



APRIL 2024

VOICE OF ST. GEORGE

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT
74-109 LARREA ST.,
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA**



OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE THE LIGHT

Inside this Issue

“Lent happens to coincide with spring. I think there is a wonderful lesson for us in this happy coincidence. Lent should be for all of us a period of placing ourselves in the position where the best things can happen to us. That position for Orthodox Christians is the presence of Christ, where the Sun of His love and power can shine into our arid souls to bring about a real awakening, a real springtime of the soul. Lent should be for all of us a period of turning our souls toward the Source of Power and New Life through daily prayer, spiritual reading, the Divine Liturgy and participation in the sacraments.

The Church’s service book for Lent (Triodion) calls this period the ‘spiritual spring which blossoms with the fruits of the Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...’ (Gal. 5:22)...

Lent from the earliest days of Christianity was always a period of public penance – a period of self-examination, a period of clearing away the underbrush of sin to let the Sun of God’s love shine on us.

Many times we become so accustomed to our way of living that we feel it is the only way to live. The doctor in ‘Les Miserables’ spent years in the Bastille mending shoes in the darkness of his

cell. When at last the Bastille fell and he was freed he found himself afraid. He was afraid to go out. So the rest of his life was spent in a darkened room, mending shoes with the door unlocked.

This story brings to mind what St. John Chrysostom said once, ‘The sun may be shining in all its brightness,’ he said, ‘but each one of us is free to shut it out of our lives merely by closing our eyelids.’ Unfortunately, people can shut the sun out of their lives and become accustomed to the darkness in which they live. Like the cobbler in ‘Les Miserables,’ they become prisoners but by their own choice. For the Sun of God’s love is always shining and to let it into our lives is as simple as opening one’s eyelids.

During Lent we are urged to come to ourselves, leave the darkness of sin and return to the Father. It is for this reason that the Church offers us the Sacrament of Confession. Orthodox parents should discuss this sacrament with their children and prepare to come to it *with them...*”

+FR. THEODORE

– Total excerpt taken from Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, Light and Life Publishing Co., 1977, pgs. 117-118.

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Parish Retreat;
Golf Tournament*

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

**REFLECTION FROM METROPOLITAN
GERASIMOS
FOR HOLY & GREAT LENT 2024**

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Once again, we begin our annual Lenten journey that will take us to the celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Pascha. Of course, this year, because of the way the Orthodox Church calculates the date of Pascha, our Lenten journey starts later than we are accustomed to, and we will celebrate Pascha at almost the last possible canonical date. And, our western Christian brothers and sisters will celebrate the resurrection just two weeks from now. This is worth noting because in 2025, we will celebrate the seventeen hundredth anniversary of the first ecumenical council, that of Nicaea in the year 325, which gave the entire Christian church the formula and process for determining the date of Pascha. Also, next year, as it happens every few years, all Christians will celebrate together.

Nevertheless, despite this calendar issue, we should embrace the season of Great Lent with joy because everything that the Church places before us these days nurtures our faith and devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We associate Great Lent as a time of *askesis* – discipline – the kind of discipline we can associate with training. An important element of *askesis* is restraint. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew wrote the following about the discipline we should observe. He said: “*Askesis is called frugality or self-restraint (enkrateia). We are to exercise a form of voluntary self-limitation in order to overcome self-sufficiency in our lifestyle, making the crucial distinction between what we want and what we in fact need.*” (Encountering the Mystery, p. 66).

Our ascetic practices usually begin with the food we eat. We cannot avoid that we are called by the Church to observe a fast. As a hymn during the early days of Lent says, “*Let us begin, O you peoples, the pure Fast that is our soul’s salvation.*” We will naturally associate this with abstinence from

foods, meat, eggs, and dairy products. As we abstain from these foods, we have the opportunity to discern what we want and like, from what we really need. I believe that even after a brief reflection, we will soon realize that we need far less than we think. As we abstain from these foods, we also have an opportunity to consider their sources – how they were produced, who produced them, how did they arrive at our stores, in order to consider the impact that our food choices have on the world around us.

But there are other ways we might fast that also require a great deal of discipline. Perhaps we might fast from technology – that is we can put away our devices, using them for what only is needed. We can put them aside for an entire day, creating a technology Sabbath.

