

The Voice of St. George

St. George Greek Orthodox Church Fresno, CA | April 2026



Rev. Fr. James C. Pappas, Presiding Priest | Rev. Fr. Christian Burkhard, Associate Priest
Rev. Fr. Deacon S. Michael Makredes | Connor Seraphim Kruse Pastoral Assistant/Youth Director

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Proclaim His Resurrection: Seven Miles with Jesus?

By, Father Christopher Makiej

One of the most profound passages of Scripture is the story of Jesus appearing to two men walking on a road on the day of His Resurrection. Luke and Cleopas were traveling to the village of Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

Suddenly, the Resurrected Jesus appeared and walked with them, although at first they did not recognize Him.

The events and conversation that occurred on this seven-mile journey with Jesus provide us with powerful and practical teachings that can invigorate our spiritual lives. Please open your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35.

Evaluate Our Road

First of all, we see in verse 13 that Luke and Cleopas are traveling on a road. They are on a seven mile journey. And so this passage has the backdrop and image of a road being traveled.

Being a Christian is very much like being a traveler on the road. Bishop Kallistos Ware writes: "our situation, say the Greek Fathers, is like that of the Israelite people in the desert of Sinai; we live in tents, not houses, for spiritually we are always on the move. Christianity is more than a theory about the universe, more than teachings written down on paper; it is a path along which we journey" (The Orthodox Way).

What is the road that we are traveling? Are we spiritually on the move?

What is the direction of our marriages, our children, our families? Where are we going? So many people in our society today are spinning in many different directions morally and spiritually with no real purpose.

And so the first teaching from the road to Emmaus is simply a call to evaluate our road. Evaluate the purpose and direction of your life.

More Talking and Discussing of Jesus

Secondly, in verses 14 and 15, we see that the two disciples are talking and discussing the events and teachings of Jesus. And as they were talking, the Resurrected Jesus Himself drew near and went with them! Jesus always responds when we focus our attention on Him. Immediately as the disciples conversed about Jesus, He came into their midst and walked with them.

Dear friends, we need more talking and discussing about Jesus! And when we talk about Him and pray to Him and meditate on Him, there He is, in our presence. A very pious Geronta on Mt. Athos once told me that no matter where you are or what you are doing, simply call on the name of Jesus, and there He will be, in your midst. It's sort of like the song by James Taylor: "just call out my name, and you know wherever I am, I'll come running."

When was the last time you talked and discussed Jesus? Think about this week, your conversations with your spouse, family or friends. How many discussions do we have about Jesus and our Faith? Our children especially need to hear their parents frequently discussing and talking about Jesus, His Holy Word, and the teachings of our Church.

But it's a challenge to talk about Jesus today. There is so much junk talk in society; so much superficial hype and spin in the news and media. No wonder so many are dazed and confused about the direction and purpose of their lives. Dr. Robert Shaw, author of "The Epidemic," writes that "Parents find themselves enslaved by a materialistic, overachieving society that leads them to spend so many hours at work and so much money that they can't make the time to do the things necessary to bond with their children."

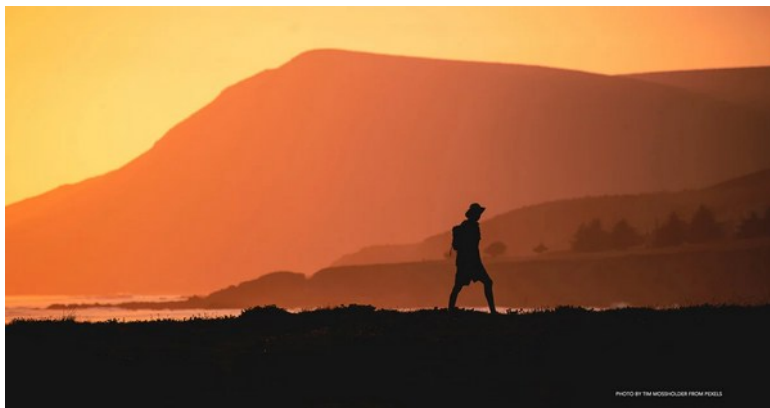
Friends, Jesus promises to give us peace and purpose, but we must seek first to shift our priorities and focus more of the attention of our lives on Him.

Listening: The Language of Love

Going forward, another teaching from this passage occurs in verses 17-19.

Jesus asked them what they were talking about (He was still preventing them from recognizing Him). Cleopas answered and said, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?"

"What things?" Jesus asked an open-ended question. He obviously knew what they were discussing, yet He wanted to listen to them. 2



And they opened up and talked at length, and He listened. It is said that "listening is the language of love." Jesus loves us and He always listens. He wants us to talk to Him in prayer. He wants to listen to our everyday concerns and issues.

