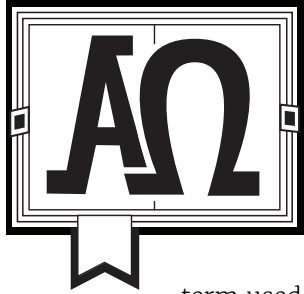
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FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: Eucharist (εὐχαριστία)

What does “Eucharist” mean?

Fr. George Parsenios



The term *εὐχαριστία/Eucharist* has a very special place in Christian worship. The noun *εὐχαριστία/Eucharist* means “thanksgiving” and comes from the verb *εὐχαριστῶ*, which means “I am thankful.” The word *εὐχαριστία/eucharist*/thanksgiving is a

term used by the earliest Christians to refer to Holy Communion. We see this already in a first century document called the *Didache* (9:1) which was written roughly at the same time as some New Testament writings. Holy Communion is

called the act of “thanksgiving” because Jesus presided over the Last Supper by “giving thanks” (Luke 22:17). When St. Paul describes the Eucharist in ancient Corinth by reciting what Jesus did at the Last Supper, he repeats Jesus’ actions by saying, “when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you (1 Cor 11:23–24).” We continue to call Holy Communion “thanksgiving” because when we receive it, we express our thanks to God for sending his Son Jesus to reunite our fallen humanity to divine glory. In the Eucharist, therefore, we both experience union with God through partaking of the body and blood of Christ, and at the same time we return a thank-offering to the God who has wrought this great salvation for us.

THIS WEEK’S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

Early American Philhellenism

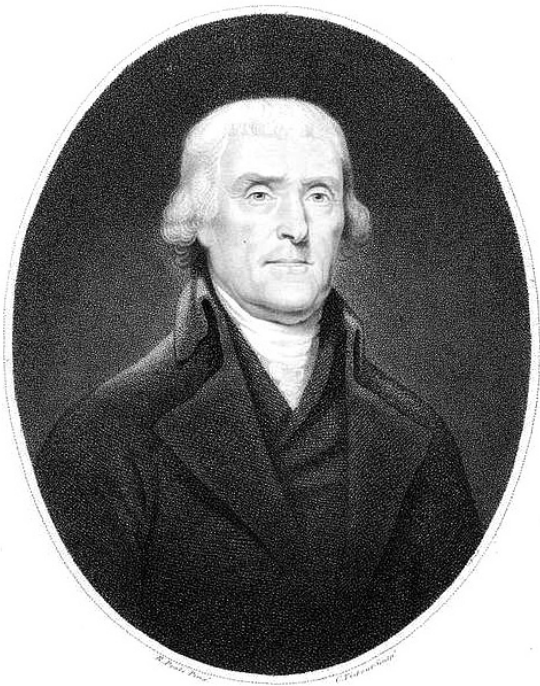
Ben Malian, MTS

When the Greek War for Independence broke out on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1821, the United States of America was nearing the fiftieth anniversary of its unprecedented experiment in democratic self-governance. Many Greek revolutionaries were understandably captivated by the American struggle for independence and the almost mythic status of its leading figures.

In 1823, a remarkable exchange of correspondence occurred between Adamantios Koraes, one of the leading Greek intellectuals of the age, and Thomas Jefferson. Responding to Koraes’ plea for American support, Jefferson wrote: “No people sympathize more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success: and nothing indeed but the fundamental principle of our government, never to entangle us with the broils of Europe, could restrain our generous youth from taking some part in this holy cause.”

While the U.S. never materially supported the Greek revolution, numerous American philhellenes were personally involved in the struggle, seeing it both as their Christian duty and more broadly as a humane endeavor.

Thomas Jefferson. NY Public Library, Public Domain



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

AN OFFERING

Doing Our Best For Christ



Fr. Jim Kordaris

There is a simple truth passed down through generations: “Do the best you can—where you are, with what you have, now.” In the Orthodox Christian life, this is not merely good advice; it is a way of discipleship. We see it clearly in the Gospel when Christ feeds the five thousand. A young boy brings forward what little he has—five loaves and two fish. It seems insignificant. Yet because it is offered with sincerity, it becomes the beginning of a miracle.



Photographer: Dimitrios Panagos

Like the disciples, we are often tempted to think in terms of limits. We measure what we have—our time, our energy, our resources—and conclude that it is not enough. But Christ does not ask us for what we do not have. He asks a different question: “What do you have?” And then He invites us to bring it to Him.

In every Divine Liturgy, we live this same mystery. We bring bread and wine—simple gifts of the earth and of human labor—and offer them to God. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ returns them to us as His very Body and Blood. What we offer is small; what He gives is beyond measure. The same is true of our lives. When we offer ourselves—our efforts, our struggles, even our weaknesses—God receives them and transforms them.

We give with joy because we have already received everything from God. As Saint Paul reminds us, we give “as God has prospered us,” trusting that generosity opens our hearts to deeper communion with Him. You cannot outgive God. Saint Gregory the Theologian teaches that everything we offer already belongs to Him. Yet He delights in our offering because it is an expression of love and trust.

You may feel that what you can offer is small. That is enough. Bring it to Christ anyway. Offer your time, your talents, your presence, and your prayers. Do the best you can—right now, right where you are—and leave the rest to Him.



TODAY, TAKE ONE CONCRETE STEP

Offer something intentionally to God—your time, your help to someone in need, your prayer from the heart—and place it in His hands. Watch how He multiplies it.



COLORING PAGE Saints Peter and Paul

Saints Peter and Paul loved Jesus with all their hearts and helped share His love with the whole entire world! Peter was a fisherman, and Jesus called him while he was working by the sea. Peter left his nets to follow Jesus right away. Eventually, Jesus made him a leader of the Church. Paul started out not knowing Jesus, but when he met Him, his life changed forever! He traveled far and wide teaching others about Christ. He wrote many books of the Bible that we hear today! In this icon, Saints Peter and Paul are giving each other a big hug. This hug shows love, peace, and friendship! We celebrate them on June 29.

Just For Kids!
(...and the young at heart)

SAINT
PETER

SAINT
PAUL

