

APRIL 2020

Voice of St. George

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

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Inside this issue

In some ways the Corona-virus served as a “wake-up” call. The value placed on human life has become greatly treasured and the value of prayer has been affirmed as this crisis has unfolded.

We are faced with celebrating the Resurrection of Christ, while being deprived of the opportunity to worship together in person, gathered in our beautiful St. George church.

Like Lazarus’ sisters, Martha and Mary, we might feel very much disconnected from Christ at this time. After Martha and Mary saw their brother Lazarus die, they said to our Lord, “If only You were here, our brother would not have died!” Jesus answered them saying, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified.” (St. John 1:4). They believed that if Jesus was present with them at the

time when Lazarus was lying in sickness, he would not have died-- almost as if Jesus’ absence was the cause of Lazarus’ death.

But, the events that followed the calling of Lazarus from the tomb provide a clear picture of the reality of the world and our place in it now.

First, Jesus wept. It is not that He was absent that death came upon Lazarus, it was because the Paradise that was made for humanity at the time of creation was lost because of sin, through which evil comes into the world in its many forms.

Second, our Lord resurrected Lazarus from the dead, showing that He is *The Life and Resurrection* for all of humanity. Any concern as to Christ’s presence at a particular time or place is comforted by the fact that Christ is God Who is present everywhere and at all times.

Third, Christ went to Jerusalem in order to participate in the death of each of us, including that of Lazarus. Our Savior participated in our death so that we can participate in His Life.

The Life of our Savior is at the same time, Life in the Eternal Kingdom. While this Life is a Gift from our God, it is our choice to accept it. Accepting it means that we live a life of gratitude, giving thanks to our Lord by offering our love and devotion to His glory and by living according to His Commandments. In doing so, the Saints show us that we can become citizens of our Lord’s Eternal Kingdom. Already, for example, the Myrrh-bearing Women, upon going to the Tomb of Christ on the Day of His Resurrection from the dead encountered angels from heaven. St. Gregory the Diologist, in his “Forty Gospel Homilies” (Homily 21, Migne

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Patrology, pg. 158), stated: “And the women who came with spices saw angels, since those who advance toward God through their holy desires, accompanied by the sweet smell of the virtues, behold citizens from on high.”

Beyond becoming citizens of heaven like the angels, with the Risen Christ, we become gods by God’s grace. Our moral character becomes defined by taking upon ourselves God’s wisdom; God’s love, and God’s energy for bringing others to salvation. Christ our God enters our minds, our reasoning and our outlook. The analogy used by many theologians of our Church is that of metal being placed into fire: the metal takes on the properties of the fire—it glows; it becomes hot. It has the properties of fire. Yet, it is still metal. In like manner, by virtue of our union with our Risen Christ, our human nature, given the grace of God, takes on properties of the divine nature. This is the meaning of the passage of St. John’s Gospel which is read at the Paschal Divine Liturgy: “Of His fullness, we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (St. John 1:16-17).

This Kingdom is lived in the present as well as in eternity. The Divine Liturgy is our remembrance of Christ’s love by which we can become inheritors of His Eternal Kingdom even from now.

+FR. THEODORE

ENCYCLICAL FOR THE FEAST DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION



Today is the beginning of our salvation!

Thus we chant in the Apolytikion of the Day, March 25th, both in praise of the Annunciation and in grateful thanksgiving for the heroes and spirit of 1821. The blessing of freedom, both spiritual and physical, is the legacy of this day of days, and we embrace this inheritance which is a gift that we receive from the past, but also a responsibility to pay forward.

The struggle for the independence of Greece was

not a single event, even though we single out this day. March 25, 1821 was just the first chapter in a history that is still being written, not only in Hellas but around the world. It is not without significance that the word, κεφάλαιον, can mean “chapter” as well as a starting point, for the Heroes of 1821 wrote the first chapter in the history of modern Greece in the ink of their own blood.

