

JANUARY 2019



Voice of St. George

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE DESERT**

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

A GOOD CONSCIENCE

Have you ever been kept awake at night by the voice of your conscience? Has that voice been telling you that you did something hurtful or didn't do your best in showing kindness? Well, **there is good news** for you. It's that likely you *do* have a good conscience, meaning a "healthy" conscience. This is different from just a clear conscience in the case where one is afflicted with a spiritual disorder of having *no* conscience, or a "sick," or *bad* conscience.

But, how do we silence the voice of our good conscience so that we can get some sleep? St. Maximos the Confessor prescribes "spiritual discourse" as the best way to address this matter, because God knows us better than we know ourselves. Through "spiritual discourse," we are able to maintain a good conscience through prayer, the forgiveness of sins and constant spiritual

nourishment from the Holy Sacraments. St. Maximos notes, in his *Two Hundred Texts on Theology & the Incarnate Dispensation of the Son of God*: "Every spiritual discourse, sweetened with mystical contemplation, brings relief to the intellect...and frees it from the bad conscience which chokes it." (*Philokalia*, Vol. 2, pg. 646).

St. Maximos' solution to preserve a good conscience is affirmed by Fr. Stanley Harakas' reminder of God's goodness: "Orthodox ethic affirms that the human good is intimately related with the divine 'objective' good because humanity is not only created in the image of God...but is also designed to become - and ought to become - 'like' God..." (*Toward Transfigured Life*, pg. 35).

The re-birth of humanity's good conscience comes from the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan. With His Baptism, celebrated every year on **January 6th**, the

human conscience, is enlightened. Its first-created goodness is recovered. The voice of God the Father, together with the ministry of His Only-Begotten Son Jesus Christ and the grace of the Holy Spirit, is *Itself the voice of the One God within us*. We maintain our unity with the goodness of God's love as we participate in our Lord's Baptism by being baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The effort to be like our Lord requires a personality ready to fight against evil and temptations as Christ did in the wilderness against Satan's temptations. This effort itself is a life-style. We prevent our good conscience from becoming sick by constantly turning to Christ in repentance; for, should we fall into temptations of evil and sin, we repent by participating in the Sacrament of Holy Confession

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(the "Second" Baptism). This kind of life-style helps us to develop the Christ-like personality exhibited by all the Saints. As a matter of this "personality," then, we make the daily effort to radiate the Divine love.

St. Nectarios of Pentapolis gives a succinct description of this daily effort: *"Take off every form of enmity between you and your neighbor; take off every form of unjust thinking;...flee from every manner of evil and do that which is good; turn back to the Lord and draw near, so that you can be sanctified entirely. Be enlightened and become a vessel of Divine Grace so that you may be joined to Christ and dwell in Him as He would dwell in you."* (Regarding the Sacraments, pgs. 58-59).

In sum, a good conscience is one which dwells in God, listening to His voice and prompting one to always do God's Will, which is always good.
+FR. THEODORE

CHRISTMAS ENCYCLICAL 2018

Beloved in the Lord,



And the angel said to the shepherds, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

The Orthodox theologian Paul Evdokimov wrote, "We prove God's existence by worshiping Him and not by advancing so-called proofs." At the Great Feast of Christmas, each one of our churches become a symbolic Bethlehem, carrying us to the manger where we find the newborn Child, Jesus. In our Vigil and Liturgy we will sing praises to the Almighty God as we hear the story of the Birth of our Savior. The news that Christ is born, once again, will fill us with joy and hope and we will take this message from our parishes to our homes and the world around us. That is the proof of our faith! This is how the Birth of Christ makes a difference in our salvation; that we are able to share with action this wondrous message from above. In the Holy Liturgy during our celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, we will receive Christ the Lord as we sing the Com-

munion Hymn that teaches us the purpose of the Incarnation: *"The Lord sent redemption to His people."*

In this cynical age when various pundits regularly question the existence of God, what better response can we offer than filling our churches with hymns of praise? When the world around us makes Christmas all about searching for "the right gift", what better response can we offer than sharing the Good News that the Savior is born? When we encounter those who sow seeds of division and relish in polarization, what better response can we offer than working even more diligently to strengthen the unity of the Body of Christ? Arguments will not change hardened hearts. Only our faith, our love for our neighbor, and our compassion can soften them.

In the Nativity of Christ, the Kingdom of God enters this world and we celebrate that "God is with us". He came humbly, as an infant, reminding us that the Kingdom of God enters in places and ways that are not always dramatic or revolutionary, but rather quite ordinary. The Kingdom of God is at hand in the ordinary activities of our lives: in our homes, at our family gatherings, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods. When we treat people with kindness, justice and compassion in our day-to-day activities, we bear witness to the Kingdom and grow closer to God. Saint Gregory the Theologian wrote, *"God comes to live with human beings, that we may journey toward God"* (Oration 38). Our journey to God begins with our journey to the symbolic Bethlehem, where we may meet the Savior, who *"became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). Then we can return to our daily lives filled with hope and begin to work to make all things new.

There is much work to be done. When we see the many sufferings of our neighbors, in the Alaska earthquake, the fires in California, as well as the ongoing injustices that continue to be perpetrated in our society, we must turn our minds and hearts to the Good News that the Savior is born

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CHRISTMAS ENCYCLICAL, Continued

and redemption has come to His people. We must ask ourselves how we will bear witness to the Kingdom of God in the face of these tragedies and the conditions of so many. Our first action should be prayer for those who suffer. Second, we can make charitable and philanthropic gifts to offer support. Third, speak the truth to those who are sitting in places of authority. Fourth, we can involve ourselves in the work of assisting those who have no voice and need help through our parishes and as responsible citizens of our country.

Beloved in the Lord, this Christmas Holiday is a new opportunity to go to our symbolic Bethlehem, see the newborn Christ, acknowledge Him as your Savior, and take His message of salvation into the world through your words and actions. Let us go to Bethlehem, the city of David, and meet Christ the Lord.

Beseeking the Blessings of our Almighty God upon you and your loved ones, I wish to all of you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the Joy and Grace of our Newborn Savior. With Love in Christ,
++METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS,
Holy Metropolis of San Francisco

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Let's make this year 2019 one where we are more thankful, more grateful, more helping and more forgiving. This starts by being a "We" person.

Are you an "I" Person or a "We" Person?

