

MARCH 2019



# Voice of St. George

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

**74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA**



Inside this issue

## OPEN THE GATE OF REPENTANCE

One of the characteristic features of our desert cities community is the abundance of "gated communities." Nine times out of ten, it seems, going to visit someone's home involves going through a gate at the entrance of the community. Waiting to be "buzzed in" inspired me one day to think about the approaching **Lenten Season**, which begins on **Monday, March 11, 2019**. The process of being "buzzed in" requires that either one needs a pass code and the permission of the resident to enter.

The Church speaks about two gates -- the gate of repentance which opens the gate of Paradise. "Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life, for early in the morning my spirit hastens to Your holy temple, bringing the temple of my body all defiled." (Orthros: *Idiomela* for March 10th)

We stand outside the gate

of Paradise because of sin. Adam and Eve were expelled from Paradise as the result of their disobedience to God—for it is disobedience to God which constitutes sin, which makes us *lost* to God. Their expulsion was actually their departure from God, which made them unworthy of Paradise. As Adam and Eve learned, blaming others never absolves us of making every effort to follow through with our responsibilities. We are each responsible for "fighting the good fight" against "*principalities; against powers, and against the rulers of darkness, which is of this age...*" (Ephesians 6:12).

We often find ourselves to be weak in "fighting the good fight" against the powers of darkness. In repentance, we turn to our Savior in prayer, asking for His blessing and guidance; for, without Christ, we can do nothing. *With Christ we can gain the*

wisdom to discern between God's Will and the things that are against God.

In his book, *The Lenten Spring*, Fr. Thomas Hopko shares the words of St. Anthony the Great: "*...I want God to give you a heart of knowledge and discernment, that you may be able to offer your hearts as a pure sacrifice before the Father, with great holiness, without blemish. Truly my children, evil spirits envy us at all times, with their evil counsel, and hidden persecution, and settlement in malice, and spirit of seduction, and their blasphemous thoughts, and their hardening of heart, and their many griefs which they bring upon us every hour...and the self justifications at what we do, and the judgments, which they set in our hearts, causing us to judge our fellow people...and we are bitter against each other with hard words, grieving it every hour, accusing each other and not ourselves, thinking*

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*that our trial is from our fellows, as we sit in judgment on what appears outwardly while the real criminal is all within our house, that is, within the inner reassesses of our soul.” (Letter VI, by St. Anthony the Great).*

It is time for us to stop taking the gifts God gives us as individuals and as a community for granted. It is time to stop taking each other for granted and to stop taking life itself for granted. It is time for *repentance* and *forgiveness*. Repentance and forgiveness are two sides of the same coin. Our Savior pronounced our forgiveness from His Cross and opened the gate of Paradise for us with His Resurrection from the dead. As God forgives, we must forgive, or else we commit a sin, for which we must repent.

Among our greatest distractions in the effort to pray is the unwillingness to forgive one another. What makes forgiveness difficult is our pride. Deceptions and pride go to together. With this combination working in us, we too often make assumptions that we are “totally right” and the other is “totally wrong.” We too often fail to see the part that we play in our relationships.

For there to be forgiveness there must be *humility*. Humility is not simply a noun. It is the *Person* of Christ our God. St. Paul puts it this way: *“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and slander be put away from you and be kind to one another, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Be imitators of God as dear children.”* (Ephesians 4:31-5:1). Turning once again to Fr. Thomas Hopko, he reminds us of Fyodor Dostoyevky’s book, *The Brothers Karazmazov*, where Elder Zossima says, *“At the sight of other men’s sins ... Always combat it by humble love.”* (Lenten Spring, pg. 37). Loving humility is an awesome force that leads to forgiveness, and, with Christ, to the Resurrection.

+FR. THEODORE

## METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO FOLK DANCE & CHORAL FESTIVAL



Over 3,000 attended and participated in FDF, with 112 dance and choral groups representing 35 parishes. The sounds of instruments, singing, joy and laughter resonated throughout the four-day gathering, which was an inspiring demonstration of Faith, Dance and Fellowship. *“What do you stand for? This is the question I asked the thousands of people at the start of FDF, emphasizing that we must stand for our Faith, stand by each other, and most important, stand by God,”* remarked His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. *“FDF is a tremendous vehicle to actively engage our youth in the Church, and this year was especially noteworthy in the multitude of ways that everyone came together to help those in need - those who are hungry, those with cancer, and our Theological school. This indomitable spirit truly exemplifies that we are, first and foremost, Orthodox Christians. Dancing and singing bring about wonderful opportunities for fellowship, but when you see competition becoming secondary to uniting for a cause much greater than any medal, that is when we have the beautiful witness of putting our faith into action.”*

To jumpstart the FDF weekend, hundreds of participants gathered for a Diakonia project, coordinated by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos in support of Rise Against Hunger. Dancers, parents, grandparents and friends stood together packaging 43,000 meals to feed the hungry. The enthusiasm to come together as an FDF family set the tone for the rest of the weekend. The Metropolis Philoptochos has been sponsoring a Diakonia project for three years in conjunction with FDF as a collaborative effort to expand the important work of their ministry.