The freedom that they purchased is being put to the test today in this extraordinary time when we are facing the first global pandemic in memory. Freedom of movement and freedom of association are being reasonably restricted, as we seek to slow the spread and preserve the health of our communities. Thus, we must remember that our most precious liberty is that of conscience, our God-given right to think and believe freely. This freedom of the inner person can never be taken away by any external conditions.

Therefore, let us honor the Heroes of 1821 – not with parades and public manifestations of these past glories, but within the privacy of our homes, and celebrate the greatest freedom of all – the freedom to be a human being endowed with faith, reason, and conscience. May we always hold these as the precious heritage exemplified by the sacrifice of others.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,
++ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The planned excursion to the Shield’s Date Farm on March 18th to follow the inspirational exhibits showing the Life of Jesus was cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

Currently, efforts are being made to provide Sunday School lessons to our students through the internet. Classes may continue into the summer months, depending on circumstances.

Updates regarding our Sunday School lesson plans will be provided in future editions of the weekly parish bulletin, *The Ladder*.

**PHILOPTOCHOS IS HERE TO SERVE OUR
ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY!**



Brethren in Christ our God and Savior:

Our St. George Philoptochos is offering tremendous and wonderful help for our entire St. George parish at this time. The message below is issued not only on behalf of our Philoptochos, but on behalf of myself and Deacon Euthym, as we all work together to overcome the challenges that we face, due to the Coronavirus. It is an important message for our entire parish. Please read it and let us all follow along accordingly.

Many blessings from Christ our God and Savior,
+FR. THEODORE

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Due to the continued Coronavirus health sanctions in our community, we are updating the way we are communicating with both our Philoptochos members and parishioners of Saint George.

We will be using **Facebook and Zoom technologies** that are available to you on your iPhone or Home Computer, in addition to email, as the main communication from our parish and Philoptochos group.

If you are already a member of Facebook, you can go to our church Facebook page to view three video recorded segments from today's March 29th service, including the Gospel and Sermon from Father Ted & Deacon Euthym. These will be continued in the future.

Father Ted will be setting a schedule of services with dates/times for upcoming services which we will be streaming live on Facebook. Please watch for this upcoming communication.

If you haven't yet joined Facebook, you may want to reconsider and join so that you can participate more fully in the church during this time.

In addition, **Father Ted will be starting Zoom on-line meetings this week, the first to be held**

this Tuesday on Zoom. Time 10:00 AM-Subject Bible Study. This is a video/audio technology app that is similar to Skype, but gives us the ability to hold a meeting with as many as 100 people at a time who sign-in to the website to join the meeting. Attendees can speak to each other and see each other during the meeting.

An instruction sheet was emailed to all with this Sunday's *Ladder* with how to join Zoom. This instruction sheet is attached to this April 2020 *Voice of St. George*. It is free if you choose the Basic Service.

In addition, Philoptochos has established a "**Phone Squad**" over two weeks ago, and board members are checking in with our members to ensure everyone is okay. If you are in need of anything or hear about someone who is, please call or email one of our board members to inform us. Your Philoptochos Chapter is here to serve you, our members, during this challenging time.

Yours in Christ,
--RHONDA LATKOVIC,
President, St. George Philoptochos

**THE 19 DAY GROUP TOUR
TO GREECE IN MAY IS CANCELLED**

"The Spring Experience" -- from May 8-May 26th has been cancelled. We now look forward to the group tour to Greece as **"The Autumn Experience,"** planned to take place from September 18th to October 26th. More details will be provided in the near future.

Contact **Margarita Pagoulatos** at: **714-308-0266**, or check out the website: www.margreek2020.com for future updates.

HOLY COMMUNION & GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Given the grave danger and uncertainty of this disease, the question as to the importance of Holy Communion is certainly understandable. However, let us not begin to think that Holy Communion is not so important after all.

Go back two hundred years to the year 1821 (199 years to the month, to be exact). This particular year provides us with the answer as to the importance of Holy Communion in our lives. It is certainly apparent that our forefathers considered partaking of Holy Communion to be so important that they started a revolution against the Ottoman Turks precisely to *open churches* so that they could actually partake of Holy Communion. People gave their lives for this. For them, it was *important*.

