

SEPTEMBER 2017



Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

“LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME!”

On Thursday, September 14th our Holy Orthodox Church honors the **Exaltation of the Holy Life-Giving Cross**. It was the mother of Emperor Constantine, **St. Helen**, who recovered the Holy Cross in 325 A.D. from desecration by unbelievers who had since taken governance over the region of Jerusalem and built a pagan temple to the false goddess Aphrodite over the site where Christ was crucified.

Just prior to His crucifixion, our Savior had entered into prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying to God the Father, saying, “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You Will.” (St. Matthew 26:39).

In his “Address In Opposition to the Marcionists and the Manichaeans,” St. John Chrysostom explains the mysterious truth be-

hind these words offered by Christ our God. The Marcionists and Manicheans were heretics closely aligned to the Gnostics, who held that Christ is not God in the flesh.

Such heretics suggest that this prayer indicates that Jesus went to the Cross *unwillingly*; that He wanted God the Father to “change His mind” about Christ having to endure death for our salvation. This is not the case. The Holy Spirit, Who “spoke through the prophets,” indicated well before Christ’s physical appearance in the world that the Cross and Resurrection were already accomplished, even if they were to take place in the “future” according to human time. Hence the Will of the Son is always One with the Will of the Father, verifying that Christ went to the Cross *voluntarily*. St. John explained all of this in his “Address.”

The Old Testament prophecies allude to future events as if they already happened. A few examples illustrate this point:

1. In Genesis 49: 9, Jacob utters this prophecy of Christ entering the world through the undefiled nature of the Virgin Mary, saying, “Out of a tender shoot, You sprang up.” The Incarnation in Jacob’s future is proclaimed in the *past tense*, as if it has already happened.
2. Isaiah uttered the prophecy of Christ’s crucifixion, saying, “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.” (Isaiah 53: 7-8) – again, a prophecy uttered in *past tense*.
3. In Psalm 22, King David said, “They pierced My hands and My feet.” Again, the future is proclaimed as an already completed event.

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The *Voice of St. George* is sponsored this month by Louise Dobbs Barringer: “For both of my parents birthdays were in the month of September. I thank God for my parents and all that they did for me, leading me on the right path by worshipping, and serving Almighty God. I will always give honor and praise for Ed, and Lener Dobbs. ETERNAL REST!”

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
 Website:www.go-stgeorge.org
 -Fr. Theodore Pantels, Pastor
 -Dcn. Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.

Indeed, Christ is the fulfillment of prophesy. His Divine Will is the same as that of the Father. After all, it was Christ our God Who said, *"For as the Father knows Me, even so know I the Father."* (St. John 10:15). We also remember that, after Jesus told the Disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, St. Peter said, *"Far be it from You,..."* In response, Jesus chastised him saying, *"Get behind Me, Satan!"* (St. Matthew 16:23).

At the same time, the words of our Lord in Gethsemane, indicates that this prayer is, in fact, a "teaching prayer" offered by our Lord—a prayer enlivening by example the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, which was given to us in response to the request, "Teach us how to pray."

Like the Lord's Prayer, God is addressed by our Lord at Gethsemane as "Father" asking, *"Thy Kingdom Come; Thy Will be done...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* St. John writes, *"Since He commanded [us] to pray, 'lead us not into temptation,' He instructs us in this very precept by putting in practice Himself, saying, 'Father if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me,' thus teaching...us lowliness of mind. We should not plunge into dangers, but rather pray that we may not fall into them. But, if they come upon us, we should bear them and postpone our own will to the Will of God."* ("Address to Marcionists," *Nicene-Post Nicene Fathers*, Series 1, Vol. 10, pg. 206-207).

