

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

**74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260**

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: stgeorgepd@aol.com

THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN

PREPARING TO BE HUMBLE

There is a reason for why this week ahead of us is a "fast-free" week. It is the week of the Pharisee and the Publican, which is the beginning of the liturgical season known as the Triodion. The Triodion is a season which spiritually prepares us for Great Lent. We prepare for Lent by humbling ourselves before God. During this week of the Pharisee and the Publican, our Church seeks to keep us from being like Pharisees. Observing the discipline of fasting can easily cause us to develop Pharisaical pride. Before we can fast properly, we must acquire humility.

Indeed, it is a season to learn to be humble, which we cannot learn from our accomplishments, but rather from our love and faith in Christ our God. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, in his book entitled, *Great Lent*, writes that God is Himself humble! For anyone who knows God, it is evident that humility is a divine quality that completely fills heaven and earth. Unfortunately, it is nearly impossible for people today to comprehend humility and understand that everything that is perfect and good contains the quality of humility. (See pgs. 18-19).

Everything we do – including (and *Continued on page 2*)

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

(To be read by the priest and the faithful together):

O Christ our God, Who at all times and in every hour in heaven and on earth is worshiped and glorified; Who is patient, merciful and compassionate and Who loves the just, yet shows mercy to sinners; Who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come, in this hour receive our prayers. Bless all of us as we give glory to you in all that we do. Bless our dealings in life; bless those who are around us in every capacity and bless our families, relatives and friends. Guide us in wisdom to offer proper Stewardship of time, talent and treasure for our St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds and deliver us from danger, evil and distress. Surround us with Your Holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by their might, we may all attain to the unity of the Faith and to the full knowledge of Your unapproachable glory.

For to You is due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

[The Priest then blesses the faithful and their Stewardship Cards.]



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,
M.D.

Holy Communion Order

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

Υπάρχει λόγος για τον οποίο αυτή η εβδομάδα είναι εβδομάδα χωρίς νηστεία. Είναι η εβδομάδα του Φαρισαίου και του Τελώνου, που είναι η αρχή της λειτουργικής περιόδου του Τριωδίου. Το Τριωδιο είναι μια εποχή που μας προετοιμάζει πνευματικά για την Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή. Προετοιμαζόμαστε για τη Τεσσαρακοστή, ταπεινώνοντας τους εαυτούς μας ενώπιον του Θεού. Κατά τη διάρκεια της εβδομάδας του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου, η Εκκλησία επιθυμεί να μας προστατεύσει από την υπερηφάνειαν του Φαρισαίου. Κρατώντας μια πειθαρχία νηστείας μπορεί εύκολα να γίνει μια αιτία για την υπερηφάνειαν. Πριν από την νηστεία, πρέπει να είμεθα ταπεινοί.

Σίγουρα, είναι μια εποχή για να μάθουμε ταπεινότητα, την οποία δεν μαθαίνουμε από τα επιτεύγματά μας, αλλά από την αγάπη και την πίστη μας στον Χριστόν. Ο Π. Αλέξανδρος Schmemmann, στο βιβλίο του, *Η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή*, γράφει ότι Ο Θεός ο Ιδιος είναι ταπεινός! Σε όποιον γνωρίζει τον Θεό, είναι προφανές ότι η ταπεινότητα είναι στην πραγματικότητα μια θεϊκή ποιότητα, που γεμίζει εντελώς τον ουρανό και την γη. Δυστυχώς, είναι σχεδόν αδύνατο για τον σύγχρονο άνθρωπο να καταλάβει την ταπεινότητα. Δεν καταλαβαίνει ότι όλα όσα είναι τέλεια και υπέροχα κατέχουν την ποιότητα της ταπεινότητας. (σελ. 18-19).

Ας όλα όσα κάνουμε – ακόμη και την νηστεία – να γίνουν με ταπεινότητα, πράγμα που σημαίνει ότι τα κάνουμε με αγάπη και πίστη στον Χριστό που είναι ο Ιδιος ταπεινός.

+ Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

especially) fasting – is to be accomplished with humility, which means that we do whatever we do with love and faith in Christ.