Given the context of our current situation, this is definitely the time for full compliance with the current laws or Ecclesiastical directives that are set in place to protect ourselves and others from the spread of the Coronavirus. Indeed, our actions at this time in closing churches is an **act of Christian love**...*given this context*.

But, let's not emerge from *this context* with the idea that Holy Communion is not *important* in general. Take away the Divine Liturgy (and, by extension, Holy Communion) and we are no longer Greek Orthodox Christians. It's that simple.

Freedom means that we are Greek Orthodox people who identify ourselves with *the presence of Christ our Risen God and Savior*, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This is how our Greek forefathers saw themselves back in 1821.

My prayer is that, when we are free to practice our Faith, as we were before the Coronavirus, that the opportunity to partake of Holy Communion will not be taken nonchalantly, as not "*too important*." Instead, I hope and pray that we all develop a great thirst for Holy Communion, as if without it, we would die as much as we would if we were to go without food and water. I

hope and pray that this spiritual thirst will drive everyone back in droves to our St. George parish, (*only* when civil and Ecclesiastical authorities allow us to do so, of course) in order to "taste and see how great the Lord is."

+FR. THEODORE

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

by
Deacon Euthym

"Thus let us purify our heart! Let us throw out all the dusty trash that is stored there; let us scrub the dirty floor, wash the windows and open them, in order that light and air may come into the room we are preparing as a sanctuary for the Lord. Then let us put on clean garments, so that the old musty smell may not cling to us and we find ourselves thrust out (Luke 13:28)." The Way of the Ascetics

How timely does this sound? We are in the midst of a pandemic and cleaning everything and everyone and washing our hands like crazy, why not do the same for our souls? How much more important is our spiritual health? Now is the time to confess, now is the time to mend old hurts and to forgive, now is the time to wash away un-repentant sins and seek the mystery of Holy Confession, now is the time to clean up our act and fill our hearts and minds with spiritual readings and thoughts, to increase our prayer life, to serve others, to love God with our whole heart, mind and soul.

"You should be afraid not of cholera, but of serious sins, for the scythe of death mows a person down like grass even without cholera. Therefore, place all your hope in the Lord God, without Whose will even the birds do not die, much less a person."

+ St. Anthony of Optina

Look how we respond to the "existential threat" of a virus that causes a pandemic. We basically stop the world in order to "fight" the virus and protect our lives and the lives of others. How much more serious should we be then about that

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SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS, Continued

which is an "existential threat" to our soul. Here St. Anthony uses cholera as the example of an epidemic illness and compares serious sins in terms of how much more damage and threat sin has to our eternal life. His conclusion is for us to put all of our hope in God. We turn to God when illness threatens, how much more should we pray for help and relief from sin. Repentance and confession are the medicines of immortality...lest we forget and spend all of our efforts on preserving our physical existence and neglect our soul.

"Prayer is the union of a finite being with God, Whose nature is infinite and Whose existence is eternal. By it, the sub-stance of the former is made holy, and the image of the latter is made more clearly manifest in the human race." --Bishop Irenei Steenberg

The idea that through prayer we (God's creation in His image and likeness) become united with the God of all creation, Who exists beyond time, is omnipotent, all-seeing and all merciful and whose essence is love, is beyond comprehension. We become Holy through our union with Him and His image is glorified in each of us through His love and our acceptance of it with our free will. It begins and ends in prayer (our personal communication with Him), participation in the Holy Mysteries and the life of the Church, and through our love for our fellow man.

"Keep in mind God's precept that states, 'Judge not, and you will not be judged' (Lk. 6:37), and in no way meddle in the lives of others."

--St. Symeon the New Theologian

This is the beginning of humility. Minding our own business. When we start by focusing on our own spiritual life and our relationship with God, all else melts away. We cannot see ourselves as superior to anyone. God's love for us, and our love for Him, refines our love for others to the point where we see them only as God's perfect children. In that way there is no judgement, only love, acceptance and mercy on our part when we see others. God loves, accepts and is merciful to us, can we not imitate Him when it comes to our

fellow man, our family, our children, our parents, our coworkers?...you get the idea.

