

SEPTEMBER 2018



Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS & FOLLOW JESUS!

Inside this issue

Onn Friday, September 14th, we will commemorate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The following few words of our Savior speak volumes about how to find our Eternal Salvation beginning now in our present lives: "Whosoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (St. Mark 8: 34).

These words describe the steps that we are to take in order to find peace of soul and peace among others.

1. "Whoever desires..." We have Free Will. Nothing good is done unless we as individuals want to do it. The power of freely wanting to include God in our lives gives us the capacity to be as loving as God. However, God does not force us to do anything. We have choices – and our Lord reminds us that we cannot have it both ways: we cannot desire to

have God's blessings and at the same time desire things that have nothing to do with God. We cannot serve two masters. Our desire must be single-focused and, if we truly seek a life with God, we must desire to have no other gods, including the "god" of our own ego.

2. "Let him deny himself..." This means that we are willing to humble ourselves before God. Humility means that we accept the fact that, without God, we are nothing. True self-esteem is found in the awareness that we are made in the Image and Likeness of God. Humility is the virtue that works in us in order to bring out the Image of God within us so that we can be Like God in His love for others. Denying ourselves does not mean "putting ourselves down," or "going without" the good things of life. It means that which St. Paul said, "It is no longer I who lives, but Christ

Who lives in me." (Galatians 2: 20).

3. "And take us his cross..." Life in this world is a cross in some way or another. "In the world you will have tribulation; but take courage, I have overcome the world. (St. John 16: 23). The tribulations of the world – in other words, the crosses of life in this age – are many. Every day we face our emotions, temptations, complications, set-backs, responsibilities, obstacles, pains and sufferings. Taking up our cross means that we humbly accept any or all of these crosses without bitterness, but with faith in God, knowing that with God, all things are possible. Taking up one's cross is tantamount to accepting personal responsibility for making good things happen. In the introductory remarks of the book by Henry Cloud and John Townsend, *It's Not My Fault*," we read, "We live

Take Up Your Cross.....pg. 1

Encyclical for Indiction.....pg. 2

S.F. Metropolis Gala.....pg. 3

Philoptochos; AHEPA.....pg. 4

Homeless Outreach.....pg. 5

Church & Mental Wellness.....pg. 6

Nativity of the Mother of God.....pg. 7

St. Sophia Golf Tourny; Sunday School...pg.8

Endowment Fund.....pg. 9

Altar Flowers...pg. 10

Stewardship....pg. 11

Inserts: Metropolis Gala; Coloring Book; Sun. School Registration; Health & Environment; Temecula St. Nicholas Festival

Mailing Address
St. George Church
P.O. Box 4755
Palm Desert, CA 92261
Tel: (760) 568-9901
FAX: (760) 568-9492

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail
 Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

-Fr. Theodore Pantels, Pastor
 -Dcn. Euthym Kontaxis, M.D.



ENCYCLICAL FOR THE FEAST OF INDICTION 2018

Beloved in the Lord,

A New Ecclesiastical Year invites us, once again, to recommit and rededicate our lives as disciples of the Lord. The Gospel reading for September 1st included what the Lord Himself read at the beginning of His ministry. They are words of the prophet Isaiah: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor; He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* (Luke 4:18-19)

We must confess that too many of us are "Sunday only Christians", let alone "Christmas and Easter" Orthodox. Our discipleship to Christ is larger than how we spend our Sunday mornings. Indeed, we must participate in the life of our parish because there we gather as fellow Orthodox Christians for worship, fellowship, learning and service. The Church teaches us that we cannot be Christians alone; we must be part of a community of faith. And while participation in our parishes is essential, we cannot compartmentalize our Orthodoxy to Sunday. Discipleship entails living the liturgy after the liturgy, living our faith as Orthodox Christians in our homes and workplaces, and among our neighbors.

Living the liturgy after the liturgy can take many forms. The Lord has given us a blue print in His words. In summary, as I consider them, He is calling us to be agents of peace and justice, compassion and forgiveness, and healing and restoration in the world. There are many opportunities for us to be active as individuals, families, and parishes. Select one or two, focusing your time and energy on them.

One area that we can commit ourselves to is environmental protection and advocacy. As we know, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Leader of World Orthodoxy has tirelessly raised our consciousness

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in a culture of blame...The result? More people with more misery, but always with someone or something to blame it on...[However], if you are willing to be the kind of person who takes responsibility for what you can do and change your focus from what you cannot control, you can improve the situation and solve the problem. God designed you to be able to do that and He will empower you to bring it about." (pg. 9). In so many words, we *take up our cross* (i.e., we accept our responsibilities) and we *follow Christ* our God.

