

APRIL 2017

# Voice of St. George

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE DESERT**

**74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA**



Inside this issue

## THE REASON FOR THE CANDLE

"Come receive the Light from the Unwaning Light and glorify Christ Who has risen from the dead." With these words, the priest imparts the Holy Light from the Altar Table to those who, in turn, impart it to all in attendance at the midnight Orthodox Christian Resurrection Service.

The message that this practice conveys is both simple and profound: no one has the light unless Christ gives His Light and the only reason for which one receives the Light which lights his or her candle is only so that this Light can be imparted to the next person—a parent; a spouse; a relative; a friend, or a stranger. Ultimately, no matter how the seating adds up, at some point, people are giving this Light to someone outside the immediate family circle. The truth is, that giving this light from one's candle does not deplete the measure of light

from candle that is used to light that of another. This act of lighting one another's candle eventually causes the darkness of the midnight hour is to dispel.

The midnight darkness is a graphic representation of the darkness that exists without the Light of God. In this respect, we are speaking of a "darkness" in which one is morally and spiritually lost. In particular terms, Fr. Stephanos Anagnostopoulos writes, "Without Christ's enlightenment, a person remains in the dark...He does not know where he came from; where he stands; where he is going; where his destination is and where his soul is going after death." (*Experiences During the Divine Liturgy*, pg. 149).

The Paschal Candle of the Resurrection Service represents the Light of Christ our God. The only reason for "having" Christ our God is so that we can give Christ our God. It is the

only way to glorify Christ Who is risen from the dead. Not only do we glorify Christ by imparting His Light to another, but by raising this Light high as an example for all to understand the love of God. This is why it is liturgically customary to raise our Paschal candle as we sing the hymn: "Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death and to those in the tombs bestowing life."

The term "Paschal Candle" refers to the word "Pascha," which connotes *Passover*. As the Israelites "passed over" from slavery to freedom with Moses, all of humanity "passes over" from death and darkness to light and life with Christ. This "Passover" is not something done only once a year as we celebrate the "Easter Holiday." It is a life-time, on-going event, played and re-played every day in our lives.

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This is why the Paschal Candle is at the same time our Baptismal Candle; our Wedding Candles; our home-altar votive candles, and the candles that we light upon entering our Church. As Christ is the Light of the world, as His apostles, we, by extension, are individually the "light of the world."

The Divine Light of Christ is Paradise. Indeed, Paradise is not a "place," like some "counter-earth" ideal where there are only green grass, virgins, wives, harps and clouds. As the only True God, the very Person of Christ is *Paradise*—no death; no darkness...but the Light of the Resurrection, which is Eternal Life. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes: "*The Light God sent to the world was His Son; the same light that had been shining undistinguished in the world's darkness all along, seen now in full brightness.*" (*Sacraments and Orthodoxy*, pg. 20). Eternal Life, begins in our souls *now with Christ* and it is *personal*. In His love for each of us, we will eternally be with Christ as the individuals that God created.

The Resurrection Paschal Candle serves as a powerful message to others about our humanity: *the more one knows God, the more one knows one's self*, because we "have received the Light of Christ" in our souls. With this Light within us, we are able to clearly discover our inner weaknesses, motives and desires, as well as our God-given potential. At the same time, we see the road leading to a personal life of fulfillment with God. It is the Light that kindles sincerity with ourselves.

In his book, *The Light of Christ* (available in our parish book store), Archbishop Basil Krivochein, in reviewing the life of St. Symeon the New Theologian, shares these thoughts, saying, "*Concerning the subject of the invisible God—the "energy" and the power of His Holy Spirit, in other words His light, no one can speak of it, if one does not see first the light itself with the soul's eye...*"(pg. 223).

From within us glows the Light of Christ, Who from within us enlightens the world. After all, as St. John Chrysostom often said: "*The light of a Christian cannot escape notice.*"

+FR. THEODORE

## SAN FRANCISCO METROPOLIS PLANS FOR CLERGY-LAITY CONFERENCE



Beloved Reverend Fathers and Esteemed Parish Council Presidents,

I pray this email finds you uplifted by the Lord on your Lenten journey!

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, I wish to remind you that our Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly is just under one month away. This important gathering of our Metropolis will be held Wednesday, April 26 – Thursday, April 27 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. Your participation is important for our collective work as a Metropolis and as a Body of Christ. This year we are pleased to welcome **V. Rev. Archimandrite Dr. Nathanael Symeonides who will speak to the Assembly about the historic Holy and Great Council** which took place in Crete.

The detailed agenda is available on our Metropolis website, and we offer convenient online registration: <http://sanfran.goarch.org/events/2017-metropolis-clergy-laity-assembly>. Please note that the registration deadline is Friday, April 7.

I would also like to remind you that our Metropolis **Annual Clergy Syndesmos Retreat** will take place right after the conclusion of the Assembly on Thursday, April 27. Father Nathanael will also be our keynote speaker. (Program included separately.)

