



FEBRUARY 3, 2019

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: stgeorgepd@aol.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 receiving.
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.

NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

In today's Gospel passage we heard the word "talents." It is the word that our Lord used when delivering His parable to the Disciples about the wise use of one's resources. In actuality, the word "talents" is a synonym for the word "blessings." The message from today's readings from Scripture is for us to maximize our blessings *now!* *Now* is the "acceptable time of the Lord," as St. Paul says in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 6:1-2). That is: "It is time for the Lord to act." The Lord

acts through us! There are two purposes for God's blessings: 1) God's blessings provide us with the *opportunities* to do His Will and to, consequently, find our salvation, and, 2) God's blessings are "treasures" to be *shared* with others for their salvation.

The "acceptable time" to share these blessings is now. That is, the opportunity to do God's work is at this present moment. There is no excuse to wait for tomorrow, or to wallow over the errors of yesterday. Each day is itself the *opportunity* that we have

Continued on Page 2

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE & THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos reminds us that the Feast Day of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (which was celebrated yesterday) is a reminder of our personal union with Christ our True God. As our Savior is presented into the Temple, so too is every human being presented to God. Through the Holy Spirit, the life of Christ in human history is intertwined with each of our lives in the present and into the future. His death and Resurrection is at the same time our death and resurrection to Eternal Life with Him. Hence, the Orthodox Church has set forth the "Service of the Forty-Day Blessing for New-born Children." (A more extensive understanding of this issue is in the February *Voice*.)

At the heart of this Church Service is gratitude to God. We acknowledge that every human being who comes into the world is from God. As such, we offer prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of a child, knowing that God loves the new-born child and has a purpose for its life in the world. The celebration of our Savior's Incarnation, Baptism, and Presentation into the Temple (February 2nd) challenges every Orthodox Christian to stand up in prayer, asking our Savior to enlighten our people so that they repent by stopping to *encourage* the practice of abortion, as well as physician-assisted suicide and the taking of human life at any stage. Let us all pray for increased faith and love for God. **+FR. THEODORE**



Στην σημερινήν Ευαγγελικήν περι-
κοπήν ακούσαμεν την λέξιν
<τάλαντα.> Είναι η λέξις που ο
Κύριος εχρησιμοποίησε όταν ομί-
λησε στους Μαθητάς Του σχετικά
με την σωστήν χρήσιν των μέσων
που έχουμε στην διαθεσὴν μας
γιά να πράξουμεν καλά έργα. Στην
πραγματικότητα, η λέξις <τάλαν-
τα> έχει το ίδιο νόημα με την λέξιν
<ευλογίες.> Αυτό που μαθαίνουμεν
από τις σημερινές περικοπές των
Αγίων Γραφών είναι να μεγαστο-
ποιήσουμεν τις ευλογίες μας αυτήν
την στιγμήν!> Αυτή η στιγμή είναι
<ὁ καιρός τοῦ ποιῆσαι τῷ Κυρίῳ.>

Υπάρχουν δύο σκοπούς γιά τις ευ-
λογίες του Θεού: 1) οι ευλογίες του
Θεού παρέχουν σε εμάς τις ευκαι-
ρίες να κάνουμεν το θέλημά Του
και, συνεπώς, να σώσουμεν τις
ψυχές μας, και, 2) οι ευλογίες του
Θεού είναι θησαυροί που μοιρά-
ζονται με τους άλλους γιά να σω-
θούν αυτοί.

Αυτός <Ὁ καιρός τοῦ ποιῆσαι τῷ
Κυρίῳ> είναι η οποιαδήποτε στι-
γμή της ζωῆς μας και η κάθε στι-
γμή της ζωῆς μας. Μάλιστα, η ευ-
καιρία να κάνουμεν το ἔργον του
Θεού είναι αυτήν την στιγμήν. Δεν
υπάρχει λόγος να περιμένουμεν γιά
αύριο, ἢ να θρηνήσουμεν γιά τα
χθεσινά λάθη. Κάθε ημέρα είναι
ιδιαιτέρη ευκαιρία να κάνουμεν
ὅλα που διδάσκει ο Κύριος και γιά
να μοιραζόμεθα τις ευλογίες Του.
Γιά να μην μοιρασθούμεν τις ευ-
λογίες που μας δίνει ο Θεός, είναι
το ίδιο με το να σπαταλήσουμεν τα
αγαθά του Κυρίου. Οι υπηρέτες
που σπαταλούν τις ευλογίες του
Κυρίου δεν υπηρετούν κανέναν!
Ο,τι κάνουν είναι άχρηστο. Ας
προσφέρουμεν τις καλύτερες προσ-
πάθειές μας γιά να είμεθα καλοί
υπηρέτες του Κυρίου.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