4. *"And follow Me..."* Where is Jesus going to take us? He is taking us to His Cross in order to assume for us *our cross*. Again, we are to *allow* our Lord to take our cross up to His Cross; for, it is His Cross that *cures* the suffering. Without our Lord, we may choose to deal with *live our way*, which is usually inadequate and leads to more sadness. Or, we may choose to simply be *irresponsible* toward our responsibilities. This simply perpetuates our pains, numbing our soul and leading us to regrets of wasted minds and talent.

Through good use of our Free Will our Lord works with us to fulfill our daily lives in answer to our prayer *"for a perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless day."* Imagine all the miseries we can avoid if we can go even one day without sins! Every day is a new opportunity, knowing that past sins are forgiven by His Cross. At the same time, the Cross of our Savior provides the path to our future life.

There is a reason why, during the Divine Liturgy, the priest raises the Chalice and the Paten, saying, *"We offer to You these Gifts from Your own Gifts in all and for all,"* as he makes the Sign of the Cross with them. Without the Cross, we have nothing: no forgiveness and no Salvation, now or in the future. The Precious Body and Blood of Christ our Lord, God and Savior are His Gifts, both on the level of nurturing our bodies through His creation and on the level of nurturing our souls, by which we share in God's Divine qualities through His Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

+FR. THEODORE

ENCYCLICAL FOR INDICATION, Continued

about our responsibility for the natural world. In the recent Summit, Towards a Greener Attica he said, *"The destruction of the natural environment can only be reversed through a radical change of our perspective towards nature that results from a radical change of our self-understanding as human beings. How ironic it is that we have never possessed so much knowledge about our world as today, and yet never before have we been more destructive toward one another and nature."*

Our advocacy for the natural world begins by praying for it. I encourage every parish or groups of parishes to offer the Vespers for the Protection of the Environment. Then, take time to study the ecological needs of your community and get involved with them, restoring places that need restoration and working to keep them clean.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, may this New Ecclesiastical Year affords you an opportunity so that each grow in our faithfulness to Christ and His Church along with active discipleship.

With Love in Christ,
++METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS,
Holy Metropolis of San Francisco

TEMECULA GREEK FESTIVAL -- Circle the weekend of **October 12-13, 2018** on your calendars and join the festivities at the **Annual Greek Festival** hosted by **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church** serving **Temecula, California**. Please note the flier enclosed in this month's *The Voice of St. George*.

Certainly, our support for the **St. Nicholas parish** serving Temecula will be a blessing for both of our parishes.

CHOIR--As parishioners return in the fall, choir will resume. For details as to which Sunday the choir will begin for the Ecclesiastical New Year and when rehearsals will be held, please contact our **Choir Director, Annette Laskaris**.

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO GALA

As you are aware, the **Metropolis Gala** will be held on **Saturday, October 13, 2018** at the **Hyatt Huntington Beach Resort and Spa**. At this event, we will celebrate the ministries of our Metropolis, and honor the extraordinary leadership of **Dr. James and Virginia Kallins**. The proceeds from the Gala will support the ongoing growth and development of the ministries in our Metropolis.

We ask that you please place the attached ad promoting the Gala in your parish Weekly and Monthly bulletins, and also distribute in the electronic communication to your parishioners. There are three sizes attached in both JPG and PDF formats. If you need assistance, please contact me directly at **602-525-3488** or your parish priest. (See enclosed flier!)

Thank you very much for your support and assistance in promoting this event to your parish!
Respectfully,
--KRISTEN BRUSKAS,
Director of Development and Communications
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

SACRAMENTS

Wedding - **Mary Magdalini Ladas** married **John Charles Juers Turner**, both of **San Diego, California**, on **Saturday, August 18, 2018** at our **St. George church**. **Katerina Deason** of **St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church** in **San Diego** served as the **koumbara**.

GREEK FESTIVALS IN SEPTEMBER

- Assumption Church, Long Beach. September 1, 2 and 3, 2018.**
- Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea. September 8-9, 2018.**
- St. Basil Church. San Juan Capistrano. September 14-16, 2018.**
- St. Anthony Church, Pasadena. September 21, 23, and 24, 2018.**

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



August--In August, our Philoptochos Chapter # 2035 received the Award of Excellence for National Ministry Commitments: 100% Participation in 2016 and 2017. The Award was signed by **Archbishop Demetrios**, Archbishop of America and **Maria Logus**, National **Philoptochos President**. A huge thanks to **Tina Veroulis**, our Treasurer for keeping excellent records of our accounts. We also committed 100% of funds to the Metropolis Philoptochos charities and all local charities were allocated 100% of budgeted funds. This is the second Award of Excellence we have received since I have been President.