Our Savior both defines and personifies the virtue of humility. St. John of the Ladder explains: “[Humility is known] only to those who have learned it by experience...a name and gift from God. Learn from Me (He says) indwelling -- from My illumination and action in you; for, ‘I am meek and humble in heart and in thought and in spirit...’ (St. Matth. 11:29).” (*Ladder of Divine Ascent*,“ Step 25, pg. 191). From Christ-like humility spring the other virtues of Christ: love, mercy and forgiveness. Through forgiveness there is the opportunity for repentance, made evident from one’s on-going greater spiritual maturity; inner peace; love and mercy towards others.

To the extent that we turn to our Savior and follow Him, we become like Him. Asking for God’s forgiveness grants us the power to forgive. In turn, forgiving others attracts God’s forgiveness all the more. The same can be said about seeking God’s mercy. In humbling himself before our Lord, the Publican was *justified* because of the *relationship* with God that would work from within him. Acts of *love* and *mercy* with faith in Christ bring *justification* to our lives.

This *interworking* of our request for God’s mercy and our ability to then give God’s mercy is seen in Psalm 50. Like the Publican, King David prayed: “*Have mercy on me, O Lord...cleanse me from my sin.*” His prayer does not stop with having been given mercy by God, but he continues to express how he will also be a co-worker with God: “*Create a clean heart within me; cast not Your Holy Spirit from me,*” and, “*I will teach transgressors Your ways and the ungodly will turn back to You...Open my lips and my mouth will declare Your praise.*” Truly, the acceptable sacrifice to God, is not found in the Law, or from tithes, or in “not being like others,” as the Pharisee would say, but, in “*a broken and humble heart*” like the Publican. This is because it is from Christ-like love and humility that mercy is born, since God is Himself both humble and merciful.

The Triodion season, then, is a time for us to seek *humility* by developing a *relationship* with our Lord Whose *mercy* is evident from all of His great gifts and from His constant forgiveness of our sins. In turn, we can also become loving and merciful toward others, despite any of our so-called “self-powered” accomplishments.

+FR. THEODORE

“I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1-- My heart overflowed with a good word; I tell my works to the King My tongue is the pen of a swift-writing scribe.

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

Verse 2- Grace was poured out on Your lips.

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

Verse 3- Therefore God blessed You forever.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *Tou lithou sfraghisthendos... (Tone 1)... (The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding watch oe'r Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose. And unto all the world did you give life whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that you are the Giver of Life. Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; glory unto Your Kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.)*

Hymn for the Entrance of Christ into the Temple: *Hhereh ke haritomeni Theotoke... (Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton echmaloton eleftherotis...(As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and the champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you, O Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn for this Sunday : *O Mitran Parthenikin...(You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.)*

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

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL -- Today's Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servants of God, **Tillie (Faith) Lockshire (40 days)**, beloved member of our St. George Philoptochos and member of our Parish Council, who also served as a member of our office personnel and **Presvytera Mary Kosturos (2 years)**, the beloved mother of **Paul Kosturos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life to **Tillie (Faith) Lockshire** and **Presvytera Mary Kosturos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Paul Kosturos** and his family, as well as to all of our Philoptochos and Parish Council members who worked with **Tillie (Faith) Lockshire**.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - We ask that all parishioners return their 2020 Stewardship Pledge Card today. We will pass a special tray for the pledge cards and Father Ted will offer a prayer and bless them at the altar.

PHILOPTOCHOS -- Today is **"Go Red for Women" Day** focusing on Women's Heart Health. Everyone wearing red will receive a special gift. Join us for coffee hour where we will be serving heart healthy snacks. Your coffee hour donations will be given to the American Heart Assn. and **matched** by **Philoptochos**. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us with the Swing-N-Hops event on El Paseo yesterday. We had a fun day selling Greek pastries and promoting the upcoming Greek festival!

FESTIVAL - **Volunteers to help with baking, set-up and manning of Festival stations**. Review the enclosed **"Volunteer for the Festival Form"** and see **Margarita Pagoulatos** in our parish hall to **sign up**.

