

APRIL 2018

Voice of St. George

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

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

LIFE IN THE TOMB

There are four important facts for us to know as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the dead: 1) the gift of forgiveness is granted; 2) our only fear is that of committing sins; 3) death is dead and the way to Eternal Life is opened for all people; 4) Eternal Life begins here and now as we seek unity with Christ through His divine energies - this unity is called *deification*.

In itself, to forgive someone is to give them new life. From the Cross, our God Jesus Christ proclaimed forgiveness for all people. As an immediate beneficiary of the gift of God's forgiveness, the thief, repented, saying, "Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom." Thus, there is no other way to celebrate Easter (Pascha) than to forgive other people their sins and to seek forgiveness from our Lord and from any others for any sins committed by us.

The most common icon of our Lord's Resurrection is called, "The Harrowing of Hell," in which Christ is depicted putting death to death, setting to image the words of St. John Chrysostom who said, "Death where is your sting? Hades! Where is Your victory?" In the icon, the Risen Christ is depicted "pulling" Adam and Eve out of their respective tombs, as He rises from His own tomb, having bound the devil in defeat.

This icon reminds us that Christ has overcome death and evil is cast down. No longer are we to fear evil from the world, although we are to fear committing sins, because sin separates us from our Lord, Who overcomes evil with all that is good. With this in mind, our prayer is that we can overcome the many kinds of fears that often imprison us, due to so much violence in society--all of which take their

forms from the wiles of the invisible enemies of God, who conjure temptations and dark motives in people's hearts. At the Resurrection Service we hear: "Let God arise and His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee from His presence" (First stanza of the Resurrection Hymn).

This icon depicts Christ saving Adam and Eve, revealing the truth of salvation of all people, who have lived (or who will live) at all times and in all places. Hence, there is no reason for discrimination. People before Christ and those after Christ share equally in the gift of life regardless of race or nationality.

Life in the tomb means that there is no boundary to the Life-giving energies of Christ our God. As in His life before the Crucifixion, so in His life after the Resurrection, His energies are shared with all.

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Message from Nick Krespis, Parish Council President: "I would like to sincerely wish you a blessed Easter celebration today and every day and my complete gratitude to our Parish Family."

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 -Fr. Theodore Pantels, Pastor
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ENCYCLICAL FOR THE ANNUNCIATION

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the House of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will no end." Luke 1:32-33

Dearly Beloved,

On March 25 we celebrate the event that inaugurates our salvation. The Virgin Mary learns from the Archangel that she will give birth to a son, one that will deliver us from the bondage of sin and death. This year, because this Great Feast of our Church occurs on a Sunday during Great Lent, we briefly interrupt our Lenten rhythm to commemorate the "crown of our salvation." The meaning of the Annunciation should not be lost on us even as we pause from our Lenten disposition because in two weeks, we will celebrate the saving event of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. This blessed connection of the calendar should remind us that the Incarnation and the Passion are connected. For Christ came into the world "to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45) by giving Himself up to the Cross "for the life of the world."

The Good News of the Annunciation was a message of hope to the oppressed people of Israel. God's promise of a Messiah, the one who would restore Israel, was soon to be fulfilled. Mary sings joyfully in her Magnificat, "He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree" (Luke 1:52). This hopeful song was familiar to the Greek people who suffered under an oppressor for four hundred years. They too sought to be delivered. They heard the words of Mary in the Feast of the Annunciation year after year. And so, appropriately, the Feast of the Annunciation became the day when they initiated their hopeful quest for freedom. Their quest also included songs of hope and liberation. We will hear our children sing many of these songs in the programs celebrating March 25 in our parishes. And of them all the song of freedom that all of us will sing will be "To the

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That every human being is gifted with the opportunity to participate in His divine energies is made evident in the lives of many Saints of the Church. This participation in the divine energies of Christ is called by students of the Saints, *deification*. This word is affiliated with the word "deity," which refers to God.

To understand what is meant by *deification*, we must turn to the Divine Liturgy in celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. The Gospel passage that is read is that of St. John 1: 1-17, in which we hear these words: "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace." (1:16). An explanation of these words is provided by the theologians of the *Orthodox Study Bible*: "In saying that we have all received of His fullness, the Scriptures confirm that God's grace can fill human nature to the extent of actually deifying it (meaning that we become more like God through His grace or divine energies). In Christ, God's children become gods by grace, without ceasing to be human. As metal thrust into fire takes on properties of fire (such as heat and light) without ceasing to be metal, so human nature permeated by God takes on properties of the divine nature." (pg. 1421).

