

NOVEMBER 2016



Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

“...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!”

“Justice for all!” Have we ever wondered how Christ Himself defines these terms? These words are at the heart of our American dreams. However, with the Presidential election, we see much division in our country. There seems to be more blaming and less praying, along with more violence and less repentance. With so much unhappiness, it’s like those of the ancient world; we are looking for a “savior.”

On **November 15th**, the **Holy Season of Advent** begins when we, too, look forward to the arrival into the world of our **True Savior, Jesus Christ** with His **Nativity on December 25th**.

As Christians we need to remember that our “savior” is not to be found in any elected political figure. The Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our only Savior and He

has already overcome the world.

At this time in our lives, it is worth dissecting the real Orthodox Liturgical meanings of these words, both for the sake of our own sanity and salvation, as well as for the sake of doing God’s work in a seemingly broken society.

“Justice for all.” From the Church’s point of view, the word “justice” cannot be divorced from God’s Will; for, God is the Great Law-Giver. By “all,” we mean all people, at all times and places, including our own *inner* selves.

“Justice,” liturgically speaking is not something that comes from outside of us. It is not a gift from the government. It is God’s gift. As such, “justice” has meaning only in the context of God’s relationship with us. We can say with absolute confidence that God’s Justice

is, in fact, God’s Mercy!

“Mercy” is not simply an act of cold “softness” toward what we think someone else deserves; God’s mercy extends to a *purpose*, which is that we are re-molded into God’s Image and Likeness to bring us to His Eternal Kingdom.

God’s *mercy* works for this purpose, which means that we are to use the gift of God’s mercy to become better people from one day to the next. To do this, two vital traits need to be found within us: *accountability* and *repentance*.

Accountability and *repentance* go hand-in-hand. Repentance cannot happen without our willingness to be *accountable* to God and to others. Accountability means that we deal with the consequences of our sins – estrangement, fines, imprisonment, illness, etc.

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It is a decision to take responsibility for one's actions and words. By doing this, we find ourselves also changing our mentality, trusting in God's *forgiveness*, by which we also change our behavior to reflect God's love. This change of mentality is called *repentance*.

A description of this dynamic is given to us in the Sunday Orthros Service of the Orthodox Christian Church: "*Have mercy, O my Christ, on us who hourly commit sin against You many ways; and give us the means, before the end, to turn to You in repentance.*" (Antiphon I; Tone 2).

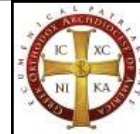
"Justice for all" begins with the realization that we are *all* sinners to one degree or another; that we are *all* called by God to be *accountable* for our words and actions and to *repent*, thereby becoming beneficiaries of God's great *mercy*.

A perfect example of God's Justice can be seen in Psalm 50. King David had committed two horrible sins: adultery and murder, making him worthy of death. David confessed his accountability to God and acknowledged that he was sinful: "*I know my lawlessness and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight.*" (vs.5-6). But, he asks for God's mercy: "*Have mercy upon me, O God.*" (vs. 1). God's mercy, is not a dry, lenient means of having one "off the hook" for sins. Rather it is a *living* grace, making one more and more like God throughout life: "*Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit in me.*" (vs.12). As a result, the sinful David will become a saintly David who will: "*teach transgressors [God's] ways and the ungodly will turn back to [Him].*" (v.15), indicating a changed life. At the heart of God's Justice is *forgiveness*, which is a reflection of His *mercy* and which has value only in the context of our *repentance*.

In the end, "Justice for all" means "*Mercy for all,*" including our own very selves, given our willingness to be *accountable* before God and to *repent*. "Justice" does not mean "get-even" or *revenge*. Nor is "justice" simply punishment without efforts allowing for repentance.

+FR. THEODORE

ARCHBISHOP'S ENCYCLICAL: STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year we are led by our National Ladies Philoptochos Society in support of the philanthropic ministries of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate. These ministries are vital to the needs of many, and through programs for orphans and the poor, as well as the Baloukli Hospital and elder center, the love of Christ is being offered through compassionate healing and care. Following the example of our Lord, Christians down through the centuries have offered a witness of this love through service and philanthropy, and the Holy Unmercenaries we commemorate on November 1, Saints Cosmas and Damian, are examples of this sacred work.

