

OCTOBER 2018



Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Inside this issue

On August 1, 2018 the Pew Research Center issued its new report, entitled, "Why Americans Go (and Don't Go) to Religious Services." The general trends across our nation may well be reflected among Orthodox Christians, as well.

To quote from www.pewresearch.org, "In recent years, the percentage of U.S. adults who say they regularly attend religious services has been declining, while the share of Americans who attend only a few times a year, seldom or never has been growing. A new Pew Research Center survey finds that the main reason people regularly go to church, synagogue, mosque or other house of worship is an obvious one: to feel closer to God. But the things that keep people away from religious services are more complicated.

"Among those who attend no more than a few times a year, about 3-in-10 say they do not go to religious ser-

VICES for a simple reason: they are not believers. But a much larger share stay away not because of a lack of faith, but for other reasons. This includes many people who say one very important reason they don't regularly attend church is that they practice their faith in other ways. Others cite things they dislike about particular congregations or religious services (for example, they haven't found a church or house of worship they like, or they don't like the sermons). Still others name logistical reasons, like being in poor health or not having the time to go, as very important reasons for not regularly attending religious services.

"By their own description, those who cite reasons other than a lack of belief for avoiding church are a fairly religious group... To be sure, they are not as religious as Americans who report going regularly to religious services. But, by several standard measures, they are much more religious than those who say, 'I am not a believ-

er."

Given all of this, we are to understand that those who go to religious services regularly do so largely so that they can "be closer to God," while those who do not attend "practice their faith in other ways" and still consider themselves to be a "fairly religious group" – at least more so than those who flat-out don't believe in God at all.

Missing from the Pew Report is the definition of the word "religious." It is on this point that we may find the real gap between sinner and saint.

According to the Bible, it is impossible for one to be "religious" without worship. This is confirmed by the Holy Tradition of the Church. Worship gives body to prayer; prayer gives substance to one's very thinking.

At work here, it seems, is a great deception: the idea

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METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

that one can be “religious” on his or her own, without a congregation with whom and for whom to pray and without the Holy and Precious Sacraments, all of which are founded upon the Bible. With this deception comes the notion that we can even judge ourselves and simply ignore God’s Judgment.

Obviously there is an implication from the survey itself that by, “religious services” we are not speaking about the descent of the Holy Spirit into the lives of God’s people by way of participation in the Sacramental Life of His Church. If, by “religious services” we mean the “Hollywood-type” productions that we see on T.V. with brides and grooms exchanging shallow vows and pastors by grave-sides muttering sentimental thoughts about the deceased, we can agree that such “religious services” are benign anyway.

It would seem, however, that to some degree Orthodox Christians might be caught up in these unclear definitions of “religious” and “religious services.” That our national average Orthodox Church attendance would in any way mimic that of the now American standard, would indicate that *our* people have become “Americanized” to the point of totally misunderstanding the mission of the Church in their world and the meaning of the Church in their lives. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann would agree, saying, *“That which becomes serious [for us] is the reality that the liturgy - one of the most central works of the Church - has [been allowed] to in essence stop connecting us with the other aspects of the Church’s life so as to inspire; to form and to guide the conscience of the people of the Church as well as even...the Christian community.”* (*The Mission of the Church in Today’s World*, pg.162). This may explain why even Orthodox faithful seem confused about being “religious” and going to “religious services” as are other average Americans.

Our collective challenge is to clear up this confusion through committed dedication to Bible Study and careful study of our precious Orthodox Christian Faith.

+FR. THEODORE

1. The consecration of the new chapel of **St. Paraskevi and St. Nikiforos** at the Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring at St. Nicholas Ranch took place on the weekend of September 28 - 29, 2018. **His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos** officiated the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for the consecration of this new chapel.

2. A forum for the **Metropolis of San Francisco’s Greek Folk Dance Festival** will be hosted by the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle, Washington on **October 8th**.

