

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

THE LADDER

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4755 Palm Desert, CA.92261 Tel: (760) 568-9901 or: (760) 880-5869

-Fr. Theodore Pantels, Proistamenos (Pastor) - Deacon Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.

Holy Communion Order

- 1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
- 2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiv-
- 3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
- 4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
- 5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

BECOMING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

As we study today's passage from St. Luke's Gospel, we immediately see that the question of the young lawyer, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" quickly turned into the question, "Who is my neighbor?" It is evident that "the neighbor" is Christ. He is the "stranger (the Samaritan)" Who is the Word of God in the flesh. Consequently, Eternal Life is established in the Person of Christ.

The mandate for us to love our neighbor as "our self" means that, as much as we love ourselves, we are to love God and

our fellow human being who is the image of God. Christ speaks of unmeasured love, which springs from our will—not from our needs; nor as being forced from us; nor as from a sense of indebtedness. Voluntary love, is the kind of love that Christ showed when He ascended the Cross voluntarily for our salvation. It is the "voluntary love" that we give for the spiritual benefit of others that helps us to have meaning in our lives. In fact, as St. John Chrysostom would say, everything we have is from God. Continued on page 2

HOW TO CONTINUE LIFE AFTER RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

"I hear many say, 'While we are [assembled for worship]...we are awed; but, when we are gone out, we become altered individuals again and the flame of zeal is quenched.' What then may be done for this to no longer happen? Let us observe from where this arises: from the unbecoming employment of our time. We shouldn't, as soon as we receive Holy Communion, plunge ourselves into business that is unsuited to Holy Communion; but, as soon as we get home, to take into our hands the Bible and call your wife and children to join in putting together what we have heard today. Only then, and not before, let us engage in the business of life.

Do you not see our that our own children, whatever lessons are given them, they study throughout the day? This then let us also do, since we shall derive no profit from coming [to worship], drawing water into a vessel with holes, and not pouring it into the retaining of what we have heard with even as much

care as we show with respect to gold or silver. For anyone who receives such gems puts them into a place of safe-keeping. But, we, having been given treasures of the Spirit, do not put them away in our souls for safe-keeping, but thoughtlessly and at random suffer them to escape from our minds."

-St. John Chrysostom, On the Gospel of Matthew, Homily V.

Καθως μελετουμεν την σημερινην Ευαγγελικην περικοπην απο το κατα Λουκαν Ευαγγελιο, καταλα-βαινουμεν αμεσως οτι η ερωτησις του νομικου, *<Τι ποιησας ζωην αιωνιον κληρονομησω;>* μετεμορφωθηκε σε ερωτησις: *<Τις εστι μου πλησιον;>* Φανερον ειναι οτι <0 πλησιον> ειναι ο Χριστος. Ειναι <0 ξενος (0 <Σαμαρειτης>)> ο Οποιος ειναι ο <εν ανθρωπησαντα> Λογος του Θεου. Συνεπως, η αιωνιος ζωη στηριζεται απο τον Χριστον.

Η προκλησις να αγαπησουμεν τον πλησιον μας – ο καθενας <ως σεαυτον> – εννοει οτι οσο αγαπαμε τον εαυτον μας, πρεπει να αγαπαμε τον Θεον και τον συνανθρωπον μας, ο οποιος ειναι μια εικονα του Θεου. Ομιλει ο Χριστος για μια αμετρητη αγαπη, η οποια πηγαζεται απο την θελησην μας, οχι ουτε απο αναγκη, ουτε απο βια, ουτε απο υποχρεωσην — εθελοντικη αγαπη οπως αυτη δια της οποιας ο Χριστος ανεβηκε στον Σταυρον για την δικην μας σωτηριαν.

Αυτη η αγαπη εκφραζεται δια μεσων της ολοψυχου συμμετοχης στα Αγια Μυστηρια της Εκκλησιας: οι <ενδυσεις> για τις πληγες του πονομένου θυματός συμβολιζουν το βαπτιστικο μας ενδυμα του Μυστηριου του Βαπτισματος. Το <ελαιον> ειναι το Αγιο Μυρον με το οποιο λαμβανουμεν <την σφραγιδα της δωρεας του Αγιου Πνευματος> – δηλ. το Αγιο Χρισμα. Το <οινον> συμβολιζει την Θειαν Κοινωνιαν. Ως συμμετοχοι των Μυστηριων της Εκκλησιας γινομεθα ολοι ιερεις του Θεου-ειμεθα <εν ενι στοματι και μια καρδια> το <βασιλειον ιερατευμα.>Ο καθε Χριστιανος ειναι <πλησιον> του πονομενου λαου της εποχης μας. + Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