Granted by grace the power to cast out unclean spirits and heal sickness, these holy men gave freely so that others could be free of their infirmities. In showing the love of God through their love of humankind, they led many to faith in Christ so that they could be healed in body and soul. In serving those in need, Cosmas and Damian where also serving Christ.

This is the focus of the philanthropic ministries of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. As help and healing are offered to many in need, the faithful clergy and laity of the communities are serving Christ. Our support of these ministries ensures that this care can be offered freely and that the witness of service reveals the grace and power of God to comfort, to heal, and to give abundant life both now and for eternity.

On this sacred occasion of the Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian, I ask all of our parishes to offer special prayers for the philanthropic ministries of our Ecumenical Patriarchate and for the ongoing programs of our Ladies Philoptochos Society at the local, metropolis, and national levels. I also ask our parishes to [support] the National Ladies Philoptochos Ecumenical Patriarchate Fund. This is an opportunity for all of us to participate in these ministries, as well as a

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ARCHBISHOP'S ENCYCLICAL, continued

time for renewed commitment to our sacred ministry to minister to *the least of these* (Matthew 25:40), to minister to Christ Himself, as we serve all who have needs.

With paternal love in Him,

†DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

MESSAGE THE PARISH PRESIDENT

Whereas the calendar shows that we are winding down the 2016 year and heading into winter, we are just getting warmed up here at our church. Over the next few months we will be welcoming back our "snowbirds" who offer much to the essence of who we are as a community. In late October we hold our annual Pet Blessing which reminds us of our role as caretakers of our four-legged friends.

In November we celebrate our Veterans along with the rest of the country, followed by our general assembly, which not only allows us to get updated on the business end of our church, but allows us to work together as one unified church. *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity (Psalm 133:1)!* During the latter half of the month we will be holding our Thanksgiving luncheon and then recognizing the 20th anniversary of our present church building. Believe it or not, it has been 20 years since we celebrated the liturgy in our converted house and built this beautiful new house of God.

December then brings us our parish council elections, our Christmas program, Christmas caroling and celebration of our Savior's birth. Following that we shift our focus to the new calendar year and preparations for our festival. We are blessed to have so many opportunities to celebrate our Lord and practice our Christian beliefs. *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-28).*

– JIM CHRISTOPOULOS,
Parish Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The busy season is upon us and we welcome back our snow birds. You've been missed! We have two events coming up in November:

1. **The AHEPA and Philoptochos Thanksgiving Luncheon** on Saturday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m. We are selling tickets at the Philoptochos table in the hall after Church services. AHEPA will be preparing the turkey luncheon with all the trimmings. Adults: \$15.00, children under 12: \$7.00. **All the proceeds will go to the Father Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund.**
2. Our **General Meeting on Monday, November 14** will be open to all parishioners for our Book Talk by author **Constance M. Constant**, reading excerpts from her latest book: **American Kid - Nazi Occupied Greece Through a Child's Eyes**. A hearty lunch will be served (\$8.00). Please RSVP at the Philoptochos table so we can plan how many servings for lunch. Invite your families and friends. See the enclosed flyer.

You don't want to miss either event!

The Knitting Project—We are planning the date for the knitting and crocheting class. You can learn new skills or brush up on them. **Tina Veroulis** and **Josie Desnoyers** will be teaching. We already have several afghans made. Contact Rhonda Latkovic for further information.

Donations—We have an adopt-a-student attending the seminary. We sent our yearly donation to **Spencer Ramos** in October to support his studies for his Masters which will be completed in May 2017. We are pleased to support a future priest. Our Metropolis has 100% of the Philoptochos chapters supporting this program for seminarians.

In November, we will be donating to the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

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PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, continued

Save the Date – Our **Annual Christmas Luncheon** will be at **Desert Horizons Country Club** this year on **Saturday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m.** More information to come.

Also coming in December:

1. Our **Christmas Bake Sale**. Roll up your sleeves to help make the Christmas Bread and Cookies.

Christmas Baskets will be delivered to our parishioners who are shut-ins. We have received a generous donation from parishioner **Mike Carroll** to help defray the costs. Dates for baking, ordering bread and making the baskets will be announced toward the end of November.