Eternal Life begins in this present life. This is why the Church does not "excuse" sins, or "justify" them based on the standards of society. Sin robs us of our participation in God's divine energies. Forgiveness of sins, joins us to God. However, spiritual life is a life of effort to constantly have in our minds Christ's presence in our midst through the Holy Spirit. These are efforts that yield participation in the life of Christ - a "divine" life, while we are still in the flesh. With the energies of Christ in our present lives, we experience energies that can overcome any of our histories of abuse; or our exposures to falsehoods, and even our DNA. The Orthodox Christian life-style of repentance is the way by which all people can be like God -- to be *deified* -- here and now and have a foretaste of Paradise. Plainly said, and as a humbling thought: *The Eternal Kingdom will be opened for those who have done their part to unite with Christ -- i.e., to be deified -- in this present life.*

+FR. THEODORE

Champion” (Τῆ ὑπερμάχῳ) to the Virgin Mary, “the defender and commander.” This triumphant and rousing hymn continues to be our anthem, as we place our hope for a better future in the hands of God.

We live at a time where a message of hope is needed. The daily stories from near and far leave many of us shaking our heads at the state of our world. The Gospel message is the hope we need today. The Good News of Jesus Christ the Savior, whose birth was announced to Mary on March 25 and the coming day of His Resurrection, offers that hope to the world and to each of us. When we celebrate the Annunciation this year, we celebrate the joy that Mary experienced when she received the glad tidings from Gabriel that the Savior of God’s people was conceived in her. And so, with Archangel Gabriel, we cry out “Rejoice, O Bride unwedded!”

Wishing to all those that are named after this glorious Feast all the blessings from God, I remain,
 ++METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS,
 Metropolitan of San Francisco

COLORING BOOK GROUP

The Adult Coloring Group met on Friday, March 16th in the church hall. This was the first meeting of our group for 2018. A total of seventeen attendees enjoyed a lunch of hummus & crackers, Greek salad, rolls, lentil soup, and a St. Patrick’s Day inspired dessert.

The group enjoyed lively conversation and commenced with their Coloring Projects after lunch. A raffle was held with everyone winning a prize!

In addition, special coloring books were given to each member attending the session. The coloring books are inspired from passages in the Bible and titled, “Words of Grace” and “Words of Joy.”

You are invited to join the next Adult Coloring Session which will be held on **Friday, May 4th starting at noon**. Please RSVP to **Rhonda Latkovic by April 29th, 2018**.



Coloring Book Group (left to right):Matushka Gloria Lehman, Pauline Latkovic, Christina Kundanis, Lula Valissarakos, Athena Snarskis, Rhonda Latkovic, Penny Chiotis, Emily Tcharos, Doris Elmo

ST. GEORGE ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund lost \$10,236.36 in value due to the February Market Correction. This represents a 2.97% decrease in value of the fund against a 10% decrease in the general markets. The Risk Management system set up by the Founders of the Endowment Fund cushioned the parish against a much larger loss – and will continue to guard against large swings.

There were no donations for the month. Our current Asset Allocation follows the Fund’s by-laws as shown below:

A.Domestic Equities.....	\$183,390.59.....	55%
B.Domestic Fixed Income.....	\$124,669.42.....	37%
C.International Equities.....	\$ 25,084.34.....	8%
D.Cash & Equivalents.....	\$ 766.58.....	0%
Total	\$333,910.93....	100%

Market Observations:

Overall, Equities Volatile.

Equity markets sold off 2.5% recently as the market appeared to focus on President Trump’s ~\$50 billion in proposed tariffs targeting China for intellectual property theft and the potential for the situation to escalate into a trade war. This proposal follows President Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs that were announced earlier in the month. The market initially opened around 1% lower this month as investors awaited the tariff announcement. Subsequent trading was choppy

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ENDOWMENT FUND, Continued

throughout the month. Selling was broad with 10 of the 11 sectors finishing in the red, led lower by cyclical sectors including Financials, Industrials, and Materials while more defensive sectors including Utilities, Real Estate, and Consumer Staples fared relatively better. Financials were the worst performing sector as 10-year Treasury yields finished 6 basis points lower around 2.82% in a flight to safety. The 2-year Treasury yield fell around 3 basis points to 2.28%, pressuring the 10-year, 2-year Treasury yield differential lower. Across other asset classes during the month, the US Dollar was roughly unchanged, crude oil finished around 1% lower, and gold was off around -0.2%.