3. On **Saturday, October 13, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa in Huntington Beach, California, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco will celebrate its ministries and honor the extraordinary leadership of Dr. James and Virginia Kallins**. Let us celebrate the ministries of the Metropolis! A block of rooms for over-night stay is available at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach. To secure a reservation, call the hotel at 800-233-1234 (Group Name: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of SF). To purchase tickets or offer sponsorship donations contact the Metropolis of San Francisco offices at 415-753-3075.

4. The Metropolis of **San Francisco Young Adult Retreat** will take place at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center on October 12-14, 2018. For more information, contact our Metropolis of San Francisco Office of Youth Ministries at 415-712-7658.

5. Our Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director, **Johanna Duterte** reported that the dates for the **Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center will take place on May 10 - 11, 2019. More information regarding the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is available at the following website: <http://religiouslysanfran.goarch.org/oratorical/>.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



September--Our General Meeting was held on Monday, September 10. We had 23 members attend our meeting setting this year's calendar of events. We enjoyed a light lunch of salad and toasted bread with a surprise birthday cake for our dear member, **Valentina Ostapenko**. She is eighty years young. Valentina makes our coffee every Sunday and also helps with the Coffee Hour. Give her a thank you when you see her. (See photo)

We started baking church bread in 1 lb. loaves in very small batches. You may have already purchased a loaf. We will be baking loaves about once a month. If you are interested, see Pat Dalkas. The loaves sell for \$3.00 each.

Our adopt-a-student, Devon Latzen is doing well. He sent us a lovely note telling us of his activities over the summer and thanking us for our "Goodie Box" we sent for Spring/Summer. It contained our church bread, cookies and gift cards from Subway and Starbucks.

We want to thank our anonymous parishioner who donated a new mixer paddle for our professional mixer in the kitchen. We use the mixer for all the bread and cookie dough we make throughout the year.

October--We have two outside events that you may want to attend:

The first is Paint El Paseo Pink sponsored by the Desert Cancer Foundation (located next door to us) on Saturday, October 13. You will make a donation of \$25.00 while children in strollers and dogs will be free. You will find a flyer for this event and an application located on the coffee bar in the hall. You may also go on line to register under "Team Saint George." Desert Cancer Foundation in one of the new charities we added to our budget this year.

The second is the Metropolis Gala honoring Dr. James and Virginia Kallins on Saturday, October 13 starting at 6:00 p.m. The Gala will be at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort.

We will be assisting AHEPA again this year by selling tickets for their Thanksgiving Lunch on Sunday, November 18. We will be taking reservations at the Philoptochos table in the hall later in the month.

Towards the end of the month on Saturday, October 27 we will have a presentation on Improve Your Health and Environment. The special guest is Shiela Backus. This event is hosted by Ann Dixson and is free. There are two presentations at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. (choose the one that is convenient for you) and bring a friend. We will be meeting in the church hall and refreshments will be served.

Donations this month will be:

National - ER Fund Local- Birth Choice

The General Meeting this month will be on Monday, October 8 at 11:30 a.m. We will have lunch (a donation of \$7.00), a speaker and then the meeting.

--LINDA KALLIS,
Philoptochos President



Valentina Ostapenko in celebrating he birthday with the ladies of the Philoptochos and all of our parishioners.

THE CHURCH & MENTAL WELLNESS: The Thirst for Power and Control

Consistent with the Holy Tradition of the Apostles, St. Ephrem the Syrian composed a prayer which is commonly read during Church services during Great Lent: *"O Lord and Master of my life; take away from me the spirit of meddlesomeness; the spirit of jealousy; the spirit of greed and the spirit of despair. Give to me, instead, the spirit of humility, patience, piety and love. Yes, O Lord, allow me to see a vision of my own sins so that I may not pass judgment upon my brother."* It is a prayer that expresses our desire for a *holy* way of life - a life in which we are in control of ourselves. We pray for God's power to be able to do this.