In 2018, we added a new charity to our budget. This is the Desert Cancer Foundation. The Foundation works with doctors and agencies to help slash costs of services and treatments. One of our members has been speaking to them and applied for some of their programs.

We were able to help feed the homeless in August. We had left over food from a memorial and frozen food left from the festival. We donated enough food to feed **300 people**. Read a more in-depth report by **Rhonda Latkovic** in this *Voice*.

September--Our first General Meeting will be on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. There will be a light lunch with a donation of \$5.00. We will have the meeting afterward.

Donations for September will be as follows:

<u>National</u>	<u>Metropolis</u>
Hellenic College	Womens Health
Retired Clergy	

--LINDA KALLIS,
Philoptochos Chapter President

AHEPA NEWS



Chapter 528 will have a "Fish Fry" meeting at Andy's #4 in Indio at 5:30 p.m. on September 5, 2018 for the beginning of the Church New Year. With an early dinner meeting we will also be celebrating birthdays: September 3, Panos Bousiotis; September 5, Bill Karalis and Fr. Ted; September 6, Harry Loukatos; September 28, Nicholas M. Latkovic. Please plan on attending. RSVP is appropriate. Bring a friend.

Scheduled events:

Scholarship Launch for 2019 School Year
-Veterans Day Program at St. George- November 11th, with BBQ.
-Thanksgiving Luncheon- November 18th at Towne Center Café. Information pending.
-Mid-Winter Conference- January 18th. Long Beach, California
-Western Regional Banquet. January 18th. Long Beach, California.

Support the 2019 Greek Festival. February 16-17!

In the immediate aftermath of the tragic fires, AHEPA began collecting donations upon hearing the news of the fires while assembled in Atlantic City for the yearly National Convention. The death toll stands at 96 with many more hospitalized.

George E. Loucas, the elected Supreme President, led the AHEPA Family to collect over \$150K raised towards Wildfires Relief.

AHEPA proudly partners with International Orthodox Christian Charities to deliver medical supplies to hospitals in Greece. To date, nearly \$10 million in medical supplies have been delivered to 9 hospitals in Greece -- with two more deliveries scheduled for the Fall. The Supreme lodge will travel on September 3rd to oversee both efforts. The international support from AHEPA's worldwide membership has proven the depth of their support and the breadth of their resources. *"We will continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need help the most, as we remain true to our philanthropic mission,"* said

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the AHEPA National Fire Relief, Chairman, Dr. Zenon Christodoulou. Donations are accepted at <http://ahepa.org/donate/> or through Chapter 528 Donations: <http://ahepa528.org/event/philanthropy.htm>.

In Northern California AHEPANs have donated more than \$100,000 to the St. Nicholas Ranch Dormitory Restoration Project - a project AHEPA District 21 has supported for 40 years.

Become a member today; help our community as Christian men with Hellenic values.

Presently, we mourn the loss of our brother **J.J. Richards**, who passed away to our Lord on June 30, 2018.

WYNN STORTON,
AHEPA Chapter 528 President

HOMELESS OUTREACH IN AUGUST

We were blessed with an opportunity to help with feeding approximately **350 local homeless** in our community on the eve and day of the Commemoration of the **Dormition of the Theotokos**. Thanks to the generous donation from **Tasia Richards** of the extra food and refreshments from Sunday's 40-day Memorial for J.J. Richards, volunteers from our Ladies Philoptochos were able to put together meals which were picked up and distributed to the homeless by the **Street Life Project volunteers on August 14th**. Then the following morning, on **August 15th, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** picked up frozen foods, rice, and flour leftover from our Greek Festival to use to prepare the evening meal at their facility. Approximately 350 homeless were provided meals thanks to the outreach of our St. George Orthodox Church community. We would like to thank those individuals who either donated and/or volunteered to assist with this project: **Tasia Richards; Pat Dalkas; Eleni Castrale; Pauline Latkovic; and Rhonda Latkovic**. See photos at the right.



Helping to feed the homeless: Pauline Latkovic (left) and Eleni Castrale (right).



Pictured above are those who recently helped to distribute food to the Homeless from left to right: Pauline Latkovic, Pat Dalkas, Eleni Castrale, Rhonda Latkovic.