An "I" person constantly needs recognition and adulation for tasks or jobs they undertake. When recognized they take the bows and say "I did it" without any thought to those whose helped in that same job. They take on tasks even when they are tired, stressed and upset and pass this stress to others who are helping. They bully those around them and dictate tasks to be done. No please and thank you appear. They will only take on jobs where recognition will be possible

and only they can do the job. If everything goes right they take the bows, if something goes wrong they blame others. They criticize everything and everyone but do not suggest ideas nor volunteer to help solve problems they have created or pointed out. Nothing comes up to their standards.

A "we" person rarely wants recognition but will accept a thank you. Such people do many tasks for the Church not seen by most of the parishioners. They are pleasant to be around even if they get stressed (i.e. the festival). They have a positive attitude and are patient with others. They do these things for the Church and not for themselves. They try not to criticize but give help and ideas to others. They understand people's limitations and accept them. They get along with others. (Didn't we learn this in kindergarten?)

"We" are all working for the Church in many ways including stewardship. "We" need to work together to train new parishioners so "we" can continue to nurture a healthy Church. **Are you an "I" person or a "we" person?**

December

With these thoughts in mind we had a wonderful turn out for our Christmas Bake Sale preparations. Our members are definitely "we" people. It was relaxing, we played Christmas music, members laughed and everyone knew what to do. We had 15 members helping with our 3 Co-Chairs. We used our same tried and true delicious Church recipes for our cookies and our bread. Our Co-Chairs were kind and thoughtful. We only made 3 batches of cookie dough per day so "not to tire us out". With that schedule we were able to package the cookies on the same day. Thank you to everyone who volunteered from baking to selling. Our sale was a success.

On Saturday, December 8 we had our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Desert Horizons Country Club. We had 43 attend and we had live Christmas music and singing by Terry and
Continued on the next page ----->

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, Continued

Randy. Our Co-chairs this year were **Rhonda Latkovic, Athena Snarskis, Tina Veroulis and Linda Kallis**. Committee members **Pauline Latkovic** and **Linda Bozegian** checked in our members. Before lunch, Evelyn Karas had a few words to say. The message was "we don't thank our people enough". With that said she called out names of members and parishioners to come up and receive a Christmas Bulb necklace that lights up to thank us. **Kathy Amos** passed out the necklaces. We had great door prizes and Rhonda found our table favors this year that were silver picture frames ornaments with icon pictures. If you are interested in these frames, we have some in the book store to purchase. See photos.

Our new phone directories are available to our members. If you haven't received yours, see **Linda Kallis**.

January

The Festival food preparation will start Monday, January 7. They need a lot of volunteers; check your calendars and plan to help the Co-Chairs.

Our **Board Meeting** will be on **Friday, January 11 at 11:00 a.m.**

The Philoptochos Taverna Night Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, January 12 starting at 5:00 p.m. Make your reservations at the Philoptochos table or send your check made out to Philoptochos to the office. Reservations must be made and paid for in advance. No reservations at the door. Family and friends are invited. We will have live music and it will be a wonderful evening.

We will have a General Meeting on Friday, January 25 at 11:30 a.m. The meeting has been moved to Friday due to the food preparation schedule for the Festival.

Have a happy and healthy New Year!

--LINDA KALLIS,
Philoptochos President



"Thank you Lights" at this year's Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon. From left to right: Pat Dalkas, Eleni Castrale, Tina Veroulis, Melina Hawkins, Rhonda Latkovic, Kathy Amos, Evelyn Karas, Linda Kallis, Steve Banki, Jr., Alice Pulos, Emily Tcharos, Lula Valissarkos



Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon: At the "check-in table are, from left to right: Pauline Latkovic, Linda Bozegian, Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Kallis.



Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon - The men stand in support of Philoptochos. From left to right: Tony Dalkas, Nick Latkovic, Jeffrey (Demetrios) Curreri, Fr. Ted, Wynn Storton, Steve Banki, Sr., Steve Banki, Jr.

AHEPA NEWS

The annual AHEPA Christmas Dinner, held at Norma's Italian Kitchen on Wednesday, December 12th was very successful. Our Christmas party had a great turnout and we had fun reminiscing with chapter members and guests from St. George Church.

As we begin the New Year, everyone is reminded of the major AHEPA event, which will take place on **Saturday, January 19, 2019** at **Long Beach**. This event involves the annual **AHEPA District 20 Mid-Winter Conference** combined with the **AHEPA Western Regional banquet**. We are most grateful to our brothers and sisters of the Long Beach Chapters of AHEPA 342 and the Daughters of Penelope "Minos Chapter" 159 for hosting this important event. As my position of Supreme Governor of the Western Region 8, our Chapter is the proud host of this special 2019 Western Regional Banquet. Please let me know if you can attend. It is \$75 each for the Banquet. Proceeds will be coming back to the Chapter which will be discussed at next meeting. We need to know if you plan to attend or if you need assistance to attend, by January 9th please. We need to know if you plan to attend or if you need assistance to attend, my January 9th. If you cannot attend, please consider sponsoring another Chapter member or a Junior order member. Information is found on attached forms and on the website: <https://ahepa528.org/banquet/>.

In addition, I want to thank you all for your support at this years CAM Festival at the Tennis Gardens on December 15th. We were able to do a joint fundraiser with the local Lions Chapter and promote the upcoming Greek Festival, as well.

Scheduled events:

--Mid-Winter Conference, January 19th, Long Beach CA. : <https://ahepadistrict20.org/Mid-WinterConference.htm/> and Western Regional Banquet.

--Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 3rd at St. George parish hall.

--We will be supporting the St. George 2019 Greek Festival February 16 -17

--2019 District Convention, June 7-9 2019 Chandler AZ

--2019 Supreme convention June 30- July 5 2019 at Chicago, Illinois

Thank you everyone for making your dues for 2018 and a few for 2019. It is tremendous to get ahead of the dues so that we could receive the membership card in our current year. Please consider paying 2019 today! Click on our website at: <https://ahepa528.org/membership.htm>.

--WYNN STORTON,
Supreme Governor, Western Region 8,
AHEPA Chapter 528 President



Annual AHEPA 528 Christmas Dinner at Norma's Italian Kitchen on December 12th. From left to right: Anastasia and Pete Peterson, Alethia and Harry Platis; Anastasia and Steve Steele; Angelo and Tina Veroulis, Harry Loukatos, Alida and Gus Kurupas; Wynn Storton.