Thanking you for your timely attention to this important matter, I wish you a blessed Great Lent, and I remain,

With Love in Christ,  
+BISHOP APOSTOLOS OF MEDEIA  
Chancellor

## ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our 21 Annual St. George Golf Tournament will take place on **Friday, April 21st and Saturday, April 22nd at Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert.**

As is true every year, the success of this event depends on each of our parishioners participating in some helpful manner. If everyone one would give of themselves in one or more of the following ways, we will be assured of a financially and spiritually rewarding event:

1. Play golf. Get a foursome together.
2. Attend the Friday and/or Saturday night Golf Tournament dinners.
3. Sponsor a tee
4. Underwrite food and sign costs
5. Help with set-up and/or clean-up.
6. publicize the event to others

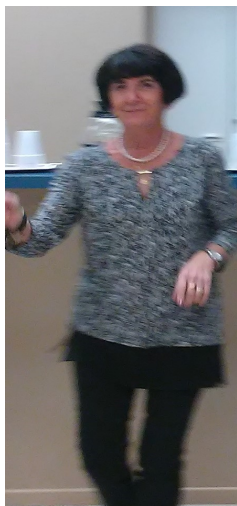
Any help in these areas will be a tremendous blessing for our parish of St. George.

Golf Tournament Registration and Reservation Forms are available in our parish hall. A copy is included in this month's *Voice of St. George*.

## KNITTING PROJECT

Special thanks to God for **Tina Veroulis**, who has been conducting the "knitting classes" for those who want to knit caps, blankets and scarfs to be given to cancer patients at the **City of Hope Hospital in Duarte, California**. These items help comfort cancer patients through their chemo and radiation treatments. It is requested that all knitting projects be turned in on **Sunday, April 2nd**, for delivery to the **City of Hope**.

For more information regarding the **Knitting Project**, contact **Tina Veroulis** (pictured here) or **Rhonda Latkovic**.



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



### March

We had our Membership lunch on Saturday, March 18 at the home of Kalitsa Xitco. She graciously opened her home to us and also prepared part of the lenten meal. She provided us with baked salmon, a quinoa salad and fresh fruit along with iced tea and coffee. We had the rest of the lunch catered by Koutouki Estiatorio providing us with stuffed tomatoes with rice, giant beans in tomato sauce, roasted potatoes and baked vegetables. Carol Lyons and Tina Veroulis made us homemade bar cookies. We had 47 people attending and all had a good time visiting, and enjoying the beautiful weather. See pictures on page 11.

We are looking to surpass our membership number of 67 from last year. We currently have 54. You may renew your membership at the Philoptochos table in the Church hall on Sundays or mail your check to the office. We look forward to welcoming new members; consider joining.

### April

Our Easter Bake Sale will be on Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 9. Be sure to pick up your orders.

Our Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 2 at 11:00 a.m. Our General Meeting is very important. It will be on Monday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. We will have elections for the new Board of Directors for 2017 - 2019 and we need your vote. We will have lunch, followed by announcements, voting and a look at our 2017 budget. Please plan to attend.

Tillie Lockshire is retiring from our Board of Directors. She will be moving out of the area and we will miss her immensely. She has held many volunteer jobs at the Church and starting last year she slowly retired from each one. In recent memory, she has worked in the office, been a member of the Parish Council, made coffee eve

*Continued on the next page -- -- -->*

*PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, continued*

ry Sunday after Church Services for 10+ years. She has been on the Board of Directors of Philoptochos holding two positions at the same time. She still comes in to help get the Ladder and Voice out and just last week she was preparing the candles for Easter Services. When you see her, give her your good wishes and thank her for all she has done for our Church.

As our Snow Birds start leaving in April and May, we want to thank all of you for the work you have done for the Church but especially for Philoptochos. We depend on your help and we will miss you until you come back in the fall.

—LINDA KALLIS,  
Philoptochos President

**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

The topics discussed at the Parish Council meeting on March 3, 2017 were as follows:

1. Preparing the financial reports for the General Assembly on March 19th.
2. General review of the 2017 Greek Festival. Notably costs are going up from year to year. The Health Department will want a surface covering the grass in the grilling area. Of special note is the many comments heard from those who attended the Festival indicating that our food and pastries were "tremendously delicious." Talk about next year's Festival will need to focus on dates. Great Lent will begin earlier in 2018.
3. The agenda was set for the General Assembly.
4. Discussion regarding gathering volunteers and golfers for the Golf Tournament took place. A Golf Tournament Committee meeting was to be scheduled for later in March.
5. Fr. Ted presented information pertaining to the Pastoral Visit of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos on Sunday, April 23rd.
6. Cancer Foundation lease has come for renewal: discussion was about the amount of rent to be requested with the new lease.

7. Lula Valissarakos will chair the menu preparations for the Palm Sunday luncheon, scheduled for Sunday, April 9th. More details related to Holy Week and Pascha will be discussed at the April meeting on April 6th (April 13th is Holy Thursday).