The Will of God is our salvation through His Only-Begotten Son. Salvation is not a static state of everlasting worldly luxury, however. Instead, we think of salvation as *union with God*. Metropolitan Kallistos Ware writes, *"As Christ said at the Last Supper: 'The glory which Thou hast given Me, I have given to them that they may be one...' Christ enables us to share in the Father's divine glory. He is the bond. Because He is Man, He is one of us (fully human); because He is God, He is one with the Father (fully divine). So, through and in Him we are one with God and the Father's glory becomes our glory...It is through Jesus the God-Man that we are 'ingodded,' 'divinized' and made 'sharers in the divine nature.'"* (*The Orthodox Way*, pg. 98).

+FR. THEODORE

HURRICANE HARVEY: PRAYERS & SUPPORT NEEDED



August 29, 2017

+Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

"Again we pray for the preservation of this Holy Church...and every city and land from the wrath of God, pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire...and sudden death, and that our God Who loves mankind will be merciful, gracious and favorable towards us."

We have all been apprised of the devastation brought about by Hurricane Harvey which has caused tremendous damage and displaced thousands of people. The effects of the storm are increasing with ongoing rain and new threats of flooding. Images of people being rescued from rooftops, cars submerged in water, and boats floating through the town to take people to safety give us just a glimpse into the disrupted lives of the people in the path of this deadly storm.

It will be several weeks, if not months, before the full effects of Hurricane Harvey are determined. Loss of life, loss of homes, and loss of livelihood are just some of what is facing the residents of the Houston area. People have fled the devastation with very few of their belongings but they will have many needs for the basic necessities of life.

It is our sacred obligation to offer our support to the residents of the greater Houston area and all those who are in the path of Hurricane Harvey. I encourage each parish in the Metropolis of San Francisco to pray for all those who are affected by the hurricane, and also pass a special tray on Sunday, September 3, 2017 to collect funds to assist those in need. All contributions collected for this purpose should be directed to:

International Orthodox Christian Charities
110 West Rd., Suite 360
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Donations for Hurricane Harvey relief can also be made directly to IOCC on their website.

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HURRICANE HARVEY, Prayers & Support, cont.

Let us beseech our heavenly Father to preserve us from every probable calamity and, through God's love, let us find strength and comfort to support those suffering from this devastation.

With Love in Christ,

++METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS,

Holy Metropolis of San Francisco

**ENCYCLICAL FOR THE
ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR**

Beloved in the Lord,



The Feast of the Indiction is upon us, the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year. Along with this Feast we also celebrate the American Labor Day holiday. Families and friends will gather one more time in order to mark the end of summer and inaugurate the activities of autumn. Created in the late nineteenth century, the intent of Labor Day was to honor the American worker. We should remember that dimension of this holiday.

The Ecclesiastical year provides us with a new opportunity to renew our labors as individuals, families, and communities of faith. When the Lord began His ministry, He read from the Prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release of the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19, cf Isaiah 61:1). The Lord has given us a "to do list" to guide our labor. His words should inspire us as we begin this New Year.

Labor is honorable and part of God's plan for humanity. In the Book of Genesis (2:15) we read, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it." The Lord made us responsible for the planet on which we live. Through our labor, Earth sustains us. Through our labor, we have used many natural resources to build and to create amazing cities and cultures, to cure and heal many illnesses and diseases, and to lift up humanity overall. In the Divine Liturgy we offer the natural gifts of God, transformed by

human labor, back to God. That is the meaning of the exclamation in the Liturgy, "*Thine own, we offer to Thee...*"

In our quest to improve life, we may have forgotten the honorable and potentially divine intent of our labors. We have been overtaken by greed and desires that have led us to misuse our planet's resources and gifts, forgetting that they are gifts from God. A consequence of the fall of Adam, sin, has infected our good and natural desires. As His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has taught us for nearly three decades, committing a crime against the natural world is a sin. Our Patriarch states, "*If human beings were to treat one another's personal property the way they treat the natural environment, we would view that behavior as anti-social and illegal. We would expect legal sanctions and even compensation. When will we learn that to commit a crime against the natural world is also a sin?*" This connection means that we must labor to protect the natural world and to restore any damage that human activity and our footprint has caused. But we must also reflect on our labor, how our misdirected desires, have led to these sins against the natural world, resulting in pollution, extinction of God-created flora and fauna and more, and as a result the degradation of human life.