Pictured above is the truck from the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, which took our offering of food to distribute to the local homeless.

THE CHURCH & MENTAL WELLNESS: DEPRESSION & REPENTANCE

As many may know, our son, Thomas recently suffered from a form of severe depression disorder, which carried with it a desire to “end it all,” as he proclaimed. This is, of course, alarming, since all life belongs to God and it is a sin to take away life through murder, abortion, or suicide. In fact, this is why the Church advocates strongly for suicide prevention and expresses serious concerns over the implications of the now-legalized “physician-assisted” suicide.

One of the factors that lead to suicide is depression and the causes of depression lie in our own spiritual weakness. For, certainly, among the traits of our many Saints, depression is not one to be found. At any level, depression cripples an individual. According to the manual entitled *Mental Health First Aid USA*, “The word depression is used in many different ways. People feel sad or blue when bad things happen. However, everyday ‘blues’ or sadness is not a depressive disorder. We all may have a short-term depressed mood, but we cope and soon recover without treatment. A major depressive disorder lasts for at least two weeks and affects a person’s ability to work, to carry out usual daily activities, and to have satisfying personal relationships.” (pg. 20).

There are two of our Orthodox Christian Saints who come to mind when my thoughts turn to the issue of depression. The writings of both can be found in Volume One of the *Philokalia*. St. John Cassian states: “If our purpose is to fight the spiritual fight [opposing our will and doing God’s Will], we should, with God’s help, take every care to guard our heart from the demon of depression...Depression suggests to the soul that we should go away from other people, since they are the cause of its agitation. It does not allow the soul to understand that its sickness does not come from without, but lies hidden within, only manifesting itself when temptations attack the soul...One can be harmed only through the causes of the passions which lie within one’s self. It is for this reason that God, the Creator of all and the Doctor of our souls, Who alone has accurate knowledge of the soul’s wounds, does not tell us to forsake the company

of others [the Church and our family]. He tells us to root out the causes of evil within us and to recognize that the soul’s health is achieved not by our separating ourselves from our fellows, but by living a life of ascetic effort in the company of holy people.” (pg. 87).

With depression, one can feel hopeless or worthless. However, with **the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14th**, we actually have much to hope for and we are reminded of our great worth as individuals – a worth valued by the death of God on the Cross. St. Nilus the Ascetic writes, “Prior to the Cross the full meaning of repentance was hidden and anyone who tried to say something about it could easily be convicted of speaking rashly and inadequately. After the Crucifixion, however, the meaning of repentance became clear to all, for it had been revealed at the appointed time through the wood of the Cross.” (pg. 221).

Like St. John Cassian, St. Nilus notes that repentance comes from within us. This is why the priest and the Godparent anoint the candidate for Holy Baptism with oil. It has to do with our need to always be ready to avoid sins and to also be able to repent if and when we do sin. Sin damages our self-dignity. Many people are depressed over their sins, because they forget the power of their Baptism and the Sacrament of Holy Confession, the “Second Baptism.” “We must...be anointed with oil,” he says, “Stripping away [our pride] prevents our opponents [i.e., the forces of evil] from grabbing us, while oil enables us to slip away should they in fact seize hold of us.” (pg. 224).

This is the oil of *humility* through which we can confess and repent of our sins, giving us Godly dignity. The humility of Christ on the Cross is our rescue from depression, which is itself an image of death. We can fight depression by recalling our Baptism, at which time prayers are read for our protection from evil; the waters are blessed with the Sign of the Cross and we put on our Baptismal Cross. Repentance is itself the cross that we bear, which then cures, through Christ’s Cross, our imperfections and restores to us our dignity of a new life, with faith in God.

+FR. THEODORE

THE NATIVITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

With the disobedience of Adam and Eve, we experience to this day the “fall of humanity.” Yet, with this fall, humanity was not totally deprived of the knowledge of God. The human soul has always turned to a loving “Higher Power” throughout history. This “Higher Power” is God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Before God the Father sent His Only-Begotten Son into the world to save humanity from death, which is the result of sin, there were people in the world who prayed to God. The parents of the Ever-Virgin Mary, Joachim and Anna, were among many who desired to serve God. Although the details regarding the circumstances surrounding the birth of the Ever-Virgin Mary (**celebrated on September 8th** every year) are not completely supplied in the Gospels, a Second Century text, known as *The Book of James* (or, *Protevangelion*) does contain such details. While this book is not in the official “Canon” of Holy Scripture, it is a source that is in line with the Holy Tradition of our Orthodox Church. It is here that we learn much about Joachim and Anna and the birth of the Mother of God.

