



FEBRUARY 9, 2025

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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Palm Desert, California 92260

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– 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.

THE LADDER SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE & THE TAX COLLECTOR



PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

“Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.”

EPISTLE— 2 Timothy 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—St. 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.”

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY PRAYER

“O Lord our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You showed us the way to salvation and have granted us the revelation of the heavenly mysteries. Accept our Stewardship Offering as an acceptable sacrifice and in return send down upon us the grace of your Holy Spirit. Look down on us, O Lord, and accept our Stewardship Commitment as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the offerings of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly sacrifices of Moses and Aaron and the peace offerings of Samuel. Accept also now, in your goodness, O Lord, these gifts from the hands of us sinners, making us worthy of the reward of the faithful and wise stewards on the fearful day of Your just judgment. For You are the God of mercy, love and salvation and we glorify You, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.”

## Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** 1) *“O Merciful One, You came from on high, and condescended to Your three-day burial to save us from passions. You are our life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory to You.”/Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ Σου τὸν θάνατον...*

2) *“Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from you, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in Your arms the Deliverance of our souls, who grants us Resurrection.”/Χαίρε και χαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε...[Hymn in honor of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple]*

3) **Kontakion:** *“Your birth sanctified the Virgin’s womb and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon. You have now come and saved us O Christ our God. In troubled times, as the only loving One, give peace to Your commonwealth and strength to those in civil authority, whom You love.”/Ο Μήτηραν παρθενικὴν αγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου...*

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** – Today’s Memorial Service is for the Eternal Rest and Salvation for the servant of God, **Presvytera Mary Kosturos (7 years)**, the beloved mother of **Paul Kosturos** and mother-in-law of **Constantina Kosturos**. May our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ grant Eternal Life and Salvation to **Presvytera Mary Kosturos** and may He grant peace and comfort to **Paul** and **Constantina Kosturos** and their entire family. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STEWARDSHIP** – Today is **“Stewardship Sunday!”** We will offer a Prayer of gratitude to God for His blessing and for the contributions from our parishioners of time, talent, and treasure in support of our Holy Church.

**PARISH COUNCIL** – In January the new St. George Parish Council members were sworn in, and election of officers was held. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, February 4th.

### The New Parish Council Members are:

Tasia Richards - President  
James Christopoulos - Vice-President  
Peter Snarskis - Treasurer  
Tina Veroulis - Secretary  
Deborah Pousen - Stewardship Chairman  
Nick Krespis  
Francine Vasilomanolakis

### A Note from your Parish Council President, Tasia Richards:

It is my pleasure and honor to serve as president of the Parish Council, a ministry of the church. This is my second year with Parish Council. I have been with this community for about 20 years. My goal is to keep our parishioners updated on a regular basis with what Parish Council is working on.

Deborah Pousen is our new Stewardship Chairman! You will see her around for Stewardship Sunday, collecting Stewardship Pledge 2025 cards. If you’d like to be on the Stewardship Committee, let her know.

### GREEK FESTIVAL –

- 1) We are most grateful for all of our volunteers! See enclosed **“Volunteer for the Festival Form”**
- 2) See the **Clover Register Training Flyer** that is posted in our parish hall. This system will be used for all Festival transactions.

Continued on the next page – – –>

## GREEK FESTIVAL, Continued

3) **Help is especially needed on Monday, February 10th** (melomakarona); **Tuesday, February 11th** (cutting baklava); **Wednesday, February 12th** (packaging), and **Thursday, February 13th** (glaktobouriko).

4) Please note that our **parish parking lot will be unavailable for the next two Sundays**. Also, next Sunday, February 16th, **Orthros will begin at 7:45 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy at approximately 8:45 a.m.** This will allow parishioners who are helping with the Festival to participate in the Divine Liturgy and then get ready for the Festival.

**PHILOPTOCHOS-** 1) It is our honor to welcome to our parish today, **Debbie George, President of the National Philoptochos Society** of our Church. We look forward to honoring her in our parish hall during coffee hour today. 1) **WEAR RED** this **Sunday, February 9th** in support of Women's Heart Health. A photo of all wearing participants in red will be taken at the end of the service. 3) **SAVE THE DATE** for the **Philoptochos Membership Event** scheduled on **Saturday, March 1st, 2025**. We encourage prospective members and all current members to attend. This includes both Orthodox women and men! The minimum annual "donation" for our chapter membership is \$50.00.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- Monday, February 10th to Friday, February 14th....Preparation Week for our annual St. George Greek Festival. Volunteers needed at our church every day throughout the week to help for set-up.
- Wednesday, February 12th.....Online Orthodox Christian Catechism – 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 14th....."Agiasmo" Service – 1:00 p.m. (We will bless the Festival stations with Holy Water.)
- Saturday & Sunday, February 15th & 16th....St. George Greek Festival – 10:00 am – 8:00 p.m. both days.
- *Next Sunday: Orthros-7:45 a.m./Divine Liturgy-8:45 a.m.*



American Heart Association. **Go Red** for women.

# NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY®

**Friday, Feb. 7**

**St. George WEAR RED DAY Sunday, February 9th**

**RED IS OUR COLOR. READY TO ROCK YOURS?**

We wear RED to be seen, to be counted, to be heard, and to make an impact. Women at every age, stage and season of life need our support as we take on our greatest health threat - cardiovascular disease.

**SHARE YOUR HEART AND JOIN US AS WE WEAR RED TOGETHER.**

WearRedDay.org | #WearRedDay

Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by **CVSHealth**.

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## Volunteer for the 2025 Festival

### *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 fully complete the back of this form to let us know at which location you are planning/hoping to be volunteering and when you are available. Once completed, please drop it off to Jim Christopoulos or at the church office ASAP. You may also contact Jim Christopoulos at 760-902-8460 or [goofy\\_328@yahoo.com](mailto:goofy_328@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. You will be contacted by Jim or the location chairperson to confirm your time/s or ask if you would be willing to assist in another area, depending on need. With your help, this year's festival will be the most successful ever! God. Bless!!*

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2025 Festival Volunteer Form

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

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

Availability: Saturday 2/15: \_\_\_\_\_ 9:45-3:00 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:00-8:15

Sunday 2/16: \_\_\_\_\_ 9:45-3:00 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:00-8:15

Set Up Prior to Festival beginning on Monday 2/10 \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Up After Festival beginning on Monday 2/17 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check off the location/s that you plan/hope to volunteer.*

Area	Chairperson/s	Check if Interested
Set-up/Clean-up	Pete Snarskis	
Bussing Tables*	Doug Lyons	
Front Gate	Susan Segaar	
Back Gate	Jim Christopoulos	
Greek Store	Rhonda Latkovic	
Kafenio	Margarita Pagoulatos	
Kids' Area	Julia Hayes	
Pastries	Carol Lyons	
Religious Booth	Athena Snarskis	
Loukoumathes	Euthym/Krisann Kontaxis	
Parking Lot Bar	Nick Krespis	
Courtyard Bar	Tasia Richards	
Food Tent	George/Stacy Argyros	
Food Tent Cashier	George/Stacy Argyros	
To Go Food	Chrisanthie Mehas	
Shuttle	Jim Christopoulos	
Cooking	George Argyros/John Petalas	
Appetizers	Jim Christopoulos	
Church Tours	Father Ted	
Yiayia's Attic	Debbie Pousen	

*\*Not needed if High School Volunteers are available*

01/26 /2025

## **St George 2025 Festival Register Training**

The good news is we are expecting +5,000 visitors at our Festival on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with good weather. This will amount to over 30,000 transactions at our booths.

The 2025 St George Festival will accept Credit / Debit Cards only for payment to improve transactional efficiency, eliminate manual bookkeeping and reduce the security concerns related to handling large amounts of cash.

We are using CLOVER DUO Electronic Registers again to process all transactions. These registers are like today's smartphones – ICON driven and intuitive after a short training session.

I highly recommend Chairman and Cashiers attend at least 1 Hands On class to be comfortable with the new machines. **See or contact Nick Latkovic with questions.**

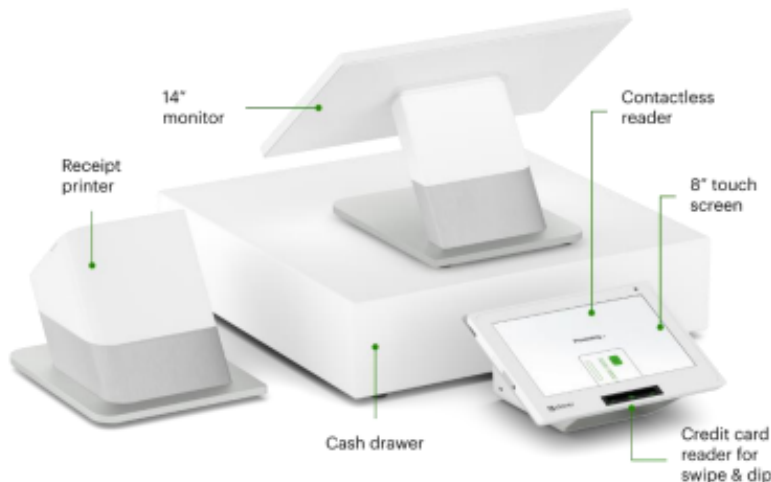
As with any new technology, there will be questions during the festival. We will have a roaming "Help Desk" team to assist cashiers with questions during the hours of operation.