TRIP TO GREECE -Our teacher of Modern Greek for Adults ("Survival Greek"), **Margarita Pagoulatos**, will be leading a Spring excursion to Greece: **"The Spring Experience"** -- from May 8-May 26th. All who are interested in participating are encouraged to speak with **Margarita Pagoulatos** at: **714-308-0266** or **Jose Alfredo Garcia** at: **310-988-3531** and see the "Spring Experience" fliers in our parish hall and check out the website: www.margreek2020.com.

ST. SOPHIA DEBUTANTE BALL 2021 – Information regarding St. Sophia's 2021 Debutante Ball is now available. Contact **Elizabeth Hagianakes-Hill** at **(818) 207-6365**, or at: saintsophiadebball@gmail.com.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, February 10th.....ST. HARALAMBOS
Orthros-8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 11th.....Bible Study- 10:00 p.m.
Adult Greek School Class-6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12th.....AHEPA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 13th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.
Parish Council Meeting- 2:30 p.m.

EPISTLE- 2 Tim. 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

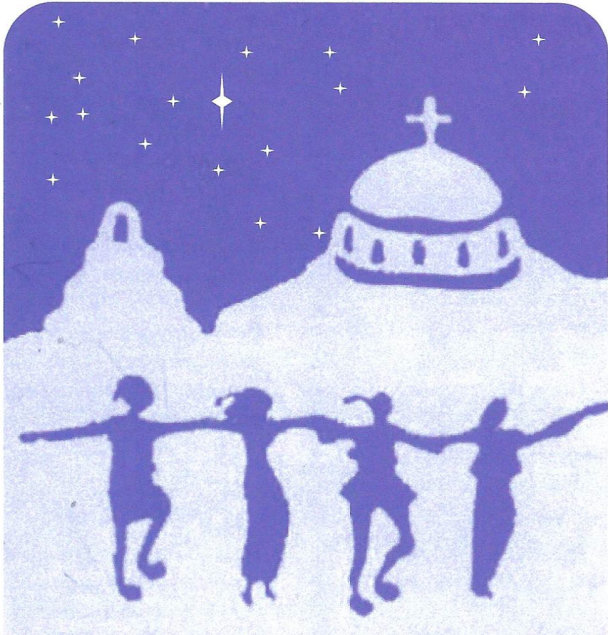
GOSPEL - Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - LOUKOUMADES

GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - GYROS - GREEK LAMB - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES

GREEK CHICKEN - MOUSAKA - SPANAKOPITA - DOLMADE - PASTICHIO - SOULYAKI - BAKLAVA - DOLMADES - GYROS

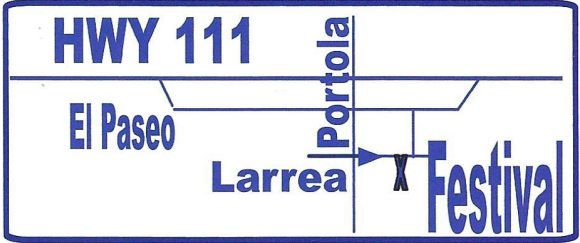


- AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD
- HEAVENLY PASTRIES
- GREEK FOLK DANCERS
- OUZO - RETSINA - METAXA
- ART & SOUVENIRS
- RELIGIOUS ITEMS
- CHURCH TOURS
- KIDZ ZONE
- FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Saint George
 Greek Orthodox Church
Proudly presents the
 24TH ANNUAL
**GREEK
 FESTIVAL**

in Palm Desert, CA
Saturday & Sunday
February 22nd & 23rd 2020
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!*



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 Luthern Church & Spiritual Center.
SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED.

ADMISSION \$3
 (Children 12 & under free)
 Active Duty Military, Police,
 Fire & EMT Free w/ ID

www.PDGreekFest.org
 t f PDGreekFest



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

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 \$14.00

PASTITSIO PLATE Layers of pasta & ground beef topped with creamy béchamel sauce & served with rice pilaf, Greek style green beans & bread \$15.00

MOUSAKA PLATE Layered eggplant & ground beef topped with creamy béchamel sauce & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$15.00

GEMISTA Bell peppers stuffed with rice ground beef, herbs and spices, served with Greek style green beans, & bread \$15.00



DOLMATHES PLATE Five grape leaves stuffed with ground meat rice herbs & spices & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$14.00