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.

--NICHOLAS M. LATKOVIC,
Chairman of the Endowment Fund

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**March**

We had a lovely Membership Lunch on March 10 at Susan Clark's home. She turned the event into a Spring Garden Party with all of us sitting outside on her patio. She had spring colored table cloths and flowers on each table. Despite a few rain drops, the members were having a good time visiting and never moved inside. We thank our Co-Chairs **Linda Petalas** and **Pam Zaverdas** and our Team Members **Christina Kudanis**, **Emily Tcharos**, **Tina Veroulis**, **Athena Snarskis** (photographer) and **Linda Kallis**. Members brought Lenten food and desserts. We have 5 women who became new members. Thank you for joining. See photos.

Donations

We passed two trays this month to raise money

for our charities:

1. The tray for Autism; a National Philoptochos charity. We raised \$578.

2. The tray in memory of Argyro Krespis at her 6 month memorial for her work with children in Greece. We raised \$500 for The Boys and Girls Club of Indio.

Thanks to all our parishioners for your generous donations.

National Philoptochos

1. Per Capita (Membership Dues) - \$755
2. Social Services - \$500
3. Orthodox Christen Missions - \$100
4. Hellenic College - \$50
5. Support Mission Priests - \$100

Our Easter Bake Sale was held on Sunday, March 25 and on Sunday, April 1. Thank you for your support. Monies made at the Bake Sale will go to our charities. The Co-Chairs this year were **Lula Valissarakos** and **Athena Snarskis** with Team Members **Tina Veroulis** and **Pam Zaverdas**.

Thank you ladies.

April

Our Membership Drive continues. Please renew your membership this month. Send your check to the office made out to Philoptochos in a membership envelope (membership dues are \$45.00). Or you can renew after church. See **Linda Petalas**, **Tina Veroulis** or **Linda Kallis**. We keep only \$15.00 for our chapter. \$15.00 goes to National Philoptochos and \$15.00 goes to Metropolis Philoptochos.

Our April General Meeting will be on **Monday, April 16 at 11:30 a.m.** We will have lunch (\$6.00 donation) and a guest speaker. After the speaker we will have our meeting.

--LINDA KALLIS,
Philoptochos President

Pictures from our Annual Philoptochos Membership Lunch are posted on the next page.

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PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, Continued



Pictured above (left to right): Tina Veroulis, Susan Clark (hostess), Linda Kallis lead in the Membership Luncheon opening prayer.



Pictured above (left to right): Bess Heinrich, Mary Lee, Pam Zaverdas, Maria Zahariadou, Ana Dumbaratzis, Lula Valissarakos and Athena Snarskis.



Pictured above (left to right): Angie Wysup, Penny Chiotis, Olympiia Fick, Carol Lyons, Josie Desmoyers, Irene Stambolos, Margarita Pagoulatos, Linda Bozigian

AHEPA NEWS



Blessed Pascha! In February we welcomed 2 new members to our Chapter, **Pete Peterson** and **Jack Shannazarian** looking forward to working as men of our Church to help build our Church Family and offer philanthropy to our local community. Also, Silas "Pete" Peterson revived an AHEPA Military service recognition, a United States Congressionally recognized award. The next **AHEPA 528 meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11th, 6:30 p.m.** at St George church. The AHEPA schedule for the remainder of this year includes:

--AHEPA Sunday, May 20th (flier enclosed)

--AHEPA Family Western Regional Convention, Reno, Nevada from June 21 to June 24, 2018.

--Supreme Convention July 22-27: Atlantic City, New Jersey.

--Veteran's Day November 11th

Our AHEPA Chapter would greatly appreciate any special donations toward the **AHEPA Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund**, since scholarships are due to be given on AHEPA Sunday this May 20th. Donation link and applications for this scholarship can be found online at our Chapter website at: www.ahepa528.org. **Now is the time to encourage students to apply!** Please review application policy and deadlines, many other scholarships available on chapter website.

The AHEPA is the only group of its kind in the world, and the work we do is unmatched. Everyone should look at their accomplishments and revel in the fact that AHEPA is relevant and our mission is as clear today as it was in 1922. Congratulations to all of our chapters and members for making the AHEPA the greatest organization in the Greek American community. Please go to ahepa.org for more information.