Also, in a very practical way and through the example of Jesus, we can seek to be better listeners in our everyday relationships. We are called to love each other. And love is listening. Be an active and aggressive listener to others. Ask open-ended questions. Put the other person first. Be present in all your relationships. And in so doing, we become more like Christ.

Correct our Understanding

Moving forward on the road with Jesus, we see that He clears up the confusion and misunderstanding of the two disciples who had an incorrect belief in who Jesus really was. Verse 21 says that the disciples were disappointed in Jesus because they "had hoped that He was going to redeem Israel."

You see, some of the followers of Jesus thought He was a "military Messiah." They wanted Him to overthrow the Roman occupation of Jerusalem. Others thought He was simply another prophet or moral teacher. Very few could comprehend the immense charismatic depth and presence on earth of the God-Man, Jesus, whose purpose was to reveal the ultimate truth of our existence here on earth, bear the sin of the world on the Cross and then to be Resurrected from the dead!

And so it is with many people today. They have an incorrect and confused understanding of who Jesus really is. They merely think of Jesus as a religious leader or prophet like Mohammed or Buda. Books like "The Divinci Code" and others distort and confuse the true nature of Jesus.

So also do many contemporary Liberal Protestant Christian Churches not believe that Jesus is God. These "churches" have become social clubs of political correctness and tolerance of any theory about Jesus. They have become places where personal immorality is viewed as a "civil right."

Even many Greek Orthodox are confused and misunderstand the truth about Jesus. I remember a young married couple who attended a Bible Study for the first time in their lives. They confessed that they never heard Jesus talked about much in Church and had no idea what the Crucifixion and Resurrection really meant. These are people who grew up attending Church!

Open The Scripture

Jesus corrects the understanding of the disciples and clears up their confusion in verse 27 as He opened the Scripture to them and "expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Friends, we need to open our Bibles and open our minds to allow the Holy Spirit to correct our understanding about who Jesus really is! Jesus demonstrated on the road to Emmaus that the only way to correct and true understanding of Himself is through His Holy Word. Through the Bible, God reveals His plan and purpose for our lives. Its astonishing to me when I see people fly through books like "Lord of the Rings" or "The Divinci Code," yet they say they have no time to read the Bible!

I love the quote from Saint John Chrysostom: "I have always suggested, and will not stop suggesting, that you not only heed what is said in church, but also constantly occupy yourself in reading the Divine Scriptures at home." Ten minutes a day of reading and meditating on God's Word can open our minds, change our lives, clear our thoughts and correct our understanding of the truth about who Jesus really is and His purpose for our lives. The disciples said it themselves in verse 32, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us."

Going Further

As Jesus and the two disciples approached the village of Emmaus, verse 28 tells us that He indicated that He was going further. Jesus wants to take us further in our faith and understanding of Him. Yet many will continue to resist Him. What's keeping you from going further?

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus loves us and wants us to go further in our relationship with Him. He wants to stir a positive change in our lives. He wants us to become more like Him: kind, patient, prayerful, forgiving, loving. He wants us to truly know and experience our purpose here on earth. And He wants us to make a difference in the lives of others by being useful in service to His Church.

Also in this passage, verse 30 tells us that Jesus was made known to the two disciples as He sat with them and "broke bread." Jesus broke bread with them in the same way as during the Last Supper. This scene is an image of the Eucharist, as Jesus is also spiritually made known to us every Sunday when we receive Him. Every Sunday Liturgy then becomes a type of "Emmaus" at which we experience the Resurrected Christ and then go and proclaim His Resurrection to the world as did His disciples (verse 33).

May we surrender and follow Him on the road of our lives now, and always and forever. Amen!

**Parish Priests, Staff &
Parish Council**

Clergy

Rev. Fr. James C. Pappas
Rev. Fr. Christian Burkhard
Rev. Fr. Dcn. S. Michael Makredes

Staff

Pastoral Assistant/ Youth Director
Connor Seraphim Kruse
Office Administrator
Kristin Criado

Parish Council

Mark Archon - President
Peter Vallis-Vice-President
Amalia Booras- Secretary
George Papangellin- Treasurer
Daniel Booras, Gina Kazanjian,
Ramzi Khachadourian, Bassel
Khoury, Elaine Long, Dio Stefanop-
oulos, John Stratigos & Kara
Zografos

Sacrament Coordinators

Gina Kazanjian & Carre McDonough

**Ministries and Groups at
St. George**

Altar Guild

Rev. Fr. Dcn. Michael Makredes

Altar Servers (Allocates)

