

NOVEMBER 2018



# Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

## BEHAVIOR & BELIEFS

The Feast Day of St. Nectarios of Pentapolis is **November 9th** every year. He was the victim of baseless rumor suggesting that, since he was bishop of the Church serving the Metropolis of Pentapolis, he therefore plotted to take the position of Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria. As a result, Patriarch Sophronios exiled St. Nectarios and he was forced to live in poverty. Eventually, St. Nectarios became the dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens in 1894. By 1904, St. Nectarios established the monastery of the Holy Trinity for women in Aigina, Greece. Known for his life of continuous prayer and great faith in Christ, many miracles came about through his intercessions. However, by 1920, St. Nectarios succumbed to cancer. Following his departure from this life, many more miracles from Christ were granted, which have been attributed to the intercessory prayers of St. Nectarios, who subsequently has become known as St. Nectarios the

Wonderworker.

In celebrating his Feast Day on Friday, November 9th this year, St. Nectarios' words regarding virtues can guide us through Thanksgiving and the joyous Advent season. +FR. THEODORE

“Let us write it upon our hearts if possible, that whatever a person believes, that is what that person actually does and also that is what that person teaches. Our deeds do not just come out of “thin air,” so to speak, but they come from our “creed.” If we believe in God, we will believe in His Son, the Only-Begotten, Jesus Christ. We will believe in the Holy Spirit and in the fact that the Holy Spirit from the Day of Pentecost never stopped guiding and sanctifying the Church. We will believe in the Sacraments of the Church and we will direct our entire lives in accordance with the teaching of the Church regarding each Sacrament:

Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Communion, the Priesthood, Holy Confession, Holy Unction and Holy Matrimony.

“Sometimes the world criticizes us, because we show with our deeds and mannerisms that we believe in the same things that everybody else believes in, including atheists. Both cannot exist together - to have faith in God and, at the same time, to have faith in the notions and ideals of the fallen world...*O Christian, you must make a choice!* Either you will enter into the Good Fight -- that is, the spiritual discipline, in which, with the help and grace of the Holy Spirit you will accomplish the salvation of your soul and the salvation of the world, or you will join the company of the unbelievers and you will go along with the nonsense of today's society.

“We can choose to be

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Sponsorship & Ad  
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spiritual -- to live in the grace of the Holy Spirit. This means that we make the sincere effort to do things in our mission to this world that are grand and bold for the benefit and salvation of others. A "spiritual" mentality is a trait from which come the following virtuous characteristics:

-politeness                      -gentleness                      -forbearance  
-forgiveness                      -leniency                      -charity

"What does it mean to be *polite* to others? It is the goodwill of the soul in dealing with others in our speech and actions.

"*Forgiveness* and meekness are the characteristics by which one, because of love, does not allow himself or herself to be affected by the evil of others. One overlooks another's ill manners and injustice; that is, they do not take everything *personally*, because they have a greater love. Forgiveness is the erasing of debt over sins committed against us.

"*Gentleness* is the peace of a person's soul which has love for one's neighbor. St. Paul advises the Galatians to have gentleness, saying, "*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you, too, be tempted.*" (6:1). *Leniency* is the fruit of gentleness and forbearance. In the Epistle of St. James we read: "*The wisdom from above is pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, filled with abundant mercy and good fruits...*" (3:17).

"*Forbearance*, then, is the control of one's anger in not committing acts of retaliation.

"Finally, *charity* is the imparting of one's own good things to those who are in need and the repayment with good deeds."

++ST. NECTARIOS OF PENTAPOLIS\*

*\*The above quotations from St. Nectarios come from two of his writings: Regarding the Holy Sacraments and Holy Orthodox Catechism, originally written in Greek and translated by Fr. Theodore. St. Nectarios himself authored numerous books of instruction on teachings of the Orthodox Christian Church.*

+FR. THEODORE

## ENCYCLICAL COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF "NO"



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our commemoration of OXI Day each year leads us to reflect on a very challenging time in our world and for the people of Greece. As war was spreading throughout Europe, the Axis forces demanded the surrender of Greece on October 28, 1940. Bravely and honorably, the Greek people replied, "NO." Today, we honor the bravery and sacrifice of our fathers and mothers who stood valiantly against the armies of the Fascist powers. They proclaimed a resolute "NO" to occupation. The people of Greece affirmed their love of liberty and their right of self-determination. They saw the evil and unchecked power of Fascist regimes, and in their response they committed their lives to protecting their country. In faith they knew that no matter the outcome they were willing to stand courageously in the face of this threat knowing that ultimately nothing could separate them from the nobility of their heritage and the love of God.

Today, we are inspired by our forbearers as we celebrate their courage and honor their memory. They said "NO" to those who advanced power and control at any cost. They stood firm against an ideology and its forces that would only separate them from their freedom, their rights, and their way of life. We find courage in their example and hope and strength in the promise that "*neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 8:38-39).

The experience of God's love and the promise that His love is always with us helped the people of Greece in hope and faith to *endure all things* (I Corinthians 13:7). They knew that the power of God's love was greater than the power of Fascist regimes. They knew that the love of God was essential to their freedom, and to their love for their families and communities, and for their country.

