

NOVEMBER 2017



Voice of St. George

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

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

THANKFUL FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY?

It's the same thing as thanking God for the Bible itself. The Divine Liturgy is also known as *the Eucharist* (the Greek word for "thanksgiving") and is "the Bible in motion," whereby we are real-life participants in the ongoing heavenly banquet, akin to, if only in a vague way, the traditional thanksgiving fares laid out every year on family dinner tables throughout America.

The Divine Liturgy in itself is the best description and definition of the Kingdom of Heaven! Upon experiencing the Divine Liturgy, the Russian Prince Vladimir's emissaries in 988 AD commented that they "knew not whether they were in heaven or on earth." And, with this, Russia became a Christian nation.

Without the Divine Liturgy, we have no Church. Period. The Divine Liturgy is the Mystical Sup-

per to which we are all invited by our Lord. In and of itself it is quite enough for which to be thankful – "eucharist!"

In his classic book, *The Heavenly Banquet*, Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis gives three reasons for which we express thanksgiving to God in the context of the Divine Liturgy:

"We thank God for three reasons: 1) The first reason for thanking God is for Who He is... 'He is always existing and eternally the same...' 2) The second reason for offering thanks to God is for having created us... not only is God our Creator... Should it not be for the sustaining energies of God, we would fall back into non-existence... 3) The third reason for offering thanks to God is not only for having created us, but also for having re-created us spiritually by adopting us as His children and granting us life eternal..." (The Heavenly Banquet, pg.234).

1. We thank God for Who

He is. In other words, God creates everything to be good. God is "eternally the same" - a constant goodness. God is the same: In humanity, He still has the "print of the nails and the wound in His side." In His divinity, He is a constant light, which illumines our souls. St. Gregory of Nyssa speaks about the existence of our souls, giving the following example of the relationship between art and the visible paint. The purity of our souls is a common, consistent factor making us a human race. Like the soul, art is the intangible, yet, constant element of a painting. The paint is not of the same element as the art; when a painting is destroyed, the paint is torn apart, but the art still exists and is visible when the paints come together again. (See: *On the Soul and the Resurrection*, by St. Gregory of Nyssa).

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2) We thank God for creating us. We are God's property! God has made it so that we can know Him through each other. Therefore, our love for one another is evidence of God's love for us and our love for God. Fr. Philotheos Faros points to St. Basil, who noted, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has deigned to style the universal *Ekklesia* (Church) as His Body,.. has made us individually members one of another..." (*Functional and Dysfunctional Christianity*, pg. 70). In short, we thank God for each other.

3. We thank God for saving us – for not ceasing to do "everything until [He] led us to heaven." In fact, God is Himself thankful! God is thankful for us who seek to do His Will: "O Father,...I have manifested Your Name to those whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have kept Your word." (St. John 17:5-6). Thankfulness for us is a blessing, so that we can be thankful to God. At the Last Supper (i.e., the very first Divine Liturgy), our Lord gave thanks, "teaching us how we are to celebrate the sacrament; [being thankful] that He comes willingly to His Passion, and [helps us] to accept sufferings with thankfulness, knowing that God can use suffering for ultimate good." (*Orthodox Study Bible*, pg. 1321).

The willingness of Christ to voluntarily ascend the Cross for us is, in essence, the same willingness that stands behind the whole reality of creation. God creates everything out of Loving Will. The Cross and Resurrection, taken together, is the re-creation to which we are invited to be active participants—i.e., our *repentance* is our personal re-creation. It is made possible by our Lord's voluntary re-creation of all of humanity, in which the fall of Adam and Eve is reversed. Adam was created and then Eve was brought into being from Adam's rib. Now, the pure flesh of the Mother of God (the New Eve) is the sole flesh-component of God's humanity, since He was incarnated by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. The flesh of the Ever-Virgin Mary formed the New Adam—our Savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, we are thankful for the great value that God places upon our human lives. The whole reason for the story of our salvation in Christ is expressed in the Divine Liturgy's Thanksgiving

Prayer: God values each of us and all of us as being more important than the archangels and angels. "We also thank You for this Liturgy, which You are pleased to accept from our hands, even though You are surrounded by thousands of Archangels, angels; by the Cherubim and the Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring with their wings."