However, this is the exact opposite of many of our motives, which are often designed to gain power and control over others, not in necessarily a malicious way, but control nonetheless. For example, as a parent I am very anxious about what my children and grandchildren are doing and what might happen to them. Jesus said, *"Whoever loves houses or father or mother or children more than Me is not worthy of Me."* (Matthew 10:37). The real meaning is that we are *not to love them more than we love our Savior*. Why? Because we are to have faith in Him - faith that, our Lord will enlighten and guide the ones we love if only we unite our will with His and do what really is in our power to bring about everything good. When we are distracted from prayer, we cannot concentrate on God's Will and do what is required of us. We let God down in preference to trying to control the affairs of others, as if our love for them is greater than God's love for them.

Issues related to our quest for power and control are related to depression in that, to the extent that we cannot control things and people, we become anxious. Anxiety breeds passions of frustration and anger (or depression). It is from here that the latest counseling tips are given to addicts and alcoholics: *"Don't sweat the small stuff;" "Take one day at a time;" "Let go and let God."* These "mantras" arise from the general concept of *detachment therapy*, which not only serves to help one suffering from anxiety over their own

wellbeing, but serves to help those who care about the wellbeing of their loved ones.

In her book entitled *"Codependent No More,"* (which has been highly recommended by Dr. Drew Pinsky), Melody Beattie includes a section about *detachment*, and writes, *"Detachment...involves accepting reality--the facts. It requires faith in ourselves, in God, in other people and in the natural order of things in this world."* (pg. 61). While the motive for Melody Beattie and for those who read her book might be rooted in addressing the need for the "sanity" of an alcoholic or addict, as well as for that of a caregiver, her advice rings true, even if for a deeper reason—that being: *salvation in Christ*. For the Saints, the word *detachment* has no meaning apart from that pertaining to the salvation of souls. While modern counselors promote "peace of mind," the Saints promote *salvation*, which, although including "peace of mind," it goes far beyond it.

Regarding *detachment*, in his writing entitled, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, St. John Climacus, explains: *"One who really loves the Lord and who has made a real effort to find the coming Kingdom....will not love, care or worry about money, or possessions, or parents, or worldly glory, or brothers, or anything at all on earth...and will follow Christ without anxiety or hesitation, always looking heavenward and expecting help from there, according to the word of the holy man: 'My soul sticks close behind Thee.' (Psalm 62:9)"* (pg. 57). St. Evagrius the Solitary says, *"The Apostle likened this world to a contest in an arena. How then can someone clothed with anxious thoughts run for 'the prize of the high calling of God?'...The intellect is attached to its own treasure; for it is said, 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'" (St. Matt. 6:210). ("On Discernment of Passions and Thoughts," *Philokalia*, Vol. 1, pg. 39)*

All-in-all, *detachment with love for God* allows us to grant to our loved ones the best gift of all: our prayers for them, given with faith that God loves them (and us) better than we even know how to love. At the same time, the mercy given by God, *beyond* our prideful powers, allows our loved ones to give glory to God more than to us.

+FR. THEODORE

THE PATRON SAINTS OF THOSE NAMED "JAMES"

It is common for those who have the name of James to have one of two Patron Saints who are commemorated in the Orthodox Church in the month of October every year. James is translated into English from either the Greek name for St. James the Brother of our Lord, *Iakovos*, or the Great Martyr, *Demetrios*. St. James the Brother of the Lord is celebrated on **October 23rd** every year, while St. Demetrios the Martyr is celebrated on **October 26th** every year.

The name of James (or Iakovos) was a common name among the Jewish People. He was the half-brother of our Lord, being a son of Joseph who had betrothed the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Respected by the other Apostles as being the Elder, he served as the Patriarch of Jerusalem during the Apostolic Era of Christianity.

It was St. James who helped to establish the practice according to Apostolic Tradition for accepting non-circumcised believers into the Church. Accordingly, it is the teaching of the Church to this day that circumcision is not needed for faith in Christ. Thus, St. James helped to clarify this way of defining how Gentile Christians were to be part of the Christian Faith. St. James worked closely with Sts. Peter and Paul to expand the Faith.

St. James the Brother of our Lord is the author of the *Universal Epistle of St. James*, which is one of the books of the New Testament. The major theme of his Epistle is the harmony between faith and good works.

