

AUGUST 2017



# Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



### Inside this issue

## MORE HONORABLE THAN ANGELS

As we commemorate the **Dormition of the Holy Mother of God on August 15th**, we call to mind Her attributes and Her role in the Divine Plan for the salvation of the human race.

First, She has a *pure soul*. While the Orthodox Church does not proclaim a doctrine such as that of the Roman Catholic Church known as *The Immaculate Conception*, Orthodoxy proclaims that She is the most pure in soul, based on Her humility before God. Her purity of soul is made manifest through the grace of the Holy Spirit through Whom She conceived the Only-Begotten Son of God and gave Birth to Him according to the flesh. His flesh is from Her flesh, which is of our flesh as human beings from generation to generation. This is partly why, inspired by the Holy Spirit in Her humility, She proclaimed a

fundamental truth: *"All generations shall call me blessed..."* (St. Luke 1: 48). The purity of Her soul is founded upon Her extreme humility, *"Behold, I am the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to Me according to Your word...[The Lord] has regarded the lowly estate of His maidservant..."* (St. Luke 1: 38 & 48).

Second, the Mother of God is *Ever-Virgin*. The Church proclaims this on the basis of the Bible. *"Joseph... did not know Her till She had brought forth Her firstborn Son."* (1:24). The word "till" in the context of Christ's Birth means the same thing as it does when Christ our God used this same word in His preaching, saying, *"I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or tittle will by no means pass from the law until all things are fulfilled."* (St. Matthew 5:22). The word "till" means "forever," since

heaven is the Kingdom of God forever. Heaven will never "pass away." And the passing of the earth is a passing when all of creation is reckoned with the Eternal Kingdom of God at the end time.

Third, the Holy Mother of God was taken by Christ into His Eternal Kingdom upon the end of Her earthly life. This is confirmed by millions of miracles experienced in the lives of many throughout the world as a result of prayers asking for Her intercessions for their salvation. This is exactly what we commemorate with the Divine Liturgy marking Her Dormition on August 15th. Her appearance to many throughout history has been the cause of their repentance from sin, making them Saints of God. This is why we say during the Liturgy: *"Remembering our Most Holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the*

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Mailing Address  
**St. George Church**  
**P.O. Box 4755**  
**Palm Desert, CA 92261**  
**Tel: (760) 568-9901**  
**FAX: (760) 568-9492**  
 Email: [stgeorgepd@aol.com](mailto:stgeorgepd@aol.com)  
 Website: [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org)  
 -Fr. Theodore Pantels, Pastor  
 -Dcn. Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.

*Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another to Christ our God."*

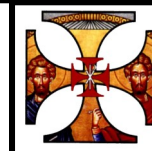
Fourth, the Holy Mother of God *intercedes* for our salvation. The incident at the marriage in Cana of Galilee cannot be undervalued. Marriage is the "ingredient" for making generations of humans, including each one of us. We are born from the union of male and female cells (*gametes*— hence, the Greek word, "*gamos*", which means *marriage*). Human life is a *joy* to God Who so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son. This joy in Jewish religious tradition has been symbolized by *wine*. When the wine at Cana failed, it was the Mother of God Who interceded on behalf of the people, saying, "*They have no wine...*" (St. John 2: 1-11) – in essence, saying they have no joy in the reality of life. As such, wine is the medium for conveying the joy that is inherent in the reality of life. This reality is ultimately conveyed in that wine becomes the Life-giving Blood of Christ at the Liturgy. Her intercession at Cana of Galilee is, also, Her on-going intercession for the whole Church.

Finally, She is the *first of all the Saints* of the Church, She "pre-dates" the saintliness of the Apostles themselves and, in Her role of giving birth to Christ in the flesh, She made Saints of the Prophets who foretold the advent of Christ the Messiah. This is especially clear from the Prophet Isaiah: "*And, behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son...*" (Isaiah 7:14). Saints have become Saints, because She is the first among Saints.

This is more important than any work of the angels. Angels are ministers and messengers of God, sent to help humanity in God's Plan for human redemption. But, there is nothing to suggest that angels have the capacity of sacrificial love, from which one is able to be empathetic and caring for others; patient with others; enduring the needs of others, etc. In this, the Mother of God is "Higher in honor than the angels" - and, through Her intercessions, we too are destined to be *more honorable than the angels*.