HOUSE BLESSINGS --St. George parishioners may schedule a **House Blessing Prayer Service** with **Fr. Ted**. House Blessing Services from the Theophany celebration will be held through the end of January. To schedule a House Blessing Service at a time when all or most of the family members will be in attendance, contact Fr. Ted at (760) 568-9901 or (760) 880-5869.

VASILOPITA CELEBRATION -- This year's **Philoptochos Vasilopita Celebration** will take place following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the Service of the Great Blessing of the Waters on **Sunday, January 6, 2019**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Through the efforts of our Sunday School teachers, **Mariya Dunkel** and **Melissa Hawkins** our Sunday School students presented a most uplifting Christmas program on **Sunday, December 16, 2018**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The program featured Christmas carols and sections entitled "What I want for Christmas," with the students declaring their personal "wants."

Among the "wants" expressed by the students were these: "I want homes for everyone," by **Eleni Castrale**. **Steven Hawkins** added, "I want the end of racism." **Steve Banki, Jr.**, said, "I want everyone to know Jesus Christ."

On **Christmas Eve, December 24th**, the Sunday School children, led by Sunday School Superintendent, **Jim Christopoulos**, sang Christmas carols to elders, **Mr. and Mrs. Anna Kyriacou**, in their annual efforts to spread Christmas joy to the elderly and those who unable to attend Church services.

Following the Christmas break, Sunday School classes resume on **Sunday, January 13th**, the Sunday After Theophany.

Santa Claus (a.k.a., **Wynn Storton**), visited the Sunday School children and their parents during the coffee hour reception which followed the program.

Pictured to the right: Santa Claus (Wynn Storton) visited with Nicholas and Anna Kyriacou during the coffee hour reception following the annual Sunday School Christmas Program on December 16th.



Pictured above: Maryia Dunkel (left) and Melissa Hawkins (right) worked with the Sunday School students as they presented this year's most inspiring Sunday School Christmas program.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"There is nothing better than peace in Christ, for it brings victory over all the evil spirits on earth and in the air. When peace dwells in a man's heart it enables him to contemplate the grace of the Holy Spirit from within. He who dwells in peace collects spiritual gifts as it were with a scoop, and he sheds the light of knowledge on others. All our thoughts, all our desires, all our efforts, and all our actions should make us say constantly with the Church: "O Lord, give us peace!" When a man lives in peace, God reveals mysteries to him.."- St. Seraphim of Sarov

The peace of Christ opens God's mysteries to us, enables us with the gifts of the Spirit, and moves and equips us to witness in our lives the love of God to others. How to acquire this peace? First of all, seek the peace of God above all else, second...LOVE. If we do this then all of the other aspects of our spiritual life will fall into place...prayer, participation in the Sacraments, service etc, all become integral to our daily existence, not out of obligation or in order to "get something from God" but as a by-product of the peace which surpasses all. It is not without reason that we sing in the Christmas carols..."Sleep in Heavenly peace", "...Peace on Earth and mercy mild."

The Incarnation, God becoming man, is the intentional restoration by God of man to his original beauty which is in the image and likeness of God and brings us the eternal peace of living in His presence.

+DEACON EUTHYM

THE CHURCH & WELLNESS

HIPPA and the Family

Among the levels of stress and anxiety that we can feel, most often the highest levels are those associated with the health and care of our loved ones. It goes both ways: the patient is concerned about the feelings of loved ones; the loved ones are worried about how they can contribute to the recovery and health of their beloved - and if their efforts will be rewarded with the return to wellness.

Stress and anxiety often come from the *unknown*. The anxiety is understandable, especially in light of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, in which he reminds us that we are all one body in Christ and each of us is a member of It. With this he added, "*If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored all rejoice together.*" (1 Corinthians 12: 26). Suffering from an illness or disorder carries with it the "unknown" factors: 1) What is the nature of the illness? 2) How is it to be treated? 3) Who is going to perform the treatment? Will it be applied correctly and will the treatment work? These are questions that arise in the hearts of both patients and their loved ones and the answers are not always simple.

Enter HIPPA. HIPPA is an acronym that stands for the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*. It was put into effect nationally in 2003. It is designed to provide privacy standards in order to offer protection to patients from having their medical records sent to other health care providers without permission. In practice, however, this law has been used to insure privacy on all levels of the patient's life. As a result, physicians and counselors are prohibited from revealing anything about their patients or clients without their written consent. In fact, they cannot even admit that they even know the patient or client. On the clinical level, medical centers cannot admit that a patient is at all present in their facility.

Pastorally, this means that if anyone is in a hospital, there is no way for the priest to know this, unless he is directly informed by either the patient, or (with the permission of the patient) his or her

family or friends. Also, unless the patient gives permission to the doctor or therapist, conversations regarding the status of the patient cannot be entertained between the physician/therapist and family members. All that family members can do is to provide one-way communication to the physician giving him or her information about their loved one. Medical feedback from that one-way communication will not be forth-coming. However, it will always be useful to providers.

It is critical to understand that if the patient expects his or her family to provide a caring atmosphere at home when he or she is discharged from the hospital, unless their consent has been given to at least the one family member with whom he or she will reside while recovering, the family is hand-cuffed in terms of knowing what to do and how to do it. On the other hand, when it comes to family, keeping things confidential can always be dicey.

Looking at "trade-offs," however, when family is informed and involved when one returns from the hospital, they are more prone to join with their loved one in seeking wisdom for better treatments through prayer and the Holy Sacraments. A greater relationship of understanding and compassion among all is fostered. As a result, then, I would opt for erring on the side of a patient giving consent to the physician or therapist to discuss matters pertaining to one's health to at least the family member with whom the patient will be residing during recovery. +FR.THEODORE

Pictured to the right: Fr. Ted was a guest at the *Annual Eisenhower Medical Center Chaplain's Reunion Dinner* held on December 1st.

From left to right: Rabbi Yankel Kreiman (Jewish), Fr. Donald Craig (Roman Catholic), Fr. Ted (Orthodox Christian).



ST. BASIL THE GREAT: AN IMPORTANT SAINT FOR US!

When we look at January and the start of the New Year, we find St. Basil on the first day of the year. We remember him on January 1st, as well as on January 30th, at which time he is commemorated as one of the Three Hierarchs, along side St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian.