Rev. Fr. Dcn. Michael Makredes

Audio/Visual Crew

Zane West & Toli Mikell

Bible Study

Rev. Fr. Jim Pappas

Bookstore

Madelyn Jones & Cindi Boukidis

Catechism

Rev. Fr. Dcn. Michael Makredes

Choir

Themis Michailides

Greek Dance Group

Amanda Sopp & Demitra Vallis

Greek Language Classes

Niki David

Grief Support

Fr. Jim Pappas & Shirley Bundros

Men's Group

Rev. Fr. Christian Burkhard

Mom & Tots

Presv. Maria Burkhard

Prosforo Baking Guild

Elaine Sotiropoulos

Seniors Group

Rev. Fr. Jim Pappas

St. George Outreach Ministry (SGOM)

Eve Taylor & Rev. Fr. Christian
Burkhard

Welcome & Stewardship Committees

Mark Archon

Women's Group

Carre McDonough & Ann Crossman

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Connor Seraphim Kruse

Athena Philoptochos Society

Mia Papangellin

AHEPA/Sons of Pericles

Jim Tousounis

DOP/Maids of Athena

Helen Sexton

Through the Grapevine

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule for April

April 5th: Mark Archon, Bassel Khoury, Gina Kazanjian & Elaine Long

April 12th: All

April 19th: Amalia Booras, Daniel Booras, Dio Stefanopoulos & George
Papangellin

April 26th: Peter Vallis, Ramzi Khachadourian, John Stratigos & Kara
Zografos

Coffee Brew Crew Schedule for April

April 5th: Charlie Long & Ernie Sopp

April 12th: Nick Svigos & Michael Winton

April 19th: Ramzi Khachadourian & Connor Kwasniewski

April 26th: Ramzy Khoury & Jeremy Logan



Prosforo Guild Schedule For April

April 5th: Ramzi Khachadourian, Elaine Long, Dcn. Phyllis Makredes
& Carre McDonough

April 12th: Kelly Bottcher, Onne & Demi Mehas, Ernie Sopp, Peter
Theodore & Melissa Kokalis

April 19th: Kara Zografos

April 26th: Marie Antoniou



Sunday Epistle Readers Schedule for April

April 5th: English- Ernie Sopp & Greek: Evelyn Boosalis

April 12th: Pascha

April 19th: English- Lorenzo Fierro & Romanian- Sorin Mazare

April 26th: English- John Schultz & Arabic- Aida Nassar

Celebrations

Is it someone's birthday or anniversary?

Maybe another celebration? Let Kristin in the church office know so
that we can wish them a Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary or extend
our Congratulations.

April Birthdays: Luke Garner 4/28, Alex Carter 4/7, Melina Kazanjian

4/12, Christine Akel 4/14, Athena Matsikas 4/18, Jim Boosalis

4/20, Evangelia Pappas 4/23, Christine Baziuk 4/26, Fotina

Alfirieis 4/26, Rick Kazanjian 4/27, Anona Arroyo 4/28, An-

driana Antoniou-Paras 4/28, Bill Natsues 4/28, & Camelia

Banea 4/28

Coffee Hour Hosts for April & May

◇ April 5th: The Antoniou, Papangellin, Sopp and Sotiropoulos fami-
lies

◇ April 12th: Pascha Potluck Picnic

◇ April 19th:

◇ April 26th: **Open**

◇ May 3rd: **Open**

◇ May 10th: Charlie & Elaine Long and the St. George Youth Group

◇ May 17th, May 25th & May 31st: **Open**

If you would like to host a Sunday coffee hour, please contact Pauline
Karam at 559-930-5648, or Kristin in the church office at 559-233-0397.

Sacraments

Baptisms in March

March 7th: Jasmin
Alyounan & Julian
Alyounan

March 21st:
Josephine Bennett

March 29th:
Meagan Turner

Chrismations in March

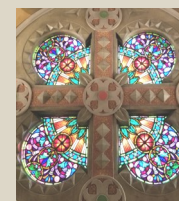
March 29th: Connor
Kwasniewski, Katie
Sorensen & Dominic
Cavalla



Memorials in April

April 26th:
Bess Pappas 1-year

*May her memory be
eternal*



Confessions During Lent & Holy Week

In order to better serve our growing parish, we will continue our current system of scheduling appointments for confessions during Lent. Please call Kristin at 559-233-0397 or email her at sggoc@comcast.net. We will not be able to accommodate walk-ins for confessions. **Please be advised, there will be no confessions or pastoral appointments during Holy Week.**

Blessing of the Paschal Food Baskets



Blessing of the food baskets is a centuries old tradition in which people from all Orthodox backgrounds participate. The baskets are filled with foods that are used to break the fast: eggs, cheese, meats, and any other festive items to celebrate the Resurrection. A table will be located outside the North door of the church for your baskets. The baskets will be blessed following the Great Canon/Resurrection service, which begins at 11pm on Saturday, April 11th.