+FR. THEODORE

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



We are updating our **Philoptochos phone and address directory**. When you renewed your membership in March, we collected the data you filled out on the membership envelopes. Since March, if you have changed your address, phone number and/or email address please let **Linda Kallis** know so we will have your updated information. We will need to hear from you by **Sunday, August 6**.

Our donations for January through July were \$5,297.25. Donations for July included Coachella Valley Rescue Mission's Bottled Water Project. Thank you to our parishioners who donated to this project for the homeless. We also donated to the Visiting Nurses Association. The VNA provides fans to shut-ins without air conditioning.

In September we will start our meetings. Our Board Meeting will be on Monday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. Our General Meeting will be on Monday, September 18 at 11:30 a.m.

– LINDA KALLIS,  
Philoptochos President

## UPCOMING SO. CALIFORNIA GREEK FESTIVALS

### Long Beach Greek Festival September 2-4, 2017:

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
5761 Colorado Ave.  
Long Beach, CA  
Phone: (562) 494- 8929  
web.: [lbgreekfest.org](http://lbgreekfest.org)

### Cardiff-By-The-Sea Greek Festival September 9-10, 2017:

Sts. Constantine & Helen Gr. Orthodox Church  
3459 Manchester Ave.  
Cardiff-By-The-Sea, CA  
Phone: (760) 942-0920  
web.: [cardiffgreekfestival.com](http://cardiffgreekfestival.com)

### St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Greek Festival – October 14-15, 2017

*See fliers advertising this event posted in parish hall.*

## THE HOSPITAL CALL AND TREATMENT

Generally, hospitalizations & treatments are considered to be “routine,” until it involves us personally. A stint in the hospital or convalescent setting tremendously interferes with our plans; our routine; our responsibilities. The anxiety associated with the event is itself a distraction, as thoughts swirl through our minds—“What is wrong with me?” “What kind of treatment will I be subjected to?” “What about my family?” “What does this mean for my work and finances?”

In accordance with our Holy Orthodox Faith, the priest is obligated to offer Holy Confession and Holy Communion to those who are hospitalized or confined to treatment centers. This is especially because people are often at their weakest point spiritually. The distractions associated with such events make it difficult to pray and to maintain an outlook that brings God’s peace into our souls. Holy Communion is the medicine for both our bodies and souls, because the Body and Blood of Christ strengthen our bodies and souls, claiming them as His, rather than only ours. With Holy Communion, Holy Confession offers the opportunity to uncover for ourselves the kinds of behavior or attitudes that helped to create our injuries or illnesses, while turning to Christ our God Who is the True Physician of our souls and bodies. It is so important for people to request Holy Communion when in the hospital that the Church suspends the fasting discipline that normally is to be observed.

Certainly, injury or illness in themselves can be a “wake-up call” for us to repent of some self-destructive ways. We can embrace pain or suffering as the cross that we carry for God’s glory, while contemplating the fact that we must always be prepared to enter the Eternal Kingdom. Chaplain Donald Craig of Eisenhower Medical Center shared with me the words of St. John of the Cross: *“And I saw the river over which every soul must pass to reach the kingdom of heaven, and the name of that river was suffering...And I saw the boat which carries souls across the river and the name of the boat was love.”*

+FR. THEODORE

## ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

**The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund grew from \$305,483.57 at month end April, 2017 to \$312,192.37 at the month end June 2017.**

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

Domestic Equities.....	\$160,597.78.....	51%
Domestic Fixed Income.....	\$125,629.38.....	41%
International Equities.....	\$ 22,830.71.....	7%
Cash & Equivalents..	\$ 3,134.50.....	1%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$312,192.57.....</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Endowment Fund has grown + over the month due to a robust equity market in 2017 and +2.2% Or \$18,804.22 from end of year 2016. We do not report benchmark comparisons monthly as these are issued at the end of quarter.

Our Fund Manager states that at this point we should expect current trends to hold: Moderate global economic growth, rising inflation that leads to commodity price gains and a stable or slightly weaker U.S. Dollar, all of which provide a favorable macroeconomic backdrop for emerging market economies (i.e. Greece) and financial markets.