FDF is led by a dedicated team under the leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman Father Gary Kyriacou, Vice Chairman Spiro Beckas, and Director of Finance Michael Syrengelas.

--Excerpted from article by Kristen Bruskas,  
Metropolis of San Francisco Staff: [sanfran.goarch.org](http://sanfran.goarch.org)

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



### February

We continued to help the Church with the preparations of appetizers and pastries for the Festival. Our members volunteered a lot of hours. Thank you members!

We continued our Outreach Program and we are expanding with a new project to serve the needs of the homeless. We could use underwriters to help defray food expenses.

February 19, 21 and 26 we fed the homeless through Street Life Project with food purchased from the Church Festival. We **fed 210 homeless** in three locations including Indio and Palm Springs. We also clothed the homeless through your donations and our purchases of gently used clothing such as jackets, sweat shirts, socks and other items. The loads of clothing were taken to Street Life on February 12, 14, 18, 21 and 26. They went to the homeless in Indio and Palm Springs at three Street Life Project stations. We donated enough **clothing** to give to **255 people**. Thank you for your donations. See photos.

Saturday, February 23 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. we had a booth at the Swing 'N Hop Street Fair on El Paseo. We sold bread and cookies made by us and other pastries purchased from the Church. We made approximately **\$775.00**. Several people stopped by and said they had been to the Festival, loved the pastries and bought more! It was a great way to represent Philoptochos and the Church.

On Monday, February 25 at 11:30 a.m. we had our General Meeting. Our guest speakers were **Father Ted** and **Rhonda Latkovic**. Rhonda spoke about Emotional Intelligence. She was employed by J.C. Penny for 35 years and was a management trainer for five years. Important points:

- Listening to her team
- Communicating effectively
- "There is no "I" in Team"
- This resulted in a better bottom line for

the company

Father Ted spoke about Emotional Intelligence relating to our spiritual life. He mentioned:

1. Don't gossip
2. Be careful of your words. Show sympathy
3. Smile more - it may be what is needed
4. Don't make assumptions. Get the facts and pray for God's blessing before making a decision.
5. Listen to each other. Listen to God.
6. Always do your best.

We enjoyed lunch, heard the speakers' presentations and had a short meeting afterward.

### March

Our Membership Luncheon will be on Saturday, March 9 at 12:00 noon. Come join us in the newly refurbished Church Hall. We look forward to welcoming new members. We will be enjoying wine tasting, lunch and a raffle. Be sure to make your **reservation by calling Rhonda Latkovic or Athena Snarskis by Sunday, March 3**.

### April

We have our **Easter Bake Sale on April 14 and 21** and baking will be the week of April 8. We will be making bread on Monday - Wednesday and making cookies on Thursday - Friday. Hope you can give us a few hours to make these goodies.

**\*\*Important\*\*** - At our General Meeting on Monday, April 15 we will have elections for our new Board of Directors. Please plan to be at this meeting.

--LINDA KALLIS, Chapter President

P.S.-February 10th, Philoptochos honored **Cleo Anton** with a birthday cake: **100 years old!** We now pray that our Lord will grant her Eternal Life: she departed this life on February 18th. Philoptochos sent a memorial bouquet in honor of Cleo for her funeral at St. Sophia Cathedral on February 27th.





## THE CHURCH AND WELLNESS

### Are our Words really God's Word?

In the Book of Genesis, the word for "word" has nearly the same meaning as do the words "let it be." It is not surprising, then, that we read the following: "*Then God said, 'Let there be light!' and there was light!*" (Genesis 1:3). The word of God is at the same time the power of God. The Word of God took on human flesh and is known as the Person of our Savior Jesus Christ. St. John tells us, "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God.*" (St. John 1:1). It should not be surprising then, that, in so far as we are created in the Image and Likeness of God, *our* words also have power and meaning.

The Holy Gospel is known to be the "Word of God." At the same time, when the priest carries the Gospel to the front of the church for the "Small Entrance" and raises it high, the message is given that Christ our God is with us, having entered into our human history and circumstance as Man—as the "Living Word." With this in mind, knowing that Christ is the only True celebrant of the Church's Sacred Services, passages from both the Old Testament and the New Testament are read throughout the year, culminating with the reading of the Gospel during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

In his article, "How to Read the Bible," found in the *Orthodox Study Bible*, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, writes: "*According to St. Mark the Monk, 'He who is humble in his thoughts and engaged in spiritual work, when he reads the Holy Scriptures, will apply everything to himself and not to his neighbor.'... 'Christ Himself is speaking to you.'*" (pg. 1764). Our words to Christ in return are the prayers of the Church and the prayers of our hearts.