It is in this Christ-like, unconditional love that we share in participation in the Sacraments of the Church: the "dressings" for the victim's wounds symbolize the baptismal garments for our Sacrament of Baptism. The "oil" is the Chrismation oil with which we receive "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the Sacrament of Chrismation. The "wine" symbolizes the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

In specific terms, our Lord is indicating the future of humanity in the world following His Resurrection and Ascension with Pentecost and the establishment of the Church in the world. The Baptismal Garment - the "putting on of Christ," the New Adam. We are restored to the original grace of the old Adam before he fell. It is the robe of God's right-eousness: "The servant of God is clothed with the garment of righteousness." The chant that follows: "Grant unto me the robe of light, You who covers Yourself with light as with a garment..."It is the "earnest of the Spirit." The garment; the oil and the wine are part of the same act of healing. Holy Confession "cleanses our garment" as the "judgment before the Judgment," purifying our souls in this present life.

Chrismation is visual in the anointing with Chrismation Oil. In Acts 8: 17, Chrismation was performed by the Apostles through the "laying on of hands." But, as early as St. Paul, anointing was the practice (2 Corinthians 21,22), and as we read in 1 John 2:20,27. Chrismation "establishes us with Christ." In sum, Chrismation is our life in the Holy Spirit Who constantly leads us to the Person of Christ.

Through Communion, the words of our Lord, "abide in Me and I in You" (St. John 15: 4-7) become reality. Remembrance of Christ is a matter of constant vigilance in contemplating Christ, or what is known as "continuous inner prayer," which is experienced as union with Christ in heart, mind & soul. Christ, in His Body and Blood, enters us and enlightens us with His Divine Light, extending the grace of baptism continually - baptism also being known as our *illumination*.

Giving of ourselves for their illumination unto God's glory is our "life in Christ." Therefore, it is "more blessed to give than to receive" and "God loves a cheerful giver," as we hear from today's reading from St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians. The work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ and we become co-workers with our Lord as "healers," healing "wounded humanity." The Chruch is not an "institution" or "organization. It is our way of daily life. It is the essence of the Greek word for Church, "Ekklisia." As Fr. Philotheos Faros notes, "St. Paul completes the Greek notion of Ekklisia by saying that Ekklisia is the Body of Christ, which functions and operates as does a human body." (Functional and Dysfunctional Christianity, pg. 70)

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Mary Mitsias, Nula Papapetru, Tom Evans, Jim Alex, Jean Chronis-Kuhn, Nicholas Kyriakou, Chris Laskaris, J.J. Richards (Many faithful on the Prayer List face chronic or serious illness).

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY:

ANTIPHON I : "Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)

Verse 1 – Bless the Lord O my soul and everything within me; Bless His Holy Name.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Verse 2-Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His rewards.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

<u>Verse 3—</u> The Lord prepared His throne in heaven and His Kingdom rules over all.

Refrain: "Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soson imas."

Chanter(s): Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Refrain: "By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."

ANTIPHON II: "Soson imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)

<u>Verse 1-</u> Praise the Lord O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

<u>Verse 2 - Blessed</u> is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, we sing to You, Alleluia."

<u>Verse 3 -</u> The Lord shall reign forever; your God O Zion, to all generations.

Refrain: "Soson imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon. Amin

People: "O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)

ANTIPHON III- This is the day the Lord made. Let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

<u>Sunday Resurrection Hymn</u> – Angelike dynameis [Tone 6]...(When the Angelic powers appeared at Your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulcher was Mary seeking Your Pure and Sacred Body for You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin Woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You, Who arose from the dead, O Lord, we give glory to You.)

<u>Hymn for St. John the Merciful</u> – En ti ipomoni sou ektisoh...(By your patience you obtained your reward, O devout Father. You persevered in your prayers without ceasing; and the poor you loved and satisfied. We entreat you, blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.)

<u>Hymn for St. George</u> – Os ton echmaloton eleftherotis... (Since you are a deliverer of captives and a defender of the poor; a physician for the sick and a noble attendant to kings, O Great among the Martyrs and Glorious George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday- O Katarotatos Naohs tou Sotiros...(The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, Who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is intro-duced into the House of the Lord, and with Herself She brings the grace in the Divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is She.)

