

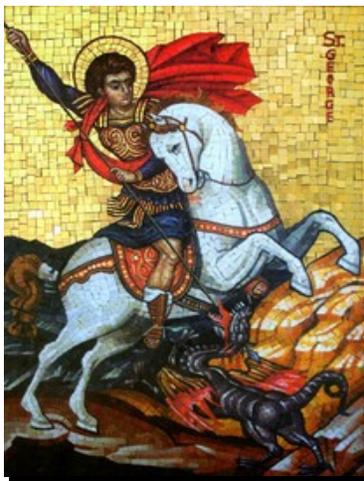
FEBRUARY 2, 2020

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

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE

"THE FALL AND RISE OF MANY"

The Icon that is situated in our church high behind the Altar Table (known as the *Platytera*) is related to today's Feast Day of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple. We heard in today's passage from the Gospel of St. Luke how the Theotokos brought Christ into the Temple and into the embrace of the Righteous Symeon. In the same way, the Theotokos offers Christ to the world - to our church here and to our souls today.

The historical event of today's commemoration is, at the same time, an event which occurs continuously into eternity. It occurs through the Divine Liturgy.

Christ enters our temple today through the Grace of the Holy Spirit. Christ "is in our midst" by way of His Most Holy Body and Precious Blood.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the fulfillment of the prophesy of Prophet Isaiah. In his vision, he saw the Angels of the Seraphim glorifying God, and one of the Angels took a charcoal from the Heavenly altar and touched his mouth and said, "This has touched your lips and takes away your sins and purges away your iniquities." (Isaiah 6:7).

This prophesy is in many ways fulfilled.
Continued on page 2

THE 40 DAY BLESSING -- The event of our Lord's Entrance into the Temple is recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke 2: 22-40: "At that time the parents of the Child Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, as it is written in the Law of the Lord..." (St. Luke 2:22).

Based on this Biblical event, the Church conducts a 40 Day Service following the birth of a child, known as the "Prayer for Churching of Children After 40 Days." This Prayer has three elements: 1) The life, well-being and salvation of the child. "Bless this child which has been born of her; increase it, sanctify it, give it understanding and a prudent and virtuous mind..." 2) The blessing for parents & sponsors. "We pray to You [O Lord] and implore You, cleanse and heal Your servant (the mother), whom by Your Will You have preserved and who now enters Your Holy Church...O Lord, bless this child together with its parents and sponsors..." 3) The preparation for Holy Baptism. "O Lord... account this child to be worthy, at the fitting time, to be born again of water and the Spirit. Number (him / her) with Your Holy Flock of rational sheep, who are of the Name of Your Christ."

This special Church Service involves raising a child with knowledge of our Orthodox Christian Faith --the greatest Stewardship we can offer to our Holy Church.

+FR. THEODORE



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.

Η εικόνα που βρίσκεται ψηλά πίσω από το ιερό στους ναούς μας (η Πλατότερα) σχετίζεται με την σημερινή εορτή του Χριστού που παρουσιάστηκε στο ναό μέσα στην αγκαλιά του Συμεών. Σήμερα, όπως ακούσαμε το Ευαγγέλιο του Αγίου Λουκά, η Θεοτόκος έφερε τον Χριστό στο ναό και Τον έβαλε στην αγκαλιά του Συμεών. Με τον ίδιο τρόπο, η Θεοτόκος παρουσιάζει τον Χριστό στον κόσμο - στον ναό μας και στις ψυχές μας σήμερα.

Το ιστορικό γεγονός της σημερινής γιορτής είναι, ταυτόχρονα, ένα γεγονός που λαμβάνει χώρα συνεχώς στην αιωνιότητα. Συμβαίνει μέσω της Θείας Λειτουργίας, μέσω της κατάβασης του Αγίου Πνεύματος.

Ο Χριστός είναι μαζί μας μέσω του Σώματος και του Αίματος Του. Το Μυστήριο της Θείας Κοινωνίας είναι η εκπλήρωση της προφητείας του Προφήτη Ησαΐα. Στο όραμά του είδε τους αγγέλους των Σεραφείμ να δοξάζουν τον Θεό και ένας άγγελος πήρε έναν άνθρακα από τον ουράνιο ναό και άγγιξε τα χείλη του, και του είπε ότι αυτό θα αφαιρέσει τις αμαρτίες του και θα καθαρίσει τις ανομίες του. (Ισ. 6: 7).