We must also extend our reflections into the other environments in which we live, but especially our life in this society. We must consider the pollution of our contemporary civil discourse. It is not very "civil" at all. It too has been polluted and thus has degraded our lives. As the Assembly of Bishops recently stated, "*The Orthodox Church emphatically declares that it does not promote, protect or sanction participation in ... acts of hatred, racism, and discrimination, and proclaims that such beliefs and behaviors have no place in any community based in respect for the law and faith in a loving God.*" These, too, are sins that separate us from God and divide us from one another; sins for which we must ask God's forgiveness and mercy. We, as faithful members of His Church, must also labor to

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ENCYCLICAL FOR THE ECCL. NEW YEAR, cont.

protect civil discourse and restore it to the purpose for which it was created, the edification of humanity, to build up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

The time is now, my brothers and sisters in the Lord, to embrace the start of the New Ecclesiastical Year and re-purpose our labors: to become instruments of healing, reconciliation, and justice, to become better stewards of the Earth, and better citizens. This New Ecclesiastical Year offers us a new opportunity to recommit ourselves to this task in all our labors.

May the Lord guide your steps throughout this New Year, and may His abiding love grace and mercy be granted to you always.

With Love in Christ,

++ GERASIMOS

Metropolitan of San Francisco

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We hope you had a great summer. September starts our busy time for the Philoptochos. But first, we would like to recap a few of our summer activities.

July

Father Ted and Rhonda Latkovic, our 1st Vice president and member volunteers assisted in distributing books to help promote childhood literacy. Volunteers assisted United Way of the Desert. Our volunteers also distributed bottled water and trail mix snack bags through the Street Life Project located in the west valley. If you would like to volunteer for the next on site distribution for Street Life, see Rhonda Latkovic. We also donated to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission Bottled Water Project distributing water to the homeless in the east end of the valley. We thank our parishioners who donated to this project.

August

Our August activities included our donation to the CVRM Book Bag Project. Our donation goes toward purchasing book bags and school supplies for the children returning to school.

September

We have requested another seminarian student to



support through school from the Metropolis Philoptochos. We hope to have a name and bio in September. As you recall, our Seminarian Spencer Ramos graduated with his Master's and has been ordained by the Metropolitan. Our first meeting for September will be our Board Meeting Monday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. Our General Meeting will be on Monday, September 18 at 11:30 a.m. We will have a light lunch, a speaker segment and then a short meeting. Our speaker will be our own Pres. Petula Pantels speaking on the history of icons. We also have a plan to have the new Philoptochos Phone Directory available for distribution.

– LINDA KALLIS,

Philoptochos President

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Beginning in July, a Preliminary Proposal for a Master Plan for our parish was reviewed by the members. Discussion began for upgrading both the parish hall and the courtyard, since the County Health Department requires a surface to be installed where food is prepared during our annual Greek Festivals. It is work to be performed by February 2018 in time for our Festival. The proposal to upgrade the courtyard includes installing a concrete "patio" area stretching from the annex along the back wall of the courtyard. The width of this concrete area would be about 30 feet, leaving area for an artificial, *Back Nine* grass surface to replace the current lawn.

At the same time, plans are being studied to replace the flooring in the parish hall, with either a tile or carpet surface. As an option (if desired) French doors may also be included.

In accordance with the present time-line of Parish Council meetings held for the purpose of study and bid acceptance, all St. George parish members in good standing are asked to participate in a special General Assembly on Sunday, September 24, 2017. Look for a notification package which is to be sent out containing financial information and a full, comprehensive Parish

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES, cont.

Council report pertaining to the church projects.

A full current financial report, including a 5-Year analysis of trend is available in the parish office and/or may be obtained by Members in Good Standing directly from Fr. Ted.

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund grew from \$312,192.37 at month end June, 2017 to \$316,001.60 at the month end July, 2017.