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

ENCYCLICAL FOR "NO" DAY, Continued

As we commemorate the valiant people of Greece on OXI Day, and we laud their courage before the world, may we give thanks to God for the witness offered to us and to generations to come. May we also pray for the eternal memory and blessed repose of those who stood heroically for their faith and their nation. May we be inspired to stand firmly in the love of God, knowing that nothing can separate us from the great and saving love we have in Him through Christ Jesus.

With Paternal Love in Him,  
++DEMETRIOS,  
Archbishop of America

*Along these lines, I recommend that it be made clear to everyone in our parish that whoever is chairing a project should be allowed to manage their work without interference from others. Specifically, if the project involves the kitchen, unless the chairperson requests assistance from anyone in particular, no one else should involoe themselves with the work of the kitchen on the day(s) of such a project. This is something that everyone needs to help enforce. Otherwise, we literally have "too many cooks in the kitchen." I hope that you join me and support me in maintaining this order, which, in essence, is the very system that you have adopted.*

*May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant to you all of His many and great blessings.*  
+FR. THEODORE

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



**October-** At our Board Meeting held on Monday, October 1st, Father Ted presented a letter to us supporting the changes we have made and will continue to make in order to bring in more members to help with our fund raisers. See below:

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*Members of the St. George Ladies of Philoptochos Board:*

*I want to applaud you for the arrangements that you made in order for our summer months to proceed with peace and love. The coffee hours on Sundays, as well as the memorials over these summer months were pleasant moments of peace, reflection and prayer.*

*I have come to understand that your new system of rotating chair-ships for various Philoptochos projects, as well as allowing other ladies of our parish to lead in managing these projects provides opportunities for others to gain experience in the ministries of our Church. It goes without saying, of course, that a chairperson is required to work with the Board of Directors and should not do things independently at will.*

*This system of rotating responsibilities is a system that invites everyone to contribute to the well-being of our Church. It is for this reason that I feel that it is important to offer my personal support in maintaining this system.*

-----  
We had a General Meeting held on Monday, October 8 with a speaker from the National Alliance of Mental Illness. The speaker was Sandy Neja and she works as a volunteer at NAMI. NAMI is a non-profit and serves the Coachella Valley. Their mission is to assist families impacted by mental illness. Mental illness is a disease caused by genetics, environment and chemical imbalances. They're having a fundraiser in November to continue their work. If you are interested in attending, you can pick up a brochure on the table with other fliers.

Several of our members have been baking once a month small 1 pound loaves of church bread that is for sale for \$3.00 each. Look for them on the table in front of the kitchen.

We had two donations this month for the outreach program where we provide food for the homeless. The total donated was \$200.00. This is for the Street Life Project. We will be serving the homeless in November and December. Look for the date in the Ladder. See Rhonda Latkovic.

We started selling tickets in October for the AHEPA Thanksgiving Lunch on Sunday, November 18 at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.00; children: \$12.00. The donations will go to the AHEPA Scholarship Fund. Tickets will be sold  
*Continued on the next page ----->*

*PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, Continued*

by **Athena Snarskis** and her team at the Philoptochos table until November 11.

**November**-We are passing a tray on Sunday, November 4 for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Please donate.

## SAVE the DATES

At our General Meeting on Monday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m., we will have our guest speaker, **Dr. John Manesis** read from his new book "*With Steadied Hands.*" You don't want to miss this book event. All parishioners are invited - bring a friend. Lunch will be provided for a donation of \$10.00. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the book on this day will be given to Philoptochos.

A Christmas Luncheon "Light the Path" will be given in support of the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the Long Brach Church. The funds help with the school expenses of the Adopt-a-Students while attending college and the seminary. See the invitations on the table with fliers in the hall.

**Donations to be made in November:**National

-Ecumenical Patriarchate

Local

-Street Life  
-Boys & Girls Club  
-High Hopes Dance Group  
-Coachella Valley Rescue Mission

Metropolis

-Adopt-a-Student/  
Light the Path  
-Bishop Anthony  
-St. Nicholas Ranch

Church

-General Fund  
(Ladder Sponsor)

**December** - Our annual Christmas Bake Sale will be in December. We will need volunteers to make bread and cookies the weeks of December 3 and 10. Mark your calendars. More information will be coming.

--LINDA KALLIS,  
Philoptochos President

## AHEPA NEWS



Chapter 528 will have the next meeting at **6:30 p.m. on November 14th** at St. George church. **Please plan on attending. An RSVP would be appreciated. Bring a friend.** The November agenda will be posted next week.

**Any new membership in November or December will receive 2019 membership free.**

Scheduled events:

1. Veterans Day Program at St. George on November 11th following the Divine Liturgy. BBQ will be provided by AHEPA, following services. Plan to participate!
2. Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 18th at the Towne Center Café.
3. Christmas dinner meeting planned for December 13th.
4. Mid-Winter Conference - January 18th at Long Beach.
5. Western Regional Banquet - January 18th at Long Beach.
6. Support the 2019 Greek Festival on February 16th and 17th, 2019. Join in the Festival meeting on November 7th at the St. George church.

Check out our website at: <https://ahepa528.org>.