Every prayer is, more or less, modeled after the Lord's Prayer. We speak to God with love. This love is translated into the spirit of compassion and forgiveness as we relate to one another—"*Our Father...Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*"

It seems to be an especially grave tragedy to find that we have accepted as "normal" words of

blasphemy, anger, negativity, slander, gossip and other sorts of malicious words. How can anyone with the same mouth that utters blasphemy turn around to say words of prayer? All the more does this question sober us, when we remember that words indeed have power. Classic Greek wisdom reminds us, "*The tongue has no bone; yet, the tongue often breaks bones.*" Henri J.M. Nouwen cautions, "*Words do something in me...They make me feel and think differently...These words have the power to heal or to destroy me.*" (*With Burning Hearts*, pg. 58). St. John Chrysostom is more graphic: "*Let the mouth fast from disgraceful and abusive words, because, what gain is there when, on the one hand we avoid eating chicken and fish and, on the other, we chew-up and consume our brothers?*" (*Homily "On Fasting;"* by St. John Chrysostom, [www.orthodoxytoday.org](http://www.orthodoxytoday.org))

Let us remember, however, that words come from thoughts. If our thoughts are inspired by God's Word, our words will reflect God's love. Dr. Henry Cloud emphasizes that our thoughts do indeed determine our feelings, saying, "*...Being in control of our thoughts is one of the secrets to controlling how we feel...St. Paul tells us, 'Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.'*" (2 Cor. 10:5)." (*The Secret Things of God*, pg. 54). Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica (Serbia), goes a step further, noting, that if our thoughts are Christ-centered, our whole lives become Christ-centered: "*When a person has the Grace of God, his thoughts are unbelievably powerful, because it is the power of God Himself that acts in us.*" (*Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*, pg. 70).

Our good and peaceful thoughts come from our relationship with Christ God. Thoughts that arise from bitterness or hatred bring about turmoil and grief, because they are much too often based on pride and deceptions that lead us to make inaccurate assumptions. To have peace in our lives, let us be sure to have thoughts that are God's thoughts and say words that are God's words—or, in fact, His Word.

+FR. THEODORE



## 2019 GREEK FESTIVAL

The Parish Council of St. George Church and **George Argyros**, Festival Chairman, would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all the parish members and their friends for their unselfish volunteer work in preparing the Festival foods and the long hours of work on the weekend of the Festival, despite the rain and cool weather. Your love and dedication to our Church is truly a blessing. The Gross Income Report is enclosed herein...*and*, pictures say 1,000 words.



Having lunch following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 17th (from left to right): Fr. Elias Velonis (from San Diego), Fr. Ted Pantels and Fr. Ted Stylianopoulos (Retired professor of New Testament Studies at Holy Cross Seminary)



Deacon Euthym leading our Church Tours at this year's Festival.



Festival Chairman, George Argyros and his wife, Anastasia



Working at the Entrance of this year's Festival: Above: Penny and Lou Karagianis. Below: Michael and Debbie Vawter.



The crowd enjoyed our Festival immensely (until the rains came).



The Gypsy Dance Ensemble from L.A. performed at this year's Festival and "wowed" the crowd.

*Continued on the next page ----->*



2019 GREEK FESTIVAL, Continued



Church Tours Committee: left to right: Bess Heinrich, Matthew Davis and Louis Dobbs Barringer



The Festival Office Committee: left to right: Tony Dalkas, Cherise Everett, Nicholas Kaperonis and Tina Veroulis



The Dinner Line. In the forefront, left to right: Tasia Richards, Debbie Pausen



Joan Fakinos and her great grandson, Drake Reynolds and her granddaughter, Stacey Reynolds.



<---The Greek Grocery: left to right: Pauline Latkovic, Rhonda Latkovic and Susan Clark.

Below: The Greek Pastries chaired by Lula Valissarakos (the third from the right) ✓



<---Loukoumades Booth. Left to right: Christina Kundanis, Alexandra Dymond and Alice Pulos.



<---Kids Corner, managed by Melissa Hawkins



<---St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church from Thousand Palms joined us.

Continued on



## 2019 GREEK FESTIVAL, Continued



Yiayia's Attic and Papoo's Garage: Left to right - Spiro Canakis, Billie Poulos, Chris Delegans (Chairman), Eva Canakis, Stephen Hawkins and Haralambos Platis



"The Greeks" entertained our Festival crowds as always!



The AHEPA 528 Festival Booth. From left to right: Steve Steele, Ana Storton, Gus Kurupas, Debbie Loukatos and Harry Loukatos.

Regretfully, pictures of three individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes every day through January and through the weekend of the Festival itself are not available at this time. The loving and dedicated efforts of **Doug Lyons**, **John Petalas** and **Pete Snarskis** cannot be overlooked or underestimated in any way. Also, many thanks to **Jim Christopoulos** for organizing Festival volunteers...to **Linda Kallis** for organizing the vendors...and to **Tim Hector** for setting up our security needs.