In short, we are being asked to sacrifice. Our Lenten fast is a training ground to learn how to sacrifice. His All-Holiness points out, “*Many people.... Imagine sacrifice involves loss.*” But for the people of the Bible, “*sacrifice meant not loss but gain.... Sacrifice was ... costly, but it brought not diminution but fulfillment.*” (Encountering the Mystery, p. 67). Our sacrifice – in terms of our Lenten fast – becomes an *askesis* that leads to increase.

When we sacrifice the excesses of our life, we gain time, time for prayer, time for worship, for reflection and retreat. We gain time for increased study. Your parish, I am certain, will be offering many programs, beginning with worship services, but also study groups, lectures, retreats, and service projects for you this season. Participate in them as often as you can. These can only deepen your knowledge and experience of Christ and His Church, thus enriching you spiritually.

When we engage in a technology fast, we can increase our time in face-to-face conversations with our families, with our neighbors, and with our parish community. Too often people say they have no time to talk. Usually, it is because they would rather text someone than actually sit with someone. (See Sherry Turkle, Reclaiming Conversation). If we were to sacrifice time on

Continued on the next page – -->

REFLECTIONS FROM

METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS, *Continued*

our phones or other devices and replace it with meaningful conversations with our children and friends, the sacrifice would have led to a great gain. I believe that we would all find greater benefit from a face to face conversation, over more text messages, even from our own loved ones.

Our Lenten *askesis* has an even greater purpose though. Our goal in this season is to prepare ourselves for Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. At Pascha, we celebrate the gain of the new life, given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Church, on Clean Monday simultaneously tells us to begin our *askesis* so that we may experience the resurrection. One of the first hymns of the day says, *“Let us joyfully begin the all-hallowed season of abstinence; and let us shine with the bright radiance of the holy commandments of Christ our God... So, clothed in a garment of light, let us hasten to the Holy Resurrection on the third day, that shines upon the world with the glory of eternal life.”*

My beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us heed the Lenten call of our Church to live an ascetic life of self-restraint. Let us reclaim our understanding of sacrifice, let us take something that is gloomy to become joyful, as an act that brings great joy into our lives. Even as we decorate our churches in purple to remind us of the season, let us prepare the bright garments of the life-giving resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Kali Sarakosti, may God bless you, and may you have a blessed and soul-saving Lent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We want to see all of our Sunday School students in Church with their parents throughout the rest of Great Lent. Sunday, April 7th is the “Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross.” Each student will receive a special flower that adorns the decorated Holy Cross that is used for Sunday worship on that day.

The next special Sunday School classes will be

Sunday, April 14th and Sunday, April 28th (Palm Sunday). We look forward to seeing our Sunday School students with their families especially for Holy Week Services. The last special Sunday School class for this 2023-2024 school year is Sunday, May 19th.

ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Everyone is invited to participate in our annual **St. George Parish Lenten Retreat** on Saturday, **April 6th from 10:30 a.m to 2:30 p.m.** Our speaker will be **Fr. Steven Tsichlis**, pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, California and the author of the instructional pamphlet, *A Worshiper’s Guide to the Divine Liturgy*.

The retreat will focus on details related to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and its meaning for us. The first presentation will be “The Liturgy of the Word,” and the second will be “The Liturgy of the Eucharist.”

A free-will donation is asked from participants to help cover costs.

We look forward to seeing all of our parishioners, friends and families on **Saturday, April 6th** for our annual St. George Parish Lenten Retreat. See the enclosed flier for more information.

PHILOPTOCHOS

March saw two very successful and inspiring events sponsored by our St. George Philoptochos: 1) the **Philoptochos Membership Tea and Luncheon on Saturday, March 9th**, and, 2) the Philoptochos **“Paint-n-Sip”** program on **March 3rd and March 24th**, which yielded beautiful Icons of Christ produced by our St. George parishioners under the guidance of **Louka** and with the inspiring presentation by **Mary Brown** regarding the theology of icons.

The April **Philoptochos General Meeting** will be held on **Monday, April 8, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.** with a Lenten luncheon menu served. Special presentation by **Mary Brown** at **12:00 noon**. **R.S.V.P.** to **Rhonda Latkovic** or **Tina Veroulis** by **Friday, April 5th**.

Continued on the next page – –>

PHILOPTOCHOS, Continued

This year's **Metropolis Philoptochos Kids-n-Cancer event** will be held on **Sunday, April 14, 2024** at Newport Beach Country Club (\$100 per person. Contact our Philoptochos Chapter President, **Rhonda Latkovic** for information.