VEGETARIAN PLATE One spanakopita, one tiropita, Greek style green beans, rice pilaf, & bread \$14.00

LEG OF LAMB Marinated leg of lamb cooked on a spit over open flame & served with Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$17.00

GRECIAN COMBO PLATE Two dolmathes, one spanakopita, one tiropita, Greek style green beans, rice pilaf & bread \$15.00

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

SPANAKOPITA \$3.50

TYROPITA \$3.50

DOLMATHES \$1.25

BAKLAVA \$3.50

SOFT DRINKS 20 oz. plastic bottle \$3.50

BOTTLED WATER \$3.00

GYROS | GRECIAN GRILL | SALADS



GYROS Savory meat served atop warm, fluffy pita bread with onions tomatoes & tzatziki sauce \$9.00

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, tomato slices & Greek olives \$12.00

PORK SOUVLAKI Marinated pork on a skewer with bell peppers & onions cooked to perfection over open flame & served with feta cheese, pita bread, cucumbers tomato slices & Greek olives \$12.00

DOLMATHES PLATE Five dolmathes, feta cheese, cucumbers, Greek olives & pita bread \$12.00



SPANAKOPITA PLATE Two spanakopita (fillo dough stuffed with chopped spinach, variety of cheese bergs & spices), fresh tomato slices, sliced cucumbers, Greek olives, & pita bread \$12.00

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

LAMB CHOPS Four grilled lamb chops served with Greek fries \$16.00

CALAMARI Deep fried calamari \$8.00

MEZES PLATE Two lamb chops, one spanakopita, two dolmathes, pita bread, cucumbers, tomato slices & Greek olives \$16.00

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

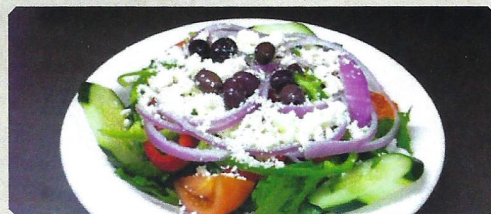
LARGE GREEK SALAD TOPPED WITH GYROS MEAT \$12.00

GREEK SALAD & LAMB CHOPS COMBO Greek salad, four lamb chops, & pita bread \$16.00

GREEK SALAD & SPANAKOPITA COMBO Greek salad & two spanakopita \$12.00

GREEK SALAD & DOLMATHES COMBO Greek salad & five dolmathes, & pita bread \$12.00

GREEK SALAD & SOUVLAKI COMBO Greek salad, chicken or pork souvlaki, & pita \$12.00



SPANAKOPITA \$3.50

TYROPITA \$3.50

DOLMATHES \$1.25

BAKLAVA \$3.50

SOFT DRINKS 20 oz. plastic bottle \$3.50

BOTTLED WATER \$3.00

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.

Volunteer for the Festival

February 22nd & 23rd 2020

What Kind of Person Are You?

In this world there are four kinds of people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

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

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



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

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



Festival Volunteer Form

Saturday & Sunday, February 22nd & 23rd 2020

»Name: _____

»Phone Number: _____ »Email Address: _____

1. Availability (Please check all that apply):

a. Set Up the Week Prior to Festival _____

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

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

d. Tear Down the Week Following Festival _____

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

Area	Chairperson(s)	Check if Interested
Set-up/Tear down	Doug Lyons	
Front Gate	Lou & Penny Karagianis	
Back Gate	Jim Christopoulos	
Greek Store	Rhonda Latkovic	
Kafenio	Margarita Pagoulatos	
Kids Area	Melissa Hawkins	
Loukoumathes	Krisann & Euthym Kontaxis	
Parking Lot Bar	Nick Krespis	
Courtyard Bar	tbd	
Dinner Line	Athena & Pete Snarskis	
Gyros	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Cooking	George Argyros & John Petalas	
Appetizers	Jim Christopoulos	
Yiayia's Attic	Chris Deleganis	
Accounting/\$ Run	Nick Kaperonis	
Kitchen/Food Run	George & Stacy Argyros	
Pastries	Ladies of Philoptochos	
Parking Lot Carts	Jim Christopoulos	