## AHEPA NEWS



Our AHEPA 528 members hosted the annual **Super Bowl Party** on Sunday, **February 3, 2019**. Many thanks also to our AHEPA brothers who manned the AHEPA Festival booth during our **Greek Festival** on **February 16-17th** in the effort to raise funds for our chapter scholarship fund.

It is now time to remind one and all that applications for the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship** are available online. Applications are due in April so that the scholarship awards can be given on **AHEPA Sunday in May**. Donations for the Fr. T.P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund are always welcome and can be given online. To apply for the scholarship and/or to make a donation go online at [Ahepa528.org](http://Ahepa528.org).

The next **AHEPA 528 meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 6, 2019** at St. George at **6:30 p.m.** Contact President Wynn Storton to confirm that you will attend.



AHEPA 528 Super Bowl Party.

Above - Everyone keeps an eye on the game



To the left - Haralambos Platis enjoys the wonderful snacks that were brought to the party.



**NOTES FROM THE STREET LIFE PROJECT**

Fr. Ted and Members of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert:

Thank you all for your continued support and involvement with the Street Life Project. You all have been a huge blessing to the homeless that we serve here in the Coachella Valley. Your desire to serve others is beautiful! Thank you for reaching out to our homeless brothers and sisters. We love you all!

God Bless,  
Christian & Blaire,  
Street Life Project

.....  
Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Palm Desert:

Thank you so much for your \$500 donation to Street Life Project! We can't tell you how much we appreciate your support of our life-saving work with the homeless here in the Coachella Valley.

Your generous donation will go a long way to reaching the broken and most vulnerable population. Thank you for your continued support and participation of our Thanksgiving and Christmas events for the homeless and those in need. You have made a real difference in the lives of the homeless we serve. Your support means the world to us! God Bless!

God Bless,  
Christian & Blaire,  
Street Life Project

.....  
**Tuesday, February 19th and Thursday, February 21st**, our parish sponsored meals for the homeless in Indio and in Palm Springs. In addition, over the past few weeks, we have helped them by offering blankets, coats, socks and winter caps during this cold weather. Our ongoing efforts to help the homeless through the **Street Life** organization have been most appreciated by those in need. In addition, coats, sweaters, hats and socks, as well as food was given to the homeless on **Tuesday, February 26th**.



To the Left: St. George volunteers handing out warm clothing to the homeless in Indio on February 19th. From left to right: Rhonda Latkovic, Athena Snarskis, Tina Veroulis.



February 26th: For the fourth time in February our church group offered food and clothing to the homeless in both Indio and Palm Springs in conjunction with the Street Life Project organization. Right to left: Angelo & Tina Veroulis, Rhonda Latkovic

**SWING & HOP**

Ladies of Philoptochos sold pasties and Greek food items at the **Swing & Hop** event held on El Paseo on **Saturday, February 23, 2019**. Proceeds from this effort go to the St. George Philoptochos fund to help the poor.



The Philoptochos Booth at this year's Swing and Hop event on El Paseo. Left to right: Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Petalas, Tina Veroulis and Athena Snarskis.

It proved to be an excellent opportunity to introduce many citizens of our community to the philanthropic work of our St. George parish.

## THE ANNUNCIATION: THE MOTHER OF GOD LEADS US TO SANCTITY

The Annunciation to the Ever-Virgin Mary (celebrated on **March 25th**) is one of the Church's greatest Feasts. The major source for this Feast Day is the Gospel according to St. Luke (1:26-38). Here we learn that the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that She will conceive and bear a Son, even though She "knew no man." According to Tradition, Mary had come home to her parents when She was 15 years old.

This date was chosen by the Saints of the Church exactly nine months ahead of the Birth of Christ, showing that Christ was conceived in perfection of time, "by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary," as stated in the Nicene-Constantinople Creed. The words of the Archangel Gabriel to St. Joseph the Betrothed were: "*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in Her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth and you will give Him the Name, Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.*" (St. Luke)

This event is crucial for the coming into the world of the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. Many saints of the Church have expounded on the meaning of this miracle. Some of them include, St. Athanasios, St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Augustine.

The meaning of this Feast is given by the Troparion Hymn that is chanted as the Divine Liturgy is celebrated on this day: "*Today is the prelude of joy for the universe. Let us anticipate the Feast and celebrate with exaltation: Gabriel is on his way to announce to the Virgin; He is ready to cry out in fear and wonder, 'Rejoice, O Lady Full of grace: the Lord is with You.'*"

The "joy for the universe" is the gift of salvation offered by our God Jesus Christ, who entered upon the stage of human history through the obedience of the Ever-Virgin Mary. She lived in spiritual and physical purity in obedience to God's Commandments, allowing God's grace to overshadow Her.