THE APOSTLE THOMAS: A CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY WHO HAD A WIDE IMPACT

Following the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Apostles set out on their missionary journeys. One Apostles had an almost world-wide impact in terms of distances traveled. He was the one who is often called "Doubting Thomas." Actually, this terminology is partially an error. It is true that Thomas showed doubt at the time of Christ's Resurrection from the dead...and that the Lord used this early doubt to clarify the proper faith of Christians. Yet, the Greek language does not use this terminology, calling Thomas, "Doubting Thomas." The notion that St. Thomas was wavering in faith is dispelled by his life of tremendous faith, which is held in high esteem in our Christian Tradition. His sincere faith in Christ drove him across thousands of miles in evangelism. According to our Tradition, he founded churches in Palestine, Parthia, and finally in India and beyond.

Due to his evangelism in Syria and Persia, the Apostle is highly regarded within the bounds of the Eastern Churches and the Church of Antioch, as well as in India, where Christians are known as "St. Thomas Christians," acknowledging him as their founder. So, Thomas is not the "Doubting Thomas" of a moment prior to his encounter with the Risen Jesus. Rather, he is an Apostle of tremendous strength, establishing churches throughout much of the Eastern world.

According to Christian Tradition, St. Thomas was martyred on July 3, 72 A.D. at St. Thomas Mount in Channai. The earliest known record of his martyrdom came from Edessa around 232 A.D. There are details about his martyrdom that are unclear. The greater portion of St. Thomas' relics are said to have been sent to Edessa in the Mesopotamia region by an Indian king from Mylapore, India on the occasion of the writing of St. Thomas' Syriac Acts.

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THE APOSTLE THOMAS, Continued

Records from the early 16th Century inform us that the tomb of St. Thomas was kept by a Muslim who had maintained a lamp burning in his honor. St. Thomas Mount has been a revered site by Christians, as well as by Hindus and Muslims since the 16th Century.

Surely, the Apostle St. Thomas appears to us as the "Doubting Thomas." But, it was his strong faith that propelled him to travel far and wide to convert many throughout the world.

Having proclaimed the Risen Christ as Lord and as God, he proclaimed the two natures of Christ: divine and human. His proclamation, as well as other Biblical references, provides the foundation for the Orthodox Christian doctrine that our Savior is perfect Man and perfect God.

--MATTHEW DAVIS

AHEPA NEWS

With schools closing during this Coronavirus medical emergency its easy to forget about applying for Scholarships. Now is the time to prepare for both the AHEPA 528 (St George, Palm Desert) & the "GOARCH" Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Scholarships. Our own, **Katrina Storton** was the **2018 recipient of the National GOARCH Katina Malta Award.**

The 2020 AHEPA 528 Fr. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship applications are due prior to May 1st. Applicants can download forms online at:

<https://ahepa528.org/scholarship.htm>

AHEPA 528 members can also apply at the District and National levels for 2020 Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships. Contact Wynn Storton for details.

Applications for "GOARCH" scholarships are administered by the Office of the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America They are available for awards to be made for the 2020-2021 academic year. The deadline for submitting an application for any of these scholar-

ships is May 1, 2020.

Click on the link below to download and print the scholarship instructions and applications. <https://www.goarch.org//scholarships>.