- WYNN STORTON,  
Chapter 528 President and  
Western Regional Governor

**2019 GREEK FESTIVAL**

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, November 7, 2018** and plan to attend the **Festival Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

The agenda for this meeting will include confirmation of Festival department chairpersons and related committee members, as well as publicity updates.

**Please notice the 2019 Festival Sponsorship & Ad Program that is included in this Voice of St. George newsletter.**

## THE CHURCH & MENTAL WELLNESS: Outlook Toward Trials and Difficulties

A **traumatic event** is an incident that causes physical, emotional, spiritual, or psychological pain and suffering. “[It is] a disturbing event that overwhelms an individual’s ability to cope, causes feelings of helplessness, diminishes their sense of self and their ability to feel the full range of emotions and experiences.” (Karen Onderko, Director of Research and Education of Integrated Listening Systems Neurotechnology company which was founded in Denver, Colorado. ([www.integratedlistening.com](http://www.integratedlistening.com))).

Most of our trials and difficulties come with a measure of trauma and they come from two sources: 1. “acts of God,” and, 2. “human error.” Our response to such events requires a spiritual outlook in order to survive them. The temptations from sadness, anger and fear that accompany them undermine our plans and our sense of stability.

Needless to say, every one of our Lord’s Saints suffered difficulties and trauma in their lives. Remember St. Paul’s sojourn to Asia? “For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself.” (2 Corinthians 1 :8). To this he added: “...that we should not trust in ourselves but in God Who raises the dead.”

Here is a snapshot of what Saints have said regarding their responses to traumatic events which are said to be “acts of God:” St. Anthony the Great says: “It is absurd to be grateful to doctors who give us bitter and unpleasant medicines to cure our bodies, and yet to be ungrateful to God for what appears to us to be harsh, not grasping that all we encounter is for our benefit and in accordance with His providence. For knowledge and faith in God is the salvation and perfection of the soul. [Through God’s discipline] we receive from God self-control, forbearance, fortitude, patience and the like which are great and holy powers.” (Philokalia, Vol. 1., pg. 330). The Christian psychologist, Dr. Henry Cloud, points to the people of the Bible and their understanding of such events in order to share these words: “In Proverbs 9:6 we read, ‘Leave your simple ways behind and begin to live.

Learn to use good judgment...In the Bible, life always involves connectedness to relationships. When we [allow events to separate us] from God and others, we are separated from life and from what is most important...Connecting to God is making an attachment in a very real and profound, yet also in a practical way, with reality itself. God is the Author of reality.” (It’s Not My Fault, pg. 185). Dealing with God’s reality, even when it seems unpleasant, requires prayer for God’s wisdom in terms of discerning the words and actions that are needed for our well-being in the face of those “unpleasant” times. Godly discernment leads to good judgment as a by-product of our trials.

With this, we turn to the trials and tribulations that are caused by our own bad judgments and misbehaviors. Again, even Saints experienced difficult or traumatic situations as consequences of their own neglect and ignorance. St. Mark the Ascetic shared the following thoughts: “[There are] people like the foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-12), who did indeed preserve their outer virginity, yet in spite of this were not admitted to the marriage feast; they also had some oil in their vessels, that is, they possessed some virtues and external achievements and some gifts of grace, so that their lamps remained lit for a certain time. But, because of negligence, ignorance and laziness they were not provident and did not pay careful attention to the hidden suffering.” On another occasion, St. Mark shared these thoughts: “Do not say, ‘I do not know what is right, therefore I am not to blame when I fail to do it.’ For, if you did all the good about which you do know, what you should do next would then become clear to you...It is not helpful to know what comes later before you have done what comes first.” (Philokalia, Vol.1, pg.116).

The turmoil presented by traumatic events or difficult times presses us to be always watchful over our souls; to pray without ceasing. In this way, we can avoid making difficult situations even worse and work toward preserving what good remains from our difficulties in order to work toward the great results that inspire others, bringing salvation to ourselves and our neighbors, while glorifying our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

+FR. THEODORE

**NOVEMBER 30:  
THE DAY OF ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE**

St. Andrew was fated by history to be one of the most important of Jesus' Apostles. In the Greek Language, St. Andrew is called "Protoklestos," which means "First-Called." He was from Bethsaida and was the brother of the Apostle Peter. In addition, he was a disciple of St. John the Baptist; for, it was St. John who pointed him to Jesus, saying, "This is the Lamb of God." Both Sts. Andrew and Peter left John in order to follow Jesus.

After the Ascension of Christ, each Apostle of Christ took an individual path to spread the Gospel. Andrew, along with Paul, Peter and others reached out to the Gentiles (i.e., the non-Christians who worshiped pagan gods). They showed them how they could be true Christians. St. Andrew reached out to the Greeks, who were searching for the true and best belief. In his ministry, St. Andrew taught many people the Gospel. St. Andrew's preaching spread to other parts of the world, as well. With faith in Christ God, many miracles occurred in answer to St. Andrew's prayers. At the same time, he was forced to endure many tribulations and afflictions from those who refused to believe. The pagan governor Aigeas of the region of Patras wanted to stop St. Andrew from preaching Christ to the people of that area and, as a result, he had St. Andrew detained. Ultimately, St. Andrew was crucified on an "X" - shaped cross. Incidentally, the "Andrew-style" cross is depicted as far away as Scotland, where it appears on the flag.