To see what the Annunciation means to us, we must see how the Virgin Mary plays a leadership role for all of us. She is a true follower of Christ, even though, at first, She was skeptical about Her encounter with Archangel Gabriel. But, when the promise of Gabriel was made, Mary did not turn away from what God asked of Her, prompting the Archangel to say, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon You and the power of the Most High will overshadow You. So the Holy One will be born and be called the Son of God.*" To this, in obedience, Mary responded in a way that all of us should respond: "*I am the Lord's servant. May your word to Me be fulfilled.*"

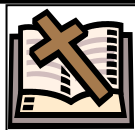
As it turned out, not only the Ever-Virgin Mary is to be noted for Her obedience, but the obedience of Joseph the Betrothed is to be noted, as well. Upon hearing the Angel's voice telling him that he was not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, he became Her obedient guardian.

So, we see here how God's promise was fulfilled by two people: the Ever-Virgin Mary and Joseph the Betrothed. We are also called upon by our Lord to follow their example by accepting the gifts of God and the opportunities that God gives us so that we can fulfill His plan.

Obedience to God means giving up our will in order to participate in the Divine Will. This "giving up of our will" means, to some extent, giving up what is not proper. The Lord sacrificed everything for our salvation. We must start sacrificing of ourselves for God in response to the gift of Eternal Life. Great Lent is a time for this to take place. We can sacrifice the over-abundance of foods. We can sacrifice time for prayer and, if we sacrifice with sincere faith in God, as did the Virgin Mary and Joseph, we will be awarded salvation. It should be a pleasant choice.

--MATTHEW DAVIS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



We have the following activities on the calendar for the rest of the year. Circle the following dates and plan to join us!

1. March 17th - Sunday of Orthodoxy - Icon Procession - at 9:15 a.m.
2. March 23rd (Saturday) - Life of Jesus; Lunch - Shield's Date Gardens. Details to follow.
3. June 2nd (Sunday) - End of Year activities
  - Presentation of staff and students in church
  - Lunch to celebrate.

## ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Enclosed, please find the information and registration forms to participate in this year's **St. George Golf Tournament**, scheduled for Saturday, **May 4, 2019 at Desert Falls Country Club, with registration at 11:00 a.m. and T-off at 12 noon.**

The "**Hole-in-One**" prize is a brand new **Honda** offered by Unicars Honda at the I-10 Auto Mall.

Following the tournament everyone is invited to join in the Awards Dinner, which will be held at our parish hall, with **social hour and dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Reservations can be made by completing the enclosed **Golf Tournament Registration Form.**

Many thanks to Golf Tournament Chairman, **George Argyros** and his committee for organizing this year's St. George Golf Tournament.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



The Parish Council met on Thursday, February 7th and discussed the following topics:

1. All efforts are to be made for a successful 2019 Greek Festival. A review was made regarding last minute needs.
2. A report was given by Rhonda Latkovic regarding the final plans for the construction of the sliding doors leading from the parish hall

into the courtyard.

3. Discussion was entertained pertaining to a new ushering format for Holy Communion.
4. The date for the Spring General Assembly was finalized for Sunday, March 31st.
5. Discussion was entertained regarding preparation for Great Lent: flowers for icons and the Epitaphio,
6. Fr. Ted announced that the Bible Study Group voted to host a Lenten Symposium at our parish hall. The title of the symposium is "**Life After Death**" with a clergy panel answering questions from parishioners in an open-dialogue setting.

## ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN SYMPOSIUM

On **Saturday, April 6, 2019** our St. George parish will host this year's Lenten Symposium with the theme: *Life After Death: Inquire Within*. There is no registration fee required and parishioners from St. Raphael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Thousand Palms and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Temecula will likely be joining us.

Presenting the theme for open discussion will be **Deacon Euthym** from our own parish; **Fr. David Kruse** from St. Raphael, and **Fr. Andrew Lesko** from St. Nicholas. Most of the day, however, will be devoted to open questions and answers regarding the meaning of our Church Services and Holy Week, as well as issues pertaining to the discipline and teachings of our Orthodox Christian Faith, with our clergy panel.

Please see the enclosed flier giving more details pertaining this symposium.

**EISENHOWER CHAPLAINS' OUTREACH-** Our St. George parish will host the **Eisenhower Chaplains'** outreach to area clergy on **Saturday, May 10, 2019.**

We look forward to enhancing the pastoral care of patients who are admitted to Eisenhower Medical Center.



**ST. GEORGE MEMORIAL WALL & GARDEN**

As announced in the February edition of *The Voice of St. George*, we are in process of the development and manufacture of a memorial wall & garden project for our Saint George Orthodox Church. The bid from W & E Baum has been approved for a 4 foot by 40 inch aged bronze wall that will hold 64 nameplates sized 2 1/2 in. by 10 in. (sizes are approximate) Individualized nameplates will memorialize those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Phase 1 of the memorial wall and garden project has been funded by an anonymous steward of our church and we are extremely grateful for their donation! This donation is for the bronze wall itself but not the nameplates. The aged bronze wall, to be manufactured by W & E Baum, will be mounted on the wall to the left side of the bell tower. A bench and flowers will be added to the beds surrounding and across from the wall to enhance the aesthetics and to give a peaceful surrounding for those who wish to meditate, reflect, and pray for their beloved who have passed.