It should be noted that out of the history of the Jerusalem -- St. James being the Patriarch of Jerusalem during the early beginnings of the Church -- the Divine Liturgy in use was that known as *The Divine Liturgy of St. James*. This is a very long and involved Liturgy, which, along with the Divine Liturgies of Sts. Basil the Great and John Chrysostom help complete and enrich the Orthodox worship Tradition.

In preaching that Christ is God, the Pharisees considered him to be an enemy and they stoned him

to death in 63 A.D.

St. Demetrios the Martyr is also commonly considered to be the Patron Saint of some who bear the name James.

If there was a Saint of the Church who was tied closely to a famous city, it was St. Demetrios of Thessaloniki. Indeed, he was the most famous of the late Roman Saints connected with this major soon-to-be Christian city.

By around 300 A.D. the Roman Emperors Diocletian and Caesar Galerius felt that the division of religious belief in the Empire was part and parcel to the Empire's decline. When St. Demetrios was serving as a soldier in the Roman army, his proclamation of faith in Christ our God became a problem for the Roman authorities who worshiped pagan gods. St. Demetrios was thrown into prison and it was known that this prison was in the basement of the modern church of St. Demetrios in Thessaloniki. While in prison, a young Christian named Nestor asked Demetrios for his blessing to fight an imposing Goliath-like fighter named Lyaeus. The blessing was given and in a single combat Nestor won in a David-versus-Goliath type of fight. Galerius had Nestor beheaded and Demetrios was impaled while in prison. Galerius, who later changed his name to Maximian when he became "Augustus," was an early instigator of Diocletian's great persecution. Over time, however, the Christians of Thessaloniki, built the church of St. George in the place where the Romans had set up an arch dedicated to Galerius.

A fragrant myrrh emanates from the tomb of St. Demetrios, which is why he is known as St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer (*Myroblitis*). He is the Patron Saint of Thessaloniki.

Thessaloniki had been under the rule of the Ottoman Turks for centuries. In 1912 one of the Macedonian Wars took place between Greece and the Ottoman Turks. The Greek forces liberated Thessaloniki on October 26 from the Ottoman Turks and Thessaloniki became part of the Kingdom of Greece.

--MATTHEW DAVIS

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



The 2018-2019 Sunday School Year began on Sunday, September 23, 2018, as classes met for the first time since the summer break.

We are very excited to start meeting with the kids again! Our theme for the year is the "Divine Liturgy." We will be focused on the Liturgy itself, including the Orthodox calendar and feast days, parts of the church, the Holy Gospel and Epistle. We will continue with two classes, as follows:

1. The preschool / kindergarten class, led by teachers: Mariya Dunkel & Melissa Hawkins
2. The older children and teenager class, led by teachers: Deacon Euthym & Krisann

A draft of our yearly calendar lists all of the Sunday School events and many of the church events for this year, though all of the exact dates have yet to have been confirmed. Also enclosed herein is a registration form for those who have not yet registered their children. Thank you to those who have already completed the form. For all others, please complete this registration form (enclosed herein) and send it to **Dr. Jim Christopoulos**, our Sunday School Superintendent, so that the Sunday School data base can be maintained up to date!

Should anyone want to help with our program or make any recommendations, please see Jim Christopoulos or any teachers. We will always welcome additional help and new ideas.

September 26, 2018 - First Day of Sunday School

October 21, 2018- Pumpkin Painting

November 4, 2018 - No Sunday School. Students will attend the Annual St. George Veterans Day program.

December 16, 2018-Sunday School Christmas Program.

December 22, 2018- Sunday School Christmas caroling

January 6, 2019. No Sunday School. Great and Holy Theophany and the Great Blessing of the Waters (Aghiasmo).

February 17, 2019-No Sunday School. Annual St. George Greek Festival.

March 17, 2019 - Orthodox Sunday. Procession with the Holy Icons.

March 23, 2019 - Stations of the Cross at Shields Date Gardens in Indio.

April 28, 2019- No Sunday School. Great and Holy Pascha.