The ministry of St. Andrew reached far and wide, influencing the Slavic and Russian lands. He is not only the Patron Saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, but Orthodox Christians in Kiev recognize St. Andrew as their Patron Saint, as well. St. Andrew is an important Saint in both the East and the West. Although his relics are connected with Patras, it was the Emperor Basil I who established the relics of St. Andrew the Apostle in Constantinople. During the modern era, Pope Paul VI ordered that all relics

of St. Andrew in Italian hands be transferred back to Patras.

Who could have imagined that by his ministry to the people of Byzantium during the Apostolic Era, his preaching would be at the center of Christianity by the 4th Century when the city of Byzantium was renamed *Constantinople* by Emperor Constantine? Constantinople became the "launching place" for Christianity to spread into so much of the world: Russia and the Slavic nations. Even Malta, which had been visited by St. Paul, was touched by St. Andrew's vibrant ministry. St. Andrew is also regarded as a major national Saint in Georgia, as well as in Romania.

November 30 is the day connected with the martyrdom of St. Andrew the Apostle. The Hymn of the Church honoring St. Andrew (i.e., the *Apolytikion*), tells us about his "civilization-changing" life with these words: "As first of the Apostles called, O Andrew, bother of him [St. Peter] who was foremost, beseech the Master of all to grant the world peace and the great mercy for our souls."

—MATTHEW DAVIS

**TEN COMMANDMENTS**

***Commandment #10***

The Tenth of God's Ten Commandments is this: *Thou shall not covet what belongs to your neighbor.* (To covet means to want to take possession of something.) Questions to ask oneself when preparing for Holy Confession:

1. Am I jealous of the talents, possessions, the family, or the friendships of others?
2. Am I not content with the blessings that God has already granted to me? Am I ungrateful to God?
3. Do I wish the failure of another's household or business out of self-righteousness, or personal gain?
4. Have I tried to out-do others in the effort of taking away the joy of their accomplishments, rather than to simply do my best for God?
5. Am I prejudiced against others in any way?

## ST. GEORGE ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

### The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund value is \$350,119 at the end of Q3 2018.

The fund's value was increased by \$14,965.77 YTD from January 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Administrative fees YTD of 1% per year amounted to \$2,506.72 which maintains the Church's Arm's Length Distance of managing the fund per the By-Laws of the Fund.

### There were donations of \$3,050.00 for the Quarter.

The July 2<sup>nd</sup> Donation was invested in the S&P 500 Index Fund (SSPIX) per the recommendation of the Fund's Financial Advisor Michele Moore of the Resource Group. There was one withdrawal for \$825.54 for the Quarterly fee from The Resource Group who manages our account. Our current Asset Allocation follows the Fund's by-laws as shown below:

A. Domestic Equities	\$200,378.86	58%
B. Domestic Fixed Income	-\$124,284.79	35%
C. International Equities	\$ 24,610.95	7%
D. Cash & Equivalents	\$ 844.62	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350,119.22</b>	<b>100%.</b>

Our funds tracked the Benchmark Returns at - 0.73% below U.S. Equities. We Remind all that we are invested at a slightly lower risk rate than our benchmarks for capital preservation.

### Market Observations: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Recap

The ratcheting up of trade-war tensions between the U.S. and China has become the leading preoccupation of investors. Whatever happens between the 2 nations has global impact, as the two nations accounted for 42% of the world gross domestic product. The result of all the turmoil and tension has been robust performance from U.S. Large-Cap stocks, while developed international and emerging market's stocks, bonds and

commodities have struggled.

U.S. Large Cap Stocks, in which 58% of our Endowment Fund is invested according to the by-Laws, represent less than 20% of the world's equity and fixed-income markets. Much of their recent strength has been driven by a few growth sectors, raising questions about the concentration of market leadership. Performance patterns inevitably shift over time, often unpredictably. While diversified portfolios such as ours at St. George can undergo periods when their returns lag high-profile U.S. large-cap indexes, this does not dilute the importance of diversification to long-term investors like us. Awareness of concentrated market leadership and the knowledge that performance patterns will inevitably change bolsters the merits of our diversified portfolio.

**Parishioners are always welcome to donate by check or stock to the Endowment Fund through the St. George parish office with "St. George of the Desert Endowment Fund" written on the Memo Line of the check. Remember the Church in your estate planning.**

--NICHOLAS M. LATKOVIC,  
Endowment Fund Chairman

## CHOIR

Our parish choir has returned from the summer break.

Those who want to join the choir may do so by contacting **Annette Laskaris**, our choir director. Choir participation is always a blessing for both those who sing, as well as for the entire congregation. In that the holiday season is upon us, we would like to encourage choir participation.

Choir rehearsals are normally held twice a month on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** as announced by the choir director and as posted in *The Ladder* and/or the *Voice of St. George*. Also, check with Annette Laskaris for the week-to-week rehearsal schedule: (760) 200-3213. Those who cannot make rehearsals may sing with the choir only by permission from the choir director.