Future Dates to Remember

1. Board Meeting - Monday, November at 11:00 a.m.
2. Thanksgiving Luncheon - Saturday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.
3. General Meeting - Monday, November 14 at 11:45 a.m. All parishioners are welcome!
4. Annual Christmas Lunch at Desert Horizons Country Club on Saturday, December 10.
5. Christmas Bake Sale in December.
6. Christmas Basket Project in December.
– LINDA KALLIS,
Philoptochos President

ST. GEORGE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund has incrementally grown over the 3rd Quarter and the 2016 year. While not matching the S & P 500 directly due to the directed diversity of the investments, the Fund remains secure and our investments are working for us. The By-laws are written to mitigate the risk to the church's Fund.

The current balance is **\$288,164.12**. Our Equity investments constitute 47.8% of the Fund; Fixed Income currently, 43.6%; International Investments constitute 47.8% of the Fund; Fixed

Income currently, 43.6%; International Investments are at 7.0% and cash remains at 1.6% of the Investments, per By-laws directives. There were \$150.00 in donations during that period. This compares to a balance of \$287,698.03 in August, 2016 for a 2% Yearly Growth Rate. A detailed presentation will be given at the General Assembly Meeting on November 13th.

Please remember the Church and the Endowment Fund in your Estate Planning. Our vision is for the Fund to provide for a self-sustaining parish.

– NICHOLAS M. LATKOVIC,
Chairman of the Endowment Fund

AHEPA NEWS



Next meeting scheduled for November 9th, 6:30 pm at St George Church.

Please join us in celebrating **Tom Evans 100th Birthday that evening!** We need a Chapter photo for the AHEPAN magazine as he is the oldest AHEPAN.

On **November 6th** we honor all Veterans and on **November 12th, 1p.m.**, please plan to join us for a **Thanksgiving Luncheon** at St. George Church hosted by **AHEPA 528** and the **Philoptochos** of St. George. Reservations needed by **November 6th!** All proceeds will benefit the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship fund**. Scholarships for 2017 are available on chapter website **AHEPA528.org**. The deadline is **May 1st 2017**. Students plan ahead as letters and transcripts are needed for qualification. It is open to all stewards of St George Church and AHEPA chapter 528 Families.

Also, please keep brother Nick Kyriacou in your prayers. Keep in mind also that we are moving forward enthusiastically with membership growth and activity to promote the values of AHEPA and the Orthodox Church.

Please watch for the newsletter which outlines goals and purposes of AHEPA Chapter 528 and the opportunities to help our church, faith, families in this St George community.

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AHEPA NEWS, *continued*

Always in Christ,
– WYNN STORTON,
AHEPA Chapter 528 President

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



In mid-October we held our first **Pumpkin Painting** with all of our Sunday school students and families. Everyone had a fabulous time. The creativity and talent that was shown by our students (and some of the parents) was impressive. A big thank you to **Fotini Krespis** and her family for planning and running this event. As usual, thank you to our teachers, **Mariya Dunkel, Melissa Hawkins, and Deacon Euthym and Krisann Kontaxis** for their time, commitment and love in teaching our students!



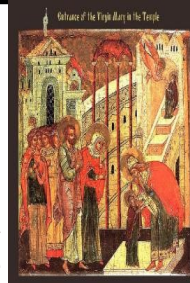
Sunday School Pumpkin-Painting event: Sunday, October 16th

CANDIDACY FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Those wanting to be considered for candidacy to be elected for membership of the 2017 Parish Council are reminded of the following:

1. **Candidacy forms** may be received from **Fr. Ted** at any time. The **deadline** for submitting them is **Friday, November 18, 2016**. Candidates must meet all Archdiocese and parish requirements of good standing before having their names on the parish election ballot.
2. Candidates must attend a **Parish Council Membership Seminar**, conducted by **Fr. Ted** offered on **Saturday, November 19th** at **10 a.m.**
3. **Parish Elections–Sunday, December 11th**

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY



On **Monday, November 21, 2016**, we commemorate the **Entrance into the Temple of the Holy Theotokos**. A major source of history recording the life of the Most Holy Theotokos is a Second Century text, known as the “Protevangelion,” considered to have been written by St. James the Apostle and which is highly regarded as factual. As such, it contributes greatly to the understanding of the Apostolic Christian Tradition of commemorating the Entrance of the Holy Theotokos & Ever-Virgin Mary into the Temple.