Indeed, the Divine Liturgy is the ultimate Thanksgiving meal. We partake of Holy Communion, the very Body and Blood of Christ our True God. "Communion creates community, because God living in us makes us recognize the God in our fellow humans...Communion, that sacred intimacy with God, is not the final moment of the Eucharistic life. We recognized Him, but that recognition is not just for us to savor or to keep a secret...The movement flowing from the Eucharist is the movement from communion to community to ministry. Our experience of communion first sends us to our brothers and sisters to share with them our stories and build with them a body of love. Then, as community, we can move in all directions to reach out to all people." (*With Burning Hearts*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen, pgs.96, 103, 112).

+FR. THEODORE

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL TO SUPPORT PHILOPTOCHOS



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On this blessed Feast of the Holy Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian (November 1st), we are guided by their examples of holiness and compassion to offer service to those in need. Influenced by the saintly life of their devout mother, they chose to use their knowledge and skills for healing those with sickness. They did this freely, with a focus on the well-being of body and soul; and because of their love for God and neighbor, they were blessed with the wisdom to preach the Gospel and with the power to heal through prayer.

While their training in the medical arts equipped them to address physical maladies, Sts. Comas and Damian knew through their faith in Christ
Continued on the next page – – – –>

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL, continued

that the power of faith and grace was much greater. This power could heal mind, body and soul. It is the power to make a person whole and to restore humankind to the potential of our creation in God's image. It is ultimately the power of salvation and eternal life.

These blessed Saints represent our calling to offer healing to all. This healing includes infirmities of mind and body as we have compassion for those who are suffering and afflicted. It also includes healing for the soul, healing that comes through faith and grace, bringing transformation, renewal, and hope. As our Lord *came that they may have life and have it abundantly* (John 10:10), we have a mission to bring wholeness of life to others. As Jesus Christ revealed divine grace by healing body and soul, we are members of His Body, the Church, with a calling to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of all.

This witness continues to be offered through the philanthropic ministries of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate. These ministries include programs for orphans and the poor, as well as the Baloukli Hospital and elder center. Each year, in honor of the service of the Holy Unmercenaries and in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, our National Ladies Philoptochos Society and the local parish chapters lead us in collecting a special offering to support these ministries. On Sunday, November 5, I ask the parishes of the Archdiocese to continue this tradition and give generously so that the work of compassion can continue and reach more in need. Our support for the ministry of healing and care offered by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our commitment to serving those in need in our communities will bring renewal and hope to lives that will experience the healing power of God's love.

With Paternal Love in Christ,
++DEMETRIOS,
Archbishop of America

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**October**

We donated \$1,575 to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. We took \$1,000 from our budget and the remaining was donated by our members. Thank you members.

One of our parishioners (a.k.a. Stealth Angel) donated \$1,000 towards Coachella Valley Rescue Mission Food Drive, Adopt a Student Program and the Color Book Sessions. We are very grateful for our angel.

November**SAVE THE DATE!**

Our General Meeting will be on Monday, November 13 at 11:30 a.m. We will have a special guest; the Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas will be our speaker. You don't want to miss this meeting. We will be meeting at the Old Spaghetti Factory at 11:30 a.m. (They open at 11:30). Please make your reservation with Tina Veroulis or Linda Kallis so we may give an accurate count to management. You will have a choice of three entrees and you will get an individual bill. Please plan on attending.

"Light the Path!" The annual Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos fundraiser for the **Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund** will take place this year on **Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Assumption Church in Long Beach at 11:00 a.m.** For details and more information, contact Linda Kallis.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the AHEPA Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19. The dinner will be at the Town Center Cafe. Come to the Philoptochos table and sign up. The dinner will be \$25.00 and for children under 12: \$10.00.

Our Board Meeting will be on Monday, November 6 at 11:00 a.m.

December

Save the date. Our Christmas Luncheon will be
Continued on the next page -- -->

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, continued

on Saturday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Desert Horizons Country Club. Family and friends are invited. Also, see our Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale Order Form in this issue of *The Voice*.