The Jewish people at this point in time regarded childlessness as a curse and a sign of God’s displeasure with a particular couple. Joachim and Anna prayed fervently to God for a child even though they were advanced in age. In thanksgiving to God, and in the face of their old age, they offered their new-born girl to God as a gift. Indeed, an angel appeared to both of them with the promise that their child would be very special.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception by which it is held that the Ever-Virgin Mary was born free from the original sin of Adam and Eve. This doctrine is not taught in the Orthodox Christian Church. However, Orthodox Christians acknowledge that the purity of the Ever-Virgin’s soul allowed Her to be receptive of the Holy Spirit through Whom God’s Only-Begotten Son would be clothed with

Her flesh. What is amazing to all of us is how the faith and love for God on the part of this couple – Joachim and Anna – translated into the drama of salvation for all humanity. Our God and Savior found the purity of their Daughter’s soul in which to dwell in order for Her to be the *human source* of salvation for all people. This is the great example of our role to be co-workers with God, as were Joachim and Anna, along with their child, the Ever-Virgin Mary.

The faithfulness of Joachim and Anna and the love and faith of the Virgin Mary show that humanity is able to seek, find and give the love of God. We see that a couple and their daughter all sought to do God’s Will and, in so doing, they laid the groundwork on the human level for receiving the Savior of the world.

The Kontakion Hymn for the celebration of the birth (Nativity) of the Ever-Virgin Mary and Mother of God, in part goes like this: “*By Your Nativity, O Most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve are freed from the guilt of sin, corruption and death...*”

Among the readings assigned for the Orthodox Christian liturgical celebration of the Nativity of the Mother of God is the record of Jacob’s Ladder that is found in the Book of Genesis (28: 10-17). Jacob saw in a vision a ladder planted on earth extending upwards into heaven, uniting heaven and earth. The Ever-Virgin Mary and Mother of our God is this *human ladder* Who unites heaven with earth. Her part in our salvation is unending on two levels, 1) She continues to intercede to Christ our God for our Salvation and, 2) She, along with her parents, Joachim and Anna, provide vivid examples of human beings working with God to accomplish miracles. She is the exceptional Saint allowing human beings to meet God and She is the ideal example of human sanctity.

– MATTHEW DAVIS

ST. SOPHIA CAMP GOLF TOURNAMENT

An important golf tournament fundraiser to support the St. Sophia Camp Ministry will be held on **October 5, 2018**. This will be the **56th Annual Saint Sophia Camp Golf Tournament**, which will be held at the **California Country Club in Whittier, California**. This tournament is the only major fundraiser for the Camp program.

This year 250 campers, 50 counselors and 20 staff attended the camp. The fee for each camper has been kept to a minimum all these years to ensure that every child who wants to go to camp can attend. Not all families can afford to send their children to camp. This year we sponsored 20 children to attend camp for one week at no cost and we financially assisted 11 others. The St. Sophia Camp motto is: *"No child is left behind."*

We encourage golfers from St. George to enjoy a wonderful St. Sophia Camp Golf Tournament experience on October 5th at the California Country Club in Whittier, California.

Details pertaining to **golf play** (check-in; start time, etc.) can be obtained by contacting **Nick Ananias** by email at nmananias@yahoo.com. Details pertaining to registration, dinner, the raffle, etcetera, can be obtained by contacting **Stephanie Caiopoulos Lubian** by email at: golfLA4camp@aol.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Our Sunday school classes will begin on the 23rd of September. If you have a child/children between the ages of 3 and 18, we invite them to join us. Please have them attend each and every Sunday in order to take full advantage of the instruction and activities presented. Please complete the attached registration form so we can make certain that our records are accurate.

The yearly calendar of events will be sent out to the parents of our Sunday school children shortly. We anticipate having similar activities to last year, which included:

-Pumpkin painting - Our children (and parents) stayed after church to paint

pumpkins for Halloween. We had pizza and drinks available.

-Christmas program - Held immediately after church in early December.

-Christmas caroling - We visited parishioners at their homes to sing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve. Afterwards we went to Town Center Café for lunch.

-Stations of the Cross - Everyone visited the Stations of the Cross at Shield's Date Garden, with lunch served afterwards at their café.

-End of Year Activity - Certificates were presented to our students after church, followed by lunch at Fantasy Springs Bowling Alley.