St. Basil had much in common with the other Hierarchs. They were all well educated and committed to the learning from the ancient Greek world. St. Basil was an expert in learning Attic Greek and could read and recite Homer. He studied the ancient philosophers, such as Plato and others.

St. Basil was from a Christian family. His dedication to education and his Attic Greek was good enough that one of his works, *To the Youth*, is the basis for a class of the University of Greece on Attic Greek. In short, he was a bridge between ancient Greek culture and the culture of Byzantine Christianity.

Recognized as a great spiritual Cappadocian father, among Orthodox Christians he is known as the "Revealer of Heavenly mysteries." With others of his time, he helped in the theological fight against the teachings of Arianism, which taught the falsehood that Christ is not God. St. Basil also led in teaching the True Faith in confronting other heretical teachings.

As the bishop of the territory of Cappadocia, St. Basil performed the Divine Liturgy which bears his name: The Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. This Liturgy contains mystical silent prayers of the priest that are most outstanding, showing in great detail prayers for all people and their needs. One commentator tells us that the Liturgy of St. Basil "bears unmistakably the personal hand, pen, mind and heart of St. Basil the Great." St. Basil's Liturgy is celebrated on most Sundays during Great Lent; on his Feast Day (January 1st); on the Eve of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas); on the Eve of Epiphany (January 5th); on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday during Holy Week.

Having been born into a wealthy Christian family, St. Basil gave his own wealth to the poor. He founded hospitals, orphanages, hospices and monasteries. Also, St. Basil had a big impact on monasticism. His teachings influenced St. Benedict in the West and became the model for the monastic life in the East. To understand the Orthodox Christian life of monasticism, we must come to know St. Basil.

Through his sermons, St. Basil sought to close the gap between the rich and the poor. His demands on money and possessions challenge Christians today. His treatise, "The Six Days of Creation" is an illuminating writing on the Book of Genesis, which does not demand that Christians keep to literal 24 hours of creation, noting that God's "day" of creation could be very different than our day.

As bishop of Cappadocia, St. Basil faced challenges from enemies of Orthodox Christianity. For example, the Emperor Valens tried to have him dismissed from his duties as bishop, to which St. Basil responded, "*You may take away my lands and possessions, but you can never take away my faith.*" Valens rebuked St. Basil, complaining that no one ever spoke to him in such a courageous manner. St. Basil responded, "*Perhaps you never met a bishop before!*"

In Greece, as well in other Orthodox Christian countries, it is traditional to exchange gifts on St. Basil's Feast Day, in honor of St. Basil's reputation for giving to those in need. He is also remembered in Orthodox parishes with the "Vasilopita Cake" offered when the New Year is celebrated. In the cake, a coin is placed for a person in need to receive it as a gift. Many poorer Christians received such generous gifts from St. Basil who was always concerned for the welfare of all.

May the wisdom of St. Basil the Great catch all of us in the awareness of his Spirit.

--MATTHEW DAVIS

DECEMBER COLORING GROUP

The Adult Coloring Luncheon was held on Friday, December 14th. Our group enjoyed a meal of homemade lentil bean soup, baked tyropita and spanakopita and pinwheel sandwiches to start the session.

Instead of coloring this time, the group completed the icing & decorating of over 400 sugar cookies that are planned to be given out to the homeless at the Street Life Project's two Christmas events on December 18th in Indio and December 20th in Palm Springs.

Our usual raffle was held with all in attendance winning Christmas themed prizes!

Thank you to all who attended and assisted with the cookies! (see photos)

Due to our festival preparations, we will not be having the Adult Coloring Sessions for the months of January and February. A date for a possible March session will be announced at a later time.



Coloring Book Group: Pictured to the left: Nicholas Latkovic helping with serving the lentil soup for the luncheon. Pictured to the right, featuring the iced cookies for the homeless: (left to right)- Pauline Latkovic, Aspa Nathaniel, Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Kallis, Linda Bozigian, Doris Elmo

CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT

Again this year, our Ladies of Philoptochos group prepared Christmas baskets for those in our Greek Orthodox community who are shut-ins and facing serious health difficulties.

Our team planned and prepared 28 baskets in

total this year. Baking was done the two weeks after Thanksgiving. Basket set-up was Tuesday, Dec. 11th with assembly on Wednesday, Dec. 12th. Deliveries were completed over the next several days. The baskets included a round Christmas sweet bread, a small loaf of Prosforo bread, 1 dozen koulourakia, and various other items like an adult coloring book & drawing pencils, nuts, candy canes, chocolate, & more. The coordinator for this project was **Rhonda Latkovic** who is extremely grateful for all the help received and would like to thank the following volunteers:

Pat Dalkas and **Tina Veroulis** who were in charge of and participated in the baking of the items for the baskets. We thank all the ladies who assisted with the baking including **Christine Kundanis, Carol Lyons, Alexandra Dymond, Bess Heinrich, Doris Elmo, Linda Bozigian, Linda Kallis, Linda Petalas, Nancy Breighner, Athena Snarskis, Valentina Ostapenko, Becky Allen and Mary Zachariadou, and Becky Allen** who helped bake the breads & cookies for the baskets. Along with baking, others helped in many ways.

Lula Valissarakos helped with the initial set up in the hall of all baskets and for designing the placement of the items in the basket, along with assisting with delivery.

Linda Kallis helped in purchasing some of the items placed in the baskets and helping with assembly and delivery.

Father Ted helped with delivery of the baskets.

Tina Veroulis, Athena Snarskis, Emily Tcharos, Linda Bozigian, Christine Kundanis, Alice Pulos, Bess Heinrich, Aspa Nathaniel, Chris Delganis, and Angelo Veroulis helped with the basket assembly and delivery along with adding hand-made trims to the bows of the baskets.

This project is one that is very special to the Philoptochos and we are grateful for all the help and support of our community.

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CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT, Continued



To the left: Those who helped to assemble and deliver Christmas baskets to the home-bound: From left to right: Chris Delganis, Alice Pulos, Linda Bozigian, Emily Tcharos, Tina Veroulis, Rhonda Latkovic, Linda Kallis, Bess Heinrich, Angelo Veroulis, Aspa Nathaniel, Athena Snarskis, Christina Kundanis. Pictured below: Lula Valissarakos



ics, theologians and hierarchs and for liturgical periods unrelated to Feast Days associated with the Theotokos or our Lord and Savior.

Purple: for season of Great Lent. A purple robe was put on our Savior when, in mockery, He was hailed as “King of the Jews” during His Passion.