– LINDA KALLIS,

St. George Philoptochos President

AHEPA NEWS

1. Thanksgiving Luncheon: Due to the construction in the parish hall during the month of November, the annual AHEPA **Thanksgiving Luncheon** will take place at **Towne Center Café at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 19, 2017**. Adults: \$25; Children under 12: \$10. Please see the enclosed AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon flier. We want to express our gratitude to the St. George Ladies of Philoptochos for offering support for the luncheon by helping with reservations.
2. Support our AHEPA Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund: Those who want to donate to the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund** are most welcome to do so. With the continued support from St. George parishioners, AHEPA Chapter 528 plans to distribute college scholarship awards to our local youth into the future. To contribute, contact our AHEPA 528 website at: www.ahepa528.org.
3. Mid-Winter Conference: The AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Castaway Restaurant in San Bernardino, California on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Make reservations from now. See the AHEPA District 20 website: www.ahepadistrict20.org.
4. AHEPA 528 November Meeting: AHEPA 528 meeting, which will take place on **Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Old Spaghetti Factory**, as a no host dinner meeting. As part of the evening's agenda, the AHEPA members will join in a special

festivities honoring **Tom Evans**, who will soon celebrate his 101st birthday. Please Contact President **Wynn Storton** so that reservations and preparations can be made.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Special General Assembly for upgrading the parish courtyard and the parish hall was held on **Sunday, October 1, 2017**. The General Assembly approved both projects, the costs of which were reported in the October 2017 *The Voice of St. George* newsletter.

At the present time, the concrete patio has been installed in the courtyard. This took place from October 9th through October 16th. In addition, the "re-flooring" project in the parish hall is now in the beginning stages. The process of installing the new porcelain tiles will last through much of the month of November. As a result, Sunday "Coffee Hours," the normally-scheduled November Fall General Assembly; the annual Veterans Day program and the AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon have all been impacted. The re-scheduling and re-formatting of these events are listed in the various related sections of this newsletter.

In particular, the Fall General Assembly Meeting is now scheduled for **Sunday, December 10, 2017**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Discussion will include the 2018 parish budget; by-law proposals; festival updates and reports regarding the progress of our courtyard and parish hall upgrades. In addition, an auditing committee needs to be formed

Suggestions for increasing the number of parish members will be welcome, as well as suggestions for more spiritual and fellowship-type of events to be scheduled throughout the year.

Keep in mind that full participation in the General Assembly requires that one is a Stewardship member of the parish. For information regarding Stewardship please contact our parish office.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



At the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, October 23, 2017 the following items were discussed:

1. Final concerns related to the installation of the new flooring in the parish hall were ironed out. The tables and chairs, as well as all book store items were to be removed from the parish hall so that work could begin on Wednesday, November 1st.
2. Coffee hours in the month of November will take place on the patio area outside the kitchen.
3. A list of items requiring maintenance was presented and the parish council decided to attend to the following:
 - A. Repair the motor for the vent in the annex.
 - B. Check the water pipes under the floor outside the women's restroom for possible leaks.
 - C. Repair flagstone walk ways leading to the parish hall and offices and outside the classrooms.
 - D. Repair the damaged church pew (damaged from the fall of the Epitaphio when it was carried for the Holy Friday evening procession.)
4. The Parish Council voted to hold the Fall General Assembly for our parish on Sunday, December 10, 2017 following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.
5. George Argyros gave a report regarding the status of the 2018 St. George Festival. Gratitude was expressed to George for his donation of two refrigerator units for Festival storage.
6. The members committed themselves to helping draw in new stewards to our St. George parish.

2018 FESTIVAL

The November Festival meeting is scheduled to be held on **Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Towne Center Café** (because of the re-flooring project in our parish hall).

George Argyros, 2018 Festival Chairman, reported to the Parish Council that this year there will be no appetizer booth. Appetizers will be distributed through the dinner and grill lines. The bar sections in the parking lot and the courtyard will be enlarged. There will be additional plate selections in the food line.

JNS NEXT will be responsible for advertising, bill boards, newspapers, and radio. JNS will also advertise our Festival in the Desert Entertainer. Advertising the Festival is estimated to cost around \$15,000. Social media will be an extremely important part of this year's advertising strategy. The Festival "menu pamphlet" Ad Program will feature supporters of our Festival who contribute \$300 for a business logo and/or \$150 for a one-line greeting/ad.

Jim Christopoulos is in charge of all volunteers—the more volunteers, the less need to hire workers.