to share His blessings. For us not to share God's blessings is the same thing as wasting them. The basic reason for why we do not want to share blessings with others is our lack of faith in God. Also, we fall into the temptation of judging God, accusing Him for not being fair. But Christ our God gives blessings to us in accordance to what He wants us to do for Him and others as His servants. Not sharing God's blessings is a form of "wickedness," rendering our service to the Lord as "useless."

As to our inherent *worth* as human beings, each of us is priceless; for, Christ our True God died for the salvation of every one of us. As to our *usefulness*, it is a matter of our response to the blessings that Christ grants to us. When we approach the Holy Chalice, each of us is named as "the servant of God." But, we must keep in mind that a *servant serves*. Our identity is tied into what we do — and what we do is a matter of our choice...our use of Free Will. Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend argue in favor of using our Free Will to accept responsibility for our salvation. "We live in a culture of blame...[In the Parable of the Talents, we note that] the Master gives three people different amounts of resources to invest...But the third...blamed the Master for not giving him what he thought he needed to make it work, so he did nothing with what had been entrusted to him...Neither what God had given this man nor what he had not given him was the issue. The issue was just one thing: What had he done with what was given to him?" (It's Not My Fault, pgs. 7 & 18).

Because he incorrectly perceived the intentions of the Master, the "wicked servant" chose not to share his blessings with others. Incorrect perceptions distract us from our service to Christ. In the book, *Our Thoughts Determine our Lives*, Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnika counsels us to have Christ's love as our motive for everything. "Every task should be performed from the heart, for it is not for people that we are laboring, but for God...We have been given complete freedom, but we, in our foolishness, often have many useless desires." (pg. 97).

Let us begin *using blessings to bless others so that God's blessing can be multiplied*. This is the path of wellness! As Archbishop Anastasios of Albania once said, "We find ourselves by offering ourselves." Indeed, spiritual life is not a private matter. It is a matter of "committing ourselves and one another and our whole lives to Christ our God."
+FR. THEODORE

"I spread out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a waterless land. Hear me speedily, O Lord, for, my spirit faints within me...Teach me to do Your Will, for You are my God."
— Psalm 142: 6-7a & 10)

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

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

Verse 1—: My heart overflowed with a good word; I tell my works to the King.

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

Verse 2- My tongue is the pen of a swift-writing scribe.

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

Verse 3— You are more beautiful than the sons of men.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

Verse 1- Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, in Your splendor and Your beauty.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O en anggales tou dhike-ou Symeon vastachtheis, psallontas si alleluia."

Verse 2 - Stretch Your bow, and grant prosperity, and reign, because of truth and goodness.

Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who was held in the arms of righteous Symeon, we sing to You, Alleluia."

Verse 3 - Your arrows are sharp, O Mighty One. The peoples shall fall under You. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; Your royal scepter is a scepter of uprightness.

Refrain: "Soston imas Ie Theou, O en anggales tou dhike-ou Symeon vastachtheis, 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: Listen, O daughter, behold and incline your ear, and forget your people and your father's house. The rich among the people shall entreat your favor. I will remember your name from generation to generation.

Sunday Resurrectional Hymn: Efrenestho ta ourania (Tone 3)...(Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death and First Born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.)

Hymn for the Feast of the Presentation: Chere ke charitomenie Theotoke... (Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.)

Hymn for St. George: Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of Kings, bearer of trophies are you O Great Martyr George. Intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)

Sunday Kontakion Hymn: O mitran aghiasas to toko Sou... (You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Give peace to our Nation in time of strife and empower our leaders, so loved by You, the only One Who loves humanity.)