Accordingly, Sts. Joachim and Anna, the parents of the Theotokos took her to the Temple at the age of three. When they did, they lifted the Virgin onto the first step and She ran quickly to the top step by Herself. There She was met by the High Priest Zachariah, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking Her by the hand, he led Her not only into the Temple, but into the “Holy of Holies,” the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year. His explanation for doing this was that he felt inspired by God.

The Most-holy Theotokos remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While Her parents were alive, they visited Her often. When God called her parents from this world, She was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. In addition, it is noted that She was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

The name “Theotokos” means **Mother of God**. She is called the Mother of God, because She, by action of the Holy Spirit, brought God into the world wearing human flesh, being named Jesus Christ. (See Archdiocese website: www.goarch.org.)

2017 GREEK FESTIVAL



Everyone is invited to participate in the 2017 Greek Festival Meeting on **Monday, November 7, 2016**.

Among the topics to be discussed are:

1. Volunteers for Festival stations
2. Festival Site Plan
3. Advertising
4. Preparation Schedule

Cash donations toward **underwriting** needed items for the Festival are always welcome. Checks are to be made out to **St. George Greek Orthodox Church**. Please remember to write "**Festival**" in the memo section. Please contact Festival Chairman, **George Argyros**, to ask about any items toward which to offer monetary contributions and to volunteer your efforts toward the success of this year's Greek Festival.

STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship roster for this year as of the end of October is 112 individuals/families with a total dollar pledge of \$98,800. We have received \$89,328 in stewardship payments, with \$9,475 outstanding yet to be received by year's end. We should receive a few more pledges prior to year end, making our total pledge amount slightly over \$100,000.

Our quarterly stewardship receipts TY versus LY are down -15% or \$15,911. The breakout is below:

First Quarter.	TY.	LY.
1/1-3/30.	\$44,996.	\$54,298.
Second Quarter.		
4/1-6/30.	\$20,988.	\$25,040.
Third Quarter. (Plus Oct)		
7/1-10/28.	\$14,559.	\$25,901.
YTD Total.	\$89,328.	\$105,229.

As noted in last months "Voice", we are well below our 2016 annual stewardship pledge goal of \$130,000. This means our community must produce a successful 2017 festival in order to make up the deficit from this year.

Based on this year's downward trend, we have adjusted the 2017 annual pledge goal to \$115,000. This level, along with tightly controlling expenses this year and next year, should result in a modest negative yearly net income for our church.

As we enter this upcoming holiday season and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, please consider our beloved St. George Greek Orthodox Church in your planned giving. For those who have not yet given a stewardship pledge to the church, please do so now. If you have already pledged, please consider giving more now.

May God continue to bless us, our families, and community this holiday season and beyond! Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
 –RHONDA LATKOVIC,
 Stewardship Chairperson

FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Sunday, November 13, 2016 following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

In order to participate in the proceedings of the General Assembly one must be a Stewardship member of the parish in good standing – meaning that one's stewardship is both a responsible pledge of time, talent and treasure and that his or her contribution toward the pledge is current. For any questions regarding Stewardship membership in good standing, please contact **Fr. Ted** or the Stewardship Chairperson, **Rhonda Latkovic**.

Packets are being sent out which include the agenda items; the Minutes from the 2016 Spring General Assembly; the 2017 Proposed Budget and the 2016 Financial Report.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KAROUNTZOSES – On **Sunday, December 18, 2016** there will be a showing of the comedy movie, *Christmas With the Karountzoses* in our parish hall following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. It will be a fine time of fellowship for all. We would like everyone to contribute to our Church by purchasing tickets for this event. More details will soon be provided.