Green: for the commemoration of the Life-Giving Holy Spirit (the Pentecostal Season)

Blue: in honor of the Theotokos, Who is “more spacious than the Heavens” (the season of “Dekapentavgousto” - the 15 days of August) and the first part of Advent (the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple in mid-November).

Red: in honor of the humility of Christ (His Incarnation, Passion and Crucifixion), the Holy Cross (in September); the commemoration of martyred saints; the fasting season for the Holy Apostles.

THE NEW RED ALTAR COVERINGS

We received our new red Altar coverings just in time for the celebration of our Lord’s Nativity. We are grateful to God for **Lula Valissarakos**, who led in the efforts to produce these Altar coverings from material purchased from La Lame in New York City. **Ana Doubaratzis, Athena Snarskis and Pam Zeverdas**, worked with Lula throughout much of the summer. In time, these wonderful fabrics became the beautiful red Altar coverings. We are also grateful to God for those who donated the monies needed to purchase these fine fabrics.

We now have a full set of coverings which will cover the Holy Altar and our liturgical stands in accordance with the liturgical colors of our Church. Beginning with the liturgical calendar from January on, these colors are:

White: for the washing away of sin, repentance, and the manifestation of the Holy Trinity, in celebration of the Theophany; in celebrating the salvation of humanity in the Unending Light of the Resurrection of Christ (the Easter/Paschal Season). White is the color of our Baptismal robe.

Gold: in honor of the non-martyred saints: ascet-



Pictured to the left: The Holy Altar at St. George with the new red Altar covering, reminding the faithful of Christ’s humility by condescending to be Incarnate as Man and was crucified for our salvation.



Pictured to the left: Lula Valissarakos, who led in the making of St. George’s new red Altar coverings.

DECEMBER HOMELESS OUTREACH

Thanks to several generous donations from our anonymous "angels," the Saint George Philoptochos was able to feed approximately 300 homeless in November for Thanksgiving in conjunction with the Street Life Project, a non-profit group we have been working with over the past two years.

Our Philoptochos Board added the Street Life Project organization to our list of charities for 2018 and allocated \$500 to be donated to them to assist with the worthy cause of helping the homeless in our valley. This donation was presented to **Christian Jelmborg**, the founder of the group, by **Tina Veroulis** on **Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at Miles Park in Indio**. Several members from our church were in attendance to feed around 200 homeless and provide iced sugar cookies, ham, and toys for the children in attendance. We wish to thank the following volunteers for their assistance at the event: **Athena and Pete Snarskis, Tina and Angelo Veroulis, Pauline and Rhonda Latkovic, Mary Zachariou and her friends, Aprildawn Smith and Sheila Barber**. (See photos).

Then, on Thursday, December 20, 2018, our church group assisted with feeding the homeless at Sunrise Park in Palm Springs. Again, we provided iced sugar cookies that were made by our Adult Coloring Group, along with clothing donations. Around 125 were fed. We wish to thank the following volunteers for their assistance at this event: **Fr. Ted and Presvytera Petula Pantels; Tina and Angelo Veroulis, and Pauline and Rhonda Latkovic**.

The Street Life Project founders Christian and Blaire told us how timely and needed our \$500 donation to their group was and thanked us repeatedly for it and for all our volunteer service to their group over the past year.

Truly, our wish for the New Year is an end to homelessness in our valley. May the Lord our God provide food, shelter and comfort to all who are suffering.



December Homeless Outreach: From left to right: Rhonda Latkovic, Maria Zahariadou, Tina Veroulis (giving the Philoptochos donation of \$500 to Street Life founder, Christian Jelmborg), Athena Snarskis, Pauline Latkovic, Angelo Veroulis and Christian Jelmborg



Pictured above: the St. George volunteers who helped feed the homeless in Indio on December 18th. From left to right: Tina & Angelo Veroulis, Rhonda Latkovic, Peter Snarskis, Pauline Latkovic and Athena Snarskis.



Pictured above: St. George volunteers who helped feed the homeless in Palm Springs on December 20th. From left to right: Rhonda Latkovic, Angelo & Tina Veroulis, Maximus Lee, Pauline Latkovic and Presvytera Petula Pantels.

2019 GREEK FESTIVAL



The time for final preparations for our 2019 Greek Festival has arrived. It is vital, therefore, for everyone to make plans to attend the **Festival Meeting on January 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at our parish hall.** It is also very important for all of us to begin securing sponsorships and ads for our 2019 Greek Festival.

The "Sponsorship & Ad Form" will be included in our Ladder (as it is included in this month's *Voice of St. George*) over the next few weeks. The **deadline for submitting sponsorships and ads for our 2019 Festival is: January 15, 2019,** to allow time for printing our Festival program.

Note also the insert to this month's *Voice of St. George*, which shows the "preparation schedule" through January and into February leading up to the Festival.

CHURCH HALL REMODEL UPDATE

Our sliding glass door(s) project is currently underway. The three, eight-by-eight foot custom sliders have been ordered and are expected to be ready to install in early January. The cost of these new doors is \$7,600.

We have already received and are using the new upholstered hall chairs, which were paid for by donations from numerous parishioners! We will be ordering new plastic round tables after the festival to replace our older, and very heavy round tables. We still need a few more donations to cover the full cost of the twelve tables we need, which cost \$100 each.

If you would like to make a donation towards either of our church hall improvement projects, please contact the church office. We can accept checks or credit cards and just let us know which project you would like it to go towards.

2018/2019 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

2018 -- Our current fiscal year of 2018 is coming to a close. We have met our stewardship goal but still have some outstanding pledge balances that we hope to receive prior to year-end. Currently

the outstanding balance is \$8,034 due from 19 stewards. We will be sending out reminder letters to all with an outstanding balance towards their pledge after January 1st, 2019.

2019 -- Our new Stewardship fiscal year begins January 1st, 2019. We have been handing out pledge card packets for the past three Sundays of December after Divine Liturgy and have kept a record of who has received them. All remaining parishioners will receive their packet by mail prior to January 1st, 2019.

The 2019 Stewardship National Theme is "All things are possible to the One who believes in Christ". The national Stewardship Ministry pamphlet with comments regarding this "theme" is included in your packet and we hope that you will take a few moments to read it.