Phase 2 of the project will move to the right hand side wall of the bell tower. Plans are to increase the height of the wall to 6 ft., matching the height of the left wall, to accommodate up to two additional bronze memorial walls, and to add a fountain and benches in the area. Once the final proof is complete, W & E Baum will manufacture the

wall with delivery time expected to be 8-10 weeks. We are hoping to have installation finished by the beginning of the 2019 Lenten Season.

You may find the "Memorial Wall & Garden Name Plaque" forms enclosed. For more information and to participate in this program, please contact either Rhonda Latkovic or Fr. Ted

**SLIDING DOORS INSTALLED**

The upgrade of our parish hall took another step forward with the installation of the new sliding glass doors on **February 22nd**.

With this upgrade, not only is the parish hall "expanded" into the courtyard, providing the opportunity for the overflow of guests to participate in the proceedings inside the hall, but the glass sliding doors allow for a view into the courtyard which adds to the color and dimension of our parish property.

In addition, the opening to the courtyard allows entrance and exit to the parish hall, which provides for the opportunity to rent the parish hall and courtyard separately or together for weddings, baptisms and other celebrations.



Above: workers install the new sliding doors connecting the parish hall to the courtyard.

**2019 GREEK FESTIVAL****GROSS SALES+VENDOR & ADVERTISING INCOME**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Festival Income</b>		
Advertising	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 4,100.00
Booth Fees	10,250.00	12,500.00
Pre-Sales & Donations	2,416.00	4,168.50
Saturday Income	\$81,043.12	\$89,549.31
Sunday Income	68,068.10	98,739.01
Post-Festival Sales	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 413.00
<b>TOTAL FESTIVAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$170,177.22</b>	<b>\$209,416.82</b>

**Preliminary Un-Audited Amounts**

**SPIRITUAL THOUGHT OF THE MONTH****by: Deacon Euthym**

*You must make the other person's pain your own, and then pray from your heart. Love is a divine attribute, and informs the other person [that you are praying for him]. Even in hospitals, when doctors and nurses feel genuine compassion for their patients, this is the most effective of all the medications to give to them. The patients feel they are being cared for with love, and have a sense of certainty, security and consolation. You do not need to say much to someone who is suffering, or try to instruct him. He understands that you feel his pain and care about him, and he is helped by this. Feeling his pain is everything. If we feel compassion for others, we forget ourselves and our problems. – Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain (Athos).*

I have shared this saying previously and it has great meaning. Feeling the pain of another ex-

poses us to our own pain which is why we hesitate to immerse ourselves in another's suffering... We don't want to "go there". However, if we are willing to for a moment expose ourselves to that pain it paradoxically helps us to put our own troubles aside and ultimately heal our own pain. If we are in communion with God and reach out and feel another's pain, Christ Himself can and will enter into this relationship between individuals. Compassion is not just "feeling sorry" for someone, it is taking on their pain and then giving it to Christ Himself. He took on all of our sins, all of our pain, all of our sorrow when He died on the Cross. We are called to hold onto another's pain, if just for a while and then give it to Christ so that His will be done, whether healing, strength or perseverance. As Christians we are "pain bearers" if we truly love others.

**ST. GEORGE****LENTEN PARISH SYMPOSIUM:****LIFE AFTER DEATH: "INQUIRE WITHIN"****SYMPOSIUM INCLUDING TOPICS RELATED TO  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE & DISCIPLINE:****-THE NATURE & PRACTICE OF SACRAMENTAL LIFE IN EVERYDAY LIVING-****SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019****AT:****ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA****10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.****PROGRAM:****10:00 A.M. – WELCOME AND MORNING PRAYER**

**10:30 – 11:30 – SPEAKERS: DEACON EUTHYM KONTAXIS, (ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, PALM DESERT), FR. DAVID KRUSE (ST. RAPHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, THOUSAND PALMS) & FR. ANDREW LESKO (ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, TEMECULA)**

**11:30 – SUMMARY AND REFLECTION****12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. – LUNCH****1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. – SYMPOSIUM (QUESTIONS & ANSWERS)****3:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. – VESPERS**

## STEWARDSHIP

As of February 28, 2019, we have received 74 pledge cards from our community totaling \$75,682 compared to last year's 93 pledges totaling \$102,367. As you can clearly see, our participation is lagging behind that of the previous year.

We are asking any parishioner's that have not yet turned in their 2019 Stewardship Pledge Card to please do so as soon as possible. Your annual stewardship pledge is vital to the operations of our beloved Saint George church.