COLORING BOOK GROUP

Our October coloring session and luncheon was held on Friday, October 14th. We had 16 attendees who enjoyed a lunch of butternut squash soup, a mixed zucchini, tomato, salami & provolone cheese salad, gluten free pumpkin bread, apple walnut bundt cake, and pumpkin ice cream.

Our coloring group is growing monthly and several ladies have invited friends who are not members of our church to attend, and we welcome them enthusiastically! In fact, the news of our group has gotten the attention of a special benefactor, who has made a generous donation to help keep the coloring group active!

At this last session, the group discussed a recent report on the benefits of coloring and doing other arts & crafts type hobbies, and the relationship this has with cognitive health. The study suggests that the risk for dementia is diminished for those who are in the 50+ age group, and regularly participate in creative hobbies like coloring!

Our **next coloring session & luncheon** will be held on **Friday, November, 18th**. Start time will be **12:00 pm**.

Coloring pages and pencils will be supplied. A \$5 minimum donation is requested. All donations will be given to the church.

Please RSVP your attendance to **Rhonda Latkovic** by **November 14th**.

—RHONDA LATKOVIC



Linda Bozigian displays her completed Coloring project with Linda Kallis looking on.



Chrysonthe Mehas and Doris Elmo pose as they work on their projects.

ST. GEORGE ANNUAL PET BLESSING EVENT

We thank God for the efforts of **Linda Kallis, Lula Valissarakos, Tina Veroulis, Matushka Gloria Lehman, Chrysonthe Mehas, Doris Elmo, Kathy Petropoulos, Thalia Aeder, Nick Kaperonis, and Jim Christopoulos** which they offered toward the success of this year's Pet Blessing Event. The event itself was organized by **Rhonda Latkovic**. Congratulations to all for a most joyous & successful event!

Our annual St. George Pet Blessing Event took place on **Saturday, October 22, 2016** in our parish courtyard. **Gates opened at 9:00 a.m.** and the **Blessing Service began at 9:30 a.m.** Among the special guests and organizations attending were: **Kasim Bikul of the Riverside Sheriff's Department; Suzy Kahn Walker & Tiffany Ritchey of the Animal Samaritans organization, and Darryl Vice, AKC Dog Show Judge.** Raffle and Greek food and pastries were available.



Sgt. Kasim Bikul & Trigger



Darryl Vice,
AKC Dog Show Juge



Tiffany Ritchey & Whitey and Suzy Kahn Walker & Charlie from Animal Samaritans

ANNUAL ST. GEORGE VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



Sunday, November 6, 2016

A wonderful program following the Divine Liturgy has been orchestrated for St. George Church.

There will be Color Guards, "Taps" played for the Military fallen by Cathedral City High School/Band, music by **Louise Dobbs Barringer, Vocalist, and accompanist by Sook Lee**. Guest Speaker will be **Lt. Col. Blaine Mack, USAF, Ret.**, a three war veteran (World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War).

A luncheon for all will follow our Veterans Day Program.

We look forward to honoring all veterans of U.S. Armed Forces, as well as soldiers from Greece who have fought for freedom as allies of the United States of America.

CHOIR

New members for our parish choir are always welcome. Note the dates for choir practice this month:

- November 3, 2016
- November 17, 2016

Choir practice for both dates is at 1:00 p.m. at our St. George church. The choir will be practicing the special Church hymns that are included in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy during the Advent Season, leading up to the Feast of the Nativity of Christ our God and Savior.

Contact our **Choir Director, Annette Laskaris**, for more information and to join our parish choir.

HALLOWEEN: WEST AND EAST

The Roman Catholic Church celebrates All Saints Day on November 1st every year. In our present culture, our thoughts do not go to contemplation of the Saints, but they go in the direction of "Halloween," which involves thoughts of scary antics, odd spirits and frightening things, like ghosts. This "All Hallowed Eve" is on October 31st—"Halloween," when we are celebrating the lore of frightening tales of demonic spirits and souls gone wrong.