## PAINT EL PASEO PINK

A small group of parishioners, including **Father Ted, Lula Valissarakos, Rod & Olympia Fick,** and **Rhonda Latkovic** participated in the Desert Cancer Foundation's "Paint El Paseo Pink" event to raise funds for the organization to assist those who are dealing with breast cancer. The event was held at 8:00 AM on Saturday, October 13th and kicked off with speeches, music, cheerleaders, balloons and a pink Cadillac!

After having rained the previous evening, the morning weather could not have been more perfect for the fun walk. It was simply a beautiful morning.

The group walked from the Gardens on El Paseo down to about Portola, did a U-turn to Monterey & then back to finish at the Gardens. Along the way, many El Paseo stores gave out free gifts to participants!

In addition to the participants donating \$25 each for the walk, in a show of support, our Parish Council matched the individual donations for an additional \$150 to the Desert Cancer Foundation. We look forward to participating in this event again next year!



PAINT EL PASEO PINK -- On Saturday, October 13th, a small group of representatives from St. George participated in the Walk to highlight need for continued breast cancer research. From left to right: Rhonda Latkovic, Lula Valissarakos, Olympia Fick, Fr. Ted and Rod Fick.

## ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

We have completed all requests for Altar Flowers for the Fall Season: "SOLD OUT." All contributions are paid in full! Thank you to our beloved, and loyal parishioners for your continued support and loving kindness to our program. Fr. Ted and I would like to show our appreciation by acknowledging each of you individually by name as follows:

### List of Fall Season (2018) Contributors:

Matushka Gloria Lehman  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fakinos  
Mr & Mrs. Matthew Davis  
Ms. Eve Meeks  
Mrs. Rhonda Latkovic  
Ms. Terry Ayanopolis  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Hector  
Mr. & Mrs. John Petelas  
Ms. Pauline Latkovic  
Mr. & Mrs. William Piggott  
Ms. Josie Desnoyer  
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Barringer  
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Dymond

May God truly bless you all,  
--LOUISE DOBBS BARRINGER,  
Altar Flower Coordinator  
+FR. THEODORE

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Please plan to join us for our **Fall General Assembly Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2018** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

The agenda will include presentations regarding the upgrades to our church edifice and parish hall, as well as presentations related to our parish finances and our ministries.

It is important that those who want to participate in the proceedings of our Fall General Assembly are members of our St. George parish in good standing. This is a good time for everyone who has not completed their 2018 Stewardship pledge to bring their commitment up to date.



## COLORING BOOK GROUP

The October **Adult Coloring** session was held on **Friday, October 12th from 12-2 PM**. Attendees enjoyed a lunch of Manhattan clam chowder soup, tyropita, and salad with apple pie and ice cream for dessert. After lunch the ladies began their coloring projects. A raffle was held with many winning prizes consisting of fashion jewelry, dish towels, candles, & cookbooks. The monthly fellowship was enjoyed by all!

Our next Adult Coloring session will be held on **Friday, November 9th from 12:00-2:00 pm**. See the enclosed flier. Please **RSVP to Rhonda Latkovic**, by **November 4th**. Call (714) 875-4661, or send email to: [r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com](mailto:r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com).



Our parish Coloring Book Group met on Friday, October 12th. Pictured from left to right are: Georgia Sapahzis, Linda Bozigian, Linda Kallis, Matushka Gloria Lehman, Doris Elmo, Emily Tcharos, Pauline Latkovic, Rhonda Latkovic, Christina Kundanis and Lula Valissarakos.

## HUMAN RIGHTS TRAFFICING

With the blessing of **His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**, the support of **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos**, Metropolitan of San Francisco, and under the leadership of **His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles**, Coordinator of the Patriarchal Committee on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, you are invited to attend an **Action and Educational Forum Against Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**. This event, hosted by the **United Orthodox Communities**, will be held on

**Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.** at **Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church**, 778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA.

## ST. NECTARIOS RELIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM

**Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia** will lead in presenting a series of discussions centering on the **Orthodox spiritual way of life**, exemplified in the life-style and preaching of our Father among the Saints, **St. Nectarios of Pentapolis**. This series of study will be presented in conjunction with the celebration of the Feast Day of St. Nectarios, the patron Saint of the Greek Orthodox parish in Covina, California.

The total program will begin on **Thursday, November 8th**, following the Vesper Service in honor of St. Nectarios. The series will continue on **Friday, November 9th**, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

On **Saturday, November 10th** this spiritual educational series will conclude, following the **5:00 p.m. Vesper Service** at St. Nectarios Church, with a banquet of celebration in honor of Metropolitan Cleopas. To make reservations and for more information, contact the parish office at St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church in Covina: (626) 967-5524.

## VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION

As has become traditional, our annual **Veterans Day** commemoration ceremony will take place immediately following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, November 11, 2018**. Included in the ceremony will be recognition of those who have served in the military for the cause of freedom in both America and Greece. Both the American and Greek National Anthems will be sung by our choir. **AHEPA Chapter 528** will host the coffee hour reception in our parish hall following the services.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL: RICH MAN; POOR MAN

Our Lord Jesus taught us some great truths with stories and illustrations called parables. The Gospel reading for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke, often read in early November, is the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Jesus contrasts the seemingly uncaring rich man and the desperately needy Lazarus. What is Jesus teaching us through this parable? There are two great lessons; the first being about wealth, poverty and human relationships.