Underwriting Festival costs will be a major factor in contributing to increased Festival revenue. Monetary donations toward Festival items are always welcome. Please write checks to: St. George Greek Orthodox Church, and write "Festival Donation" on the memo line.

As in the past, Becky Allen will be the Chairperson for Yiayia's Attic, which last year brought in \$3,000 for the Festival. However, she will need more help this year. Volunteers for this important Festival station are most welcome. More details regarding set-up will be provided in the near future.

**FR. MATTHEW DAVIS:
STS. PHILIP & MATTHEW**

During the year various Apostles are celebrated. As many know, in Greece people do not celebrate their birthday, but they celebrate their *name day* in honor of their Patron Saint. All in all, there are thirteen Apostles and four Evangelists who wrote or inspired the four Gospels that we read and use in Church. Philip was an Apostle; but, Matthew was an Apostle *and* Evangelist. So, let's start with Matthew.

Matthew is striking since he changed his name. First, he was known as Levi, which alludes to the Jewish Priesthood. But his life was very much distant from such matters. Matthew had been a tax collector, who raised taxes for Rome or local kings. A tax collector was seen as a collaborator for Rome and, as a consequence, he was feared and despised by the Jewish people. So he changed his name to "Matthew," which in Hebrew means "Gift of God." The Church has a tradition that Matthew first wrote his Gospel in Hebrew, but then it was translated into Greek.

We are told by Mark (2:14) and Luke (5:27) that Jesus called Levi, the tax collector to follow Him. As a tax collector he would have been literate in Aramaic and Greek. After his call, Matthew invited Jesus and others to his home for a feast. On this occasion, Scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with tax collectors and sinners, saying, "*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*"

Matthew had his mission to preach the Good News to the Jewish people and this led him to preach to those who lived near Jerusalem. But, he was also guide to Jewish people elsewhere, such as Egypt and Ethiopia, which was heavily influenced by Jewish traditions. Like other Evangelists, he is depicted as one of the living creatures of the Revelation (4:7). The one used is in the form of a winged man. While the Church is clear that Matthew wrote his Gospel in Hebrew or Aramaic, it is less clear where he preached. When one talks about Ethiopia, one thinks of Africa (where Christianity took root). However, this "Ethiopia" may

have been south of the Caspian Sea, where Judaism was well known and where Christianity became strong.

Matthew is celebrated on November 16th, just after the start of the Advent Fast, while Philip is celebrated just before this on November 14th. In Greece, I had a friend who celebrated St. Philip and, later, I adopted a son who was named Philip. Philip used a Greek name and he probably knew Greek and could work with Greeks who were converting to Christ. Philip advised Andrew that some Greeks wanted to know Jesus. During the Last Supper, Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, which gave Jesus the opportunity to teach all people about the unity of the Father and the Son.

There is one area about Philip's identity that causes confusion. There is a follower who wrote a version of the biography of the Virgin Mary and the birth of Christ, who was called Philip the Evangelist. The ancient Church historian, Eusebius, considered both Philips to be the same person, while many considered them to be different. The latter work never became a part of the canon of the Church.

At any rate, Philip worked with the Apostles John and Bartholomew in Asia. When the wife of a Roman Proconsul was converted to Christ, it led to the persecution and crucifixion of Philip and Bartholomew.

The tomb of St. Philip was discovered in Turkey in 2011. The professor who found it remarked that, "*The discovery of the tomb of St. Philip, who was a very important figure for Christianity, will make a tremendous impression on the world.*"

– MATTHEW DAVIS

SUNDAY SCHOOL



On Sunday, October 15, 2017 our Sunday School students enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship by painting their holiday pumpkins in celebrating the first month of the Fall season and the 2017-2018 Sunday School year. As always, our students have great abilities and love expressing themselves through art and painting. They all took their painted pumpkins home as a token of their participation in this year's "Pumpkin Painting Event."

Entering the month of November, thoughts turn to preparations for the annual St. George Sunday School Christmas Program. More details will soon follow and will be printed in *The Ladder*, as well as in the December issue of *The Voice of St. George*.

COLORING BOOK SESSION

Our October Adult Coloring session and luncheon was held on Friday, October 20th. We had twelve attendees who enjoyed a lunch of cauliflower & leek soup, a fresh garden greens salad with balsamic vinaigrette dressing, provolone cheese & salami roll-ups, freshly baked baguettes, and a lemon bundt cake prepared by Rhonda Latkovic.