--WYNN STORTON, PDG

AHEPA Chapter President

Chapter 528 Webmaster

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AHEPA NEWS, Continued



Pictured above: Pete Peterson receiving AHEPA Military Award.
Below: Jack Shannazarian & Pete Peterson - AHEPA initiation.

DOUBTING ST. THOMAS: A REALITY FOR MANY CHRISTIANS

St. Thomas became famous as a believer who allows us to look inside ourselves as doubters and, yet, we can see the amazing things that true believers (like St. Thomas) can do.

We must remind ourselves of the pressure that the Apostles were under in the early days after the Crucifixion of the Lord. Jesus was seen as an enemy of Rome, but also as an outcast from the Jewish faith: a criminal Who suffered an ignominious death on the Cross. It is no wonder that they gathered behind closed doors! Yet, the Lord made Himself known to His followers despite the locked doors at time when St. Thomas was not present with the others. When told by the others of the Resurrection of Christ, St. Thomas

expressed his doubt, saying, *"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails...and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."* (St. John 20:25). In response, our Risen Lord said to St. Thomas, *"Put your finger her and see My hands and place your hand in My side...do not be faithless, but believing."* (St. John 20:26-29) - to which St. Thomas said, *"My Lord and my God."* (St. John 20:30).

From this moment on, we see St. Thomas' amazing life and ministry. Most of the Apostles ministered inside the Roman Empire, where people were connected by roads and security. St. Thomas was the one who ventured far outside the Empire going as far as the "alien" civilization of India. India was unknown to Greeks and even Romans, even though Alexander the Great had taken by force a small part of India, including the Ganges River. India was a hostile place for Christians. It was polytheistic, holding beliefs in many gods.

In obedience to our Risen Christ, St. Thomas, assured by our Lord's words, *"I will be with you,"* although demurred, he still accompanied an Indian merchant and found himself in the service of the Indo-Parthian King, Gondophares. According to tradition, many conversions were made, including the King and his brother. This tradition shows St. Thomas being more in northern India, since some Greek towns were to be found in that region. There is some evidence that St. Thomas arrived in southern India (in Karela) in 50 A.D. and, while there, he baptized many and founded seven churches in India. According to Syrian Christian tradition, St. Thomas was martyred in India in 72 A.D. and interred in Mylapore. Records later show that Moslems, as well as Christians venerated his relics. Another tradition states that he traveled with Indian traders to Indonesia. Yet another tradition states that St. Thomas found the tomb of the Virgin Mary empty when he returned to venerate it.

We can see that, like St. Thomas, we doubt. Yet, we can see the truth of Christ's Resurrection and the New Kingdom, and, like St. Thomas, we can

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DOUBTING THOMAS, A REALITY, Continued

do ministry in various places. Certainly, I see myself in the shoes of St. Thomas' doubting experience. St. Thomas was a skeptic, as I would have been if I were there. I did not believe for much of my life. Finally, I examined the Gospels and even books that defended the Gospels and the Resurrection of Christ and I was convinced, becoming a believer myself, like St. Thomas. The unbelief of some should help all of us. **God bless all of you!**

--MATTHEW DAVIS

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2018 Spring General Assembly meeting of our parish will take place on **Sunday, April 15, 2018** immediately following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. As is true pertaining to all of our parish General Assembly meetings, everyone's participation is important. Please make sure that your 2018 commitment is up to date so that you can participate.

The agenda includes:

- Minutes from the Fall 2017 General Assembly
- The Financial Report - January to date
- Report of the 2018 Festival
- By-Laws Announcement

We look forward to everyone's participation in this upcoming General Assembly.

HOLY FRIDAY SPIRITUAL RETREAT

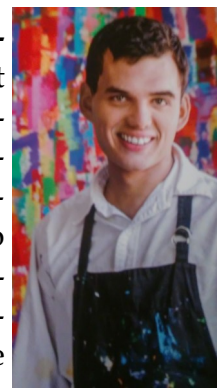
Our Annual Holy Friday Spiritual Retreat for Sunday School students and their parents will take place immediately following the performance of the Holy Hours at about 10:45 a.m.