**AHEPA NEWS – The District 20 Summer Convention** will be held in Indian Wells on **June 23-24th at the Indian Wells Hyatt.**



Registration forms will be available at upcoming Chapter 528 meetings.

Applications for the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship** are now being accepted. The deadline for submitting applications is **May 1, 2017**. Application forms are available on line at: [www.ahepa528.org](http://www.ahepa528.org). Forms are also available in the parish hall and may also be obtained from Fr. Ted. Scholarships will be awarded on AHEPA Sunday May 21st, which would be followed by a luncheon honoring Fr Ted for his service.

AHEPA Chapter 528 is continuing efforts in support of raising funds to assist in the construction of the Archdiocese St. Nicholas National Shrine in New York City.

The **next AHEPA Chapter 528 meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

We have 2 young ladies attending **AHEPA Journey to Greece** this year, they will spend one month in Greece attending college and traveling with other young adults learning their heritage. **Katrina Storton and Elaine Karkaletsis** are looking forward to the trip **June 22 - July 22**. Any donations to help their trip would be appreciated and checks can be made directly to AHEPA 528 as a donation towards their expenses. Information on the trip can be found at: <https://ahepa.org/Journey-to-Greece/JTG.htm>.

— WYNN STORTON,  
AHEPA 528 President

## ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund has continued to grow during 2017 to a stated balance of \$298,498.50 at month end February, 2017,

### Our current Asset Allocation follows the Fund's by-laws as shown below:

A. Domestic Equities..	\$150,903.94.....	51%
B. Domestic Fixed		
Income.....	\$123,635.90.....	41%
C. International		
Equities.....	\$ 20,856.62.....	7%
D. Cash &		
Equivalents..	\$ 3,102.04.....	1%
	<u>        Total</u>	<u>100%</u>

**All Investments increased in value during the month of February as well rising \$6,809.52 in value.** Please note that we are below benchmarks due to risk reduction by our investment manager. Risk mitigation for this type of Endowment Fund is typical and encouraged in the investment community.

Parishioners are always welcome to **donate by check** to the Endowment Fund through the St. George parish office. Make checks to the order of **St. George of the Desert**. Write: **"Endowment Fund"** on the memo Line of the check. Remember the Church in your estate planning. To date, \$150 has been donated.

If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

It is the intent to grow the fund not only through prudent investment, but by donations and estate planned giving. An updated by-law proposal will be submitted to the Board In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017 which will include a proposal for an Archdiocese designed "Eternal Light" Program. The is an exciting and worthwhile program which will help ensure the Parish's viability into the future by listing families who promise to include the church in their Estate Planning.

– NICHOLAS M. LATKOVIC,  
Endowment Fund Chairman

## COLORING BOOK GROUP

Our March coloring session and luncheon was held on **Friday, March 17th**. We had 14 attendees who enjoyed a Lenten lunch of spaghetti with a tomato basil sauce, dolmathes, hummus, or peanut butter with crackers, and for dessert a selection of grapes, dates, or homemade gluten free vanilla cupcakes or chocolate cupcakes. Yummy!

The ladies tackled their coloring projects enthusiastically and the hall was abuzz in lively conversation & warm fellowship. A St. Patrick's Day theme raffle was held with all attendees winning prizes that included a fashion necklace, coffee mug, wine glasses, pasta, & more!

Our coloring group has maintained a consistent core of about 15-18 ladies attending the monthly sessions.

Our final coloring session & luncheon of the first half of this year will be held on **Friday, May 5th**. 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**, Adult Coloring Group Leader by April 30th.

– RHONDA LATKOVIC,  
Coloring Book Group



Some of the participants of the Coloring Book project met on March 17th, posing for a group photo.

*COLORING BOOK GROUP, continued*

Above: Coloring Book Group participants (from left) Linda Bozigian, Matushka Gloria Lehman, Tillie Locksire, and Alice Pulos. At the right: Christina Kundanis and Penny Chiotis.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Our St George community is unique in that it's membership consists of both full-time and part-time residents. Many of our parishioners are also members of and support more than two churches. Over the past 5 years, our membership has remained fairly flat with little to no growth at around 115-120 families. In the past 10 years our largest membership was 145-150 families. Our stewardship totals have remained fairly steady between \$120-\$145 annually, over the past years as well. Our average family annual pledge amount is \$900-1000.

Our stewardship goal for 2017 is \$115k, revised slightly down from the past years to coincide with a decreased 2017 annual budget set by the parish council. As of March 28th, we have reached \$109,235 in pledges from 91 families for the year.

We have 15 stewards who have not yet pledged as of now. We have been in the process of contacting those past stewards to renew their

pledge for this year. We remain confident that we will surpass our goal for this year.

Despite the generosity of our stewards, we are still not able to fully fund 100% of our annual expenses from stewardship alone. To offset this shortfall of approximately \$100k, we execute both an annual Greek Festival and Golf Tournament to raise the additional operational funds needed. This puts increased pressure on all members to work hard to make our events a success. This should show to all of us, how much our stewardship sustaining support is truly needed and appreciated.