The "GOARCH" scholarships are:

..2020 Gioles Scholarship - Undergraduate

..2020 Malta Scholarship - Undergraduate

..2020 Paleologos Scholarship - Graduate

Our **next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 PM.** However, due to the Coronavirus, we cannot physically meet together. Our meeting will be on-line via Zoom Cloud Meetings. Attached herein are instructions on how to sign-up free with Zoom. You can use your iPhone, iPad, Laptop or Desktop computer to participate. Join, log in before hand to make sure it is set up. To join our Chapter Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3058156277>

Meeting ID: 305 815 6277

Pay Dues online through our AHEPA 528 website. We need dues to be paid so we are solvent for scholarships this year. Dues of \$75.00, due by March 31st each year. CHAPTER WEBSITE: <https://ahepa528.org/>

I know that this is a difficult time for everyone but our health and our community comes first. I hope you are all coping well with this crisis and are all playing it smart with your health practices, so that we can all come out of this as safely and as soon as possible. Please let us work together to contact brothers on well being and reach out when needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

--WYNN STORTON,

AHEPA 528 President

P.S.: As brother Wynn has stated so well, this is an important time for us AHEPA brothers to come together. I appreciate the efforts of our **AHEPA 528 President, Wynn Storton**, who is

Continued on the next page ----->

AHEPA NEWS, Continued

leading the way for us all to reach out to the members of our community. Especially, his work with our St. George parish website, as well as our AHEPA Chapter website is indeed a blessing for each one of us.

+FR. THEODORE

HYMN TO THE EVER-VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

On the fifth Friday of Great Lent, Orthodox Christians pray the Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God. **This year, the fifth Friday of Lent is April 3rd.** In the recent publication from Patmos Press (from where our parish editions of the Akathist come), we read the following: *"The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary. It is a composite work by more than one of our Ecclesiastical Hymnographers, as we know it today. It was originally recited, or prayed in the year 626 A.D., in the Church of the Theotokos (The Mother of God) of Vlachernae in Constantinople on the occasion of the deliverance of the 'Queen City' from the siege of the Avars.* The Akathist Hymn as a whole outlines the personal virtues and characteristics of the Ever-Virgin, while also teaching us Her invaluable role in the salvation of humanity.

The Orthodox Church teaches that the Ever-Virgin Mary is the Mother of God. (In Greek: Theotokos). This is so, because we know that She gave birth to God in the flesh. Jesus Christ is God.

The Theotokos has at least three special and extremely important virtues which we ourselves must imitate: 1) Her humility; 2) Her "spiritual silence," and, 3) Her prayer for humanity.

First of all, St. John Maximovich, who wrote the book, *The Orthodox Veneration of the Mother of God*, says that in Her humility, the Mother of God viewed Herself as not worthy to even be a maid-servant to the virgin in Isaiah's prophesy in the Old Testament. When She heard the announcement from the Archangel Gabriel, indeed She ac-

cepted it with humility and submissiveness: *"Behold the handmaiden of the Lord. Let it be according to Your word."* (St. Luke 1:38).

Second, the Mother of God prayed without ceasing, "in silence," keeping the wonders of God in Her heart. The word "silence" in Greek is: *hysichia*. It could be said that the Mother of God is the Patron Saint of the Orthodox practice of Hesychasm - the practice of inner, meditative prayer. Rarely do we hear Her speaking throughout the narrations provided in the Holy Gospels. St. John Maximovich turns our attention to the Gospel passages which remind us that "She kept all these things in her heart" - such as when Christ was born and the shepherds came to worship Him (St. Luke 2:19); when Jesus, as a young child, was preaching in the temple (St. Luke 2:51), and even upon hearing the prophesy of St. Symeon, when She presented Jesus in the temple (St. Luke 34-38), and, above all while She was watching Her Son die upon the Cross. That She kept such events "in her heart," praying "in spirit," means that She had faith in God's Will. In Her silence, she inspires us with the knowledge that God's Will is truly a blessing for each one of us.

In this, finally, we know the Mother of God as the Intercessor, Who prays for us, as She prayed for the bride and groom at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. She is the Protectress of Christians. Thus, She has more honor than the angels of the Cherubim and the Seraphim. By imitating the Mother of God, we take upon ourselves the divine energies of God's love, through which we can co-create with Christ the Kingdom of God on earth.

+FR. THEODORE

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on **Wednesday, March 11, 2020**. The following items were discussed:



Stewardship. The number of pledges made for this year are roughly the same as they were last year for this time of year. The same is true for income figures compared to last year. We look forward to receiving any lagging pledges and Stewardship income as we get closer to Easter.