As always, **Deacon Euthym Kontaxis** will lead the discussion centering around the meaning of Holy Friday Church Services, as well as the services on Holy Saturday leading up to the midnight, which includes the Orthros Service and the Paschal Divine Liturgy beginning at about 12:30 a.m.

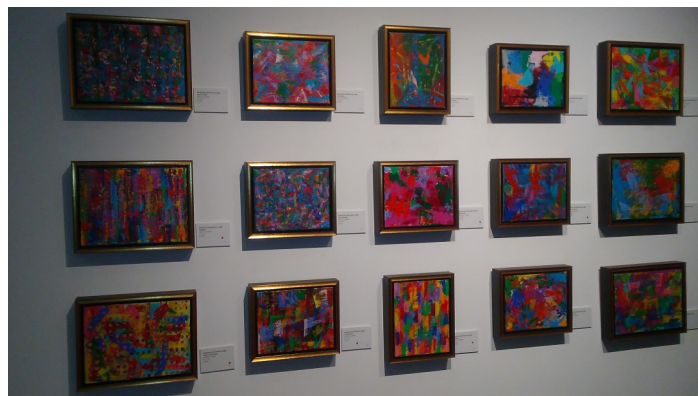
All Sunday School students and their parents are welcome to join. Following this retreat, the Service of the Apokathilosis will begin at 12 noon.

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS ART EXHIBIT

The **Nicholas Kontaxis Art Exhibit** at Heather James Fine Art Studio in Palm Desert on Saturday, March 17, 2018 was a success. The enormous crowd in attendance was itself a tribute to Nicholas as an accomplished artist of our time. In addition, Nicholas' art is now featured at the ACE 3 restaurant in Palm Desert.



Nicholas Kontaxis



These Nicholas Kontaxis paintings graced the entire panel of one of the Heather James Studio walls, where many gathered to bask in the art that brings happiness to all.



Nicholas Kontaxis' feature painting (above) appraised at \$24,000 - sold - at the main wall of the exhibit. Below, other major works by Nicholas Kontaxis.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The Sunday school families, along with Father and Presbytera, recently visited the sculpture garden at Shield's Date Gardens, celebrating the life of Jesus. We had the opportunity to share in the highlights of our Lord's life, understanding how the sadness of His suffering and death was necessary, as His resurrection is what allows us to reach the kingdom of heaven. Though we all now have this opportunity, we need to follow the lessons taught us by Jesus in order to earn our eternal place with God. It is this Lenten period which allows us to annually reflect on our lives and "reset" our path to God.

The word *askesis* comes from the Greek verb which means to exercise, to strive, or to contend with the dedication of an athlete. St. Paul used the image of a boxer when referring to his own practice of self-discipline. "I harden my body with blows and bring it under complete control, to bring myself from being disqualified after having called others to the contest (1 Cor., 9: 26-27). *Askesis* can be translated as "spiritual discipline," "spiritual striving" or "spiritual training."

However, *askesis* should not be identified with the extreme external disciplines associated with the word "ascetic" - harsh fasts, long vigils and strict self-denial regarding every earthly blessing. Rather, the essence of *askesis* involves the struggle in our hearts between good and evil, God and Satan, the kingdom and the world. Its goal is the new life in Christ. Its principles are the teachings of Christ. Its power is the grace of Christ experienced especially in the Eucharist and in personal prayer. *Askesis* is for all, not only for monastics. Each Christian is called to be a spiritual athlete who with his whole mind, heart and actions contends, within himself, family and community, for the supreme priority of the Kingdom, believing that all the other necessary things will be given to us as well by God.

Lent is the time for our families to further build our spirituality and to continue that growth

throughout the rest of the year. Showing our kids the importance of this, along with the challenges it presents, will help them to continue this practice as adults and to share this with their children. God bless!

--JIM CHRISTOPOULOS,
Sunday School Superintendent



Above: Sunday School group picture at the "Scene of the Resurrection of Christ," displayed at Date Farm.



Pictured above: Parents helped at the "children's table" during the lunch at Date Farm (left to right): Melissa Hawkins, Maryia Dunkel (event coordinator), Stephen Hawkins and Susana Cox. Below (left to right): Stephanie, Gloria and Jim Christopoulos, Steve Banki, Jr., Eleni & Craig Castrale, Pat Dalkas, Nelly Banki, Tony Dalkas, Steve Banki, Sr., Alexandra Torres

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



The St. George Parish Council met on **Thursday, March 8, 2018** discussing the following agenda items:

Stewardship figures for this year are improving in comparison to the figures a year ago. Some time was given to discussion regarding welcoming new members and visitors. Volunteers are needed to serve as "Welcome Committee greeters."