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

Domestic Equities	\$163,943.7751%
Domestic Fixed Income.....	\$126,206.1541%
International Equities.....	\$ 23,495.89 7%
<u>Cash & Equivalents</u>	<u>\$ 2,355.79</u> 1%
Total.....	\$316,001.60100%

We began 2017 with a balance of \$288,807.91. The Endowment Fund has shown us that patient investing will get us to our goal of +\$500,000 so we can utilize the funds if necessary and voted upon.

During the month a deposit was made with 28 United Health Group shares as stewardship for a current value of \$5,370 which can be used at any time as an offering to the church with proper authorization of the Parish Council. Current Stock price is \$193.06/share with a 1.54% Dividend. This is included as our account's total value and is not considered part of the Endowment Fund.

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 to the fund.

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

— NICK LATKOVIC,
Endowment Fund Chairman

STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

We wish to gratefully thank everyone who has donated to our church in time, talent, and treasure this past year. The time has come to set a minimum Stewardship Level Requirement for our beloved St. George Church in order to maintain the integrity & future of our beautiful church, including meeting our monthly basic financial obligations of operating expenses to keep the church open & viable. In addition, this minimum will be adjusted yearly, to account for the rate of inflation, approximately 2-5% increase.

For 2018, the basic Stewardship Level Minimum will be \$600 per family. (Please note that this will be submitted as a by-law revision to be voted on at an upcoming General Assembly in the Fall.)

Why are we doing this? Most Orthodox Churches have established a minimum stewardship level so we are behind the trend in doing so. Stewardship is supposed to cover the operating expenses of the church. Parishioners need to understand that there is a minimum level the church needs to be able to pay the bills just to keep the doors open. For example, out of the current 110 families who have pledged stewardship this year, 47 families are below the \$600 level. If everyone else above \$600 kept their pledge the same, and the 47 who are below raised their pledge up to at least \$600, the church would gain an additional \$15,000 annually. This is significant given that it takes +\$20,000 to operate the church monthly. Additionally, giving to our church, as directed in the Bible, is supposed to be with love, joy, thankfulness, & gratitude for all that God has given to us. Are we truly expressing that gratitude? "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for God, not for men."

As per our by-laws, any parishioner who feels they are unable to meet this new financial minimum request may discuss their situation with

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STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT, continued

Parish Priest, who can grant a special circumstance status to that individual or family for the calendar year.

We welcome your feedback regarding this issue. Please don't hesitate to discuss your opinion(s) with Father Ted or Rhonda Latkovic, Stewardship Chairperson, or a Parish Council Member at your convenience. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Father Ted Pantels

Parish Priest

Rhonda Latkovic Stewardship Chairperson

SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SECTION

With the beginning of **Sunday School on September 17**, this section will run in *The Voice of St. George* throughout the school year, suggesting Sunday School activities that can take place in the homes throughout the month. These Sunday School activities are issued by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Youth Department (Y2AM Ministry Plan—grades 3-12: www.goarch.org), though modified for our parish needs. **A Sunday School staff meeting will be held at Towne Center at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, September 10th** +FR. THEODORE

**THE THEME FOR THIS MONTH IS:
THE PARAKLISIS SERVICE**

GRADES 3-6: Read with your child(ren) the following verses from the Paraklisis Service of our Orthodox Church:

Explain that the Paraklisis Service is a prayer service asking the Most Holy Mother of God to offer Her Motherly prayers for us. This Church Service is performed for the health and well-being of all.

1. *"With many temptations surrounding me, Searching for salvation, I have hastened unto you; O Mother of the Word, and ever-Virgin. From all distresses and dangers deliver me."*
2. *"Lord, enlighten us, with Your precepts that can guide our lives, and with Your arm most powerful, grant to us Your peace, O You Who are the Friend of all."*

Discuss with them the following questions:

- ◆ What did you read? What stood out to you?

- ◆ What does it mean for our lives?
- ◆ How does it feel to know that Panagia loves you? Who else loves you?