If you have not yet turned in a 2017 pledge card, please consider doing so as soon as possible and consider giving at a higher level than last year. This call first was first given in early January and we are happy to report that about 40% of stewards increased their pledge over last years amount! We are very grateful for everyone's support!

Stewardship can be paid for by check, in cash, by credit card, and through the transfer of stocks and bonds.

If you have any questions concerning stewardship, please see Rhonda "Evangelina" Latkovic, stewardship chairperson.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE: MARCH FOR LIFE**

This year Orthodox Christian bishops participated in the **44th Annual Right to Life March on January 26, 2017** in Washington, D.C. On the local level, we continue to pray for the end of abortion and the repentance of all who promote its practice.

## RECAP OF ST. GEORGE SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY



This year's Spring General Assembly of St. George parish was held on **Sunday, March 19, 2017**.

Topics included review of financial statements related to the 2017 parish budget and the 2017 Greek Festival. This review was led by **Nick Kaperonis and Tina Veroulis, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer**, respectively. The enclosed Stewardship Report was given by **Rhonda Latkovic** and the Endowment Fund Report was issued by the Endowment Chairman, **Nick Latkovic** (reported by **Doug Lyons**). Discussion regarding the need to plan for future upgrades of parish property and possible income-producing property was led by the Planning Committee Chairman, **Dr. Mike Long**. **Tony Dalkas** reported on the need to develop plans for solar power. Finally, as the proposed Parish By-Laws amendments were discussed, 2016 By-Law Committee Chairman, **Mike Vawter** asked that the amendments be mailed out so that all can review the amendments and prepare to discuss them at a future General Assembly meeting. He suggested that this mailing occur at least a month before such meeting.

**Fr. Ted** requested that parishioners accept ideas regarding plans for the parish future with a view of adjusting them in order to fit the reality of parish needs. He asked such "adjustments" involve courteous discussions to reach reasonable compromises and good solutions for implementing a good parish plan that is acceptable to all. **Bess Heinrich** added that we need to order new liturgy books for the church pews.

In addition, **Fr. Ted** announced that the **Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy-Laity Assembly** will take place on April 26-27, 2017 at St. Nicholas Ranch. Delegates are needed to attend and represent the parish. He also reviewed the schedule involving the Pastoral Visit to the parish by **His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos** on Saturday and **Sunday, April 22-23** (the parish Feast Day).

## SAINT OF THE MONTH: ST. MARY OF EGYPT

St. Mary was one who learned how to overcome every earthly desire that separates us from our God Jesus Christ. As a young woman, Mary was one who had no control over her bodily desires and she lived the life of a prostitute. She lived this life for seventeen years, after running away from home.

One day she met a group of young men who were headed to Jerusalem to venerate the Holy Cross of Christ. She started seducing some of them simply to satisfy her lustful desires. Over time, she seduced them for money to pay her way on board.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, Mary was prohibited from entering to see the Cross or other relics of Christ by a force that she could not understand. She realized her sinfulness and error and she prayed before the icon of the Theotokos, promising that, if she could see the Holy Cross, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Mother of God would lead her. After her conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic.

After forty-seven years in solitude, she met St. Zosima on his travels through the desert. Zosima learned about her ascetic life and reported her life story to St. Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

St. Mary teaches us that it is possible to overcome all earthly desire. She shows the way of the Cross for all of us. We remember that in the Twentieth Century many thousands of Orthodox Christians were "liquidated" under Lenin, Stalin and other Communist rulers. The way of the Cross is real for many and it is the overcoming of all ungodly desire. To many, St. Mary shows the way to overcome the world and exchange a mistaken human life for a Christ-like one.

St. Mary of Egypt is commemorated on April 1st and on the fifth Sunday of Lent.

—MATTHEW DAVIS

## HOLY AND GREAT SYNOD OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

### The Church and the Natural Sciences

Modern secularization seeks autonomy of Man. ("Man" with capital M, means *humanity*, taken from the Greek word, *Anthropos*.) This autonomy is meant to be a separation from Christ and from the Church. Society, however, bears the indelible mark of the diachronic contribution of Christianity. The Church, moreover, highlights the saving significance of Christ, the God-Man, and of His Church, as the place and mode of life in freedom.

In regard to the matter of the relations between Christian faith and the natural sciences, the Orthodox Church avoids placing scientific investigation under tutelage and does not adopt a position on every scientific question. She thanks God who gives to scientists the gift of uncovering unknown dimensions of divine creation. The modern development of the natural sciences and of technology is bringing radical changes to our life. It brings significant benefits, such as the facilitation of everyday life, the treatment of serious diseases, easier communications and space exploration, and so on.