Αυτή η προφητεία εκπληρώνεται στην προφητεία του Συμεών, ο οποίος είπε στην Θεοτόκο ότι ο Χριστός θα ήταν η αιτία της πτώσης και της άνοδος πολλών ανθρώπων του κόσμου. (Λκ. 2:34). Με άλλα λόγια, αυτοί που απομακρύνονται από τον Χριστό πέφτουν σε αμαρτίες. Όσοι μεταλαμβάνουν την Θεία Κοινωνία ανυψώνονται από την πτώση της αμαρτίας μέσω της συγχωρησεως. Αυτό που έχει αγγίξει τα χείλη μας ανυψώνει τις ψυχές μας προς τη Βασιλεία του Θεού. +Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

ed by the prophesy of the Righteous Symeon when he said to the Theotokos that Her Son is "*set for the fall and rise of many.*" (St. Luke 2:34). Those who distance themselves from Christ fall into many sins. Those who partake of the Holy Sacraments rise out of sin through forgiveness. That which "*touched our lips*" renews the soul.

For St. Paul, the renewal of the *soul* is tantamount to putting on a new identity - a new (and true) "*self.*" It is in this sense that St. Paul urges us to "*put off the old self* (that "*self*" defined by the world) and to "*put on the new self*" (that "*self*" which is created after the Image of God [Ephesians 4: 22-24]). It is in this context that the term "*self-worth*" can best be understood. The "*self*" after the Image of God has as its *purpose* to benefit other people for God's glory. This true "*self*" which is the reflection of a pure soul is that "*self*" which is engrained in human beings from the moment of conception and it is truly of great worth.

Unfortunately, our fallen world defines the "*self*" differently. Accordingly, the "*self*" is often in the center of a universe of events, other people, and things that are deemed valuable only for transient comfort and temporary survival. Additionally, the sense of *entitlement* often prevails over that of *thanksgiving*. It is a *selfish* "*self,*" in the image of the imperfect world, which is subjected to false assumptions giving rise to emotions, which can confuse us regarding "*good*" and "*evil,*" and, in turn, contribute to arguments over *rights* and *responsibilities,* with anger over issues of "*unfairness.*"

When we understand our "*self*" as being according to God's Image, we can overcome through repentance the "*falls*" that come through our sins and "*rise up*" again through forgiveness in Christ. We "*pick ourselves up*" after every fall, because we are each *worth* the love of Christ our God. Therefore, let us avoid the deceptions about "*failure*" and "*success,*" where "*failure*" causes depression and "*success*" leads to sinful exuberance, rather than humble gratitude.

Proper definitions of the words "*self*" and "*worth*" determine the nature of our relationships with others even on a global scale.

+FR. THEODORE

EPISTLE: Heb. 7:7-17 --- Brethren, the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

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

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

Verse 2- Grace was poured out on Your lips.

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

Verse 3- Therefore God blessed You forever.

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

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

Refrain: *" Tes presvies tis Theotokou, Soter, soston*

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

Verse 1-Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One. Stretch Your bow, grant prosperity, and reign.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O en angales tou dhikeh-ou Symeon vastachtheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2 - Your arrows are sharp, O Mighty One. The peoples shall fall under You.

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

Verse 3 - Your royal scepter is a scepter of uprightness.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O en angales tou dhideh-ou Symeon vastachtheis, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Yio ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei... *"O Monogenis Yios ke Logos tou Theou..."*

ANTIPHON III- Listen, O daughter, behold and incline your ear. The rich among the people shall entreat your favor. I will remember your name from generation to generation.

At the Entrance of the Gospel: *Egnorise o Kyrios to sotirion Aftou...(The Lord made known His salvation in the sight of all the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead.)*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Katelisas to Stavro Sou ton thanaton (Tone 7)... (O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted unto the thief blessed paradise. The Myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.)*

Hymn for the Entrance of Christ into the Temple: *Hherh ke haritomeni 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.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday : *O Mitran Parthenikin...(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. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.)*

Instead of Axion Estin, the following: *Theotoke ee elpis panton ton Christianon...(Theotokos, as the hope of us Christians, one and all, guard and shelter and protect those who put their hope in you. O believers, come let us perceive a type in the law, and the shadow and the letter. Every male that opens the womb shall be holy to God. So the unoriginate Father's firstborn Logos and Son, who is the firstborn of the Mother who knew not man, we magnify.)*

Communion Hymn- *Potinion sotiriou...(I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia.)*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHEPA SUPER BOWL PARTY- Today...beginning at 2:00 p.m. at our parish hall. Everyone is invited to join in fellowship.