The Memorial Wall will be upgraded and in place for a short dedication service, scheduled for **Sunday, March 15, 2020**.

Annette Laskaris, Chairperson of this year's **Auditing Committee** gave the Auditing Committee Report, showing that our finances are indeed in very good order. This report will be given at the next General Assembly.

The **Decorating Committee Report** was given by the committee Chairperson, **Becky Allen**. Thoughts are being entertained about "window dressing" for the parish hall sliding doors leading into the courtyard -- issues being type of materials and costs.

Festival Results. Everyone expressed their joy in the fact that our 2020 Greek Festival was more successful than ever over the past few years. The "Festival Income Report" was shared with parishioners via *The Ladder* on March 1, 2020.

Surveillance Cameras. Our parish surveillance cameras are installed and running, covering the entrances to the church temple; the parish hall; the courtyard and the patio area.

Changes to our **Endowment Fund Policy** were studied. Efforts are being made to upgrade our Endowment Fund policy so that it is more up-to-date with present needs, considering that the initial policy was created in 2006 - 14 years ago.

The **agenda items** for the **Spring General Assembly** were discussed. The Spring Assembly is to be held on **Sunday, March 29, 2020**.

Easter Preparations. Palms for Palm Sunday; candles and candle-cups have also been ordered. Further details will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting at the very beginning of April.

COVID-19 PARISH PLANNING



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

During this time of "shelter-in-place," we want our St. George parishioners to feel free to contact **Fr. Ted and/or Deacon Euthym** regarding the spiritual challenges that confront us all. We must constantly be in each other's prayers, while, at the same time inspiring one another through phone contact and internet availabilities in the love of Christ our God.

We are planning to provide video online streaming services so that parishioners can follow Church services through Facebook, which is connected to our website: www.go-stgeorge.org. In addition, we will be receiving Archdiocese directives regarding specifics pertaining to conducting the Holy Week services.

Our Holy Metropolis of San Francisco is involving our clergy and parish leaders in a "**Covid 19 Contingency Planning**" program so that we can find ways to stay connected with each other spiritually, through prayer and "video worship," as well as through online Bible Study and inspirational discussions. **Deacon Euthym and Fr. Ted** will be continuing their daily emails of prayers and spiritual thoughts.

We direct our prayers of thanksgiving to our Lord for the tremendous efforts of **Rhonda Latkovic, Stephanie Christopoulos & Wynn and Ana Storton** who have offered valuable time and effort in helping us to stay spiritually connected via the internet. Bible Studies and meetings will be conducted using the *Zoom App* for computers and Facebook on our website: www.go-stgeorge.org.

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, THE ST. GEORGE PARISH CALENDAR BELOW IS ISSUED SO THAT PARISHIONERS CAN JOIN IN MEETINGS AND CHURCH SERVICES BY WAY OF CONNECTING ON *THE ZOOM WEBSITE LINKS and FACEBOOK* [available on our St. George parish website: www.go-stgeorge.org]. (Instructions are provided in the attached page "ZOOM.") MEETINGS AND CHURCH SERVICES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN THE FORM OF PHYSICALLY GATHERING TOGETHER.