In spite of this, however, there are many negative consequences such as the manipulation of freedom, the gradual loss of precious traditions, the destruction of the natural environment and the questioning of moral values. Scientific knowledge, however swiftly it may be advancing, does not motivate man's will, nor does it give answers to serious moral and existential issues and to the search for the meaning of life and of the world. These matters demand a spiritual approach, which the Orthodox Church attempts to provide through a bioethics which is founded on Christian ethics and Patristic teaching. Along with her respect for the freedom of scientific investigation, the Orthodox Church at the same time points out the dangers concealed in certain scientific achievements and emphasizes man's dignity and his divine destiny.

– Taken from "The Message of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church," paragraphs 5, 7, and 9.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



The members of our Sunday School staff and the students themselves will have a special opportunity to share aspects of their Sunday School studies in April when **His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos** addresses them during His pastoral visit to St. George on the occasion of the parish Feast Day on **Sunday, April 23rd**.

This is being arranged at the request of His Eminence during His planning discussions with **Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym** held on **Monday, March 13, 2017**.

Among thoughts to be shared included is the prospect of involving our Sunday School children in singing the hymns of the Divine Liturgy with our parish choir.

Parents are most welcome to join in discussions with His Eminence during His upcoming Pastoral visit.

Turning to Holy Week, all Sunday School students are to receive a letter from Fr. Ted asking that they be excused from school on Holy Friday. We look forward to seeing them all at the **Annual Holy Friday Retreat Session** offered by **Deacon Euthym** inside the church following the service of the Royal Hours.

## IN MEMORIUM

We pray for the Eternal Life and Salvation for the servants of God:

**George Tcharos**, the beloved husband of **Emily Tcharos**, fell asleep in the Lord on **Saturday, March 10, 2017**. His funeral took place at our parish on **Tuesday, March 21**.

**Bob Maverick**, the beloved husband of **Tommie Maverick**, fell asleep in the Lord on the weekend of **March 19-20**. His funeral will take place in **Chicago, Illinois**, on **Saturday, April 1st**, where the grave-side service will take place at the family plot.

May their memories be eternal.



**ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY -  
HIS EMINENCE,  
METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS TO  
CELEBRATE HIERARCHICAL DIVINE  
LITURGY**



Our St. George Greek Orthodox parish of Palm Desert will have the honor of hosting His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos on Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 2017 in our celebration of the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. George.

His Eminence will officiate at the Saturday evening Vesper Service at 5:00 p.m., which will also include the Service of the Blessing of the Five Loaves (*Artoklasia*). This Church Service is offered for the spiritual and physical health and well-being for all of our parishioners. His Eminence will attend the St. George Annual Golf Tournament Awards Dinner following the Vesper Service. The menu of the Awards Dinner features a Greek-style Paschal dinner.

Sunday will have His Eminence celebrating the Divine Liturgy. When the Divine Liturgy is celebrated by a Hierarchy, such as a bishop or metropolitan, the rubrics are altered in the following significant ways:

1. The hymn "Aghios o Theos" is chanted more than the regular three times; the Metropolitan intones special prayers for the faithful, blessing them with His Hierarchical set of candles; a hymn is chanted in prayer for the Metropolitan as the Archpastor of our Church; special commemorations are made for the living parishioners and for the past parishioners who have already been laid to pious rest.
2. Due to the format of the earlier Orthros Service, scheduled to begin at the regular time of 8:30 a.m., the "start time" for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy will be altered accordingly.
3. When greeting His Eminence, the proper address is: "Sevasmiotate;" (in English: "Your Eminence.")

**PARTICIPATION IN HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Holy Week Services constitute a special spiritual moment in time for every Orthodox Christian. There are many ways in which parishioners may participate in these special services:

1. Everyone is needed on the **Saturday of Lazarus (April 8th)** to make "**Palm Crosses**" in preparation for the Palm Sunday Services.
2. Those who want to decorate icons of the Nymphios; the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ are to inform **Fr. Ted or Lula Valissarakos**.
3. We would like to encourage the members of the Philoptochos to participate with the chanters in reading various Psalms and Epistle passages included in the services. See Fr. Ted for details.
4. This year **Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym** will meet with the parents of the young ladies who are to serve as **Myrrh-bearers** at the Holy Friday Epitaphio Service prior to that date. Please contact either Fr. Ted or Deacon Euthym to schedule such a meeting.
5. All the ladies of our parish are asked to help with the decoration of the Epitaphio on Holy Friday morning. **Lula Valissarkos** will direct and coordinate this effort.
6. As always we are in need of men to help carry the **Epitaphio** on Holy Friday night. **George Argyros** will chair in the organization of the procession of the Epitaphio.
7. All are invited to participate in the annual **Holy Friday Retreat**. Our **Sunday School students** are especially welcome. The retreat is led by **Deacon Euthym Kontaxis**.
8. Readers of the Gospel passage that is read in different languages at the Easter Agape Vesper Service held on Sunday, April 16th are to inform Fr. Ted regarding which passages they would like to read.