READINGS: EPISTLE—2 Corinthians 6: 1-10/ GOSPEL— St. Matthew 25:14-30

Communion Hymn: Enite ton Kyrion... (Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the highest)...page 64 of our Divine Liturgy books.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

PHILOPTOCHOS --We need Coffee Hour Hosts and Sponsors for February and March. See Pat Dalkas for available dates. Our General Meeting will be on Monday, February 25 at 11:30 a.m.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – Those offering the Altar Flower Bouquets for the glory of God today are:

-Presvytera Petula and Fr. Theodore Pantels: "Calling to mind the Most Holy Mother of God and all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God."

-Mr. & Mrs. George Megalonakas: "Continued blessings, peace, love, hope, and joy to each and everyone...and beyond!"

FESTIVAL: YIAYIA'S ATTIC and PAPOU'S GARAGE- We need your items for Yiayia's Attic. We take all sorts of household things. This year we have added Papou's Garage. We want tools, golf clubs and anything of value. Donations should be in good condition, clean and/or polished. You may drop off items near classroom 1 in the parish hall. Also, please get a tax-deductible form from Chris Delegans, as you may be able to deduct your donation value for tax purposes. If you have any questions, call chairperson **Chris Delegans** at 650-207-5254.

AHEPA - Super Bowl Party: Today. See flier in our parish hall.

SAVE THE DATE: Parish Spiritual Symposium – Saturday, April 6th. Details to follow.

ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT – Save the date: Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Desert Falls Country Club. See enclosed flier.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, February 4, February 5, and February 6th – Festival Baking: Pastries will be prepared. Volunteers are needed and most welcome!

Tuesday, February 5th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 6th...ST. PHOTIOS THE GREAT

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

Thursday, February 7th.....Parish Council – 2:30 p.m.

*The Ladder for February 2019 is lovingly sponsored by:
Harry Psaltis*

*"In memory of my first friends: Stephen Geotas,
George Tcharos, Pasquale (Pat) DiLuzio &
George Flessas"*

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 in order that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a "crying room" in the vestibule for your use. God Bless.

Volunteer for the Festival

February 16th & 17th 2019

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized it wouldn't get done by Anybody. It ended up that not only was the job not done, but Everybody accused Somebody, and Nobody accepted the responsibility.

Moral: Everybody's job is Anybody's. Nobody can be Somebody unless they are willing to do Anybody's work.



Please sign up to volunteer in the church hall after liturgy on any Sunday. You may also complete the information on the back and leave it with Jim Christopoulos or Father Ted. Finally, you may email or call Jim at goofy_328@yahoo.com (note “_” between goofy and 328) or 760-902-8460. God bless!

For those of you who are unable to volunteer, but want to help support the festival, you may want to consider “sponsoring” a shift. For a donation of \$60, you can sponsor a paid worker. If interested, please see Jim or Father Ted.

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Festival Volunteer Form

Friday & Saturday, February 16th & 17th 2019

»Name: _____

»Phone Number: _____ »Email Address: _____

»Availability (Please check all that apply):

Set Up Prior to Festival _____

Saturday 2/16: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

Sunday 2/17: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

Tear Down Following Festival _____

»Please check off all areas that you would like to volunteer (we will try to place you in one of these areas, if possible).

Area	Chairperson(s)	Check if Interested
Set-up/Tear down	Doug Lyons	
Front Gate	Lou & Penny Karagianis	
Back Gate	Jim Christopoulos	
Greek Store	Rhonda Latkovic	
Kafenio	Tbd	
Kids Area	Melissa Hawkins	
Loukoumathes	Krisann Kontaxis	
Bars	Nick Krespis	
Dinner Line	Tasia Richards	
Gyros	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Cooking	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Appetizers	Jim Christopoulos	
Yiayia's Attic	Chris Deleganis	
Accounting/\$ Run	Nick Kaperonis	
Kitchen/Food Run	George & Stacy Argyros	
Pastries	Lula Valissarakos	
Parking Lot Carts	Jim Christopoulos	



GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · LOUKOUMADES ·

GREEK CHICKEN · MOUSAKA · SPANAKOPITA · DOLMADE · PASTICHIO · GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · DOLMADES

GREEK CHICKEN · MOUSAKA · SPANAKOPITA · DOLMADE · PASTICHIO · SOULYAKI · BAKLAVA · DOLMADES · GYROS



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD

HEAVENLY PASTRIES

GREEK FOLK DANCERS

OUZO · RETSINA · METAXA

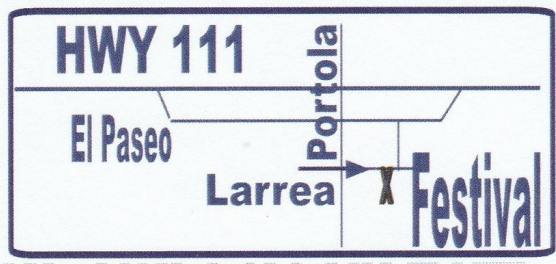
ART & SOUVENIRS

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

CHURCH TOURS

KIDZ ZONE

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



EL PASEO COURTESY CARTS available for festival attendee pick up & drop off. Route along El Paseo from San Pablo to Portola & church festival entrance. ADDITIONAL PARKING AVAILABLE at Washington Charter School, and Hope Luthern Church & Spiritual Center. SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED.



We are pleased to provide assistance to anyone requesting it. If you need help, please ask.

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Proudly presents the

23ND ANNUAL

GREEK FESTIVAL

in Palm Desert, CA

Saturday & Sunday

February 16th & 17th 2019

11am to 8pm

on the Church Grounds

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, CA

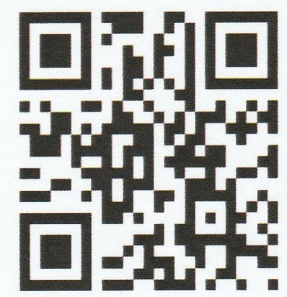
(760) 568-9901

*Experience Authentic Greek Food
Devour Heavenly Pastries
Dance to live Greek music, and
Be Greek for a Day!*

ADMISSION \$3

(Children 12 & under free)
Active Duty Military, Police,
Fire & EMT Free w/ ID

www.PDGreekFest.org
t f PDGreekFest



GYROS · GREEK LAMB · BAKLAVA · LOUKOUMADES ·



AHEPA 528 2nd ANNUAL

SUPER BOWL PARTY



FUN FOR EVERYONE

We will have doors open at 2pm.

Game starts at 3:30 pm

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

74109 Larrea St Palm Desert, CA 92261

\$20 Donation requested

Refreshments and fun provided!



<https://www.facebook.com/AHEPA528/>

Livestream after each Quarter to announce winner!

\$10 pool squares available


Donate online, AHEPA528.ORG

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or donate online

Scholarship awards benefit members of

Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family


SUPER BOWL
FEB 3rd 2019

\$20 DONATION

and you get

- 1 Square in the Football Pool
- Refreshments
- Appetizers
- Live Game
- Cash Prizes