We are looking forward to yet another fantastic year. Our curriculum is tentatively set to focus on the Divine Liturgy. As usual, we thank you for all of your support! God bless!!

--JIM CHRISTOPOULOS,
Sunday School Superintendent

SAVE-THE-DATES:

-OCTOBER 27th: IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: You are cordially invited (please bring a friend). **Time:** 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. at our parish hall. Please **RSVP by October 22, 2018** by calling (760) 238-7185. **Hosted by: Ann Dixson.** A donation will be made to the St. George Church/Philoptochos.

-NOVEMBER 3rd: A SPECIAL FUNDRAISER DINNER for the victims of the Wildfires in Greece, as well as victims of our fellow Coachella Valley residents who are in need of food and clothing.

-NOVEMBER 11th- Veterans Day Program

-NOVEMBER 18th-AHEPA Thanksgiving Luncheon at Towne Center Café.

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund value is \$337,859.89T Quarter 2, end June 2018. (April 1 through Jun 30, 2018).

The fund's value was increased by \$5,418.16 during Q2 of 2018 from Q1 and \$1,861.79 YTD representing market fluctuations. Administrative fees YTD of 1% per year amounted to \$1,662.07 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. 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	\$184,717.81	55%
B. Domestic Fixed Income	-\$124,753.97	37%
C. International Equities	\$ 24,521.95	7%
D. Cash & Equivalents	\$ 3,866.16	1%
Total	\$337,859.89	100%

Our funds tracked the Benchmarks Returns at -0.7% below U.S. Equities but above the International Benchmark fortunately at +0.2%. Keep in mind we are invested at a slightly lower risk rate than our benchmarks.

Market Observations: U.S. Equities performed well during the quarter accompanied by a strong U.K. market. Throughout the rest of the world, equities performed poorly, particularly in emerging markets.

Headwinds blowing in the face of risk assets have picked up due to fears of Trade Wars and their unknown effects - although modest at this writing. Fortunately, the fundamentals of the market remain strong and solid. Interest rates are rising and corporate earnings are good indicating the "Old Bull" of a market still has some life in him.

Parishioners are always welcome to donate by check 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

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

The availability to still purchase Altar Flower Bouquets in honor and/or in memory of loved ones is as follows:

December 2nd - 1 bouquet available;
December 30th- 2 bouquets available;
January 6th -1 bouquet available;
January 20th -1 bouquet available;
February 3rd -1 bouquet available;
March 3rd - 1 bouquet available;
March 31st- 1 bouquet available;
April 7th-2 bouquets available;
April 21st - 2 bouquets available.

Please visit the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall if you are interested in contributing Altar Flowers in honor, or in memory of a family member etc. Just sign your name on the posted list, or see **Louise Dobbs Barringer**, Altar Flower Coordinator.

Contributions are being submitted now. Make your checks out to **St. George Greek Orthodox Church**, in memo column: **Altar Flowers and date of display**; Cash and/or Credit cards are accepted see Ad-ministration Office. Thank you for your continued support!

CHURCH DOME

We would like to clean our church dome when the weather cools off. Indeed, this work will be costly. An estimate will soon be provided, giving us a "target amount" in the effort to raise ample funds.

Needless to say, any contributions from our parishioners who would contribute toward this project will be a great blessing. Details on the nature of this project will be provided over a reasonable stretch of time.

STEWARDSHIP

As part of the 2018 Stewardship, Evangelism, & Outreach Program for 2018, the Archdiocese made available a customized outdoor banner for our Orthodox communities to utilize.

Our custom banner was put in place in the front of our church near the main walkway on August 21, 2018. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the volunteer efforts of **Nick Kaperonis** and **Nick Latkovic** for erecting the banner on what was one of the more hot and humid days of August! Our thanks to both of you! (see photo)

This banner welcomes all to “find their spiritual home in the Orthodox Church” and is appropriately placed for the beginning of the **Orthodox Ecclesiastical Year** commencing on September 1, 2018.

The banner is planned to be in place until Thanksgiving, when at that time, we will switch it out with a new holiday themed banner celebrating the birth of Christ.

If you have any questions or comments, please see **Rhonda Latkovic**, Stewardship Chairperson.



Setting up this year's "Stewardship Poster" in front of our church are: Nicholas Latkovic (left) and Nicholas Kaperonis (right).