The 2018 Greek Festival was much more successful this year, compared to the Festival held a year ago. Invoices were still being received from the various Festival suppliers, so final report is pending

The main maintenance issue was that of the air conditioner serving to cool the parish hall. A slow Freon leak developed in the system, involving strain on the compressor. To purchase a new air conditioning unit to service the parish hall will cost approximately \$11,000 to \$13,000. The members of the Parish Council opted to investigate methods to fix the air conditioner and to entertain bids before reporting the need to purchase a new one.

Fr. Ted announced that the Archdiocese was poised to release an amendment to the Archdiocese By-laws, requiring background checks on Greek School and Sunday School teachers, as well as those serving as church youth camp counselors.

Topics for the Spring General Assembly were approved. This Assembly meeting will be on Sunday, April 15th.

Holy Week preparations were discussed, including the need for decoration of the Epitaphio, as well as Holy Week ushering duties.

The Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 14, 2018 at Desert Willow Golf Course and Spa in Palm Desert, with T-off at 12:30 a.m., followed by the tournament dinner at the church hall at 6:30 p.m. See the enclosed registration form.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to announce that we have received 86 pledge cards for the year so far, with stewards pledging a total of \$101,500. We are currently very close to our \$120,000 goal set at the beginning of the year.

However, we are confident that our goal will be met. We have two opportunity areas; 1) a few past parishioners that have not yet turned in a pledge card and, 2) the opportunity to gain new members to our parish.

Your parish council approved a marketing plan to help promote our church services via newspaper and electronic media. In December and January, we ran several small ads in The Desert Sun listing our services schedule. We will be repeating this for Holy Week in an effort to reach out to Orthodox Christians in our valley. In addition, an 8 foot banner was purchased that will be placed in the front yard area of our church inviting people to "find their home in the Orthodox church." We are currently awaiting delivery of this banner. Finally, we are scheduling a greeter each Sunday to welcome new visitors attending our church service. Greeters are responsible for giving new attendees a Welcome Packet, inviting them to join coffee hour, and introducing them to the priest and other members of our parish, in an effort to make them feel welcome. Research shows that people attending a new church generally make up their mind if they like it or not and will return, within the first 10 minutes of walking through the door! Please, let's all do what we can to make new guests feel welcome by a smile, a handshake, a greeting, and/or your own special touch. Your extra efforts would be most appreciated.

-RHONDA LATKOVIC,
Stewardship Chairperson

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our annual Golf Tournament is set for **Saturday, April 14th**. Golfing at Desert Willow Country Club will tee off at 12:30 pm, with a Lamb dinner, silent auction, live music and dancing at the church beginning at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited for golf and dinner or just dinner. If anyone is interested in volunteering during the golfing and/or during dinner or giving any donations, please contact **Jim Christopoulos, George Argyros** or anyone else on the golf committee. We look forward to everyone sharing in the fellowship of the event!

Please see the enclosed St. George Golf Tournament Registration and Dinner Reservation Form, as well as the notice indicating the various ways by which all of us can support this year's golf tournament and make it another success.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

This year's Holy Week Schedule is in itself a call for everyone to participate in the beautiful prayer services of our Holy Church. Also please find the "Journey to Pascha" write-up posted in our parish hall, giving explanation of the meanings of the observation of each day of Holy Week:

April 1. Palm Sunday. Nymphios Service: 6:30 pm

April 2. Holy Monday. Nymphios Service: 6:30 pm

April 3. Holy Tuesday. Nymphios Service: 6:30 pm

April 4. Holy Wednesday.

 Presanctified Liturgy- 9:00 a.m.

 Holy Unction- 6:30 p.m.

April 5. Holy Thursday.

 Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m.

 Service of the 12 Gospels- 6:30 p.m.

April 6. Holy Friday.

 Holy Hours- 9:00 a.m.

 Sunday School Retreat- 10:30 a.m.

 Apokathilosis - 12:00 noon

 Epitaphio Service- 7:00 p.m.

April 7. Holy Saturday.

 Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m.

 Vigil for the Resurrection - 11:00 p.m.

April 8. Holy Pascha: The Resurrection of Christ
 Resurrection Orthros- 12:00 midnight

Paschal Divine Liturgy - 12:30 a.m.