\$10 pool square*

**After first donation*

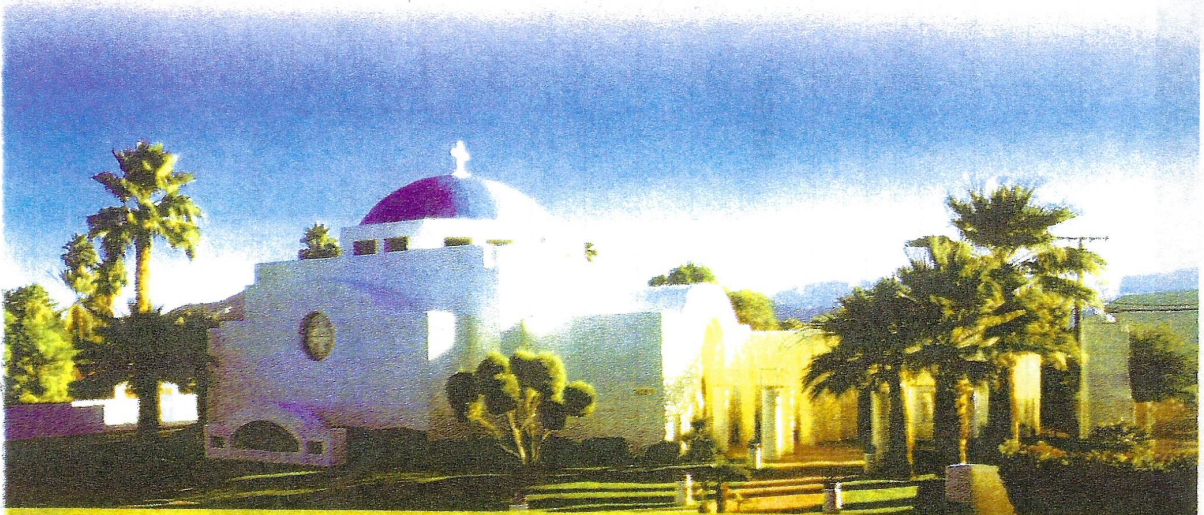
**REFRESHMENTS
AND FUN
PROVIDED!**



**PLEASE SEE BROTHERS
WYNN STORTON,
HARRY LOUKATOS OR
NICK KRESPIS
FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

CONTACT@AHEPA528.ORG

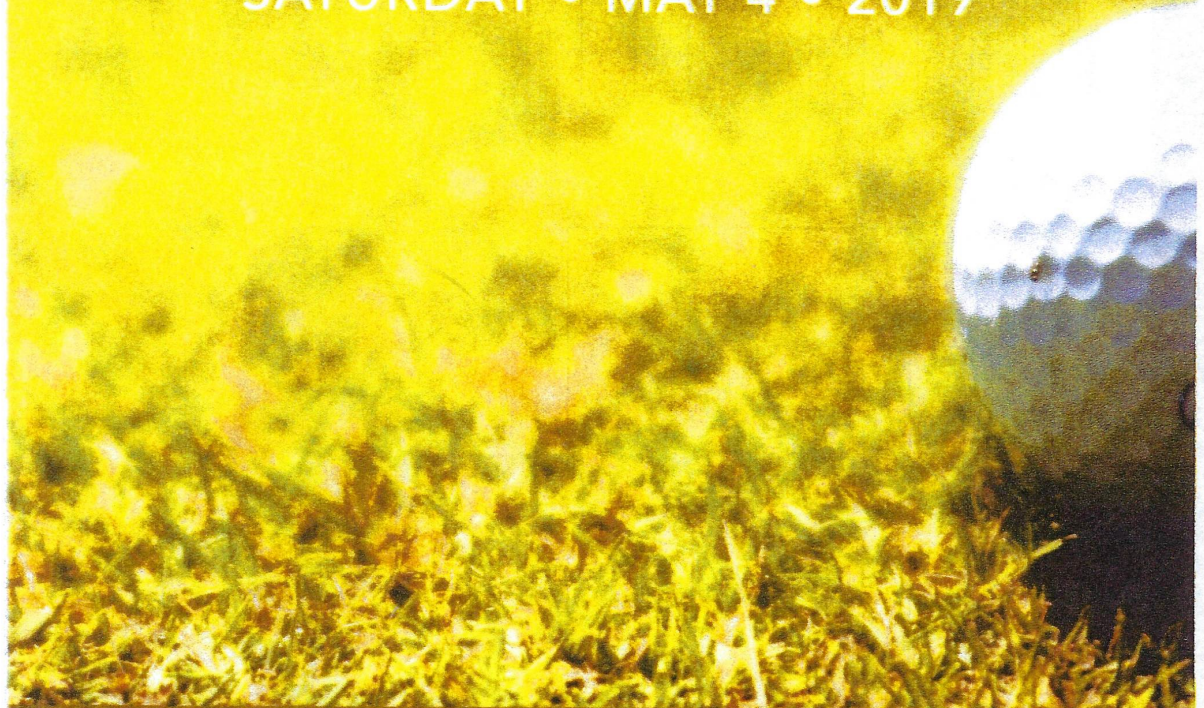
760.832.2825



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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 _____

PLAYER NAME(S)

INDEX

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