TEN COMMANDMENTS

COMMANDMENT #8

The Eighth of God's Ten Commandments is this: *"Thou shalt not steal."* Questions to ask of one's self when preparing for Holy Confession:

1. Have I taken money or property that did not belong to me from anyone?
2. In receiving payment for my services, have I compromised giving 100% of my efforts and/or 100% of my talents to customers, employers, clients, teachers or mentors?
3. Have I sought more than reasonable compensation for my work or services?
4. Have I damaged anyone's property and not paid them for the damages?
5. Have I held back from giving to the poor, when I already had all that I need?
6. Have I been unreasonable in my expectations from employees or students?
7. Have I shown compassion to workers, co-workers, fellow students who were in need of my assistance in getting a job done?

COLORING BOOK

Our **St. George Coloring Book** group will gather following the summer break on **Friday, September 21, 2018**. The meeting is from **12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.** at our St. George the parish hall. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon, with coloring and a raffle to follow. A **\$5.00** minimum donation is requested. Coloring supplies are provided. Please **RSVP by September 16th** by contacting **Rhonda Latkovic**.

See the enclosed Coloring Book Group flier!

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/ email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com
Telephone: (760)568-9901 / FAX: (9760) 568-9492

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1- ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 am.
2-14th Sunday of St. Matthew Ep.-2 Cor.1:21-24; 2: 1-4 Gos.-Matth.22:2-14	3 Philoptochos Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.	4 BibleStudy- 10:00 a.m.	5 AHEPA-5:30 pm at Andy's #4	6	7	8- NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
9-Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Ep.-Gal. 6:11-18 Gos.-John 3:13-17	10 Philoptochos General Meeting- 11:30 a.m.	11 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	12 Festival Meeting - 7:00 p.m.	13 Parish Council-2:30 pm.	14 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30 am (Fasting Day)	15
16-Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Ep.- Gal.2:16-20 Gos.-Mark 8:34-9:1	17	18 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	19	20	21	22
23-1st Sunday of St. Luke Ep.-Gal. 4:22-27 Gos.-Luke 5:1-11	24	25 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.	26-ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST Orthros-8:30 am D.Liturgy-9:30	27	28	29
30-2nd Sunday of St. Luke Ep.-2 Cor.9:6-11 Gos.-Luke 6:31-36						

**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**THANKSGIVING
LUNCH**

Let's Celebrate God's Goodness

**SUNDAY, 12:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 18th, 2018**

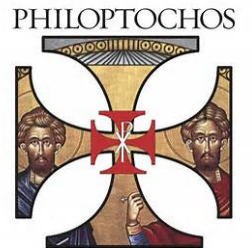


Town Center Cafe

**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 or mailed to:

AHEPA 528 Scholarship fund

PO Box 1735 Palm Desert, CA 92261-1735

contact@ahpepa528.org

*Please make any checks to AHEPA Chapter 528 or pay online 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!

GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO



Gala

CELEBRATING OUR MINISTRIES

HONORING EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

You are invited to join His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
for an evening celebrating the ministries of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco and
honoring the extraordinary leadership of

Dr. James and Virginia Kallins

with the Theofanis Economidis Award

Saturday, October 13, 2018

6:00 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Dinner, Entertainment, Program,
and Dancing to Follow