**CLOVER Cashless Register user's training will occur in the church hall on the following days:**

**Monday 2/10/2025 @ 10 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules.**

**Tuesday 2/11/2025 @ 10 AM and 6:30 PM if requested due to work schedules.**

Please contact Nick Latkovic at 760-455-9727 to arrange another time if you cannot attend the above sessions.



"Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me" Matthew 18:5

# Kids 'N' Cancer/Camp Agape Fundraiser

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CRAFTING EVENT!

## WORD BEAD BRACELETS

🌿 **Sunday, February 2nd & 9th**



*Come join Sunday School and Philoptochos during coffee hour, to create inspirational bracelets with words of encouragement and a variety of colorful beads and many beautiful embellishments!*



**All are welcome—bring your friends and family!**

**Give your heart to a child!**



**Each bracelet is available for a \$10 donation**  
(plus a free key chain!)

**Visit Our Religious Bookstore Booth!**

**Greek Fest -February 15th & 16<sup>th</sup>**

**And explore a selection religious books, prayer ropes, wooden crosses, and more!**

**Sponsored by:**

~~~~~  
St. George  
Ladies  
Philoptochos & our  
Sunday School  
students &  
families.

100% proceeds to

~~~~~  
San Fran  
Metropolis  
Kids 'N' Cancer  
/Camp Agape  
Ministry that is  
dedicated to  
providing support  
for children  
afflicted with  
cancer and their  
families. This  
beloved ministry  
offers a  
compassionate  
and caring  
environment,  
exemplary of  
Christ's  
unconditional  
love, along with  
an opportunity to  
shape meaningful  
friendships and  
create precious  
memories.

**Call Rhonda @ 714-875-4661 or Mrs. Athena @ 219-313-6940**

**Nothing Can  
Stop the**

## **Love – Virtual Camp Agape Shines**

Camp Agape. Two small words, yet they are full of power and love. For over 35 years, Camp Agape has been a signature ministry for the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos, and not even the Coronavirus pandemic could stop the love that is shared unconditionally with these children who are battling cancer and their families.

"I have had the privilege of meeting several Camp Agape families and their courage and resilience are inspiring. I know that Camp Agape is a highlight for them, but the circumstances of the pandemic, coupled with their compromised health conditions, made it impossible for any type of in-person gathering, but the Metropolis Philoptochos, with their boundless enthusiasm and love, brought Camp Agape into their homes, and made an indelible mark on their hearts, especially during this time of great need," remarked His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas, along with Board and Chapter members, quickly mobilized so that these special families did not miss out on the opportunity to participate in Camp Agape in a virtual format. The program included reunion night with former Camp Agape families, a trivia challenge, scavenger hunt, family puzzles, campfire songs, and sharing many memories of this life-changing camp.

"Sharing agape is at the heart of our ministry. We often say when promoting Camp Agape, 'Give your heart to a child', and this is what is at the core of our efforts," stated Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas. "I am proud to be a part of this truly life-changing program. And while we have sadly lost many of our campers to cancer over nearly four decades, we also celebrate the survivors – the thrivers – who have conquered the mountain called cancer and continue to live life to its fullest."

One unique component about Camp Agape is that it is not just for the children who are battling cancer. Rather, it is for the entire family – parents, siblings, and grandparents, too! Agape boxes – filled with love, activities, camp memorabilia and more – were sent to each family, and these care packages were a welcome surprise. Each year, the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos offers four Camp Agape programs in the following locations: Orme School in Mayer, AZ; Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA; Whispering Winds in Julian, CA; and Camp Angelos in Corbett, OR. For 2020, Camp Agape was planned for each of these four camps in a virtual setting and welcomed over 100 families to celebrate the spirit and love of Camp Agape.

There are many memorable experiences associated with Camp Agape over the years, but the one thing that stands out is the hospitality – the true philoxenia – offered by the Metropolis Philoptochos to the Camp Agape families. Included in their care packages were restaurant and Amazon gift cards, puzzles, board games, arts and crafts supplies, Camp Agape t-shirts with the 2020 logo "United in Peace and Love", and a special gift for each camper from their personal wish list.

The Kids 'n' Cancer – Agape Celebration of Love is a yearly event held to bring awareness to the ministry by providing a beautiful, fun-filled afternoon giving those in attendance the opportunity to participate in fundraising, meet Camp Agape families, and fellowship together



Kids 'N' Cancer – Give your heart to a child.