Lesson: Love is more than a feeling. It's a choice and an action; it's something we live out in real relationships with real live people.

GRADES 7-12: Explain the purpose of the Paraklisis Service as noted above. Then, Discuss the Gospel passage that is read during the Paraklisis Service (St. Luke, Chapter 1: 39-56). Prayer leads to action: *"faith without works is dead."* Therefore, it is good to consider how people can make the Paraklisis Service offered for the health and wellness of all a cause for ministry to others. Share with your child(ren) some ministries of our Church, encouraging them to learn more so that one day they can volunteer to help.

--Philoptochos Ministries (*Homeless shelter, Nursing homes, etc.*)-See: Linda Kallis, President

--"Kids 'n' Cancer Camps-sfphiloptochos.org

--Project Mexico-projectmexico.org

--IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) - www.iocc.org

--OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center)

2018 GREEK FESTIVAL

Our first **Festival Meeting** for the 2018 Festival is: **Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

The preparation schedule will be presented by Festival Chairman, **George Argyros**, at this first Festival meeting.

The **Health Department** requires a solid surface under the grills at the cooking area where gyros, souvlakia, loukaniko, etc. are prepared. Options and solutions will be presented to parish members going forward, with a **special General Assembly on Sunday, September 24th.**

Volunteers are needed to help 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. Another option is for any parishioners to donate funds to hire someone to work a full shift—**\$60 donation.**

AHEPA NEWS: THE "JOURNEY TO GREECE – A SUCCESS!



Among the many features of this summer's AHEPA Family events, the "Journey to Greece" is certainly most inspiring. Participants from our own St. George parish included: **Elainie Karkaletsis, Katrina Storton and Constantina Karalis.**

In reporting the "Journey to Greece" experience, Katrina Storton, who is currently working in Film and Media Studies student, University of California Santa Barbara, wrote:

"AHEPA's Journey to Greece program gave me the opportunity to come to Greece, connect with my ancestry, and develop a broader worldview. I feel blessed to have been given this chance to explore my family's culture and I am very thankful for the memories I made during the whole experience. This was not only an educational opportunity, but also a cultural connection."

Wednesday, September 13th is the date for the next AHEPA Chapter 528 meeting, which will be called to order at 6:30 p.m. Future meetings will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Items for discussion at the September 13th meeting are:

1. Membership growth
2. Chapter dues
3. Fundraising for more causes – Donations for victims of Hurricane Harvey.
4. Budget for the year
5. Needs of St George Church; church hall refurbish support.
6. Ladder sponsorship

On **Thursday, August 24th** Chapter 528 members joined in a luncheon at **Andy's Restaurant** in Indio honoring **AHEPA Supreme Secretary, Demetrios Kokotas.**

Hurricane Harvey has been devastating to the people of the Houston and the surrounding areas. In response, the National AHEPA Family is in constant contact with the AHEPA Chapter 29 in Houston, Texas in order to establish organized efforts to help the many victims of this storm. Our own Chapter 528 has set up a "Pay-Pal"

account that directly links to the National AHEPA Emergency Relief Fund helping the victims of Hurricane Harvey. To donate, contact AHEPA 528 President, Wynn Storton at (760) 832-2825 for details as to how to donate through "Pay-Pal."



Pictured in top photo: The three young ladies from St. George enjoying their "Journey to Greece" and posing: (left to right): Katrina Storton, Elainie Kakaletsis and Constantina Karalis.



AHEPA Supreme Secretary visited members of Chapter 528 on Thursday, August 24, 2017. Pictured above from left to right: George Karkaletsis, Harry Loukatos, Nick Krespis, Fr. Ted, Wynn Storton (standing), Demetrios Kokotas (sitting next to Fr.

GREEK FESTIVALS THIS FALL

Assumption-Long Beach: Sept. 2-4, 2017
 Sts. Const./Helen-Cardiff: Sept 9-10, 2017
 St. Basil-San Juan Capist'no: Sept 16-17,2017
 St. Anthony-Passadena: Sept. 22-23, 2017
 St. Nectarios-Covina: Sept 29-Oct. 1, 2017
 St. Sophia-Los Angeles: Oct. 6-8, 2017
 St. Nicholas-Temecula: Oct. 14-15,2017
 – Fliers for each Greek Festival are available in our parish hall.