In the Orthodox Christian Church, All Saints Day is the Sunday after Pentecost. For, with the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon all, the Gospel spread throughout the world. Those who embraced the Word of God and lived their lives accordingly became examples of Christian living for others to follow. These exemplary people were eventually officially recognized by the Church as Saints. Thus, Saints are the product of people accepting the gifts of the Holy Spirit and using those gifts to bring others to salvation in Christ.

All Saints Day is the "Name Day" for all those who either are not sure about who their Patron Saint is, or who have not been given the name of a Patron Saint at the time of their baptism. When baptized, it is traditional for the newly baptized to be named after a Saint of the Church, who then is the Patron Saint of the newly baptized Christian. However, this practice is not always followed and a newly baptized person who is not named from among the Saints, will celebrate their "Name Day" on All Saints Day. Otherwise, they would celebrate their "Name Day" on the day when their Patron Saint is celebrated.

"Halloween" is not a Church Feast Day, nor any kind of Church-related celebration. It is totally worldly. In the culture of the Orthodox Church, there are people who wrongly have superstitions. This is contrary to having faith in God.

—MATTHEW DAVIS

**PRO-LIFE: OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE
BIRTH CHOICE OF THE “DESERT BABY
BOTTLE CAMPAIGN”**

You cannot take Human Life, and you don't have to read the Bible to find that out! Statistics show that 21% of all pregnancies end in abortions!

Christians should oppose such actions. We are called to do goodness, that's the law according to the Bible. We're unique; not like animals. We have a free will! Human Life begins at conception which is a scientific fact.

The way that things are moving in our society today, it is now time for us as Orthodox Christians to *speak out*, and to not be indifferent. It is our moral duty and responsibility to hold up the sanctity of *life*.

We have Religious Freedom in this United States of America; and my question to you is: Do we want to lose it?

Let us all today ask for the Light of the Holy Spirit to guide us. As we pray, we also thank God for your contributions to this year's Baby Bottle Campaign in support of Birth Choice of the Desert, totaling \$1,000!

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life, And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son. I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself: never to be silent; never to be passive; never to be forgetful of the unborn.

I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, And never to stop defending life, until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice not just for some, but for all, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— LOUISE DOBBS BARRINGER,
Outreach Committee Chairperson

**THE HOLY AND GREAT SYNOD OF THE
ORTHODOX CHURCH: THE SACRAMENT OF
MARRIAGE**

***On Orthodox Marriage: Part II. Impediments to
Marriage and the application of Economy
[Leniency]***

1. Concerning impediments to marriage due to kinship by blood, kinship by affinity and adoption, and spiritual kinship, the prescriptions of the canons (Canons 53 and 54 of the Quinisext Ecumenical Council) and the church practice derived from them are valid as applied today by local autocephalous Orthodox Churches, determined and defined in their charters and their respective conciliar decisions.
2. A marriage that is not completely dissolved or annulled and a third marriage constitute absolute impediments to entering into marriage, according to Orthodox canonical tradition, which categorically condemns bigamy and a fourth marriage.
3. In accordance with the rigor (*akribeia*) of the holy canons, entering into a marriage after monastic tonsure is forbidden (Canon 16 of the Fourth Ecumenical Council and Canon 44 of the Quinisext Ecumenical Council).
4. Priesthood in itself does not constitute an impediment to marriage, but in accordance with the prevailing canonical tradition (Canon 3 of the Quinisext Ecumenical Council), after ordination entrance into marriage is forbidden.
5. Concerning mixed marriages of Orthodox Christians with non-Orthodox Christians or non-Christians:
 - a. Marriage between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians is forbidden according to canonical *akribeia* [strictness] (Canon 72 of the Quinisext Ecumenical Council).

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- b. With the salvation of man as the goal, the possibility of the exercise of ecclesiastical *oikonomia* in relation to the impediments to marriage must be considered by the Holy Synod of each autocephalous Orthodox Church according to the principles of the holy canons and in a spirit of pastoral discernment.
- c. Marriage between Orthodox and non-Christians is categorically forbidden in accordance with canonical *akribeia* [strictness].
6. The practice adopted in implementing ecclesiastical Tradition with respect to impediments to marriage should also take into account the relevant provisions of state legislation, without going beyond the limits of ecclesiastical economy (*oikonomia*) [leniency].