May 19, 2019 - Last day of Sunday School until September 2019.

GREEK FESTIVALS IN OCTOBER

Three major Greek Festivals in Southern California are scheduled for October:

Greek Festival at St. Nectarios - October 5-7, 2018. For more information, contact: (626) 967-5524

St. Sophia Cathedral Greek Fest in L.A.- October 5 - 7, 2018. For more information, contact (323) 737-2424

St. Nicholas Greek Festival in Murrieta- October 13-14, 2018. For more information, contact (951) 296-6207. See the enclosed St. Nicholas Greek Festival flier.

CHOIR NOTES

Following the summer break, our parish choir will be returning on **Sunday, October 7, 2018**. The first choir practice for the new Church Year will be on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at our church.

Everyone is welcome to join the choir. Those who are interested are asked to contact our choir director, **Annette Laskaris**.

PARISH COUNCIL



As the New Church Year has begun, the members of the Parish Council convened on Thursday, September 20, 2018.

At this meeting, the Parish Council decided that the parish choir should begin the New Church Year with singing every Sunday, starting on **Sunday, October 7, 2018**. Commensurate with this, the members of the choir are asked to gather for their first rehearsal of the Church Year on **Thursday, October 4, 2018** at the church at 1:00 p.m. The choir will continue in service to our Sunday worship throughout the year up to **Pentecost Sunday, June 16, 2019** before taking a summer break.

Athena Snarskis, on behalf of our Philoptochos, introduced the new AED Difibulator to the members of the Parish Council, illustrating how the machine is to be used.

The Parish Council also decided that our St. George parish will be featured in this year's Golf Cart Parade, advertising our Greek Festival. The Golf Cart Parade will take place on **October 28th** at **1:00 p.m.**, marching on El Paseo Drive from Portola to Highway 74. We thank **Tina Veroulis** for helping to make arrangements for us to acquire a golf cart for this event.

St. George parishioners will be asked to support the Desert Cancer Foundation's annual Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness (also known as the PINK Walk) on **Saturday, October 13th**. The Walk begins at **8:00 a.m.** Registration forms and information are enclosed in this *Voice of St. George* newsletter. Also, for more details and for help to register, contact **Rhonda Latkovic**.

The **Church Projects Committee** was established and is headed by **Fr. Ted** and **Deacon Euthym**. Fr. Ted and Deacon Euthym will be responsible to work with our Metropolis Art and Architecture Committee in the effort to install new icons in our church temple, along with a new carpet and the refurbishing of our church dome. Money for iconography is being gifted to our parish and,

with this gift, we encourage our parishioners to add to this their contributions for the work that is to be done for the interior of our church edifice. More information can be obtained by contacting either Fr. Ted or Deacon Euthym directly.

The upgrade of our parish hall is being spearheaded by **Rhonda Latkovic** and **Becky Allen**. Already, everyone will take notice of the wonderful patio set-up outside our parish hall, which was put together with hardly no cost. Discussions are now being held as to installing new table sets and chairs for our parish hall, as well as upgrading the ceiling of the hall and installing sliding door panels leading out to the courtyard.

A parish **property insurance review** will take place. The Parish Council asked **Mike Vawter** to lead this effort.

The date for the **Fall General Assembly** meeting was set for **Sunday, November 4, 2018** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Finally, the parish **Master Calendar** will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall beginning on Monday, October 1, 2018. Please refer to this calendar if planning receptions or events for family, friends, or fellow parish members.

2019 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL

The first meeting for the 2019 Greek Festival was very successful.



Everyone is asked to join in the effort of promoting our 2019 Greek Festival by giving fliers and Festival Sponsorship forms to businesses and friends encouraging everyone to attend the Festival, offering donations toward the expenses of the Festival. (See "October Events Fliers")

The committee chairpersons of last year's Festival will continue in their positions going into this year's Festival, with only a few minor changes. In addition, as was the case last year, the baking and set-up schedule for this year's Festival will begin during the first full week of January 2019.

The next Festival Meeting will take place in November -- the date to be determined.