READINGS: Epistle – 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11 / Gospel – St. Luke 10: 25-37

Axion Estin

Communion Hymn—Enite ton Kyrion....(Praise the Lord...) page 64 in the Divine Liturgy books.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coffee Hour: Philotochos

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM — Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy today, a short Veterans Day Program will follow in the church, featuring the American and Greek National Anthems sung by our choir and a presentation by our AHEPA Chapter President, Wynn Storton.

STREET LIFE PROJECT – For those interested in signing up to feed the homeless there will be a brief meeting with Rhonda Latkovic to discuss details after church services this Sunday, November 12th & next Sunday, November 19th.

PHILOPTOCHOS — Today. we will pass a Philoptochos tray for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We appreciate your donation. Our <u>General Meeting will be tomorrow Monday, November 13 at The Old Spaghetti Factory</u>. Our guest speaker will be the **Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas**. If you haven't made your reservation, see Linda Kallis. We are taking reservations for the <u>AHEPA Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19</u>. See Tina Veroulis. SAVE THE DATE. The Annual Christmas Luncheon will on Saturday, December 9. (See enclosed flier.) Your family and friends are welcome. The Light the Path event will be on November 18 in Long Beach. If you need more information, see **Linda Kallis**.

COLORING BOOK SESSION – For anyone interested in attending the Adult Coloring & Luncheon session this coming <u>Friday Nov 17th</u>, please <u>RSVP today</u> to **Rhonda Latkovic**.

AHEPA—Please see the *flier for next Sunday's AHEPA THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON* in our parish hall. Make your reservations *today*!

HELP MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A SUCCESS — Along with volunteering time and talent, if everyone can give <u>some financial contribution</u> toward **underwriting the costs of the 2018 Festival**, a lot can be accomplished. Please see the enclosed "<u>2018 Festival Needs List</u>."

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDACY FORMS – 2018 Parish Council Candidacy Forms are now available in our parish office (or from Fr. Ted). <u>Deadline: Monday, December 11, 2017.</u>

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE & CHRISTMAS CARD FORMS—Available in the parish hall.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, November 13th......Philoptochos General Members Meeting - 11:30 a.m. at the Old Spaghetti

Factory (Metropolis President Jeanie Ranglas will be the honored guest).

EVENING LITURGY - STS. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM / PHILIP THE APOS-

TLE - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14th.... Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. in the church

Wednesday, November 15th.. Men's Bible Study- 2:00 p.m. in the church

Thursday, November 16th.....ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study- 2:00 p.m. at the patio

Friday, November 17th......Coloring Book Session - 12:00 noon at the patio

Saturday, November 18th.....Vespers-5:00 p.m.

The Ladder for November 2017
is sponsored by:
the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the narthex for your use. God Bless.



$\frac{\text{Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco}}{\text{Iepa Mhtροπολίς Aγίου Φραγκίσκου}}$

Veteran's Day 2017

Dearly Beloved,

Ninety-nine years ago, the "war to end all wars", World War I, ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. A few years later, the United States resolved that the 11th of November should be "commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer . . . designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations".

World War I did not end war as the patriots proclaimed a century ago. Another world war – even more destructive that the "Great War" – was soon to follow, and shortly thereafter the war in Korea. So, in 1954 Armistice Day, as it had been known previously, was renamed Veterans Day, so that all American veterans of all wars would be honored. Sadly, war continued to mark the twentieth century and continues into the twenty-first. Honoring our veterans is as important as ever, if only to remind us that we have not found a way for peace to prevail.

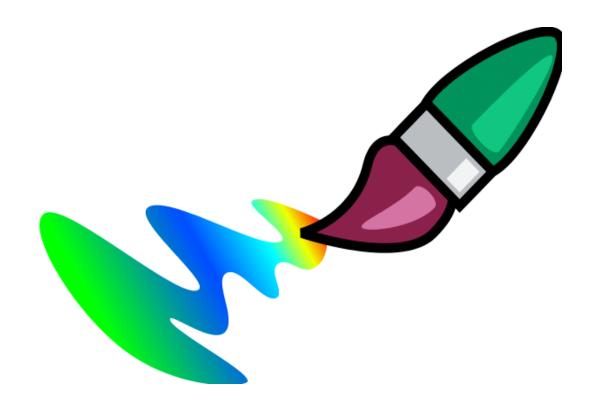
Men and women who love America have served in the five branches of the military: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. They have served throughout the world on many missions, facing danger and risking their lives. At the end of their service, they often returned home with little fanfare, except to the embrace of their families, which were grateful for their safe return. Yet, many also bore tremendous scars and wounds – physical and emotional. As a member of a team that took care many veterans who were battling many psychological traumas caused by their experience of the violence and horrors of warfare, I came to a new respect and admiration for those who were willing to take up arms and serve in the military.