The ladies took time to color and to welcome a few of our snowbirds back to the desert. The usual monthly raffle was held with attendees winning prizes including tote bags, fashion jewelry, and more.

The next Adult Coloring group session will be held on **Friday, November 17th** and will have a Thanksgiving theme. Our December session will be held on **Friday, December 15th** and we will be decorating sugar cookies for our holiday baskets for shut-ins and for the attendees to take home with them. Our group sessions always begin at noon with lunch and the coloring & raffle to follow, wrapping up around 2:00 PM.

For the November session, please RSVP to Rhonda Latkovic by November 12th at email: r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com or call [714-875-4661](tel:714-875-4661).

STEWARDSHIP

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, and not for men." (Colossians 3: 23). As the end of the year draws to a close, we would be grateful if everyone would review their outstanding 2017 stewardship commitment to St. George and ensure it is 100% fulfilled by December 31st.

We will be kicking off the 2018 Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, December 3rd. On this day, we will have the new campaign information available to all parishioners & stewards of our church.

– RHONDA LATKOVIC,
Stewardship Chairperson

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

Friday, August 30th...Funeral. Dr. Sletvana Rubikovic (Serbian Orthodox Christian).

Saturday, October 21st...Baptism. Artemisia Howard, the daughter of Christian Howard and his wife, Argyroula (Krespis) and granddaughter of Nick Krespis. Godmother: Fotini Krespis.

Sunday, October 22nd...Chrismation. Ernest Cox, husband of Sunday School teacher, Susana Cox and father of Christian & Natalie Cox. Godfather: Wynn Storton.

Sunday, October 22nd...Baptism. Christian Cox, son of Ernest Cox and his wife, Susana Cox. Godparents: Jim and Gloria Christopoulos.

Saturday, October 28th...Baptisms: the sons of Richard Torres and his wife, Alexandra (Theophilos) and grandsons of Dean and Tina Theophilos

- Christopher Torres. Godfather: Matthew Theophilos.

- Richard Torres. Godfather: Michael Theophilos.

- Nicholas Torres. Godfather: Matthew Theophilos.

- Theophilos Torres. Godfather: Michael Theophilos.

Serving also as Godmother: Stephanie Bender

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE REPORT

A total of \$674 was collected over the month of October for our St. George parish "Baby Bottle Drive," held to contribute financial support to the *Birth Choice of the Desert* organization, which offers guidance and counseling to young women and men in the effort to help them decide *against* abortion and *for* bringing their babies to live birth. In addition, the *Birth Choice of the Desert*, helps young women and the men in their lives to avail themselves to financial and emotional support needed for the continuing care of their newborn babies.

Among those who participated in this year's "Baby Bottle Drive" were: **Alice Pulos, Matushka Gloria Lehman, Louise Dobbs Barringer, Diane Young, Carol Speliopoulos, Fr. Ted and Presvytera, Kathy Amos, Mary Piggott, Rhonda Latkovic, Evelyn and Peter Grafas, and our St. George Ladies Philoptochos Chapter.**

NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR OUTDOOR FORMAT

Throughout most of November the Coffee Hour following Sunday Divine Liturgy will take place on the patio section outside our parish hall kitchen.

Upon receiving the *antidoron* we ask everyone to exit the church through the main church doors and go around outside behind the classrooms (as we do during the procession with the Epitaphio every year).

It is impolite to leave church before the final prayers are read after Holy Communion. While the Sunday School children are allowed to leave upon receiving Holy Communion so that they may attend their lessons, adults should show more restraint regarding their seemingly childish and unquenchable thirst for coffee.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

This year's **Veterans Day Program** will take place on **Sunday, November 12, 2017**. The traditional festivities with luncheon included will not be featured this year due to the re-flooring project in

our parish hall. Instead, a special prayer will be read in church for our veterans, accompanied by words of honor for their service to God and country.