Did wealth send the rich man to hell? No. Did poverty send Lazarus to heaven? No. It was their relationship to each other and to God. Neither wealth nor poverty of themselves can send one to heaven or hell. Rather the decisive matter is how one lives in wealth or poverty and how one goes about gaining wealth or protecting oneself against losing it. The rich man would not have gone to hell if love had filled his heart for God and his fellow man. But he lived only for himself in uncaring self-sufficiency. Lazarus would not have gone to heaven if his heart had been filled with hate for the uncaring rich man, with resentment about his condition against God. However, God's love was in Lazarus' heart who endured his afflictions with humility and trust in God. Only love, not need and distress, leads to heaven.

Jesus' second great lesson in this parable is that heaven and hell are far more permanent realities than our journey here in earth. This lesson was once illustrated by a Christian teacher who drew a line across the blackboard and marked off a tiny segment on the extreme right of the line. Then he said: "Many people seem to view life on earth and life after death this way: the long part of the line represents for them the importance and duration of earthly existence while the tiny segment represents for them the importance and duration of eternal life!" However, the New Testament teaches just the opposite! We should not place all our hopes and dreams on this earth, as if God and His kingdom are of small consequence. But rather, we should *"be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what He requires of*

*us"* (Mt. 6:33). Our short journey on earth provides is with the unique opportunity to prepare for our eternal journey in God's kingdom.

--JIM CHRISTOPOULOS,  
Sunday School Superintendent



Pictured above are the Sunday School children who participated in this year's "Pumpkin Painting" fellowship project. Special thanks to Alexandra Torrez (on the left in the above picture) and Suzana Cox (on the right in the above picture), who helped the children in their pumpkin painting. Above all, very special thanks to Fotini Krespis, (not pictured), who donated the pumpkins.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

During the October Parish Council meeting, the Board discussed and agreed on several items. A motion was passed to install 3 8x8 glass sliders at the cost of \$2,358.00 per slider and to order 100 chairs and 12 tables. The cost of 8 chairs and table would be \$385. Money has already been donated to cover the majority of the cost and parishioners continue to donate toward these projects. **Father Ted Pantels** informed the Board that **Deacon Euthym Kontaxis** and he have been working on

*Continued on page ----->*

*PARISH COUNCIL NEWS, Continued*

the interior of the church projects. Money has been donated for the Icons and carpeting projects. The Board is also in the process of cleaning the dome. The plan is to power wash the dome and to apply a chemical to bring it back to its original luster. **Lula Valissarakos** is working on the Red Altar Cloths and she expects to have them finished within a month.

**ST. GEORGE PARISH  
CHRISTMAS CARD**

Once again our St. George community will be preparing a **Parish Christmas Card**. We are certain that all of you will want to participate. A donation of \$20.00 will assist with the overall expenses of the card, printing and mailing. Please contact the office or mail your check to P.O.Box 4755, Palm desert, CA 92261. There are forms available in the church hall. We ask that you print your name as you would like it to appear on the card.

**PET BLESSING**

Our annual **Pet Blessing Event** is planned for the first Saturday in **November, the 3rd, at 9:00 am** in the back church courtyard. Father Ted will conduct the blessing ceremony at 9:30.

Our special guest attendees include **Richard Waxman**, founder of "Paws & Hearts", Animal Assisted Therapy and **Lynne Lockwood**, representative from "Loving All Animals", both local non-profit organizations.

Richard will be our guest speaker and will talk about how his organization helps those cope with illness and the depression that can happen when confined to a hospital bed and how dogs can assist emotionally with patient recovery.

Lynne will be on hand to discuss the joy and satisfaction that comes from volunteering to be a "Foster Pet Parent" and helping to get lost, abandoned, or abused animals into loving homes through the organization's S.O.S. (Seniors offer-

ing assistance) program.

Refreshments and snacks will be available for both pet parents and pets. Philoptochos will be selling baked goods at the event. The first twenty owner and dog attendees will receive a "goodie bag."

We hope to have the support of our community at this event! See you there!

**THE STREET LIFE**

We work to feed the homeless in our community through The Street Life organization.

We will be meeting with the founders of the group, the StreetLife Project, the first week of November to solidify our plans for feeding the homeless with the assistance of their group. Tentative plans include two locations in our valley; Sunrise Park in Palm Springs and Miles Park in Indio. Please look for future announcements concerning the finalized dates and times.

Volunteers will be needed to assist with this outreach. A sign-up sheet will be posted within the next week. Please call or email Rhonda Latkovic if you are interested in helping out. Email: [r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com](mailto:r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com). Phone: (714) 875-4661.

**GOLF CART PARADE**

The annual **Palm Desert Golf Cart Parade**, sponsored by the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce, was held Sunday, October 28th and our own Saint George Orthodox Church was a participant. We decided to enter the parade this year in order to increase the visibility of our upcoming Greek Festival planned for February 16-17, 2019. The theme of the Golf Cart Parade was "SuperHeroes" and the name of our entry was "Hercules & Friends". We were blessed to be loaned a golf cart from neighbors of Tina and Angelo Veroulis. Becky Allen and her friend Norman, kindly picked up the cart and delivered it to the church ten days before the parade.