### 2019 Stewardship Pledge Cards Received List as of February 28, 2019

Astmos, Spiro  
Attalia, Phillip "Ted"  
Barringer, Bill  
Barringer, Louise Dobbs  
Boukidis, Ann Michas  
Bozigian, Linda  
Breighner, Nancy  
Canakis, Spiro & Eva  
Carkonen, Paul & Paulette  
Castrale, Craig & Eleni  
Chiotis, Antony & Penny  
Daglas, Alice  
Dalkas, Anthony & Patricia  
Delegans, Chris  
Demetropoulos, Nicholas  
Desjoyners, Josie  
Dixson, Richard & Ann  
Dunkel, Mariya  
Dymond, Donald & Alexandra  
Elmo, Doris  
Fakinos, Frank & Joan  
Fick, Rod & Olympia Pilafidis  
Gallade, Adele & Hoffman, Ken  
Halkidic, Anastasios & Penelope  
Haveles, John  
Hector, Tim & Nadia  
Heinrich, Bess  
Kallis, Linda  
Karalis, Bill & Bessy  
Karas, Demos & Evelyn

Kontaxis, Nicholas  
Krespis, Nick & Fontini  
Kripner, Robert & Eva  
Kundanis, Christine  
Laskaris, Chris & Annette  
Latkovic, Nicholas & Rhonda  
Latkovic, Pauline  
Lee, Bill & Mary  
Lehman, Gloria  
Lekas, Bill & Denise  
Lewis, Annette  
Lyons, Doug & Carol  
Makrianis, Julie  
Maletis, Chris & Kristi  
Mallen, Greg & Andi  
Manesis, Dr. John & Bess  
McEvoy, E.G. & Mary Ann  
Meek, Eve  
Pantels, Fr. Theodore & Petula  
Petalas, John & Linda  
Piggott, Bill & Mary  
Platis, Harry PLLC  
Pousen, Deb  
Prineas, Anna  
Psaltis, Harry  
Pulos, Alice  
Rassi, Abraham  
Richards, Tasia  
Sahpazis, Georgia  
Sarikas, Kiriakos & Delores  
Snarskis, Peter & Athena  
Spanos, George & Angie  
Speliopoulos, Nick & Carol  
Steele, Dr. Stephen & Lynane  
Storton, Wynn & Ana  
Tatomir, John & Mary  
Valissarakos, Lula  
Vawter, Mike & Debbie  
Veroulis, Angelo & Tina  
Young, Diane  
Zacharidou, Mary  
Zambrano, Nelly  
Zaverdas, Pam & Larry  
Zhupa, Vranela



**St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert**  
 74-109 Larrea St. / P.O. Box 4755  
 Palm Desert, California 92261  
 web: [www.go-stgeorge.org/](http://www.go-stgeorge.org/) email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)  
 Telephone: (760)568-9901 / FAX: 9760) 568-9492

# MARCH 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. S.School-10:30 a.m.  Cheesefare Sunday: <i>Forgiveness Vespers</i> -10:30 a.m.	<b>Holy Confession</b> <b>Schedule during</b> <b>Great Lent:</b> <b>By appointment,</b> <b>or, Wednesdays</b> <b>at 5:00 p.m.</b>				1	2-SATURDAY OF SOULS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
<b>3-Meatfare Sunday</b> Ep.1 Cor.8:8-13; 9:1-2 <b>Gos.Mat.25:31-46</b>	4	5  Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	6  AHEPA Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	8	9-SATURDAY OF SOULS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 am. Philoptochos Membership Lunch.- 11:00 a.m.
<b>10-Cheesfare Sunday</b> <b>Ep.Rom.13:11-14;</b> <b>14: 1-4</b> <b>Gos.Mat. 6:14-21</b>	11 FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT  Compline Service-6:00 p.m.	12  Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	13  Holy Confession-5pm  Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy-6:00 p.m.	14  Choir Practice-1:00 pm.  Parish Council-2:30 pm.	15 Pre-Sanctified D. Liturgy-9 a.m.  First Salutations-7:00 p.m.	16- SATURDAY OF SOULS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
<b>17-Sunday of Orthodoxy (Icon Procession-9:15 a.m)</b> <b>Ep.Heb.11:24-26;</b> <b>32-40;</b> <b>12:1-2</b> <b>Gos.John 1:42-53</b>	18	19  Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	20 Holy Confession-5:00 pm  Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy-6:00 p.m.	21  Choir Practice-1:00 pm	22 Pre-Sanctified D. Liturgy-9 a.m.  Second Salutations-7:00 p.m.	23
<b>24-St Gregory Palmas</b> <b>Ep.Heb. 1:10-14;</b> <b>2:1-3</b> <b>Gos.Mark 2:1-12</b>  <b>31-Holy Cross (Strict Fast)</b> <b>General Assembly</b>	25	26  Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	27  Holy Confession 5:00 pm  Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy-6:00 p.m.	28  Choir Practice-1:00 pm	29 Pre-Sanctified D. Liturgy-9 a.m.  Third Salutations-7:00 p.m.	30

Please be our Guest for the  
*Philoptochos Membership Tea*

When: Saturday, March 9th, 2019 @ 12:00 PM

Location: Saint George Church Hall

Wine Tasting

Luncheon

Music

Raffle

Fellowship

RSVP tel. 760.610.1598

Email: [r.s.fleminglatkovic@  
gmail.com](mailto:r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com)



St. George Memorial Wall & Garden Name Plaque

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Print this form and supply the information requested.