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE – This year the local “40 Days of Life” campaign will be giving attention to the **value of human life at every age— beginning with conception and ending with natural death.** The presentations will be offered as part of a community worship service, asking God to help everyone appreciate the gift of life. Presenters and their topics are: **Fr. Donald Craig**, the Chaplain at the Eisenhower Medical Center, “Physician-Assisted Suicide;” **Fr. Michael Fanous**, the priest at St. Mary Magdalene Coptic Church in Indio, “Genocide in the Middle East;” and **Patti Smith**, the regional coordinator for *Silent No More Awareness Campaign*, “Prayers for the End of Abortion.”

St. Garabed Apostolic Armenian Church on Monterey Avenue will host this event on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** Fr. Ted, Fr. Krikor of St. Garabed Church & Bob Kurtz of **Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church** are spearheading this event. Everyone is invited!

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
LUNCH

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

SATURDAY, 1:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 12th

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH HALL

74-109 LARREA PALM DESERT, CA

ADULTS: \$15 / CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$7

Please reserve today: Tickets can be purchased from

Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

All proceeds go to Fr. Theophilos Theophilos
Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Donations accepted at www.ahepa528.org or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

contact@ahepa528.org

Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family
Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 6, 2016

Thank You for your Continued Support!



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 23, 2017

FEAST DAY OF ST. GEORGE

HOSTING:

HIS EMINENCE,

METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS

On the occasion of the:

**20th ANNIVERSARY OF CELEBRATING OUR PATRON
SAINT IN OUR ST. GEORGE PARISH CHURCH EDIFACE!**

THIS CELEBRATION INCLUDES:

St. George Golf Tournament at Desert Willow

Golf Resort in Palm Desert: Friday and Saturday, April 21-22.

April 21, 2017: Friday afternoon golf followed by steak dinner at the church.

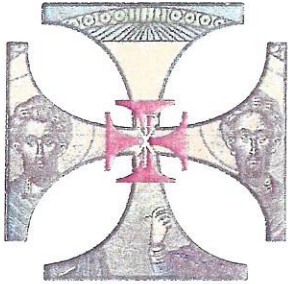
April 22, 2017: Saturday morning golf followed by Greek-style dinner at the church...live music, dancing and fun!

More details and information to follow in the months ahead. JOIN US!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
 74-109 Larrea St. / P.O. Box 4755
 Palm Desert, California 92261 web: www.go-stgeorge.org/ email: pdssaintgeorge@gmail.com
 Telephone: (760)568-9901 / FAX: 9760) 568-9492

NOVEMBER, 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																								
Sunday Schedule of Services: Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Sunday School—10:30 a.m.	1 - STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Bible Study—11:00 a.m.	2 9- ST. NECTARIOS Divine Liturgy— 10:00 a.m. at St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church, Covina, CA.	3 Choir Practice—1:00 p.m.	4 5—ST. RAPHAEL Liturgy—10:00 a.m.at the St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms, CA Vespers-5:00 p.m. Eisenhower 'Chaplains' Reception— 6:00 p.m.	6-7th Sunday of Luke Ep.-Gal. 1:11-19 Gos.-St. Luke 8:41-56 Veterans Day Celebration	7 Philoptochos Board Meeting-11:00 a.m. Festival Meeting-7:00 p.m.	8 STS. MICHAEL & GABRIEL Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Bible Study—11:00 a.m.	9- ST. NECTARIOS Divine Liturgy— 10:00 a.m. at St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church, Covina, CA.	10 "THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE" SYMPOSIUM-7:00 p.m at St. Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church, Rancho Mirage, CA	11 [Deadline for Candidacy for the 2017 Parish Council Elections]	12 Thanksgiving Luncheon—1:00 p.m. No Vespers	13— ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM Ep.-Heb 7:26-28;8:1-2 Gos.-St. Luke 10:25-37 GENERAL ASSEMBLY	14 - ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	15 Beginning of Christmas Fasting Season No Bible Study	16 AHEPA Meeting-6:30 p.m.	17 Choir Practice— 1:00 p.m.	18 25 ST. CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	19 Vespers—5:00 p.m.	20—9th Sunday of Luke Ep.-Gal. 6:11-18 Gos.- St. Luke 12:16-21	21—ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN THE TEMPLE Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	22 Bible Study—10:00 a.m.	23 30 ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	24 THANKSGIVING DAY (office Closed)	25 26 Vespers-5:00 p.m.	27-13th Sunday of Luke Ep.-Eph. 2:4-10 Gos.-St. Luke 18:18-27	28 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	29 30 ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	30 ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	DECEMBER 1 Choir Practice— 1:00 p.m.	26 Vespers-5:00 p.m.