AHEPA

The **April 2024 Chapter 528 meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m.**

The **AHEPA 528 Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Applications** are now available in our parish hall. In addition, they may be found online at www.ahepa528.org. **Applications are due May 1st** and scholarship awards will be given out on **AHEPA Sunday, May 19th**. In addition, the **AHEPA District 20 Scholarship Applications** are available on line. For more information and answers to any questions about our **Chapter 528 scholarship**; the **District 20 scholarship** and/or the **National AHEPA scholarship**, contact AHEPA President, **Wynn Storton** or the AHEPA website, www.ahepa528.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's **St. George Golf Tournament** will be held at **Eldorado Country Club** on **Saturday, May 18th**. It is a scramble format, with tee-off time at 12:30 p.m. The Registration/Banquet Reservation Form is enclosed. However, it can also be completed as an online process by contacting our parish website, www.go-stgeorge.org.

HOLY WEEK

The enclosed "Holy Week 2024" schedule of Church services is the same as last year's schedule in terms of start times.

Many thanks to **Tina Veroulis** for placing the orders for this year's *palm crosses* for Orthodox Christian Palm Sunday on Sunday, April 28th. Along with her order, candles for our parishioners for Holy Friday and Saturday services were ordered. In addition, the following are needed:

- Prosforo for Holy Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday and Holy Pascha Ser-

vices.

- Decoration of the Bridegroom Icon and subsequent Holy Week Services.

- Eggs by Thursday May 2nd for preparation "Easter eggs" to be distributed on Pascha.

- Decoration of "Crown of Thorns" wreath for Holy Thursday evening.

- A clean white linen for the Service of the "Taking Down From the Cross" on Holy Friday afternoon.

- Decoration of the Epitaphio on Holy Thursday evening/Holy Friday morning.

- Rose water for the Holy Friday Evening Service

- Preparation of parishioners' candles for Holy Friday Evening Service and for the Saturday Midnight Resurrection Service.

Everyone is invited to help in any one of the above-noted liturgical needs –or all of them – as a great blessing for family and friends.

BOOKSTORE

Now available: *The Akathist Hymn (for Friday Salutation services) & Services for Holy Week and Easter.* (Narthex Press Publications).

WELCOME TO LITTLE PANAGIOTIS ANAGNOS

Panagiotis Anagnos, the new-born nephew of **Elias and Anna Doubaratzis**, entered our Church for the first time on **Sunday, March 24th** upon receiving the **40-day blessing**. Congratulations to **Uncle Elias and Aunt Anna**, and many blessings.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2024

Tuesday, April 2nd.....No Bible Study

Wednesday, April 3rd.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY -6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 5th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY - 9:00 a.m.
Salutation Service (third stanza) - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 6th.....ST. GEORGE PARISH LENTEN RETREAT – 10:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. (See enclosed flyer)

Sunday, April 7th.....**The Veneration of the Holy Cross** – Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Hierarchical Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 9th.....Bible Study-10:00 a.m. (with Online Orthodox Catechism on Zoom)

Wednesday, April 10th...PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 12th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.
Salutation Service (fourth stanza) - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 14th.....**St. John of the Ladder**- Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 16th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m (with Online Orthodox Catechism on Zoom)

Wednesday, April 17th....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 19th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
Akathist Hymn-6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 21st.....**St. Mary of Egypt** – Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 23rd.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. (with Online Orthodox Catechism on Zoom)

Wednesday, April 24th....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 26th.....PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY – 9:00 a.m.

SEE HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE ON THE NEXT PAGE -->

PROTOCOLS FOR ADDRESSING CLERGY – As the **Archdiocese National Clergy-Laity Convention** looms on the horizon in San Diego (June 30th-July 4th, 2024), those who attend the Clergy-Laity Convention should know the proper way to greet clergy. Those who do not attend should also know the proper way to address clergy. Below is a “chart” giving knowledge about this matter:

Title	Form of Address	Salutation
Ecumenical Patriarch	His All-Holiness <i>In Greek: Panagiotatos</i>	Your All-Holiness <i>Panagiotate</i>
Archbishop and Metropolitans	His Eminence <i>In Greek: Sevasmiotatos</i>	Your Eminence <i>Sevasmiotate</i>
Titular Metropolitan	His Excellency <i>In Greek: Paniorotatos</i>	Your Excellency <i>Paniorotate</i>
Bishop	The Right Reverend__, Bishop of__: <i>In Greek: Theophilestatos</i>	Your Grace <i>Theophilestate</i>
Archimandrite	The Very Reverend	Reverend, or Father
Priest (Married or Celibate)	Reverend Father	Reverend, or Father
Deacon	Reverend Father	Reverend, or Father