THE HOLY CROSS OF CHRIST AND THE ROLE OF HELEN, MOTHER OF CONSTANTINE

After the beginning of the Church Year on September 1, a major feast that is observed is that of the discovery of the Holy Cross upon which the Lord Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be sacrificed. One who had the greatest role in this was the mother of the Emperor Constantine. St. Helen had been married to one who had earlier become a Roman Emperor, Constantius Chlorus. By the turn of the Fourth Century, it was becoming clear that it was hard for one man to rule the entire Roman Empire. The Emperor Diocletian, had devised a way for the empire to be ruled by four persons. One of these was Constantius, father of Constantine. But Diocletian wanted control over people who served him and he also wanted to punish Christians. So he asked Constantius to divorce Helen and marry a daughter of Maximian, who was the western Emperor. Constantine also was held at Diocletian's court. But, Constantine escaped and went to his father, who ruled Britain. Meanwhile, St. Helen converted to Christianity, which showed the foolishness of Diocletians' attempt to control his citizens.

When Constantius died in 306 A.D. the army proclaimed Constantine as Emperor. St. Helen was together with her son and became part of his court. She was recognized as Empress. Her attraction to Christ had a big impact on her son, who put Christian symbols on the shields and standards of his troops when he fought Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. At 312 A.D., Constantine issued a decree of toleration for Christians. Finally, Constantine won command of the entire empire by 324 A.D. But, it should be noted that Constantine himself was still not a baptized Christian. He was actually baptized only a few days before his death in 337 A.D.

In the meantime, Helen, with the rank of Empress was sent on a major expedition to the Holy Land to seek relics of the crucifixion and birth

of Christ, with the authority of Constantine. Indeed, there were many discarded crosses in the area of Calvary. A temple to Venus had been put over the Calvary area and this was demolished by the Empress. Under Constantine, a new Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built and church in Bethlehem, as well as other holy places were also established. Many of the crosses were tested by Helen on a sick woman, which revealed the True Cross of Christ. The real Cross also had the lettering described in the Gospel. Some of this message was brought back to Rome by St. Helen.

St. Helen returned to Rome with part of the Holy Cross. She died in 330 A.D., the same year Constantine founded Constantinople. The Emperor Constantine himself died in 337, just after his baptism. We can see that Helen had a huge impact on her son, and through him, on the eastern and western world. When Christians visit the Holy Land, they all follow the footsteps of Helen.

There remain a few other thoughts, which we could probably think about. Many times people look at religion as a "woman's affair," and often we remember the role that a mother had on us. This is true, yet religion is a man's and woman's role *together*. But, we can see the impact that we can all have on our family and our friends, as well as on society. We can all do something that will survive us in our effort to promote our Faith. Think of Sts. Constantine and Helen. Think of what they did for their Church and for civilization. Can we be Constantine and Helen for others in the Church? **I pray we truly will!**

—MATTHEW DAVIS

CHOIR NOTE

Note that the first Choir Practice following the summer break is scheduled for **Thursday, September 7th at 1:00 p.m.**

The first Sunday for the Choir following the summer break is **Sunday, September 10th.**

Please see our Choir Director, **Annette Laskaris** if you are interested in joining our parish Choir.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert CA, 92260

Sunday School Registration Form: 2017-2018



Child's Name	Birth Date	Grade	Name Day/Saint	Check Areas for Your Child to Participate	
				Epistle	Tray

Home Address	Home Phone

Parents' Names	E-Mail Address	Cell Phone Number

For High School Children (optional)

Name	E-Mail Address

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." – **Matthew 19:14**



Adult Coloring

**Back after summer
break! Coloring
Session & Luncheon**

September 15, 2017
12-2 pm

St. George Church hall

RSVP by 9/9/17

Please join us for our next adult coloring session on Friday, Sept. 15th at noon in our church hall.