## 2017 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Times scheduled for all Holy Week Services are as follows:

*Morning Services (except Easter Sunday [Pascha]) 9:00 a.m.:*

- Holy Wednesday
- Holy Thursday
- Holy Friday
- Holy Saturday

*Evening Services (except Holy Friday & Holy Saturday nights) 6:30 p.m.*

Saturday, April 8..Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  
Preparation of Palm Crosses – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 9..Palm Sunday  
Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 10..Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11..Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12:  
Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.  
Holy Unction Service – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 13.  
Divine Liturgy – 9:00 a.m.  
Service of the 12 Gospels- 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 14:  
Decoration of Epitaphio-8:00 a.m.  
Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.  
Annual Holy Friday Retreat-10:00 a.m.  
Epitaphio Service – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15  
Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m.  
Resurrection Hymnal Service – 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16.  
Resurrection Service-12:00 am  
Orthros – 12:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy- 1:00 a.m.  
Easter Agape Service – 3:00 p.m.

## ANNUNCIATION FEAST DAY CHARITY LUNCHEON

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to Pam Zaveredas for organizing a luncheon to benefit the homeless on Saturday, March 25th after liturgy. Pam prepared a delicious Lenten lunch of tuna salad, Greek potato salad, & citrus cabbage salad for around 30 guests. After eating, the group played bingo games to help raise funds for the homeless. All funds raised for this event are going to two organizations that help the homeless; Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and StreetLife Project. There was no cost to the church for this event as all food & prizes were donated to the church. Father Ted has requested that this be an annual event on Annunciation Day each year.

During the luncheon event, a presentation was given by **Christian Jelmberg**, founder of a non-profit group, "STREETLIFEPROJECT." This group's main goal is to assist the homeless in our valley by helping them get off the streets in order to begin a new life. They assist with food, clothing toiletries, job search, & housing. This is a Christian-based organization and in addition, they transport the homeless to church on Sundays.

During our holy Lenten period, we are asked to extend "Philoxenia" to those less fortunate by those of us who are able to do so. As Christ said, "Inasmuch as you did it for the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me". (Matthew 25:40). Let's extend our St. George Orthodox community " Philoxenia " to help the homeless by bringing small size toiletry items to church to donate for their use including items like; combs, brushes, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body cream, hand cream, shampoo, sunscreen, disposable razors, etc. (small travel sizes are best). Please place these items in the designated container(s) in the church hall BY APRIL 16th! Thank you!

May you and your family have a blessed Pascha!  
– RHONDA LATKOVIC,  
Coordinator of the Homeless Project

ANNUNCIATION CHARITY LUNCHEON, *continued*



J.J. Richards oversees the fellowship games at the Annunciation Luncheon

Rhonda & Pauline Latkovic at the Annunciation Charity Luncheon

Above left: Christian Jelmborg, director of the **Street Life Project**, is introduced to our parishioners by **Rhonda Latkovic**. To the left, **Pam Zeverdas** welcomes the participants of the First Annual Annunciation Charity Luncheon.



The Homeless Project is part of our general parish outreach efforts, which dove-tails with our St. George Philoptochos national, regional and local charity contributions.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Photos from the Membership Luncheon hosted by **Kalitsa Xitco** on **Saturday, March 18, 2017**



Photographed above, participants in the **Annual Philoptochos Membership Luncheon** partake of the delicious luncheon menu items prepared by Koutouki Estiatorio of Palm Desert.



At the **Annual Philoptochos Membership Luncheon**, 47 Philoptochos Members gathered at the home of **Kalitsa Xitco** at **Indian Ridge** on **Saturday, March 18, 2017**. Fr. Ted noted that the sincere Christian love shown by the Philoptochos members has become a significant factor in helping the entire St. George parish experience a sense of strong Christian-family bonds.

**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/](http://www.go-stgeorge.org/)**  
**email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)**  
**Telephone: (760)568-9901 / FAX: 9760) 568-9492**

# APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Schedule of Sunday Services: Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Sunday School- 10:30 a.m.						1 Art Exhibit of Nicholas Kontaxis Los Angeles, CA  No Vespers
2- St. Mary of Egypt Ep.-Heb. 9:11-14 Gos.-St. Mark 10:32-45	3- Holy Confession- <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Philoptochos Board Mtg.-11:00 a.m.  AHEPA Meeting- 6:30 p.m.	4 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Men's Bible Study—6:30 p.m.	5  Presanctified Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.	6  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m. AHEPA Mtg.—6:30 p.m. Parish Council-6:30 p.m.	7 Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.	8 <b>Saturday of Lazarus</b> <b>Orthros-8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>Vespers—5:00 p.m.</b>
9 -Palm Sunday Ep.-Phil.4:4-9 Gos. St. John <u>12:1-8</u> Palm Sunday Luncheon Nymphios-6:30p.m.	10 <b>Holy Monday</b>  Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.	11 <b>Holy Tuesday</b>  Nymphios Service-6:30 p.m.	12 <b>Holy Wednesday</b> Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9 a.m.  Holy Unction- 6:30 pm	13 <b>Holy Thursday</b> Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.  Service of the 12 Gospels- 6:30 p.m.	14 <b>Holy Friday</b> <u>Royal Hours-9:00 am</u> "Taking of Christ From the Cross" <u>Service- 12 noon</u> Epitaphio - 7:00 p.m.	15 <b>Holy Saturday</b> Divine <u>Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.</u> Resurrection Hymnal Service 11:00 p.m.
<b>16- HOLY AND GREAT PASCHA EASTER SUNDAY</b> Resurrection Service-12 midnight Agape Service- 3:00 p.m	17 Philoptochos General Members' Meeting -11:30 a.m.	18 Bible Study-10:00 am  Men's Bible Study-6:30 p.m.	19	20  Choir Practice-1:00 pm	21. <b>LIFE-GIVING FONT— Liturgy at 9:30 am</b> // St. George Golf Tournament @ Desert Willow C.C.— 1:00 p.m. Steak Dinner-6:00p.m	22— St. George Golf Tournament @ Desert Willow C.C— 8:00 a.m. Vespers- 5:00 p.m. Golf Tournament Award Dinner-6:00 pm
23- St. Thomas  Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos	24  Special Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	25 Bible Study-10:00 am	26 Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy-Laity Assembly at St. Nicholas Ranch	27 Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy-Laity Assembly at St. Nicholas Ranch & Clergy Mtg. following	28 A.M. Clergy Meeting- St. Nicholas Ranch	29  No Vespers

**Sunday, April 30, 2017: SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN: Ep.— Acts 6: 1-7  
Gos.-St. Mark 15: 43-47; 16:1-8**



ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PALM DAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 9, 2017

Dear Parishioners

Once again, our Parish Community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will hold its annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this meaningful holiday celebration.

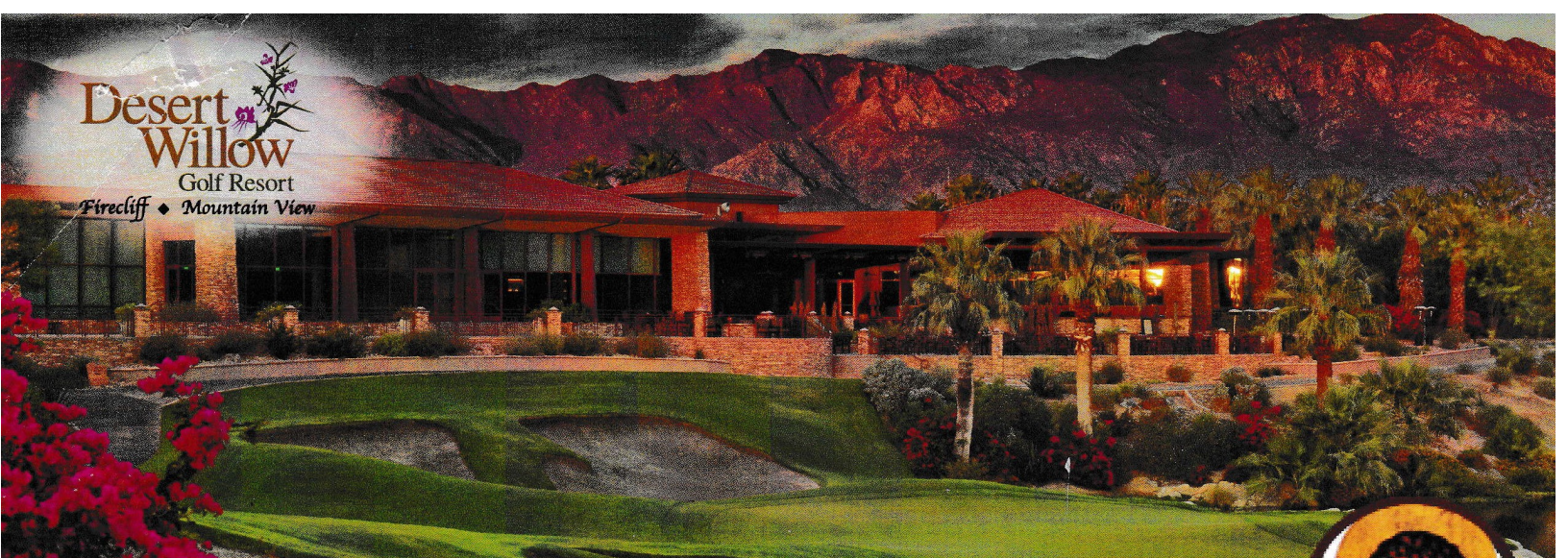
The cost for the luncheon will be \$15.00 per person. We would appreciate your support. Please enclose your payment with this form made out to St. George Church. You can mail it to P.O. box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to the office. The deadline is April 3, 2017.