On November 11, our nation honors the men and women who served. As the poet Maya Angelou once said, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes!" As a Church we too should honor publicly our brothers and sisters who served in the Armed Forces. In all of our parishes, we will find veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, down to today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and also those who served elsewhere around the world. Included among our veterans are clergy and military chaplains. We must express our thanks to those who served because they risked all to defend the highest principles of our nation.

As we gratefully remember those who valiantly served our country on this Veteran's Day, let us pray to our Lord that He may keep them safe and always under His watchful care.

With Love in Christ,

Metropolitan of San Francisco



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, November 17th @ 12 PM - 2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

R.S.V.P.: By November 12th to Rhonda Latkovic

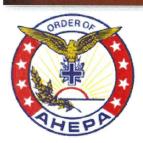
We will have a Thanksgiving Theme for our luncheon and coloring session! Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us! Our December session will be held on Friday, Dec. 15th & we will be decorating sugar cookies for our Holiday shut-in baskets.



THANKSGIVING LUNG H

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M. NOVEMBER 19th



Town Center Cafe

44491 Town Center Way Palm Desert, CA



\$25.00Children \$10.00 *under 12*

Tickets can be purchased from Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

All proceeds go to Fr. Theophilos Theophilos Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online
Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family
Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 12, 2017
Thank You for your Continued Support!

Christmas Bread-Vasilopita Koulourakia



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Ladies of Philoptohos Society will be baking again this year the traditional Christmas bread, Vasilopita and Koulourakia that are delicious any time of day.

Orders with your contribution should be made no later than November 27, 2017. Please place the completed order in an envelope marked "PHILOPTOHOS" in the basket on the Coffee Bar in the Church Hall or give to Lula Valissarakos, Pat Dalkas or Tina Veroulis in the office. If you have any questions, please call Lula at 760 200-8501 or Pat at 760-574-1531

PICK UP DATES:

Sunday, December 10, 2017 (following the conclusion of ChurchServices)

Sunday, December 17, 2017 (following the conclusion of Church Services)

We thank you in advance for your continued support of Philoptohos



NAME			
PHONE			
<u>ITEM</u>	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT (\$)
Koulourakia		\$ 6.00	
Christmas Bread		\$10.00	
Vasilopita Bread with Coin		\$10.00	
Make checks payable to Philoptochos		Total Amount	\$





Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of The Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (Please Print)

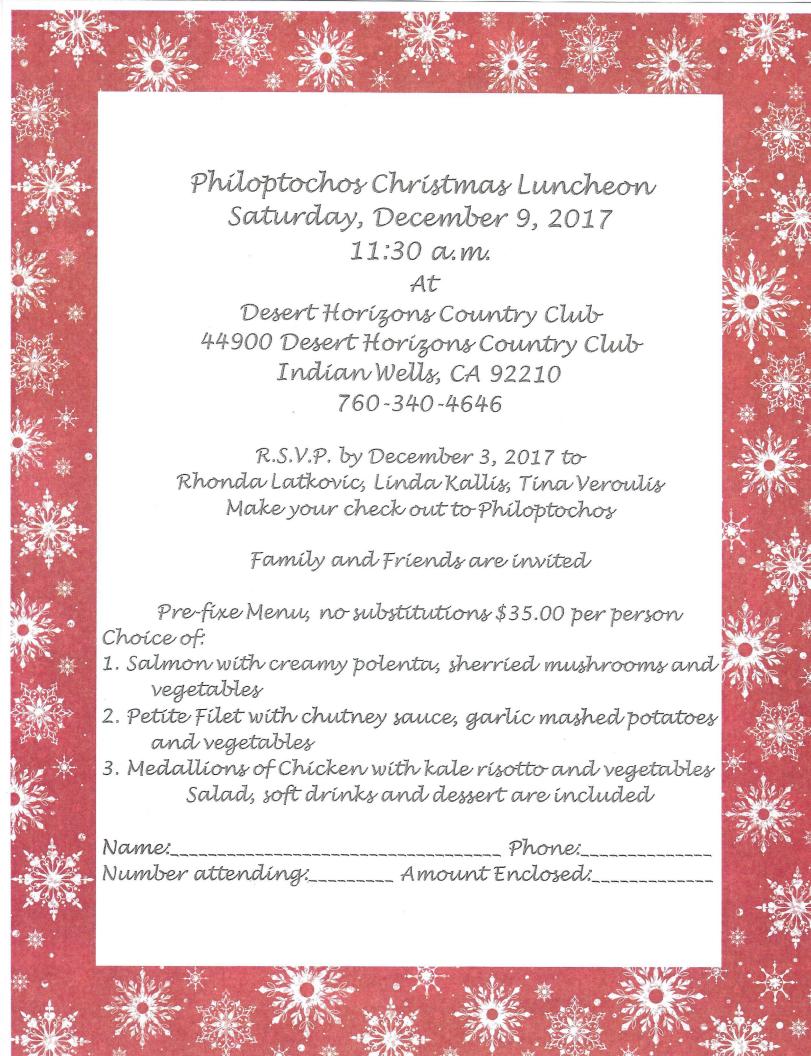
Name:			
Address	The second secon		
Phone	-	*** *********************************	To reduce the construction of the construction