Lunch begins at noon with coloring to follow.

\$5.00 minimum donation requested for lunch. Proceeds will be donated to the church.

Coloring pencils and coloring book sheets will be provided.

RAFFLE PRIZES!

RSVP to Rhonda Latkovic by 9/9/17

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule: Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Sunday School- 10:30 p.m.					1-CHURCH NEW YEAR Orthros- 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.	2 Vespers-5 p.m.
3-13th Sunday of St. Matthew Ep.1 Cor.16:13-24 Gos.-St. Matthew 21:33-42 Meeting for Men's Bible Study Group	4 Labor Day	5 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	6	7 Choir Practice- 1:00 p.m.	8- NATIVITY OF THE THEOTO- KOS Orthros- 8:30 am Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.	9 Vespers-5 p.m.
10-Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Ep.-Gal. 6:11-18 <u>Gos. St. John 3:13-17</u> Sunday School Regis- tration & Staff Meeting	11 Philoptochos Board Mtg-11:00am Festival Meeting- 7:00 p.m.	12 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	13- AHEPA Meeting- <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.	14- EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Orthros-8:39 am Diving Liturgy-9:30 a.m. (Fasting Day)	15 Coloring Book Session- 12 noon	16 Vespers-5 p.m.
17-Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Ep. Gal.2:16-20 Gos.St.Mk.8:34-9:1 Sun.School Begins	18 Philoptochos General Members' Meeting-11:30 a.m.	19 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	20	21	22	23 Vespers-5 p.m.
24 -1st Sunday of St. Luke Ep.-2 Tim.3:10-15 <u>Gos.-St. Lk.5:1-11</u> General Assembly Meeting	25	26- ST. JOHN THEOLOGIAN Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.	27	28	29	30 Vespers-5 p.m.



THANKSGIVING
LUNCH

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness



**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH Hall**
74-109 LARREA PALM DESERT, CA



SAVE THE DATE

11/19/2017

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!



GENTLEMEN OF ST. GEORGE AN INVITATION TO JOIN AHEPA VISIT AND SEE WHAT WE DO



We invite you to our first meeting of the season, September. 13, 2017 (6:30pm) at St. George Greek Orthodox Church. In light of all the hate crimes and the constant attacks on Christian faith, today; we need to stand together as men of common goals to support the church, defend the faith and protect our childrens' future.

"Be wise as the serpent and harmless as the dove." Matthew 10:16

Wynn Storton, Chapter 528 President

RSVP/Questions: 760.832.2825

email: wynn@ahempa528.org website: ahempa528.org

AHEPA Chapter 528 - Founded December 17, 2003

- *Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund, founded 2008, over \$36,000 in scholarships awarded to date.*
- *Project Mexico*
- *Local help and donations upon written requests*
- *Fellowship Sponsor*
- *Veterans Day Luncheon*
- *Festival Sponsor*
- *Golf Sponsor*
- *Voice Sponsor*
- *Ladder Sponsor*

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. It helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community.

Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission, of the organization.

***Join us today and become a part of our growing community
- Your Membership Matters!***

- Order of AHEPA commitment to education via our Scholarship programs. hundreds of thousands of dollars are awarded to deserving students annually by the AHEPA Family, nationally.
- Our Grass Roots Strength has a Voice. Through its members, the Order of AHEPA communicates to elected representatives at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as diplomatic leaders, the positions of the Greek-American community on issues of concern to it.
- Philanthropy and Volunteerism have been pillars throughout the country for the Order of AHEPA over its many years of existence. From natural disaster relief, to raising funds to eliminate life threatening diseases, to making significant contributions to our local municipalities, the Order of AHEPA is at the forefront of charitable giving.
- The Order of AHEPA recognizes athletes at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels with scholarships, accolades and in some cases, induction into the AHEPA - Athletic Hall of Fame.

AHEPA MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, integrity, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.