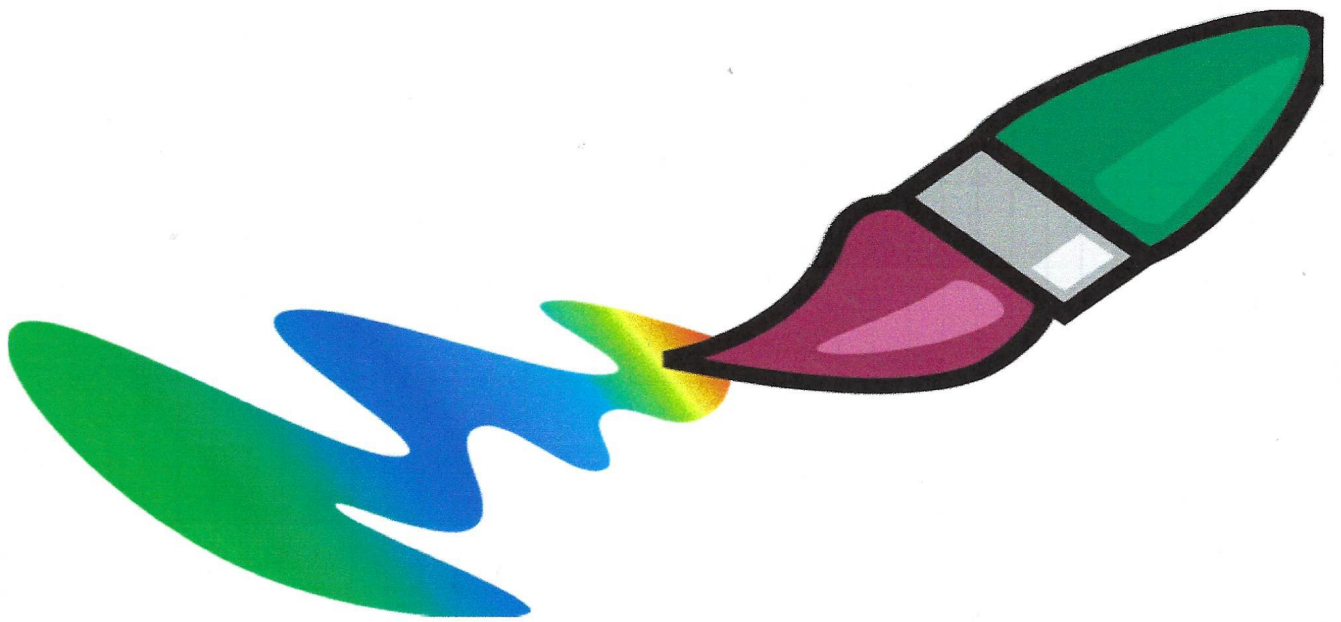
Black Tie

For details on sponsorships or
reservations call 415.753.3075

Reservation deadline: September 12, 2018

Hyatt Regency Huntington
Beach Resort and Spa
21500 Pacific Coast Highway
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Reserve your room for the
Gala weekend
by calling 800-233-1234
(Group Name: Greek Orthodox Metropolis of SF).



ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON

When: Friday, September 21st @ 12 PM-2 PM

Where: St. George Church Hall

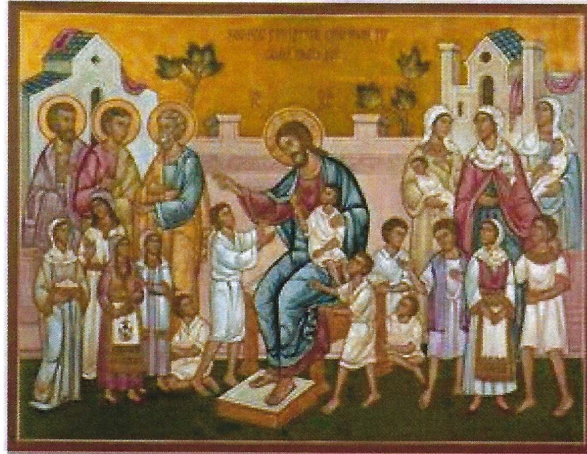
RSVP: By Sept. 16th to Rhonda Latkovic

This will be our first luncheon & coloring session after the summer break! 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!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert CA, 92260

Sunday School Registration Form: 2018-2019



Child's Name	Birth Date	Grade	Name Day/Saint	Check Areas for Your Child to Participate	
				Epistle	Tray

Home Address	Home Phone

Parents' Names	E-Mail Address	Cell Phone Number

For High School Children (optional)

Name	E-Mail Address

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." – **Matthew 19:14**

Improve Your Health & Environment

You Are Cordially Invited (please bring a friend)

When: Saturday, October 27, 2018

10:00am and again at 1:00pm (choose time that is convenient for you)

Where: St. George Greek Orthodox Church Hall

74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260

The event is FREE, the information is priceless - Products will not be sold at the event

Special Guest: Sheila Backus, Health & Wellness Advocate

Refreshments Will Be Served

Please RSVP by October 22, 2018 by calling (760) 238-7185



Hosted by Ann Dixson

*A donation will be made to the
St. George Ladies Philoptochos*



Sheila Backus



experience the treasures of Greece!



OCTOBER
13th & 14th

SATURDAY

10am – 9pm

SUNDAY

11am – 7pm

at the Old Town Temecula Civic Center



Live Greek Music ♦ *The Olympians!*
Dancing & Folk Dance Performances
Authentic Greek Food
Delicious Greek Pastries
Greek Wine, Beer, Liqueur & Coffee
Mediterranean Market Place
Children's Game Area



ONLY \$2 ADMISSION
KIDS UNDER 12 only \$1

FREE ADMISSION

to US Military, Firefighters & Law Enforcement with proper ID

(951) 296-6207

www.TemeculaGreekFest.com

FREE PARKING
at old town garage

28690 Mercedes St.
Temecula, CA 92590

Enter on 3rd St.

because Mercedes St. will be blocked.