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Join us next Sunday, February 9th in support of women’s heart health with our “Go Red For Women” day. Everyone, even men (red tie) wearing red will receive a special gift. We will have heart healthy snacks during the coffee hour. *Swing-N-Hops*-We will be participating in **this fun event on El Paseo on Saturday, February 8th from 12-5 pm.** Look for the **St. George pastry booth.** Volunteers needed. Please see Tina or Rhonda.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS--Contributors for this week’s Altar Flower Bouquets:
--Ms. Crystal Manganas - “God bless our Parish. “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be Praised”! Ps 47:1

--Angelo & Tina Veroulis - “Be the living expression of God's kindness, kindness in your face; kindness in your eyes; kindness in your smile”.

FESTIVAL- The Festival Baking schedule is posted on the parish hall bulleting board. Volunteers are to sign up with Jim Christopoulos today in our parish hall. “Volunteer Forms” are in the parish hall. Publicity: **Festival fliers are available in the parish hall ready for hand-out** to area businesses & neighborhoods. Our next **Festival meeting is this Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the parish hall at 6:00 p.m.**

ADULT GREEK SCHOOL & TRIP TO GREECE--Tuesday, February 4th: Adult Greek Class at 6:00 p.m. See flier for details regarding the May excursion to Greece with **Mrs. Margarita Pagoulatos.**

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, February 3rd.....Philoptochos Board Meeting --11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 4th.....Bible Study--10:00 a.m./ Adult Greek School class-6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5th.....Festival Meeting -6:00 p.m

Thursday, February 6th..... **ST. PHOTIOS THE GREAT**
Orthros-8:30 a.m./ Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Choir Practice - 1:00 p.m.

<p>GOSPEL: Lk. 2:22-40</p> <p>At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light</p>	<p>for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.</p>
--	---

Volunteer for the Festival

February 22nd & 23rd 2020

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.



Festival Volunteer Form

Saturday & Sunday, February 22nd & 23rd 2020

»Name: _____

»Phone Number: _____ »Email Address: _____

1. Availability (Please check all that apply):

a. Set Up the Week Prior to Festival _____

b. Saturday 2/22 _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

c. Sunday 2/23: _____ 10:30-3:30 _____ 3:15-8:15

d. Tear Down the Week Following Festival _____

2. 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	Margarita Pagoulatos	
Kids Area	Melissa Hawkins	
Loukoumathes	Krisann & Euthym Kontaxis	
Parking Lot Bar	Nick Krespis	
Courtyard Bar	tbd	
Dinner Line	Athena & Pete Snarskis	
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	Ladies of Philoptochos	
Parking Lot Carts	Jim Christopoulos	