HOLY WEEK 2024

Saturday, April 27th... SATURDAY OF LAZARUS – Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 28th ... PALM SUNDAY – Orthros-8:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Bridegroom Service – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 29th...HOLY MONDAY – Bridegroom Service -6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30th...HOLY TUESDAY – Bridegroom Service - 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 1st...HOLY WEDNESDAY-PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
- Holy Unction Service – 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 2nd...HOLY THURSDAY – DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
– Service of the Redeeming Passion of our Lord -6:00 p.m**

**Friday, May 3rd...HOLY FRIDAY – Royal Hours-9:00 a.m.
– Service of the Unnailing of our Lord – 12:00 noon
– Lamentation Service- 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 4th..HOLY SATURDAY – DIVINE LITURGY -9:00 a.m.
– Vigil for the Resurrection of our Lord – 11:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 5th – THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST – Resurrection Service-12:00 midnight
– Divine Liturgy – 12:30 a.m.**

MANY THANKS & MANY BLESSINGS TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR 2024 ST. GEORGE STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS AS OF MARCH 2024

Allen ,Becky (Nicoletta)
Andrikos, Demetri & Diane
Argyros, George & Stacey
Louise Dobbs Barringer
Berz, Diana & Robert
Bischoff, Jeffrey & Katrina
Bozigian, Linda Jean
Carkonen, Paul & Paulette
Castrale, Craig
Chiottis, Antony & Penny
Christodulelis, Charles & Eva
Christopoulos, Dr Jim & Gloria
Clark, Susan (Segaar)
Constantine, Kay & Odysseus
Dalkas, Anthony & Patricia
Diamond, George & Paula
Diamond, Mari Lou
Dixon, Ann & Richard
Dunkel, Mariya & Gregory
Dymond, Donald & Alexandra
Evrigenis, Sophia
Fakinos, Joan
George, Mark & Jenny
Guinn, Melani
Haveles, John A

Hector, Tim & Nadia
Hoffman, Kenneth
Holm, Matthew & Lisa
Kallis, Linda
Karris, Emmy
Kassotakis, Mary Ellen
Kelapouris, Tony
Rev Spencer T. (Bishop
Spyridon)
Kontaxis, Euthym &
Krisann
Kosturos, Anthony &
Tatum
Krespis, Nick & Fotini
Kundanis, Christine
Laskaris, Annette
Nicholas & Rhonda
Lee, Bill & Mary
Lekas, Bill & Denise
Lewis, Annette
Lucas, Delphine & Steve
Brown
Lyons, Douglas & Carol
Makrianis, Julie M.
Maletis, Chris & Kristi

Maletis, John & Kait
Maletis, Tom & Susan
Maverick, Tommie
Manesis, Bess
McEvoy, Peter & Stephanie
Meek, Eve
Nicholas, Fanny
Pagoulatos, Margarita
Pallis, Chris and Vicky
Panopoulos, Joan
Rev. Ted & Petula Pantels
Petalas, John & Linda
Piggott, Mary
Pilafidis, Olympia
Pishue, Sam & Michele
Platis, Harry PLLC
Pousen, Debbie
Psaltis, Harry
Psihogis, Peter & Lisa Marie
Rassi, Abraham & Geraloine
Rellos, Bill & Maria
Richards, Tasia
Sarikas, Kiriakos & Delores
Seraphim, Kyriakos
Snarskis, Peter and Athena

Spanos, George & Angie
Speliopoulos, Nick & Carol
Stambolos, Irene
Steele, Dr. Stephen & Lynanne
Storton, Wynn & Ana
Tripodes, Peter & Nicoletta
Tsofels, Maria
Vasilomanolakis, Francine
Velculescu, Victoria & Aurel
Veroulis, Angelo & Tina
Xipolitis, Basil
Xitco, John V & Kalitsa Z
Young, Diane
Zagas, Sophie
Zaharia, Gabriella

Note: Please contact our parish office if you have submitted your St. George 2024 Stewardship Pledge Card and your name is mistakenly not listed or misspelled.