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APRIL 2020

Times shown for Facebook viewing of Church Services and Zoom Meetings are subject to change. Time changes will be posted week-to-week in *The Ladder* and by special notification via email.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Sunday Divine Liturgy will be shared either through a continuous video or in parts on Facebook at St. George website (Facebook) - Facebook post: 8:30 a.m. or afternoon		1 Presanctified Divine Liturgy (behind closed doors) Facebook post 6:00 p.m. or later	2	1 Presanctified Divine Liturgy (behind closed doors) Facebook post-6:00 p.m. or later	4
5 ST. MARY OF EGYPT	6-Philoptochos Board Meeting- 11:30 a.m. (via Zoom)	7 Bible Study- 10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)	8-AHEPA Meeting- 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom) Presanctified Liturgy (closed doors) Facebook post-6-8 or later	9	10	11 SATURDAY OF LAZARUS Divine Liturgy (behind closed doors) Facebook post TBA
12 PALM SUNDAY: Facebook TBA	13	14 -Bible Study- 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)	15	16	17	18
Holy Week Services will be conducted in a format provided through directives from our Holy Archdiocese. A separate email will be issued, along with an update posted in the April 12th Ladder with more details regarding this year's Holy Week Services.						
19 Resurrection from the dead of Our God & Savior Jesus Christ	20	21 Bible Study-10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)	22	23 ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY	24	25
26 St. Thomas the Apostle	27	28 Bible Study-10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)	29	30		



Follow these steps to create an account:

1. Click this link <https://zoom.us/signup> or go to www.Zoom.com and click “Sign up, It’s Free”
2. Type in your email address (it does not need to be a work email address), or sign in with your Google or Facebook account.

Follow these steps to join a meeting:

1. Log on to Zoom
2. In the upper right hand corner of the screen there will be an option to Join a Meeting. If you can’t find that, click this link <https://us04web.zoom.us/join>
3. It’ll ask you to type in a Meeting ID or a Personal Link Name. Once we get the event calendar together. we will send everyone the Meeting ID’s for each event.
4. It may ask you to
5. Once you join a meeting, you may be asked to “Join With Computer Audio*” and either “Join With Video” or “Join Without Video”. There should be a box that says “Automatically Join audio by computer when joining a meeting.

*For the audio setting, there should be a box at the bottom which says “Automatically join audio by computer when joining meeting”. Check that box so your audio always connects and so the message doesn’t appear anymore.

For additional help check out these Zoom videos here: <https://zoom.us/resources>



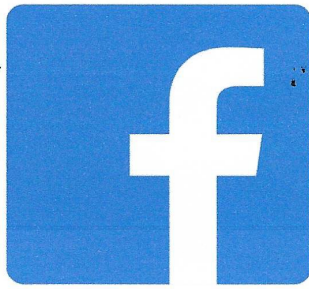
STEWARDSHIP BEGINS WITH YOU

So let each one
give as he
purposes in his
heart, not
grudgingly or of
necessity; for
God loves a
cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

**Thank you very much for your continued support of St. George!
Weekly Donations and Stewardship Pledges can be mailed in to
church office at P.O. Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261
On-Line donations coming soon!**



Follow these steps to create an account:

1. Click this link <https://www.facebook.com> or go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions on the page to create your free account.
2. To finish creating your Facebook profile, you may be asked to confirm your email address or mobile phone number.

Follow these steps to watch a livestream:

1. Log into Facebook
2. Go to the church Facebook page. Right now, there are two pages for our church, so please go to St. George Greek Orthodox Church (Not St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Palm Desert).

If you don't know how to get there, follow these steps:

If you are using a desktop computer: in the upper left hand corner of the screen there will be a search bar by the Facebook logo. Click this and type in St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

If you are on a mobile device in the upper right hand corner click the magnifier glass. Type in St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

3. Scroll down to the Videos section
4. When the live broadcast has started, you should see the name of the service and a red LIVE button. Click on the video and enjoy the service. If you don't see a LIVE button, it may be that the liturgy has not started.

2020 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL

St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert Gross Sales + Vendor & Advertising Income

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Festival Income		
Advertising	8,505.00	3,400.00
Booth Fees	11,500.00	10,250.00
Pre-Sales & Donations	2,807.00	3,016.00
Saturday Income	86,527.10	69,508.12
Sunday Income	109,967.15	78,398.60
Post-Festival Sales	1,576.72	3,687.70
Festival Gross Income	<u>220,882.97</u>	<u>168,260.42</u>
Festival Expenses	(150,474.16)	(137,968.34)
Net Festival Income	<u>70,408.81</u>	<u>30,292.08</u>

Preliminary Un-Audited Amounts

Nick A. Kaperonis,
Treasurer