Amount Enclosed: \$_____Deadline: December 1, 2017



St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert Contact our parish office – 760-568-9901 74109 Larrea Street-Post Office Box 4755 Palm Desert, CA 92261 St. George Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c) 3 Exempt Organization





Greek Festival 2018

Needs list

Item Description	Quantity	Source	Estimated	
			price	
Paper goods and supplies		El Greco	\$6,000.00	Half of it he donates
Greek Beer	70 cases	Fantis	\$1,750.00	
Ouzo	15 cases	Fantis	\$1,500.00	
Retsina	8 cases	Fantis	\$750.00	
Greek white wine	15 cases	Fantis	\$1,250.00	1.
Geek red wine	15 cases	Fantis	\$1,250.00	
Domestic wine	15 cases		\$1,000.00	
Domestic beer		Heimark	\$2,500.00	
Bottled water	100 cases		\$500.00	
Produce			\$3,000.00	
Grape leaves	6 tubs	Fantis		
Filo	700 lbs.	Fantis		
Loukaniko	150 lbs.	Fotis and Son	\$1,000.00	² a
Optional Santorini wine	15 cases		\$1,850.00	
Greek yogurt	25 tubs	Sysco	\$750.00	
Dairy products and eggs		Ionian Produce	\$5,00.00	
Feta	15 tubs	Ionian produce	\$1,000.00	
Calamari	35 cases			
Pita	75 cases	Vitco	\$1,500.00	
Gyros slices	50 cases	Vitco	\$1,750.00	
Gyros cones	800 lbs.	Vitco	\$3,500.00	
Chickens	20 cases	Vitco	\$2,000.00	-
Lamb chops	600 lbs.	Vitco	\$5,000.00	
Leg of lamb	400 lbs.	Sam's club	\$2,500.00	
Pastitsio		In house	\$2,000.00	
Mousaka		In house	\$2,000.00	
Pork souvlaki		In house	\$1,500.00	
Chicken souvlaki		In house	\$3,000.00	



ST. GEORGE

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
FATHER THEODORE PANTELS, PASTOR
DR. EUTHYM KONTAXIS, DEACON



December 2017

Beloved Fellow Parishioners of St. George:

There are five ways through which you can help make the 21st Annual St. George Greek Festival a success:

- 1. Volunteer to help in the day-to-day Festival preparations throughout January and February.
- 2. Volunteer to work at least a 4 hour shift on the days of the Festival: Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17th, 2018, or contribute \$60.00 to hire a worker to work the Festival in your behalf.
- 3. Contribute \$300.00 for a "logo-size" ad or \$150 for a one-line greeting for the 2018 Festival Program tri-fold. (See enclosed sample)
- 4. Contribute toward the costs of items needed for the Festival (example: costs for foods, services, supplies), serving to underwrite or partially underwrite these costs.
- 5. Distribute fliers and posters throughout your neighborhood community.

Your help and participation n will be a great blessing for everyone in our St. George parish. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your contribution of time, treasure and/r talents in support of the 2018 St. George Greek Festival.

May God always grant you many and rich blessings.

George Argyros, 2018 Greek Festival Chairman

Fr. Ted Paptels, Parish Priest