Agape Vesper Service- 3:00 p.m.

Needs for Holy Week Services include:

1. Oil, cotton balls, Q-tips & plastic bags for the Holy Unction Service, Holy Wednesday.
2. Flowers for the Epitaphio & parishioners to help decorate the Epitaphio - contact **Lula Valissarakos** for details.
3. Parishioners wanting to carry the Epitaphio on Holy Friday night--contact **George Argyros** to volunteer.
4. Prosforo for Pascha and the Post-Paschal Season.

PRAYER SHAWLS

St. George ladies are knitting Prayer Shawls for the patients of City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, California. The shawls have the practical use of warming patients who often feel chills while living in the hospital setting. The shawl ministry serves to spiritually comfort those who are in illness. This ministry has been organized by **Rhonda Latkovic** a former patient at City of Hope, who received her own Prayer Shawl from the ladies of the St. Anthony Greek Orthodox parish in Pasadena, California.

With the celebration of our Savior's Resurrection from the dead, Prayer Shawls will be delivered to the City of Hope in the days to come. Our parish Prayer Shawl "knitters" are: **Pat Dalkas, Josie Desnoyers, Fotini Krespis, Rhonda Latkovic, Christina Kundanis, Olga Vasilakos, Tina Veroulis, Angie Wysup, Pam Zaverdas.**



To the left, Rhonda Latkovic poses, displaying a package containing a knitted Prayer Shawl. The Prayer Shawls were all blessed by Fr. Ted following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 1. They serve to offer both physical and spiritual comfort to hospital patients at the City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, California.

THE 3rd COMMANDMENT

The 3rd of the 10 Commandments is: *"Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord Thy God in vain."* Examining our souls regarding this Commandment involves the following corollaries:

1. Have I profaned God's Name or scandalized others by not acting as a Christian?
2. Have I cursed anyone or anything, or sworn a false oath?
3. Have I failed to give proper reverence to the Saints of the Church or to sacred items?
4. Have I had due respect for clergy and parish leadership; for those living monastic lives, or those sincerely living the Orthodox Christian married life?
4. Have I hindered relatives, co-workers, or church leaders from doing work that gives glory to God?
5. Have I arrogantly broken a promise to support the ministry of the Church, thereby offering a good example of Christian moral teachings according to the best of abilities and without unexpected hardship?
6. Have I entered into an unlawful contract or delighted in dishonest, harmful talk or behavior?

EASTER OFFERING

Easter Offering Envelopes are available throughout Holy Week. Consider offering an "Easter Gift" to our St. George parish to the glory of God. Check with our parish office regarding details and questions.

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

Special thanks to **Evelyn Karas** for spearheading

efforts leading to the religious discussion in our parish hall on Saturday, March 31 (Saturday of Lazarus). The discussion centered around the theme, "Be Still and Know that I am God," led by Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym. Special thanks also to **Tina Veroulis** for procuring the palms for the assembly of the "palm crosses" and organizing the efforts to prepare for Palm Sunday.

Discussions centered around issues of fasting; relations of Orthodox with non-Orthodox Christians and non-Christians. Special gratitude is extended to **Tina Veroulis** for procuring the palms for the assembly of the "palm crosses" and organizing these preparations for Palm Sunday.

Discussions centered around issues of fasting; relations of Orthodox with non-Orthodox Christians and non-Christians; proper participation in the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion



Pictured above: Deacon Euthym engages parishioners in discussions pertaining to issues of fasting; relationships with non-Orthodox Christians; living the Sacramental Life of the Church. In the background, Tina Veroulis and Olympia Fick supply palms for volunteers to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

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

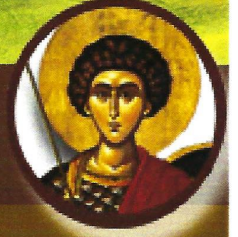
Schedule of Sunday Services: Orthros-8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Sunday School-10:30 a.m.