MAKE IT YOUR MISSION

TO FIGHT HEART DISEASE IN WOMEN

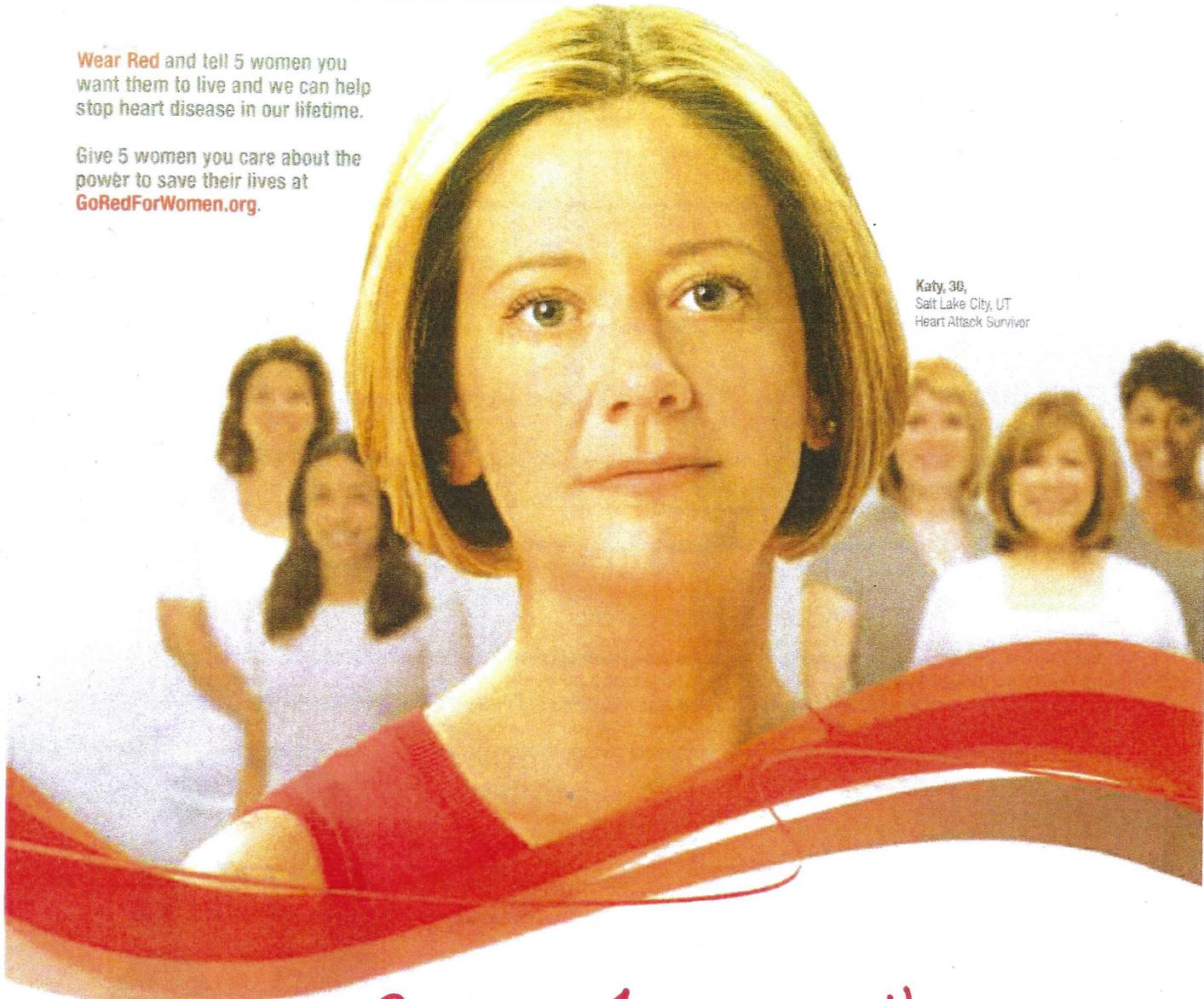


American Heart Association



Wear Red and tell 5 women you want them to live and we can help stop heart disease in our lifetime.

Give 5 women you care about the power to save their lives at GoRedForWomen.org.



Katy, 30,
Salt Lake City, UT
Heart Attack Survivor

Join us on *Sunday, February 9th*
as we Make It Our Mission to stop women's No. 1 killer.

Give 5 women you care about the power to save their lives at GoRedForWomen.org.



St. George Philoptochos

Know the Warning Signs for Heart Disease and Stroke



American Heart Association 

nationally sponsored by



Every year heart disease claims the lives of close to half a million women in our country. In fact, it's the No. 1 killer of American women. Since most of those deaths are from coronary heart disease — about 500,000 each year — it's important to learn all you can about heart attacks. Don't ignore heart problems. It's a matter of life and death! For example, you should know the warning signs so you can get help right away, either for yourself or someone close to you. Acting quickly can save many, many lives!

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, and no one doubts what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath** with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

If you or someone you're with has chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs, don't wait longer than a few minutes (no more than 5) before calling for help.

Call 9-1-1... Get to a hospital right away.

Calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. Emergency medical services (EMS) staff can begin treatment when they arrive — up to an hour sooner than if someone gets to the hospital by car. The staff are also trained to revive someone whose heart has stopped. You'll also get treated faster in the hospital if you come by ambulance. If you can't access the EMS, have someone drive you to the hospital right away. If you're the one having symptoms, don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.

Myrna Aguilar, 34
South Gate, CA
Family History of Heart Disease
Go Red Por Tu Corazón
Spokesperson

GoRedForWomen.org