Our **Stewardship Sunday** offering and prayer service will be **Sunday, January 20th, 2019.** We are asking all parishioners to return their pledge cards by this date so they can be blessed during the service. You may drop off your pledge cards prior to this to the office, and we will ensure they are included in the offering tray on this special Sunday. If you have any questions, please see Stewardship Chairperson, Rhonda Latkovic.

PARISH ELECTIONS

We want to congratulate the newly elected Parish Council members who will begin serving a three-year term of service in the ministries of our Church for the glory of God:

Linda Kallis
Tina Veroulis
Nicholas Kaperonis

This year's Parish Council Elections were held on **Sunday, December 16, 2018,** following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. We express our gratitude to God for this year's Parish Election Committee as they conducted our Parish Elections in a proper and dignified manner. The Election Committee members: **Nancy Breighner, Alexandra Dymond and Pat Dalkas.**

ST. GEORGE MEMORIAL WALL & GARDEN PROJECT

We would like to announce that a memorial wall & garden project for our Saint George Orthodox Church has been formalized and received bids for the initial manufacture and installation of a 4 ft. by 40 in. aged bronze wall that will hold 64 nameplates sized 2 1/2 in. by 10 in. The nameplates will memorialize those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Phase 1 of the memorial wall and garden project has been funded by an anonymous steward of our church and we are extremely grateful for this donation! The aged bronze wall, to be manufactured by W.E. Baum, will be mounted on the wall to the left side of the bell tower. A bench and flowers will be added to the beds surrounding and across from the wall to enhance the aesthetics and to give a peaceful surrounding for those who wish to meditate or pray for their beloved who have passed.

The next Phase of the project will move to the right hand side wall of the bell tower. Plans are to increase the height of the wall to 6 ft., to accommodate up to two additional bronze memorial walls, and to add a fountain and benches in the area.

We are in the process of final edit for our Saint George Memorial Wall & Garden. Once the final proof is complete, **W.E. Baum** will manufacture the wall with delivery time expected to be 8 weeks. We are hoping to have installation finished by the beginning of the 2019 Lenten Season.

If you are interested in commemorating a loved one who has passed, please review and complete the instruction form included in the *Voice*. Please see **Rhonda Latkovic, Deacon Euthym, or Father Ted** if you have any questions.

PRAYERS TO END ABORTION

Christians from various parishes throughout our valley will gather at the **Planned Parenthood** facility on **San Jacinto Drive in Rancho Mirage on Friday, January 18, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** to peacefully pray for the end of abortion.

This Prayer Vigil for Life will be conducted as the 46th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade is observed.

Parishioners from our St. George parish have been invited to participate with Christians of other area parishes in this peaceful prayer service. Indeed, as part of the prayer service, prayers will be offered for the enlightenment of many throughout our valley and nation to seek options to abortion that will allow the God-given right of the unborn to live, such as funds and resources for the establishment of adoption services, child-care programs, care-facilities for orphaned children and educational programs for parents overwhelmed with the responsibilities of parenthood.

DIRECTIONS: Fred Waring Dr. west to Hwy 111. Turn right and drive to Rancho Las Palmas Drive. Turn right. At next intersection, turn left onto San Jacinto. Planned Parenthood is just down the street on the left. Please park on the street only, not in the parking lot. For information call: Barbara: 760.902.1315 Jeanne: 760.275.6543.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council met on Thursday, December 6th to prepare for the Fall General Assembly Meeting and to discuss parish business for the month of December 2018.

Highlights from this Parish Council meeting were:

- The installment of the parish hall doors that will lead from the parish hall into the courtyard.
- Possible solutions for cleaning the church dome.

Continued on the next page----->



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES, Continued

-- The need is to keep pushing the Advertising Logo's. The prices are \$150, \$300.00, \$500.00 and \$1,000.00. Tina informed the Board that the Vendor Letters were mailed. The next order of business will be the parking lots.

-- The agenda for the Fall General Assembly Meeting, held on Sunday, December 9th.

Notes from the Fall General Assembly Meeting are as follows:

--**The Endowment Fund** is going very well. Reports will be issued by Chairman Nicholas Latkovic on a quarterly basis beginning in 2019.

--**Stewardship Sundays** will be hosted by Rhonda Latkovic on Sunday, December 16th (as a reminder to those who can still bring their 2018 Stewardship Commitment up to date *and* to thank those who have completed their 2018 Pledge commitment) and January 20th (to pass out the 2019 St. George Stewardship Cards and to update parishioners on the ministries of our parish going forward).

--**2019 Budget...** was passed, showing an income of \$437,346.88 and The projected expenses of \$417,279.76, leaving us with a projected profit of \$20,067.12. Questions pertaining to "coding" of financial categories and the final 2018 Festival figures are to be addressed in the near future by the Parish Council and are recorded in the official minutes of this General Assembly Meeting.

--**2018 Election Committee** was selected: **Nancy**

Breighner, Pat Dalkas, Alexandra Dymond.

--**Auditing** - An addendum was submitted following the Fall General Assembly in order to detail the auditing work over the past year. This addendum is available in our parish office upon request and it will be presented at the Spring General Assembly Meeting in March.

--**2019 Festival:** Companies or individuals can select the Sponsorship Levels that will include full colored on back of the Festival Program- Gold Sponsor Level \$1,000.00 or Silver Sponsor Level \$500.00. We also have advertising choices which include black and white logo inside the Festival Program- Corporate \$300.00 and Personal \$150.00. The deadline is January 15, 2019.

On December 18, 2018, the Parish Council met briefly to approve the recommendation to acquire parish property and liability insurance from the Church Mutual Insurance for annual premium cost of \$7,940 for greater overall property and liability coverage compared to last year. Many thanks to Mike Vawter for his hours of work in analyzing costs and coverages for 2019 as compared to 2018 in helping the Parish Council make this decision.

Also, the Parish Council expressed sincere gratitude to the President of the Desert Cancer Foundation, who donated the costs for upgrading the air conditioning and heating units for our building next door to our church which is rented to the Desert Cancer Foundation. The value of this donated work is about \$8,000.