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1- Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Luncheon Nymphios Service- 6:30 p.m.	2- HOLY MONDAY Nymphios Service- 6:30 p.m.	3.HOLY TUESDAY Nymphios Service 6:30 p.m.	4- HOLY WEDNESDAY Presanctified Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m. Holy Unction- 6:30 p.m.	5.HOLY THURSDAY Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m. The Service of the 12 Gospels- 6:30 p.m.	6-HOLY FRIDAY Royal Hours- 9:00 a.m. Apokathilosis Service- 12 noon Epitaphio Service 7:00 p.m.	7- HOLY SATURDAY Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m. Service of Preparation for the Resurrection- 11:00 p.m.
8- HOLY & GREAT PASCHA Resurrection Service- 12 midnight Divine Liturgy- 12:30 a.m. Agape Vespers- 3:00 p.m.	9 Philoptochos Board Meeting- 11:00 a.m.	10	11	12 Parish Council- 2:30 p.m.	13- LIFE-GIVING FONT Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.	14- St. George Golf Tournament 12:30 a.m. Vespers-5:00 p.m. Golf Tournament Dinner- 6:00 p.m.
15- St. Thomas Sunday Ep. Acts 5:12-20 Gos. St. John 20:19-31	16 Philoptochos General Members' Meeting-11:30 a.m.	17 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	18	19 Choir Practice- 1:00 p.m.	20	21 Vespers-5:00 p.m.
22- Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers Ep. Acts 6:1-7 Gos. St. Mark 15:43-47 16:1-8 Vespers-5:00 p.m.	23- ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.	24 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	25	26 Choir Practice- 1:00 p.m.	27	28 Vespers-5:00 p.m.
29- Sunday of the Paralytic Ep. Acts 9:32-42 Gos. St. John 5:1-15	30	<u>MAY 1</u>	<u>MAY 2</u> MID-PENTECOST Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30 a.m.			Schedule of Sunday Services: Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Sunday School- 10:30 a.m.



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 • 12:30PM SHOTGUN

ENTRY INFORMATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and awards dinner)
- 12:30pm Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 5:30pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:30pm Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

TEE SPONSOR - \$100

Package Includes: One Tee Sign

INDIVIDUAL AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s)
 Saturday, April 14, 2018 ___ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s)
 ___ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek
 Dinner | Saturday, April 14, 2018 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAME

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Saturday, April 7th**

Register Online: www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form To:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261



It's Time for the 2018 St. George Annual Golf Tournament

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Palm Desert,

*We are pleased to announce this year's golf tournament will take place on **Saturday, April 14th**. This is an important fundraiser for our church which allows us to continue to provide the teachings and worship of Orthodoxy in the Coachella Valley. We look forward to your participation!*

Golfing will again take place at Desert Willow Golf Club, one of the premiere courses in the Coachella Valley. Following golf, dinner will be served at the church hall. We will be serving a traditional Greek dinner with lamb right off the spit, Greek salad, spanakopita, loukanico, and other favorites, including, for dessert, galaktobouiko. Following the meal will be live Greek music to get your feet moving! For those who do not golf, we encourage you to join us for dinner and dancing. The more the merrier!

*The application is attached and has the details for golf, dinners and tee sponsorships. Please complete and return the form to the church no later than **April 7th with full payment** made out to St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The following are some important details.*

- Men & women golfers welcome.*
- No-host-bar*
- Raffle and silent auction Saturday night.*
- Create your own foursome or be paired up with other golfers.*
- Specialty golf awards for golfing excellence or... sometimes because the ball just bounced in the right direction.*
- Friends and family are welcome*

We hope to see you on April 14th

Here's to long drives and short putts and a whole lot of fun!

*George Argyros, Chairman
And the St. George Golf Committee*



2018 AHEPA SUNDAY



CHAPTER 528

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. They also assisted Greek immigrants to assimilate into mainstream 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 AHEPA membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Please go online ahepa528.org for scholarships or see a current AHEPAn or Fr. Ted at Church

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED AFTER SERVICES

Applicant must be *active member or son/daughter of an *active member, in good standing, of AHEPA Chapter 528 and/or St. George Orthodox Church of the Desert steward.

**Please read scholarship for eligibility and be aware of all deadlines.*

Chapter 528 meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month~6:30pm at St. George Church

Chapter President - Wynn Storton PDG --760.832.2825 Wynn@ahepa528.org;

Vice President - Nick Krespis

Secretary - Gus Kurupas; Treasurer - Harry Loukatos PCP ;

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Ted Pantels ...Contact@ahepa528.org

SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FALLEN BROTHERS:

2011— Fr. T. P. Theophilos, 2016—Steve Geotas, 2016—Stan Georgalakis,

2016—Steve N. Pisanos, 2017—Bob Maverick, 2017—George Tcharos

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