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

*GOLF CART PARADE, Continued*

Several Saint George parishioners assisted with the decoration of the cart including **Pete Snarskis, Angelo Veroulis, Tina Veroulis, Becky Allen, Nick Latkovic, and Rhonda Latkovic**. Decorating took several hours each day over five days total. Our gratitude and thanks to our own “Superheroes” for all their assistance!

Our golf cart “crew” during the parade consisted of **Melissa Hawkins and daughter Melena & son Steven; Mariya Dunkel and son Max; Becky Allen; Debbie Pousen, and Rhonda Latkovic**. The boys were dressed in Greek warrior cos-

tumes depicting Hercules with the girls in white Athenian goddess costumes. A festival banner was carried along the route. A big thank you to our golf cart crew for their participation!

The parade line-up was from 10:00 am-noon with the parade starting around 12:15 pm. Radio announcers along the parade route on El Paseo at multiple locations announced our float and advertised our upcoming Greek Festival to the crowd. Parade attendees along the route waved and shouted their support of our float.

It was a very warm yet fun day that was enjoyed by all who participated!

--RHONDA LATKOVIC



GOLF CART PARADE: To the right - The “day-of-event” crew. (left to right) Debbie Pausen, Steven, Melena & Melissa Hawkins, Max & Maryia Dunkel, Becky Allen. Above - “Parade Formation.” (left to right) Becky Allen, Rhonda Latkovic and Debbie Pausen.



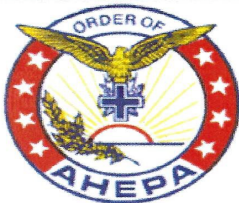
GOLF CART PARADE: Parish representatives pose with “day-of-event” crew before the start of the Golf Cart Parade. From left to right (back row): Pauline Latkovic, Tina Veroulis, Olympia Fick, Kalitsa Xitco, Bess Heinrich, Becky Allen, Debbie Pausen, Rhonda Latkovic, Fr. Ted, Angelo Veroulis, Steven Hawkins. (Front row): Melena & Melissa Hawkins and Maryia & Max Dunkel.

**HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**

An informative and successful "Health and Environment" presentation was offered by **Sheila Backus** at our St. George Greek Orthodox Church on **Saturday, October 27th**.

Two presentations were given - one at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 1:00 p.m. **Ann Dixon** served as

the hostess for this event, which proved very educational. Household items ranging from foods to cleaning supplies were introduced, all of which had one thing in common: they were made with all natural ingredients and lacked any toxic or chemical agents. A percentage of income from the products purchased is returned to the St. George parish as donations to our parish ministries.

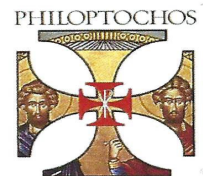


## Town Center Cafe

44491 Town Center Way  
Palm Desert, CA

**\$25.00**

Children \$12.00 *under 12*



Tickets can be purchased from Philoptochos or AHEPA 528

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

Donations accepted at [www.ahepa528.org](http://www.ahepa528.org) or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

[contact@ahpepa528.org](mailto:contact@ahpepa528.org)

Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online [ahpepa528.org](http://ahpepa528.org)  
Scholarship awards benefit members of Saint George Church and the AHEPA 528 Family

**Deadline for Reservations: Sunday, November 11, 2018**

**Thank You for your Continued Support!**

**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**

# NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. <b>Sunday</b> School-10:30 a.m.				1 STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30am	2 Vespers @ St. Raphael Antiochian Church (Liturgy: Nov. 3rd)-6 pm.	3 PET BLESSING EVENT- 9:00 a.m.
<b>4-5th Sun. of Luke</b> <b>Ep.-Eph.2:4-10</b> <b>Gos.Luke 16:19-31</b>  <b>Seminar RE:</b> <b>Human Trafficking</b> <b>St. Anthony,</b> <b>Pasadena, CA-</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b>	5 Philoptochos Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.	6 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	7 Festival Meeting-7:00 pm	8-HOLY ARCH- ANGELS Orthros-8:30 am <u>D.Liturgy-9:30am</u> Choir-1:00 pm Parish Council- 2:30 p.m.	9-SAINT NECTARIOS Orthros-8:30 am <u>D.Liturgy-9:30am</u> Spiritual Seminar with Met. Cleopas (Covina, CA)	10 Spiritual Seminar Banquet honoring Met. Cleopas at St. Nectarios, Covina- 5:00 p.m. (Vespers)
<b>11-8th Sun.of Luke</b> <b>Ep. 2 Cor.4:6-15</b> <b>Gos.Luke 10:25-37</b>  <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>Program</b>	12 Philoptochos General Members Meeting 11:30 a.m. (Dr. John Manesis' new book)	13- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM Orthros-8:30 am D.Liturgy-9:30  Bible Study- 11:00 a.m.	14 AHEPA Meeting-6:30 pm	15 CHRISTMAS ADVENT BEGINS	16 ST. MATTHEW* Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy-9:30	17 Philoptochos "Light the Path" reception in Long Beach-11:00 a.m.
<b>18-9th Sun.of Luke</b> <b>Ep. Eph. 4:1-7</b> <b>Gos.Luke 12:16-21</b>  <b>AHEPA Thanks-</b> <b>giving Luncheon</b> <b>@ Towne Center</b> <b>Café - 12:30 p.m.</b>	19	20  Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	21-ENTRANCE OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy-9:30	22 THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24
<b>25</b> <b>13th Sun. of Luke</b> <b>St. Katherine</b> <b>Ep. Gal. 3:23-4:5</b> <b>Gos.Luke 18:18-27</b>	26	27  Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	28	29	30-ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE Orthros-8:30 am D. Liturgy-9:30	*We will also chant the Apolytikion in commemoration of St. Philip the Apos- tle (Nov. 14th)