NEW DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS

We are preparing to reprint our parish Divine Liturgy books. Anyone who wants to donate toward the cost of this work is most welcome to do so. It will be a great blessing for our parish, as well as for those who contribute. Estimated cost to reprint our Divine Liturgy books is \$2,000 (for 200 books). Checks are to be written to "St. George Greek Orthodox Church," with "Liturgy Books" printed in the memo section.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

As has been previously announced, the Altar Flower Bouquets gracing our Holy Altar on Sundays donated for the entire year by **Mr. Nicholas Demetropoulos** in memory of his beloved parents. The fresh-flower bouquets will be present on Sundays: November 12th and 19th.

ST. NECTARIOS

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WEEK- In celebration of St. Nectarios Feast Day, the Greek Orthodox parish of Covina, California will honor their patron Saint with a series of spiritual events from November 5-9:

- ◆ Nov. 5th...Vespers with Miracle-working Icon of Panagia. Metropolitan Nikitas of Dardanells officiating. 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Nov. 6th....Paraklisis Service with sermon and spiritual reflections – 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Nov. 7th...Vespers with sermon and spiritual reflections – 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Nov. 8th...Divine Liturgy (Sts. Michael & Gabriel) with spiritual reflections to follow – 9:00 a.m./ Vespers with His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos – 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Nov. 9th...Divine Liturgy (St. Nectarios) celebrated by His Eminence, Met. Gerasimos.

For information and RSVP (re: lunch/dinners) call: St. Nectarios parish at (626)967-5524.

STREET LIFE PROJECT

On **Tuesday, November 21st**, volunteers from our St. George parish are needed to help feed the homeless of Coachella Valley. This food for the homeless event includes any help that can be offered by us in terms of driving food to the location where the homeless will be gathered (Miles Park in Indio), as well as serving food. Also, help will be needed for clean-up following this event. St. George will be sponsoring the turkey dinner for 400-500 homeless persons on this day.

Volunteers are asked to sacrifice a three-hour time slot – 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.– on Tuesday, November 21st for this purpose. Food will be distributed to the homeless at Miles Park in Indio. The St. George Chairperson for this project is Rhonda Latkovic. Volunteers are asked to sign up on the bulletin board in the parish hall, or contact Rhonda. In addition, volunteers are asked to attend the “briefing” meetings conducted by Rhonda for this project on Sundays, November 12th and 19th, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

For more details and information, contact Rhonda Latkovic, at email: r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com or call (714) 875-4661.

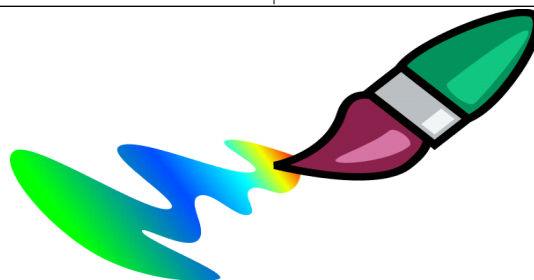
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD—Everyone is invited to participate in our annual St. George Community Christmas Card by contributing \$20 for a special Christmas greeting to be shared by all of our parishioners. Forms are available at the coffee bar in our parish hall. Also, feel free to contact Tina Veroulis at our parish office for more details.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Order Forms are now available in our parish hall for those who want Philoptochos Christmas bread for their family gatherings. Distribution and sale of Philoptochos Christmas breads and koulourakia will be on **Sundays, December 10th and 17th**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

DONATIONS FOR THE COURTYARD & PARISH HALL UPGRADES

We appreciate those who have come forward inquiring about how to make donations to replenish the costs for the courtyard and parish hall upgrades. Please make checks payable to: St. George Greek Orthodox Church and write: parish upgrade projects in the memo line.



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, November 17th @ 12 PM - 2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

RSVP: By November 12th to Rhonda Latkovic

We will have a Thanksgiving Theme for our luncheon & coloring session! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies are provided. Please join us! Our December session will be held on Friday, Dec. 15th & we will be decorating sugar cookies for our Holiday shut-in baskets.