AHEPA NEWS



AHEPA 528 activities set for upcoming year:

- October 28th OXI Day
- Veterans Day November 11th
- Thanksgiving Lunch, flyer attached
- Mid-Winter Conference, January 19th Long Beach CA
- AHEPA Western Regional Banquet, January 19th Long Beach CA
- February 3rd, Super Bowl Sunday Festival February 16 -17 2019

This week, **Supreme President George E. Loucas** presented IOCC, which was represented by Pascalis Papouras, with a \$15,000 donation to secure the first of two shipping containers. It will deliver medical supplies to Evangelismos Hospital in Athens. Since 2012, AHEPA has teamed-up with IOCC to secure the delivery of nine containers of medical supplies delivered to various hospital throughout Greece. Each container possesses medical supplies totaling an estimated value between \$650,000 and \$850,000.

AHEPA has raised \$150,000 for its Emergency Relief Fund drive. Our campaign continues! An AHEPA delegation led by Supreme President George E. Loucas visited eastern Attica, Greece, to survey the devastation in Mati and Rafina from July's wildfires, and to meet with local officials and residents, September 6, 2018.

I want to invite all men of the church to join AHEPA Chapter 528 and let you know your talents would be a great addition to our family.

The key is rolling up sleeves and giving back to community together. AHEPA is the foremost Hellenic Service Organization in the World.

Next meeting scheduled for October 3rd 2018, 6:30 pm at st George Church, come and see what we can accomplish together. bring a friend. I just returned fro the Washington DC Conference and have many opportunities to share.

--WYNN STORTON,
Chapter 528 President &
Supreme Governor Region 8

COLORING BOOK GROUP

Our first coloring group session after summer break, was held on **Friday, September 21st**. The ten ladies in attendance enjoyed a lunch of homemade lentil soup, spanakopita, hummus & crackers, dolmas, tomato and feta skewers, plus dessert consisting of watermelon, cake, brownies, and cupcakes.

After lunch, the ladies commenced with their coloring and a raffle was held with prizes consisting of dish towels, glassware,

candles, and more. Our next session will be held on **Friday, October 12th** beginning at noon in the church hall. Be sure to RSVP to



Members of the Coloring Book Group gather for the luncheon prepared by Rhonda Latkovic (pictured at the right). To the left is Doris Elmo and behind Rhonda is Georgia Sapahzis.



Pictured above (left to right): Penny Chiotis, Alice Pulos and Emily Tcharos posed, calling for many others to join this year's Coloring Book Group.

Rhonda Latkovic by Sunday, October 7th. Please see the Adult Coloring flier included in the Voice for more details.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

1. PAINT EL PASEO PINK EVENT

We all know someone who has been affected by cancer. This may be a family member or close friend, or even a business colleague. Our next door renters, "The Desert Cancer Foundation", offer assistance (supportive and monetary) to those living with cancer.

They have planned a fundraising event for Saturday, October 13th called "Paint El Paseo Pink". This event is a "FUN WALK" for participants and starts in The Gardens on El Paseo. Participants will walk El Paseo from end to end (Monterey to Portola & back). There will be entertainment along the street for the participants to enjoy. This is a super fun event for a great cause!

We are supporting our Desert Cancer partners by establishing a "SAINT GEORGE" walking team. Entry price is only \$25.00 per person. Small children in strollers and pets on leash can join in the fun at no additional charge. We hope to have a team of at least a half dozen or more from our Saint George community. Please join us!

Please see the enclosed sign-up form in the Voice & complete all information giving your form to Rhonda Latkovic or go on-line to the paintelpaseopink website and sign-up under **Team Registration** selecting **Saint George** and entering your personal information.

2. PET BLESSING EVENT

We have planned a pet blessing event on Saturday, **November 3rd at 9:00 AM** in our back courtyard area for our fur babies!

Our plans include a special speaker, Richard Waxman, founder of "Paws & Hearts" organization, who will speak about the services his organization provides in our community.