# SAINT GEORGE 2019 GREEK FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP & AD PROGRAM

**Event Dates: Sat. & Sun., February 16th - 17th, 2019**

Terms: Cash/Check/Credit

Attached is my check in the sum of:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship/Ad Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsorship/Ad Choices Available:

Sponsorship Levels: (includes full color ad on outside back of Festival Program, Sponsorship listing on Festival Website, festival admission tickets, & goody bag)

**Gold Sponsor Level - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 1000**

**Silver Sponsor Level - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 500**

Advertising Choices: (includes black & white ad inside Festival Program, listing on Festival Website)

**Corporate - Corporate logo with name ----- \$ 300**

**Personal - 2-line message with name ----- \$ 150**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

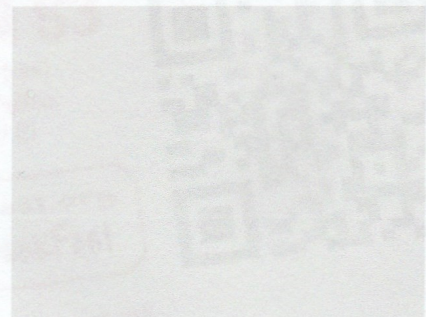
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to:  
St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 4755  
Palm Desert, CA 92261  
Phone: (760) 568-9901  
Email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)  
Fax: (760) 568-9492

Print personal ad below:



**Absolute DEADLINE for Copy: January 20th, 2019**

Electric submission of camera ready corporate logos & names are accepted in most formats.

## PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING

All Parishioners are invited to our Philoptochos Meeting for a book reading and talk from the newly published book by Dr. John Manesis:

### [With Steadied Hands](#)

When: Monday, November 12

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Where: Church Hall

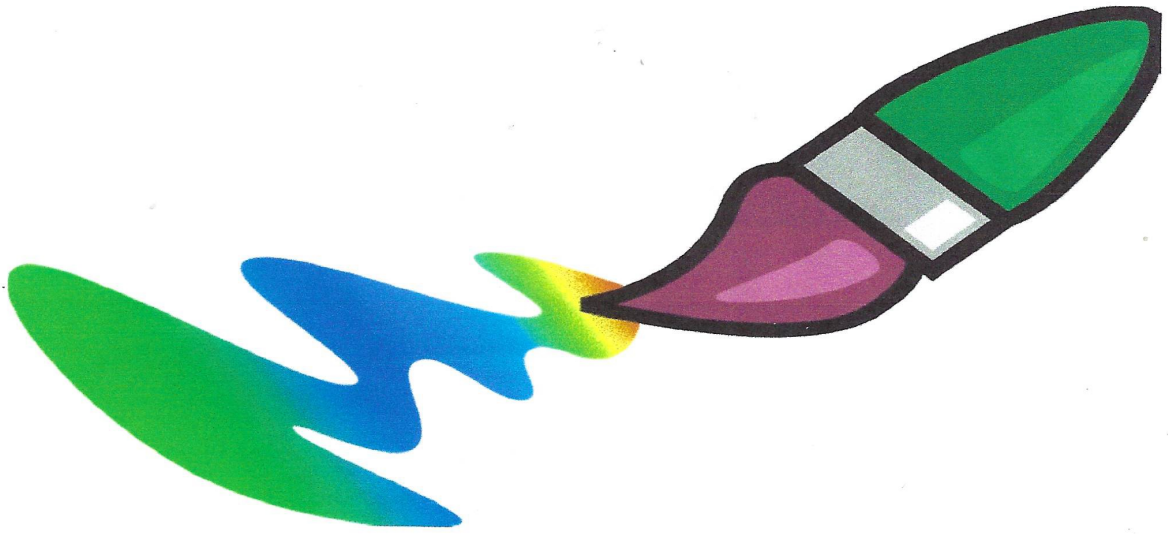
A hearty lunch will be served for a donation of \$10.00.

Please RSVP at the Philoptochos table so we can determine how much food to order or call Rhonda or Emily.

You will be able to purchase a signed copy of [With Steadied Hands](#). For each book sold, Dr. Manesis will donate \$5.00 to Philoptochos.

We are looking forward to this exciting event.





# **ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON**

**When: Friday, November 9th @ 12 PM-2 PM**

**Where: St. George Church Hall**

**RSVP: By Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> to Rhonda Latkovic**

**Our next luncheon & adult coloring session will be Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM with coloring to follow. A raffle will be held. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!**



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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: December 3, 2018



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

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