Please print your name on the line below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_



# SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017 • 2:00PM SHOTGUN | SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017 • 8:00AM SHOTGUN

## ENTRY INFORMATION

### FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

- **\$125.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 2:00pm Shotgun Start (Stroke Play) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Steak Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church

### SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 8:00am Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

## SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

### TEE SPONSOR - \$100

Package Includes: One Tee Sign

## INDIVIDUAL AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s)  
Friday, April 21, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Players) x \$125    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Individual Player(s)  
Saturday, April 22, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Players) x \$175    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tee Sponsorship(s)  
   \_\_\_ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Steak Dinner  
Friday, April 21, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Dinners) x \$25    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Traditional Greek  
Dinner | Saturday, April 22, 2017    \_\_\_ (# of Dinners) x \$35    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## EVENT REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company (Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAYER NAME

1. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN# \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Register Online: [www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge](http://www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge)**

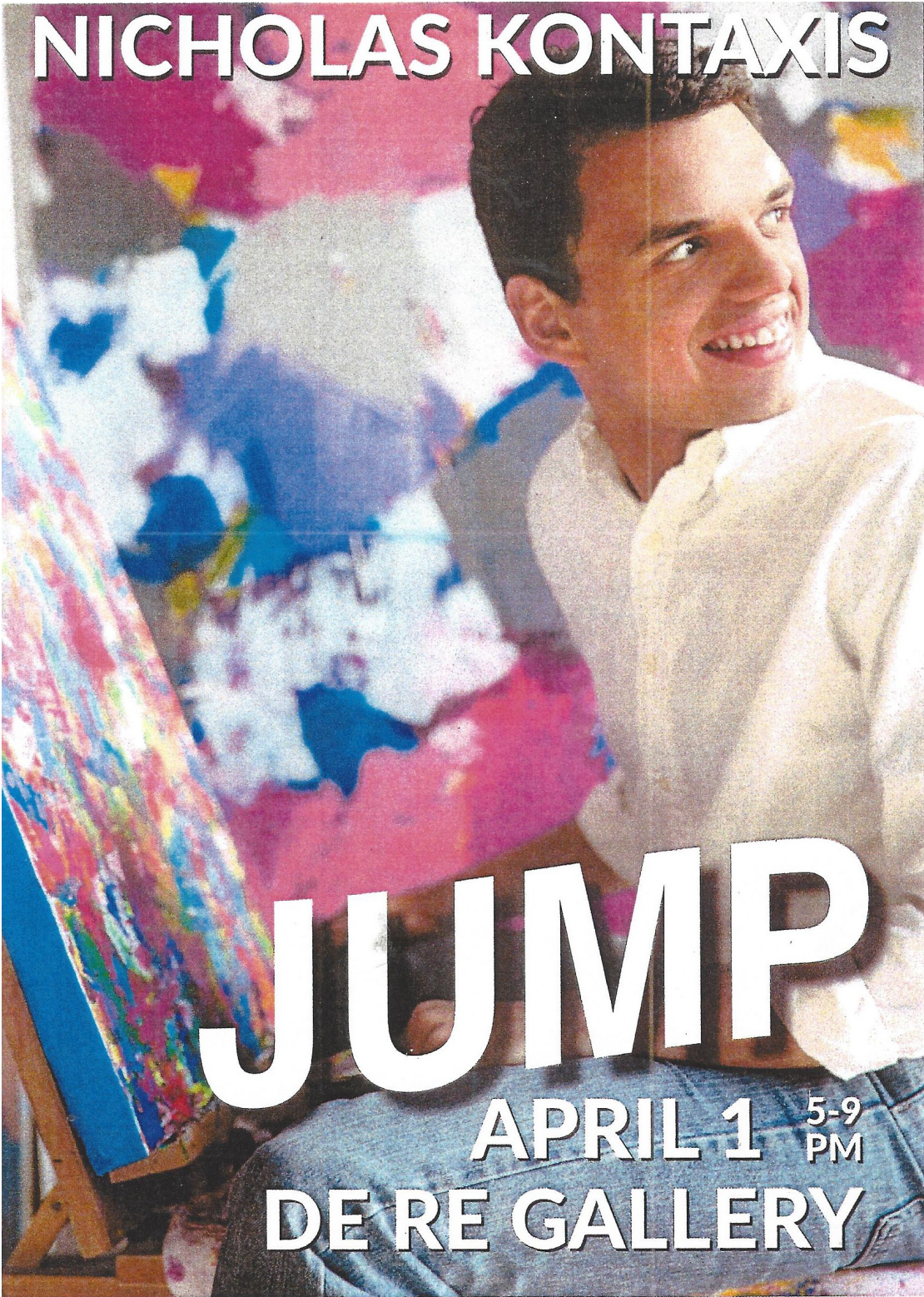
**Make Checks Payable To:**

**“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”**

**Send Checks and Registration Form To:**

**PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261**

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS



# JUMP

APRIL 1 5-9 PM

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16x20 - Heavy Body Acrylic

8373 melrose los angeles. ca. 310.205.7959



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**FEAST DAY OF ST. GEORGE**

**HOSTING:**

**HIS EMINENCE,  
METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS**

**of**

**SAN FRANCISCO**

**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!**