St. George
Greek Orthodox Church's
2024 Lenten Retreat

Living the Liturgy

with

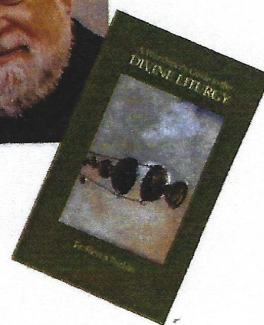
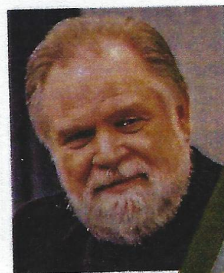
Father Steven Tsichlis

Pastor of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA
Author of *A Worshiper's Guide to the Divine Liturgy*

Saturday, April 6, 2024

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Lenten Lunch Included



Session 1

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word

Session 2

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Liturgy of the Eucharist

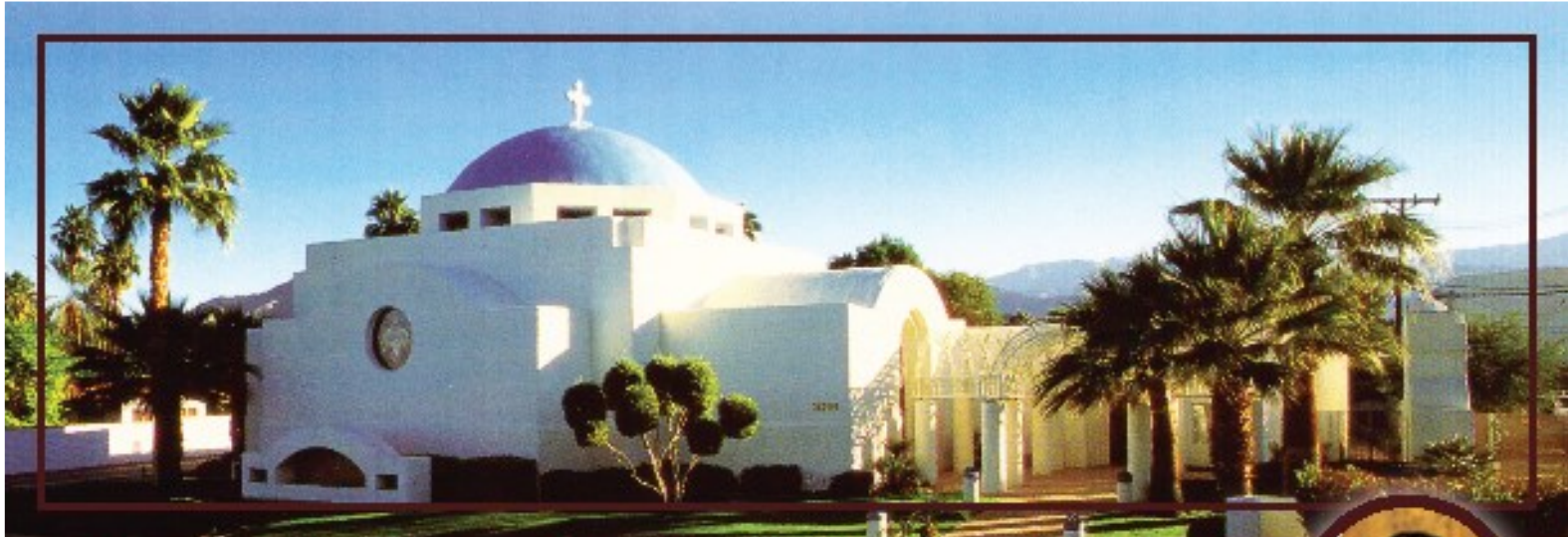


A freewill
donation of
\$10
is appreciated

To Register:

pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com | 760-568-9901

74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 12:15pm Shotgun Start | Eldorado Country Club



ENTRY INFORMATION

Saturday, May 18, 2024

- \$185 per player (includes Golf and Awards Dinner)
- 12:15 PM Shotgun Start at Eldorado Country Club
- 5:00 PM Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00 PM Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

ENTRY INFORMATION

Individual Player(s) ____ (# of players) x \$185 \$ _____
 Tee Sponsorship(s) ____ (# of sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
 Traditional Greek Dinner ____ (# of dinners) x \$50 \$ _____
 Donation \$ _____
Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAMES

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3. _____	INDEX
4. _____	INDEX

CREDIT CARD (please mark one) VISA MASTER CARD

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

EXP. DATE: / 3-DIGIT SECURITY NO. _____

CARD HOLDER NAME: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () - FAX: () -

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

Sign up online at www.go-stgeorge.org/Events/Golf/

Mail Checks and Registration Form to:
 74109 Larrea Street | Palm Desert, CA | 92260

Make Checks Payable To:
 "Saint George Greek Orthodox Church"