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

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Sunday School-10:30 a.m.		1-New Year CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD; ST. BASIL Orthros-8:30 am D.Liturgy-9:30am	2 Festival Meeting-7:00 pm	3 Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	4	5-EVE OF THEOPHANY Royal Hours-8:30 D.Liturgy-9:30 a.m. Blessing of the Waters-10:45 a.m.
6-HOLY THEOPHANY Orthros-8:15a.m D.Liturgy-9:15 am Blessing of the Waters- 10:30 a.m. Vasilopita	7-ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30 am	8 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	9 AHEPA Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10 Choir Practice-1:00 p.m. Parish Council-2:30 p.m.	11 Philoptchos Board Mtg.-11:00 a.m.	12-ST. TATIANA Orthros-8:30 a.m. D. Liturgy-9:30 a.m. TAVERNA NIGHT-6:00 p.m.
13-Sunday After Theophany Ep.-Eph-4: 7-13 Gos-St.Matthew 4:12-17	14	15 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	16	17-ST. ANTHONY Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30am Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	18-ST.ATHANASIOS Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30 am	19
20-12th Sunday of St. Luke Ep.-2 Cor.4:6-15 Gos.-St.Luke 4:6-15 Stewardship Sunday	21	22 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	23	24	25-ST. GREGORY THEOLOGIAN Orthros-8:30 a.m. <u>D.Liturgy-9:30 am</u> Philoptchos General Members Meeting-11:30am	26
27-15 Sunday of St. Luke Ep.-Heb.7:26-28; 8:1-2 Gos.-St. Luke 19: 1-10	28	29 Bible Study-10:00 a.m.	30-THE HOLY HIERARCHS Orthros-8:30 am D.Liturgy-9:30	31	<u>FEBRUARY 1</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 2</u> PRESENTATION OF CHRIST Orthros-8:30 a.m. D.Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

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: _____

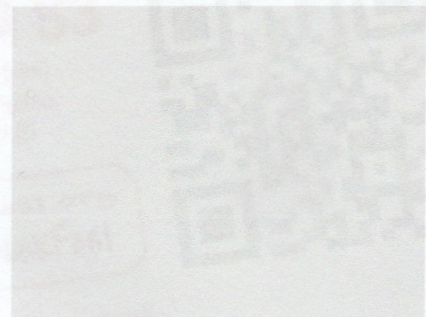
City/State/Zip: _____

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
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.

**ST. GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND OUR**

TAVERNA NIGHT DINNER DANCE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M.
AT THE CHURCH HALL WITH LIVE MUSIC
\$45.00 PER PERSON**

Reservations must be paid in advance by Sunday, January 6, 2019 at the Philoptochos table OR mail your check to the office. Check is payable to St. George Philoptochos and note on check Taverna Night. (Tickets not paid by January 6th will be \$50.00 per person.)

NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN AT DOOR

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number attending: _____ Amt. enclosed: _____

**ST. GEORGE MEMORIAL WALL & GARDEN
NAME PLAQUE DONATION FORM**

INSTRUCTIONS

Print this form and supply the information requested. If you have questions, please call the church office at (760) 568-9901.

This form is to be used when making a Saint George Memorial Wall & Garden donation in honor of a deceased relative. For a donation of \$175.00, the name of the person for whom the memorial donation is made will be placed on a 2 1/2 inch by 10 inch bronze plaque. Each plaque will be etched with the words "Memory Eternal" and with the deceased persons name only and mounted on the Memorial Wall & Garden area.

MEMORIAL DONATION IS MADE IN THE NAME OF:
(Print name as you want it on the plaque)

DATE OF DEATH: _____

DONATION IS FROM:
(Name of person(s) making the donation)

*(Name & address of person(s) to whom acknowledgement is to be sent)

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE of person submitting form:

To make your donation, you can do one of the following:

- Fill out the form and either choose to drop off the form and payment to the church office or mail the form and payment to: Saint George Orthodox Church, P.O.Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261. You may pay for your memorial donation by check or credit card.

- Check # _____

- Credit Card Info:

Type _____ Number _____

Expiration Date _____ CCV _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Example of Plaque:

Memory Eternal

o (first & last name of deceased) o

Festival 2019 food prep schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6
7 Dolmathes	8 Dolmathes	9 Dolmathes	10 Dolmathes	11	12	13
14 Tyropita	12 Tyropita	16 Spanakopita Mousaka	17 Spanakopita	18	19	20
21 Pastries	22 Pastries	23 Pastries Pastitsio	2 Pastries	25	26	27
28 Pastries	29 Pastries	30 Pastries Pork Souvlaki	31 Pastries	February 1	February 2	February 3
4 Baklava	5 Baklava	6 Baklava	7 Baklava	8 Baklava	9	10
11 Baking Make tzatziki	12 Packaging Prep lamb Greek dressing	13 Galatobouriko Souvlaki chicken Lamb chops	14 Prep lamb Wash veggies	15 Prep chickens Wash vegies Cut tomatoes Cut onions	16 Festival	17 Festival
18 Appreciation dinner	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Volunteer for the Festival

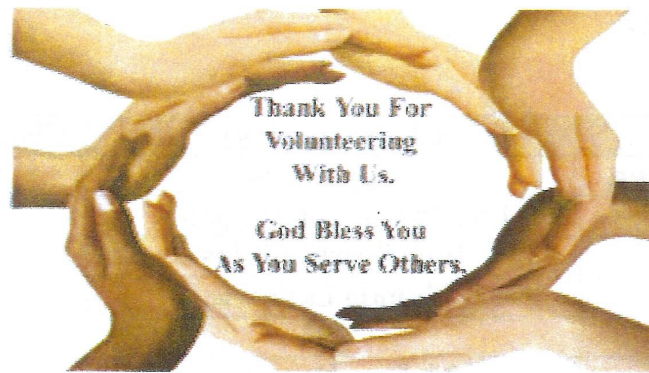
February 16th & 17th 2019

What Kind of Person Are You?

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

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

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



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

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

.....

Festival Volunteer Form

Friday & Saturday, February 16th & 17th 2019

»Name: _____

»Phone Number: _____ »Email Address: _____

»Availability (Please check all that apply):

Set Up Prior to Festival _____

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

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

Tear Down Following Festival _____

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

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



• GREEK CHICKEN • MOUSAKA • SPANAKOPITA • DOLMADE • PASTICHIO • SOUVLAKI • BAKLAVA • DOLMADES • GYROS

• GYROS • GREEK LAMB • BAKLAVA • LOUKOUMADES •

GREEK CHICKEN • MOUSAKA • SPANAKOPITA • DOLMADE • PASTICHIO • SOUVLAKI • BAKLAVA • DOLMADES • GYROS



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD

HEAVENLY PASTRIES

GREEK FOLK DANCERS

OUZO • RETSINA • METAXA

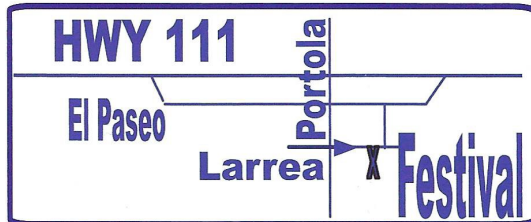
ART & SOUVENIRS

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

CHURCH TOURS

KIDZ ZONE

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



EL PASEO COURTESY CARTS available for festival attendee pick up & drop off. Route along El Paseo from San Pablo to Portola & church festival entrance.