**Parishioners are always welcome to donate by check to the Endowment Fund through the St George Parish Office with St George of the Desert Endowment Fund written on the Memo Line of the check. Remember the Church in your estate planning. To date, \$925 has been donated.**

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

—NICK LATKOVIC,  
Endowment Fund Chairman

## THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION AUGUST 6th

The August 6th Feast of the Transfiguration falls in the middle of the Fast for the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Virgin Mary. With the Feast of the Transfiguration we have a more upbeat festival about the Divinity and nature of Jesus Christ. (See Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:28-36; and Luke 9: 28-36.) Also, this Feast is an exploration of the Holy Trinity as well.

The Lord took the three Apostles, Peter, James and John to Mt. Tabor and there Christ was transfigured. His face shone like the sun and His garments became glistening white. However, it is important to note that the light seen was not the light of the sun, but was a really supernatural light, that only comes from God Himself in Trinity. It is the true light of the Kingdom of God. In fact, there is clue in the Bible about this. Just before each Gospel narrative of the event, we are told something else, as well. *"Assuredly, I say to you there are some standing here who will not taste of death till they see the Son of Man coming into His Kingdom."* (Matthew 16:28). This is reported in the other Gospel accounts.

On Mt. Tabor we see two great personages of the Old Testament: Moses and Elijah, who appeared with Christ. All three Apostles were dumbfounded by this event and they fell on their faces in astonishment and worship. Peter declared how good it was to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah and Christ. This seems to show that it took place during the Feast of the Tabernacles when Jews would camp in the fields for the grape harvest. Here was the memory of their wandering in the wilderness, as told to us in the Book of Exodus. Elijah was received into heaven without dying, while Moses was the recipient of the Law of God.

Now comes the role of the Trinity. A voice from Heaven (the Father), *"This is My beloved Son...listen to Him!"* Then the Son is transfigured. The Holy Spirit also shares in the same divinity with the Father and the Son. Afterwards, Jesus appeared and calmed them, while asking them not to repeat this

to anyone until after He had risen from the dead.

For us, like for the Apostles, the Transfiguration is a moment of joy as we remember that, just as the Lord was glorified, we also will experience the direct knowledge of God as shown in the Transfiguration.

Indeed, the East and the West disagreed over the nature of the Divine Light. To the Orthodox, this was the "uncreated light" that reveals God, but it is not the ordinary light that we see every day. To the West, it is the "created light" showing the glory of God, as a dazzling created light, as in the phenomenon of lightning.

So, the Transfiguration became a way to express sharing in the divine nature of God. This event is something that we can all be a part of. It is a way to receive God's grace and His real light. It is a blessing to all who search for Christ our God. God bless all of you!

—MATTHW DAVIS

## THE SAINT GEORGE MASTER CALENDAR

With September close at hand we begin thinking from now of the New Church Year. As people are making plans to participate in our parish life, efforts are being made to prepare a Master Calendar for St. George, notifying people of events taking place from September 2017 to June 2018:

September 10– Sunday School Registration  
 September 17 –First Day of Sunday School  
 November 4 – Pet Blessing Event & Fundraiser  
 November 12– Veterans Day Celebration  
 November 18– General Assembly  
 December 10– Parish Elections  
 December 17 – Christmas Program  
 December 24-25 – The Feast of Christmas  
 January 7 – Vasilopita  
 February 17-18 – St. George Greek Festival  
 February 19 – Great Lent  
 April 8 – Holy Easter (Pascha)  
 June 3 –Sunday School End-of-Year Ceremony.

**Please let us know about additions (or corrections) needed.**



## STEWARDSHIP MID-YEAR UPDATE



The Stewardship committee is pleased to report that we have met & actually exceeded, the 2017 annual pledge goal! As of July 1st, our pledges total **\$122,475** or **\$7,475** over the set plan for the year.

Thanks to our quick start at the beginning of the year, and the increased generosity of our parishioners, and along with the acquisition of new members, this has helped us to achieve our pledge plan. **We are extremely grateful to our fellow brothers & sisters in Christ for your generosity!**

We currently have **113 stewards** (families) in total. Approximately **\$72,000** has already been received by the church towards the total pledge of **\$122,475**, with **\$50,000** outstanding (yet to be paid). Pledges are due in full by December 31, 2017.

Plans are in place to mail out stewardship recap letters to all parishioners during the month of August. In addition, we are including a thank you keepsake gift to everyone for their generosity this year!