"Animal Samaritans" will be on hand to represent their organization. Any attendee who brings a canned or bagged pet food item to donate to

Animal Samaritans will be entered in a drawing for a gift basket!

In addition, we plan on servings light refreshments for our human friends and dog biscuits for our "fur babies".

Please be sure to have all pets on leash during this event.

If you would like to add the name of a special pet that was a part of your live and who is now deceased, please submit their name to either the church office or to Rhonda Latkovic, so it can be added to the special poster that our Sunday School children will be designing.

Also, we would appreciate an RSVP by October 30th if you plan on attending the blessing event. Any questions, see Rhonda Latkovic or call (714) 875-4661.

Be sure to review the Pet Blessing Flier included in the Voice.

4. GOLF CART PARADE

Saint George will be participating in the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce sponsored "Golf Cart Parade" on Sunday, October 28th.

The theme of the parade is "Superheroes" and our entry is titled "Hercules".

This provides our community an opportunity to get both our name out there and advertise our Greek festival.

So far, we have around 5 volunteers who will be dressing in costume and riding in the cart. We still need up to 5 walkers who will dress up in costume and carry a lightweight banner(s) advertising our Greek Festival.

We also need help with decorating the golf cart. Plans are flexible for both day & evening hours to decorate the cart at the church. Please see Rhonda Latkovic for more info.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of September 27th year-to-date, we have a total of 116 stewardship families who have pledged \$121,600.

Saint George stewards will be shortly receiving by mail a stewardship balance statement and a thank you gift compliments of the Parish Council.

We are now beginning to prepare for the 2019 Stewardship Year. Next year's theme is "*All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ*". Our first **Stewardship Sunday is planned for December 9th, 2018**, when the new 2019 materials will be distributed.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

We will resume our Altar Flower Season on October 7th, 2018. If parishioners have not paid for their October orders please advise to do so Sunday. Also, some of have not submitted their dedication statements for The Ladder (see Altar Flower Bouquet coordinator, **Louise Dobbs Barringer**).

There are only three available Altar Flower request dates left, parishioners can check the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall!

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Commandment #9

The Ninth of God's Ten Commandments is this: "Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Questions to ask one's self when preparing for Holy Confession:

1. Have I said falsehoods about my neighbor's actions or character?
2. Have I said falsehoods about my own actions or character?
3. Have I told lies or half-truths; not being honest in my speech or motives?
4. Have I committed crimes of slander (spreading untrue statements by words) or libel (writing untrue statements) against myself or anyone else?
5. Do I engage in speaking and/or listening to gossip?

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OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule Orthros-8:30 a.m D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Sunday School-10:30 a.m.	1	2 Bible Study- 10:00 am	3 AHEPA Meeting- 6:30 p.m.	4 Choir Practice- 1:00 pm	5	6
7-3rd Sun. of Luke Ep.-2 Cor.11:31-33; 12: 1-9 Gos-St. Lk.7:11-16 Choir Begins for the season	8 Philoptochos General Members Meeting- 11:30 am	9 Bible Study- 10:00 am.	10	11 Parish Council- 2:30 pm	12	13- PINK Parade for breast cancer <u>awareness</u> Metropolis of San Francisco Gala-(see flier)
14-The 7th Eccumenical Council Ep.-Titus 3:8-15 Gos-St. Lk.8:5-15	15	16 Bible Study- 10:00 am	17	18- ST. LUKE Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy- 9:30 am	19	20- ST. GERASIMOS Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy- 9:30 am
21-6th Sun.of Luke Ep.-Gal. 2: 16-20 Gos.-St.Lk.8:26-39	22	23- ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE Orthros-8:30am D. Liturgy- <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study- 10:00 am	24	25	26- ST. DEMETRIOS THE MARTYR Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy- 9:30 am	27 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR 10:00 a.m & 1:00 p.m.
28-7th Sun.of Luke Ep. Gal.6: 11-18 Gos.St. Lk.8:41-46 "OXI" DAY Golf Cart Parade	29	30 Bible Study- 10:00 am	31	<u>NOVEMBER 1</u> STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy- 9:30 am		