The Ladies Philoptochos Society

of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert

PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

All parishioners are invited to our meeting on November 14 for an informative Book Talk by author Constance M. Constant. She will talk and read excerpts from her recently published book:

AMERICAN KID
Nazi-Occupied Greece Through a Child's Eyes

Date: Monday, November 14, 2016
Time: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Church Hall

A hearty lunch will be available for \$8.00.

**Please RSVP at the Philoptochos table in the Church Hall
so we can plan how many servings for lunch.**

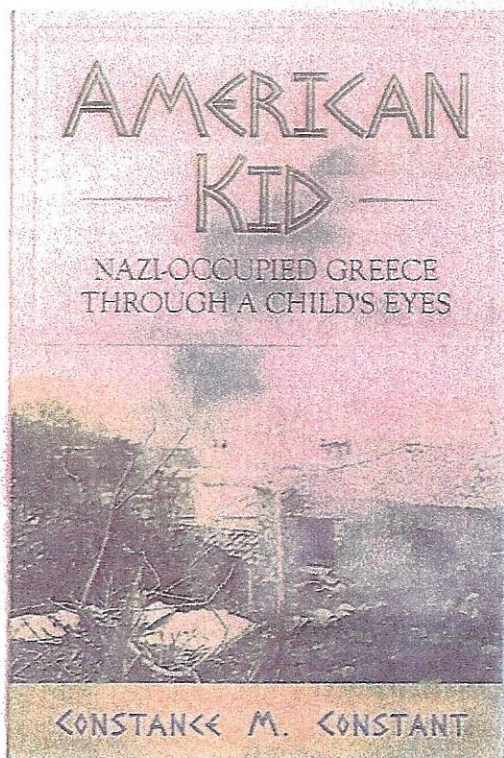
We hope to see you at this exciting event!

AMERICAN KID NAZI-OCCUPIED GREECE THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

BY CONSTANCE M. CONSTANT
AUTHOR OF AUSTIN LUNCH

For Katherine and her three American children, Greece was meant to be a one-year refuge from the late 1930's Depression. Her husband's family-owned orchard should have provided for their well-being, but instead embroiled them in legal debate. WWII Axis bombings of Kalamata prompted the young family to flee to the remote mountain village of Katherine's birth in Laconia, but Nazi invasion—and seemingly endless occupation of their village and their house—trapped them there until war's end.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON.COM, AND BARNES & NOBLE



"This book is an eye-opener on the kind of brutality the German army imposed on the people of Greece."

—Michael S. Dukakis

"In addition to the decimation of Greece's Jews, hundreds of thousands of civilians died, mostly because of starvation. Having a goat and an olive tree made the difference between life and death... Rich with telling detail, the book brings to life what it is to share fragile survival skills with family, friends, and neighbors. *American Kid* is a celebration of the dignity of simple people in the face of unimaginable cruelty."

—Demetrios Liappas
Loyola Marymount University

"Told through a child's eyes, this heroic tale is the 20th century odyssey of an American family returning to their roots in Greece during the Great Depression, before the onset of WWII."

—Maria Fotopoulos
Writer, animal rights activist

"The author has captured a vibrant, fascinating portrayal of village life in Greece under Nazi occupation, along with the feelings, painful and pleasant, that innocent civilians endure in wartime. By telling the story through a child's eyes, without the cynicism or jadedness of adulthood, *American Kid's* Johnny brings the reader, scene by scene, into the relevance of historical events... a unique, easily readable, and engaging history of WWII."

—Chris G. Kuchuris
Professor of Social Sciences, College of Southern Nevada