Soon we will be setting our plans for the 2018 calendar year. The Archdiocese Department for Stewardship & Evangelism have already communicated their thoughts & recommendations to the Orthodox communities. Below are the highlights of that initial communication that we ask you to reflect upon.

We live in a world that places great value on material wealth and possessions. However, these

are fleeting. It is the voice of Jesus Christ and the truth of His Gospel that remains constant in this ever-changing world. We are called to be good stewards of His Creation, using our wealth and material possessions to meet the needs of not only ourselves, but of the church and others in need. If we compare ourselves to the stewards in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), do we multiply the treasure for which we are responsible and for which we will be held accountable when the Master returns? Or do we bury treasure in the ground, offering back only that which was given to us? Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you". (John 20: 21) At the end of our life, will He say to us, "Well done good and faithful servant."?

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3: 23). This is the theme for the 2018 Stewardship Ministry. Powerful words to consider. Thank you again for your generosity and support this year! If anyone would like to volunteer to be a part of the Stewardship team, please see **Rhonda Latkovic** or **Father Ted Pantels**.

Yours in Christ,  
– RHONDA LATKOVIC,  
Stewardship Chairperson

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School registration for the school year 2017-2018 will be held on **Sunday, September 10, 2017**.

The first Sunday of Sunday school following the summer recess is **Sunday, September 17, 2017**.

We are grateful to God for the efforts of the Sunday teachers and staff, as well as the parents, who every year dedicate themselves to teaching our precious Orthodox Christian Faith to the children of our parish.

Sunday School classes will feature instructions for children at every level: nursery school, elementary/jr. high, and high school levels.

## 2018 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL

Official preparations for our 2018 Greek Festival will begin with our first Festival Meeting for the year, Monday, September 11, 2017.

It is becoming ever more important for volunteers to come forward to help during the weeks leading up to the Festival and during the week-end of the Festival itself. The preparation schedule will be presented by Festival Chairman, George Argyros, at the first Festival meeting.

Last year the Health Department wrote us up for not having a solid surface under the grills at the cooking area where gyros, souvlakia, loukaniko, etc. are prepared. This means that it is absolutely imperative for us to have this matter resolved going into the Festival in 2018, or else the Health Department can choose to close down our event.

Options have been put on the table including a simple tarp; a ply-wood surface with planks fastened in such a way so as to avoid tripping; a concrete surface, like a "patio," etc. Storage for a large enough tarp surface and/or ply-wood surface would be a challenge. Costs for all options need to be analyzed against the background of parish liability. Options and solutions will be presented to parish members going forward.

Volunteers are asked to commit themselves to helping throughout morning hours and part of the afternoons during the weeks leading up to the Festival. Those volunteering their help for the Festival weekend itself are asked to work a full shift—4 hours—at the least.

Finally, those who cannot volunteer either because they will be away or because they are physically unable to work are asked to "donate" a worker for a shift. To hire a worker for a shift at our Festival requires a \$60 donation per 4 hour shift. It is a way for those who cannot physically help to still help through economic support.

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Parish Council met on Sunday, June 25, 2017 to address two agenda items: 1) the 2018 Greek Festival and, 2) the renewal of the lease for the Canon Company coping machine.

The Council decided that **George Argyros** will be the chairman of the 2018 St. George Greek Festival. Also, the members of the Parish Council agreed that, since Great Lent in 2018 begins on Monday, February 19th, the Festival will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18, 2018.**

In addition, the Parish Council agreed to renew the lease for the Canon copy machine that is situated in the parish work room. The lease, however, features a much better deal than did the previous lease. 1) We are receiving a brand new, up-to-date Canon copy machine, leased at \$263 per month, as opposed to \$354 per month as per the old lease. Black and white copies on the old machine cost 2 cents per copy, compared to 3/4 of a cent with the new copier. Color copies as per the old lease cost 13 cents per copy; the new machine with the new lease copies in color for about 1/2 a cent per copy.

Going forward, a Master Calendar for parish events and Church services from September 2017 to June 2018 will be developed in the near future.

## CHOIR

Hats off to those who came together to sing the hymns of the Divine Liturgy throughout this summer.