This form is to be used when making a Saint George Memorial Wall & Garden donation in honor of a deceased relative. For a donation of \$175.00, the name of the person or person(s), i.e. husband & wife, for whom the memorial donation is made will be placed on a 2 1/2 inch by 10 inch bronze plaque. Each plaque will be etched with the words "Memory Eternal" and with the deceased persons first & last name(s) only and mounted on the Memorial Wall & Garden bronze wall.

**MEMORIAL DONATION IS MADE IN THE NAME OF:**

(Print name(s) as you want on the plaque)

\_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF DEATH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION IS FROM:**

(Name of person making the donation)

\_\_\_\_\_

\*(Name & address of person(s) to whom acknowledgement is to be sent)

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_



SIGNATURE of person submitting form:

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To make your donation, you can do one of the following:

- Fill out the form and either choose to drop off the form and payment to the church office or mail the form and payment to: Saint George Orthodox Church, P.O.Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261. You may pay for your memorial donation by check or credit card.
- Check # \_\_\_\_\_
- Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit Card Info:

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Example of Plaque:

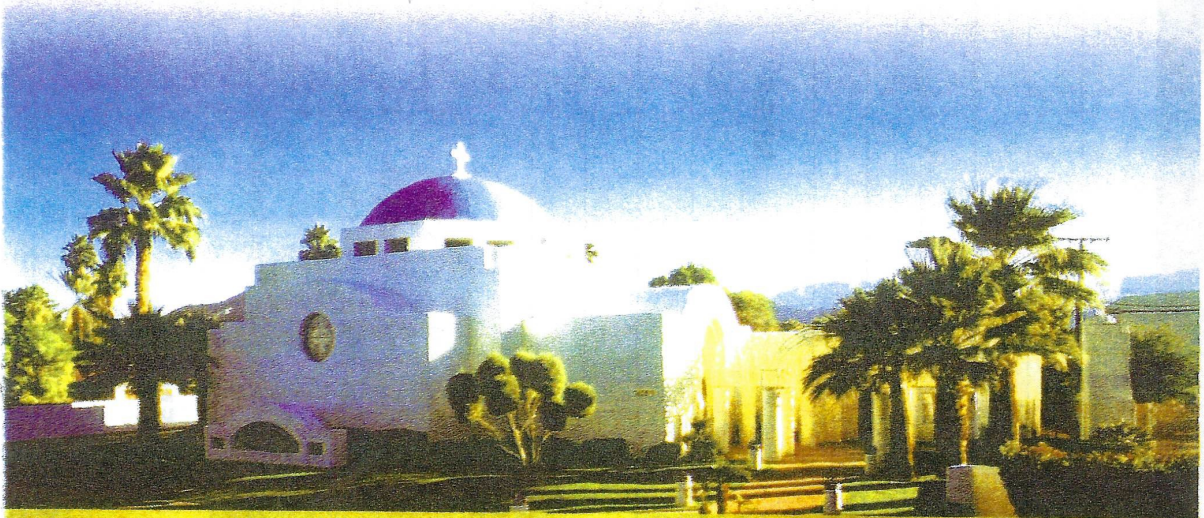
---

*Memory Eternal*  
o      *(first & last name(s) of deceased)*      o

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\*Any questions, please contact Rhonda Latkovic at (760) 610-1598 or [r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com](mailto:r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com)





**ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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**SATURDAY • MAY 4 • 2019**



**DESERT FALLS COUNTRY CLUB**

**111 DESERT FALLS PARKWAY • PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA**

**FOR INFO CALL: 760-568-9901**



# TOURNAMENT DETAILS

**Date & Time**  
 Saturday, May 4, 2019  
 11am Registration  
 12 noon Shotgun Scramble Format

**Entry Fee**  
 \$175 includes golf and dinner

**Entry Deadline**  
 April 26, 2019

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
11 am	Registration & Raffle
12 noon	Shotgun Start / Scramble Format
5 pm	Social Hour / Appetizers St. George Greek Orthodox 74109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260
6 pm	Traditional Greek Dinner / Dance

**Hole in One**  
 Sponsored by Unicars Honda



**Payment**  
 Entry Fee due by April 26, 2019  
 Pay by credit card or check.

**Contact**  
 760.568.9901  
 gargyros@verizon.net

# EVENT REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company (Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## INDEX

## PLAYER NAME(S)

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Individual Player(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (# of players) x \$175 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tee Sponsorship (s) \_\_\_\_\_ (# of sponsorships) x \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Traditional Greek Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ (# of dinners) x \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

**Registration deadline:**  
 Friday, April 26, 2019

**Pay by credit card or make checks payable to:**  
 St. George Greek Orthodox Church

**Send check and registration form to:**  
 PO Box 4755 Palm Desert, CA 92261