ADDITIONAL PARKING AVAILABLE at Washington Charter School, and Hope Lutheran Church & Spiritual Center. SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED.



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

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Proudly presents the

23ND ANNUAL

GREEK FESTIVAL

in Palm Desert, CA

Saturday & Sunday

February 16th & 17th 2019

11am to 8pm

on the Church Grounds

74-109 Larrea, Palm Desert, CA

(760) 568-9901

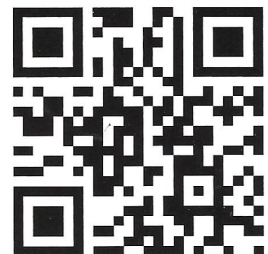
*Experience Authentic Greek Food
Devour Heavenly Pastries
Dance to live Greek music, and
Be Greek for a Day!*

ADMISSION \$3

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

www.PDGreekFest.org

t f + PDGreekFest



• GYROS • GREEK LAMB • BAKLAVA • LOUKOUMADES •

GRECIAN PLATTERS

GREEK STYLE ROASTED CHICKEN Fresh half a chicken marinated in olive oil, lemon juice, herbs & spices then oven roasted & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$12.00

PASTITSIO PLATE Layers of pasta & ground beef topped with creamy béchamel sauce & served with rice pilaf, Greek style green beans & bread \$12.50

MOUSAKA PLATE Layered eggplant & ground beef topped with creamy béchamel sauce & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$12.50

CHICKEN SOUVLAKI PLATE Marinated all white meat on a skewer with bell peppers & onions cooked over open flame & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$12.50



PORK SOUVLAKI PLATE Marinated pork on a skewer with onions & bell peppers cooked over open flame & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$12.50

DOLMATHES PLATE Five grape leaves stuffed with ground meat rice herbs & spices & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$11.00

VEGETARIAN PLATE One spanakopita, one tiropita, Greek style green beans, rice pilaf, & bread \$11.00

LEG OF LAMB Marinated leg of lamb cooked on a spit over open flame & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$15.00

GRECIAN COMBO PLATE Two dolmathes, one spanakopita, one tiropita, Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$12.50

GREEK SALAD Fresh Mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell pepper, red onions, Greek olives, feta cheese & Greek dressing \$5.00

SPANAKOPITA \$3.00 **TYROPITA** \$3.00
DOLMATHES \$1.00 **BAKLAVA** \$3.00

SOFT DRINKS 20 oz. plastic bottle \$3.00
BOTTLED WATER \$2.50

GYROS | GRECIAN GRILL

GYROS Savory meat served atop warm, fluffy pita bread with onions tomatoes & tzatziki sauce \$8.50

CHICKEN SOUVLAKI Marinated all white meat on a skewer with bell peppers & onions, cooked to perfection on an open flame & served with, warm pita bread, feta cheese, cucumbers & Greek olives \$10.00

PORK SOUVLAKI Marinated pork on a skewer with bell peppers & onions cooked to perfection over open flame & served with feta cheese, pita bread, cucumbers & Greek olives \$10.00

DOLMATHES PLATE Four dolmathes, feta cheese, cucumbers, Greek olives & pita bread \$8.50

SPANAKOPITA PLATE Two spanakopita (fillo dough stuffed with chopped spinach, variety of cheese bergs & spices), fresh tomato slices, sliced cucumbers, Greek olives, & pita bread \$10.00

LOUKANICO Grilled Greek sausage served with pita bread, feta cheese, cucumbers & Greek olives \$8.50

LAMB CHOPS Four grilled lamb chops served with feta fries \$14.00

CALAMARI Deep fried calamari \$7.50

MEZES PLATE Two lamb chops, one spanakopita (fillo dough stuffed with chopped spinach, variety of cheese bergs & spices), two dolmathes, pita bread, cucumbers & Greek olives \$12.00

SPANAKOPITA \$3.00 **TYROPITA** \$3.00
DOLMATHES \$1.00 **BAKLAVA** \$3.00

SOFT DRINKS 20 oz. plastic bottle \$3.00
BOTTLED WATER \$2.50



FRESH GREEK SALADS

LARGE GREEK SALAD Fresh mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, red onions, Greek olives, feta cheese & Greek dressing \$7.50

SMALL GREEK SALAD \$5.00



LARGE GREEK SALAD TOPPED WITH GYROS MEAT \$12.00

GREEK SALAD & LAMB CHOPS COMBO Greek salad & two spanakopita \$14.00

GREEK SALAD & SPANAKOPITA COMBO Greek salad, three lamb chops, & pita bread \$10.50

GREEK SALAD & DOLMATHES COMBO Greek salad & four dolmathes, & pita bread \$10.00

GREEK SALAD & SOUVLAKI COMBO Greek salad, chicken or pork souvlaki, & pita \$10.00

All prices subject to change without prior notice.

Pastries

Top off your meal with one of the many homemade pastries baked by the members of our community who have worked for weeks using time-honored recipes. We offer a variety of pastries including the most popular baklava and galatobouriko. Pastries are sold individually or packaged in an assortment box. **If you like sweets, this festival will be your paradise!**



Kafenion

Here you can sip Greek and American coffee as well as an iced Frappe as you enjoy the **mouth watering loukoumathes—a must try—prepared right in front of you.**



Bakaliko

This store has it all . . . Imported Greek specialty food items to take home & enjoy including Greek olive oil & cheese, pastas, packaged pastries & more. You will also find Greek novelties like icon bracelets, incense, flags, aprons, cookbooks, etc. And don't forget your Festival T-shirt and hat!



Bar

To add further enjoyment to your dining experience, we offer a variety of Greek and



American wines, Greek and domestic beers, Ouzo, Metaxa as well as soft drinks and bottled water.

Appetizers

Homemade spanakopita, tiropita and dolmathes.