Keep in mind that our choir is scheduled to be in full force on **September 10th**. For those who are not members of the choir at this time, now is a good time to consider joining the choir. Contact our parish office to make arrangements to see our Choir Director, **Annette Laskaris** to join. Beginning in September, choir rehearsals will take place on Thursdays. Specific dates and times will be announced.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO OUR PARISH BY-LAWS—

This fall, a special General Assembly will be called to vote on changes to our parish By-Laws to be ratified by the Metropolis of San Francisco. Only Stewardship members for 2017 may vote. Among the issues that are addressed in the proposed changes:

1. Parish Council members: total of 9 (instead of 11)
2. Stewardship— Minimum: \$600 per year. Application for "Hardship" to be submitted in confidence to the priest on a yearly basis.
3. Endowment Fund: Considered a Parish Council committee. But, will always report to the General Assembly
4. All Parish Committees are to meet at least 3 times year.
5. Hiring of all personnel requires compliance with labor laws, harassment codes, and tax form requirements.
6. Limit of \$250 for any church purchase without authorization from Parish Council

## PROPOSED ST. GEORGE MASTER PLAN

On **Thursday, August 3rd**, the Parish Council will meet to study proposals made over the years to upgrade our parish ministries and facilities. Perhaps, **two General Assembly meetings** will be called by the Parish Council for approval of the final version of the **Master Plan**. Among the many items to be addressed as part of the Master Plan, 3 seem popular:

1. *The Festival needs & the upgrade of the courtyard area to provide for grilling needs.*
2. *The re-flooring of the parish hall*
3. *Development of 5- acre Rancho Mirage parcel.*

To facilitate discussion regarding these needs, a comprehensive and complete financial report, listing all financial aspects of the parish will be issued to Stewardship Members in mid-August 2017.

## SAINT OF THE MONTH

### ST. THADDEUS, THE APOSTLE

The Apostle Thaddaeus was from Edessa. When he came to Jerusalem, he became a disciple of Christ, and after His Ascension he returned to Edessa. There he catechized and baptized Abgar (see Aug. 16). Having preached in Mesopotamia, he ended his life in martyrdom. Though some call him one of the Twelve, whom Matthew calls "Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus" (Matt. 10:3), the ancient historian Eusebius says that he is one of the Seventy: "*After [Christ's] Resurrection from the dead, and His ascent into Heaven, Thomas, one of the twelve Apostles, inspired by God, sent Thaddaeus, one of the seventy disciples of Christ, to Edessa as a preacher and evangelist of Christ's teaching*" (Eccl. Hist. 1: 13). In essence, very little is known about St. Thaddeus. Biblical scholars suggest, however, that the four names used for him all refer to the same person: Thaddeus, Jude, Lebaeus, Judas (not Iscariot).

St. Thaddeus preached the gospel as a missionary following Jesus' resurrection. Some Biblical scholars believe Thaddeus penned the book of Jude, although more take the view that Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, is the author. Many throughout Christendom consider the last two verses of the Epistle of Jude (24-25) contain a doxology, or "expression of praise to God," considered the finest in the New Testament.

Although St. Thaddeus founded the Church in Edessa, he was also martyred there. The circumstances which came together to cause his martyrdom are not clear. Some sources say that he was martyred by crucifixion; others say that he was beheaded. There are images of St. Thaddeus in which he is depicted holding an axe, indicating that he may have been beheaded.

None the less, the Feast Day for St. Thaddeus is **August 21st** every year.

## THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### *The Family: Image of Christ's Love Toward the Church & Education in Christ*

*The Holy and Great Council addresses itself with particular love and care to children and to all young people...Our most Holy Church presents the words of our Lord: "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matt 18:17) and "Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (Luke 18:17), as well as what our Savior says about those who "prevent" (Luke 18:16) children from approaching Him and about those who "scandalize" them (Matt. 18:6).*

To young people the Church offers not simply "help", but the truth of the new divine-human life in Christ. Orthodox youth should become aware that they are bearers of the blessed Tradition of the Orthodox Church and also continuers of this Tradition who will courageously preserve and will cultivate in a dynamic way the Eternal values of Orthodoxy in order to give life-giving Christian witness. The young people thus are not simply the "future" of the Church, but the active expression of Her God-loving and human-loving life in the present.

In our time, new tendencies can be observed in the realm of upbringing and education in regard to the content and aims of education, as well as in the way childhood, the role of both teacher and student and the role of the contemporary school are viewed. *Since education relates not only to what man is, but also to what man should be* and to the content of his responsibility, it is self-evident that the image we have of the human person and the meaning of existence determine our view of his education. The dominant secularized individualistic educational system that troubles young people today is of deep concern to the Orthodox Church.