Christmas Bread-Vasilopita Koulourakia



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Christmas bread, Vasilopita and Koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than **November 27, 2017**. Please place the completed order in an envelope marked "PHILOPTOHOS" in the basket on the Coffee Bar in the Church Hall or give to Lula Valis-sarakos, Pat Dalkas or Tina Veroulis in the office. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501 or Pat at 760-574-1531

PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, December 10, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

Sunday, December 17, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



NAME _____

PHONE _____

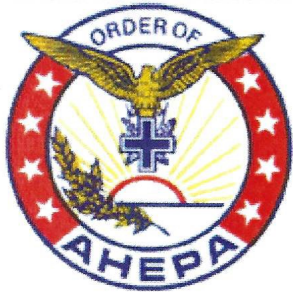
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$)</u>
Koulourakia	_____	\$ 6.00	_____
Christmas Bread	_____	\$10.00	_____
Vasilopita Bread with Coin	_____	\$10.00	_____
<u>Make checks payable to Philoptochos</u>		Total Amount	\$ _____

ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THANKSGIVING
LUNCH

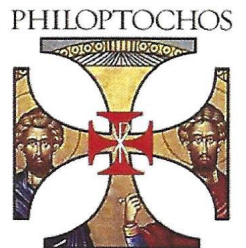
Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 19th



Town Center Cafe

44491 Town Center Way
Palm Desert, CA



\$25.00

Children \$10.00 *under 12*

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@ahpepa528.org

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online

Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 12, 2017

Thank You for your Continued Support!

Streetlife Project “Thanksgiving for the Homeless”

11/21/17

Miles Park,
Indio, CA

Who: Volunteers from St. George needed to drive food to the location, serve the food, help with clean-up & spread God’s love to those less fortunate.

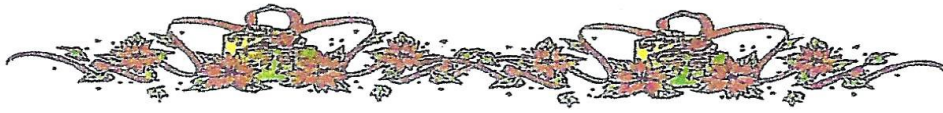
What: St. George will be sponsoring the turkey dinner for 400-500 homeless on this day.

When: Tuesday, Nov. 21st from 5-8 pm.

Where: Miles Park in Indio, CA.

How: Contact Rhonda Latkovic @

r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com or call 714-875-4661 to volunteer.



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Deadline: December 1, 2017



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert
Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901
74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt
Organization

CHRISTMAS BLESSING



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: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com
Telephone: (760)568-9901 / FAX: 9760) 568-9492

Schedule of Sunday Services: Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Sunday School-10:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-STs. COSMAS & DAMIAN Orthros-8:30 a.m. <u>D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.</u> <u>Choir Practice-1:00</u> Men's Bible Study-2:00 p.m.	2	3	4 Divine Liturgy at St. Rapael Antiochian Church in Thousand Palms-10 a.m. Vespers -5:00 pm.
5 -5th Sunday of Luke Ep.-Gal. 6:11-18 Gos.-St. Luke 16:19-31	6 Philoptochos Board Meeting-11:00 a.m. Festival Meeting-7:00 p.m.	7 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	8-ARCHANGELS MICHAEL & GABRIEL Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study-2:00 p.m.	9- ST. NECTARIOS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Choir-1:00 p.m. Parish Council-2:30 p.m.	10	11 Vespers-5:00 p.m.
12-8th Sunday of Luke Ep.-2 Cor. 9:6-11 Gos.-St. Luke 10:25-37 Veterans Day Program Meeting with volunteers for Street Life	13 Philoptochos General Members Meeting—11:30 a.m. EVENING LITURGY- St. John Chrysostom/ St. Philip the Apostle-6:30 p.m.	14 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	15 Men's Bible Study-2:00 p.m.	16- ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	17 Coloring Book Session-12 noon	18 Vespers-5:00 pm.
19-9th Sunday of Luke Ep.- Eph. 1:14-22 Gos-St. Luke 12:16-21 Meeting with volunteers for Street Life AHEPA/ Philoptochos Thanksgiving Luncheon -1 p.m.	20 Vespers-6:00 p.m.	21-ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE No Bible Study Serving Food for the Homeless-5:00 p.m.	22 No Men's Bible Study	23 THANKSGIVING DAY	24	25- ST. CATHERINE Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Vespers- 5:00 p.m.
26 13th Sunday of Luke Ep.- Eph. 4:1-7 Gos-St. Luke 18:18-27	27	28 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	29 Men's Bible Study-2:00 p.m.	30-ST. ANDREW Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.		