At the center of the Church's pastoral concern is an education that looks not only to the cultivation of the intellect, but also to the edification

and development of the whole person as a psycho-somatic and spiritual being in accordance with the triptych, *God, man and world*. In Her catechetical discourse, the Orthodox Church caringly calls on the people of God, especially the young people, to a conscious and active participation in the life of the Church, cultivating in them the "excellent desire" for life in Christ. Thus, the fullness of the Christian people finds an existential support in the divine-human communion of the Church and experiences in this the resurrectional perspective of *theosis* by grace.

- Taken from *The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church: Encyclical & Message, Part III, Section 8 – Part 4.*

Note: *The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Christian Church was held last summer in June 2016. We continue to share excerpts from the documents issued at the Council.*

## MOCHAS FOR MISSIONS



The "Mochas for Missions" project is a relatively new effort started by the Commission for Orthodox Missions Office of the Metropolis of San Francisco. As of today, Mochas for Missions donations have been received totaling almost \$19,000! Last year 45 parishes participated, including our parish of St. George. The 2017 Metropolis goal is to reach \$45,000 in the effort to provide some needed funding for mission parishes established in the Metropolis of San Francisco.

To learn more information about the "Mochas for Missions" project; the specific mission parishes in question, and how you can help in this project, contact Fr. Ted, who is working with the parish Philoptochos regarding such charitable projects. Or, you may contact directly the Mochas for Missions administrator, **Thomaida Hudanish** by phone at: (503) 277-3928.



## STREET LIFE PROJECTS-JULY EVENTS

On **Thursday, July 13th**, volunteers from our St. George community & Ladies Philoptochos Society along with Father Ted, participated in two volunteer events in the valley. Our thanks to **Father Ted, Louise Dobbs-Barringer, Rhonda Latkovic, Athena Snarskis, & Emily Tcharos** for their support!

The first event was assistance with the distribution of books to help promote childhood literacy and school readiness. Volunteers assisted United Way of the Desert, Corp. Relations Mgr. **Jacob Koetsier** at a Find Food Bank Mobile Pantry & Meal site in Palm Springs. This site was used for the distribution of both food and books to under-privileged & poverty level families in our valley. United Way representative, Jacob shared with us that 83% of the Coachella Valley's children are at or under poverty level. They are able to get a free meal during the school year as a result. However, during the summer, when school is not in session, they are at risk for being undernourished. Find Food Bank delivers fresh, free food to two locations, west & east, in the valley daily, Monday thru Friday the entire summer, to poverty level recipients.

We were quite astonished that in our beautiful community there were so many children at or below the poverty level. The children that came to receive food & books were wonderful and engaging and really deserve all the help we can give them to improve their situation. If you are interested in helping Find Food Bank, please consider a donation. A \$20.00 donation provides 100 meals! You can donate directly by sending a check to: **FIND Food Bank, 83775 Citrus Ave., Indio, CA 92201-3456**. Also, United Way of the Desert uses the majority of their donations to improve the lives of at risk children in our valley through the services & programs provided. You can donate to them directly by sending a check to: **United Way of the Desert, 73710 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260**.

The second event was assistance to the home -

less at Sunrise Park in Palm Springs in conjunction with The Street Life Project volunteers. We assisted in providing cold bottled water to the homeless along with trail mix snack bags on this occasion. Again we were all astonished at the suffering these individuals go through during our extremely hot days during the summer. Just a few hours of volunteer work being out in the heat was quite overwhelming for us & we couldn't imagine what it would be like 24/7. The homeless were very appreciative of our efforts to help them and many thanked us for helping them out. Father Ted held a prayer circle for all who wanted to join in, offering a prayer to our Lord to help the homeless individuals, which was very moving. Thanks to the many donations of generous benefactors, we were able to purchase the water & snacks through the Ladies Philoptochos Society account established to help the homeless.

If you are interested in volunteering at future community events to help the less fortunate, please contact **Rhonda Latkovic @ 714-875-4661** or via email at: [r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com/](mailto:r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com/)



Pictured above: St. George volunteers helping the United Way distribute books to school children in Palm Springs on Thursday, July 13th.



To the left: Community volunteers from the Find Food Bank helping to supply food for the hungry in Palm Springs. \$20 can help to feed 4 families. Contributions to the Find Food Bank are always welcome.

*Continued on the next page* — — — —>

## STREET LIFE PROJECT-JULY EVENTS, continued



Pictured to the left: Athena Snarskis and Emily Tcharos of St. George giving books to children



Pictured above: Palm Springs residents gathering needed food from the Find Food Bank of Coachella Valley on Thursday, June 13th.



Pictured above: Our St. George parishioners helping to feed the hungry at Sunrise Park in Palm Springs on June 13th. Rhonda Latkovic (in the foreground wearing a white blouse), Louise Dobbs Barringer (to the right wearing a yellow blouse with red slacks) and Emily Tcharos and Athena Snarskis (speaking with Louise).

## AHEPA NEWS



AHEPA Chapter 528 once again helped in the hosting of a successful District 20 AHEPA Family Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Indian Wells, California on June 22-24, 2017. This year, the District 20 Daughters of Penelope led in the efforts of hosting the conference.

AHEPA Supreme Secretary, **Carl Hollister**, guest of honor, delivered a key-note address, asking that the accomplishments of the National, District, and local AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope organizations be increasingly more publicized throughout our land. Along these lines, he commended the efforts of our local AHEPA Chapter President, **Wynn Storton**, who also serves as the National AHEPA webmaster.

Fr. Ted spoke to the delegates of AHEPA District 20 at the morning session on Friday, June 22nd. Among the comments that he made in his address were the following:

*"There is no reason for anyone to feel as though he or she cannot speak with the parish priest about his or her personal concerns, or about the work of AHEPA. It is only right to engage your parish priests. Have a cup of coffee with them! It is right, since the AHEPA Family has served to establish many of our Greek Orthodox parishes throughout America. Not only that, but the AHEPA Family on every scale – national, regional, local – has labored diligently to raise the required funds for church facilities, which enhance the life of every Greek Orthodox parishioner. For example, when the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center near Fresno, California was in great need of financial support, it was AHEPA District 21 that not long ago completed the AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope Boys' Dorm Renovation Project. I should note that Philoptochos has also funded facilities at the Ranch. Still, the AHEPA Family is now forging ahead to raise the needed funds to complete the construction of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine in New York. So, why not engage your priests? Why not let them know your individual hopes and dreams and allow them to offer continued spiritual guidance?"*



**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**

# AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1—Beginning of 15-Day Fasting Season in honor of the Holy <u>Theotokos</u> . Bible Study— 10:00 a.m. Paraklisis-6:30 p.m.	2  Paraklisis-6:30 p.m.	3  Parish Council—1:00 p.m.	4  Men's Bible Study-11:30 p.m..  Paraklisis— 6:30 p.m.	5  Great Vespers-5:00 p.m.
6- <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST</b> Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Ep.2 Peter 1:10-19 Gos.-St. Matth. 17: 1-9	7  Paraklisis-6:30 p.m.	8  Bible Study-10:00	9  Paraklisis-6:30 p.m.	10	11  Men's Bible Study-11:30 a.m.  Paraklisis - 6:30 p.m.	12  Vespers-5:00 p.m.
13- <b>10th Sunday of Matthew</b> Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Ep.-1 Cor. 4:9-16 Gos.-St. Matth. 17:14-23	14  Vespers— 6:30 p.m.	15-DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS Orthros-8:30 a.m. Di.Liturgy-9:30 a.m  Bible Study-11:00	16	17	18  Men's Bible Study —11:30 p.m.	19  Vespers-5:00 p.m.
20- <b>11th Sunday of Matthew</b> Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Ep.-1 Cor. 9: 2-12 Gos.-St. Matth. 18:23-35	21	22  Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	23	24	25  Men's Bible Study-11:30 a.m.	26  No Vespers
27- <b>12th Sunday of Matthew</b> Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Ep.-1 Cor. 15: 1-11 Gos.— St. Matth. 19: 16-26	28  Vespers—6:30 p.m.	29-THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Fasting Day) Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  Bible Study-11:00 a.m	30	31	<u>SEPTEMBER 1</u> ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR Orthros-8:30 a.m Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.  No Men's Bible Study	<u>SEPTEMBER 2</u>  Vespers-5:00 p.m.