Magiritsa Soup

Join us for a traditional Magiritsa soup as a parish following the Great Canon/Resurrection service. The Magiritsa, lamb and rice soup, is a traditional way to break the fast of Great Lent by introducing meat and dairy back into our diet.

Service Time Change for Sunday, April 12th

Friendly reminder that on **Sunday, April 12th**, we will not hold our usual morning services. Instead, please join us at **1:00 PM for an Agape service**, followed immediately by our community picnic. Regular Sunday Orthros and Divine Liturgy times will resume the following week. See important information regarding the picnic in the announcement below.

Pascha Picnic Table Reservations

Join us for the Pascha Picnic on **Sunday, April 12th after the 1:00 Agape Service** for fellowship, fun, music and youth activities. Table reservations are at capacity and are now **CLOSED**. There will be a limited number of tables & chairs available at a first come, first serve basis.

Please bring your own food, dessert, beverages, paper goods, utensils, tablecloths, etc. When done, we kindly ask everyone to clean up their area before leaving. To help support the event and offset the costs of chair rentals, youth activities, security, set-up/tear down and cleaning, a **free-will donation** will be gratefully accepted during the picnic. A suggested donation of \$5 per person may be made during the picnic by Venmo, cash, or check. Envelopes with more information will be available on each table.



SATURDAY OF
LAZARUS
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
&
PALM CROSS MAKING



Saturday, April 4th
Orthros @ 9AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9:45AM
Pancake Breakfast & Palm
Cross Making to Follow



ST. GEORGE TEEN GROUP
**PICKLEBALL
TOURNAMENT**

**04 APRIL,
2026**
START AT 2PM
UNTIL 3:30PM

**LAZARUS
SATURDAY!**

JOIN THE FUN!


**AGES
12-18**

TEAMS TBD
WHERE?
**ST. GEORGE
COURT YARD**

MORE INFORMATION
KRUSES6GOC@GMAIL.COM

**HOLY
FRIDAY
YOUTH RETREAT**



**April 10, 2026
10AM-3PM
Burial Service
3PM-4PM**

K-8th Grade
Info: krusesggoc@gmail.com



Scan to QR
Code
to Sign-Up

St. George Outreach Ministries Lenten Donations

On February 6, 2026, SGOM members toured the newly built Marjaree Mason Center on Bullard Avenue. The layout and attention to detail in addition to the many services offered to victims of domestic violence is truly impressive. Using funds donated by St. George's generous parishioners, SGOM delivered a gift of toiletries on the MMC wish list.

SGOM also donated \$500 to the Pregnancy Care Center on Olive Avenue for the purchase of mother and baby items for their baby store.



St. George Community Scholarships 2026

St. George has two scholarship opportunities available for parishioners. The Athanasia G. Harris Memorial Scholarship and the George and Pam Sarantos/Moosios Family Scholarship. Links to download the applications for both scholarships are located on the parish website: <https://www.stgeorgefresno.org/scholarships-2026>. Printed copies of the scholarship applications are located in the Narthex.

Completed applications must be received by the church office *no later* than the date stated on the application. No late submissions or incomplete applications will be considered. Please see applications for more information.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE Scholarship

The Daughters of Penelope District 21, 2026 Scholarship Applications are available online now at dop21.org/scholarships. Your application must be submitted online by April 15, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL AWARDS:

1. Must have minimum 3.0 GPA
2. Must have a mother or grandmother, or father or grandfather, who has been a Daughter of Penelope or an Ahepan in good standing in Golden Gate District 21 for a minimum of two years before the application year and has attended four meetings during the fiscal year.
3. Must be accepted or currently enrolled in a college or university program.
4. Cannot be a former recipient of the same level award.

If you have questions, please reach out to Madelyn Jones or Lorraine Bukilica.

AHEPA Fresno Chapter Scholarship

The Order of AHEPA Chapter #151 will be providing scholarships to qualified college students and graduate students from the St. George parish. Please contact Fr. Dcn. Michael Makredes for more information, including eligibility requirements. Deadline to submit your scholarship application is May 1, 2026.

Greek Fest 2026 Prep

It is that time of year already! Starting in May we will begin Greek Fest prep. Check out the May calendar on page 14 to see the upcoming baking and cooking days. Please note that due to possible unforeseen circumstances, all prep dates are subject to change.



Planning Meetings for Greek Fest 2026

Looking to get more involved at St. George? The [Greek Fest](#) is the perfect opportunity! Planning meetings begin later this month, and we invite all parishioners to join us. If you're interested in helping make this year's festival a success, please join us on the following dates:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ◇ April 1st, 7:00pm | ◇ August 12th, 6:30pm |
| ◇ April 29th, 6:30pm; | ◇ August 26th, 6:30pm |
| ◇ May 27th, 6:30pm | ◇ September 9th, 6:30pm |
| ◇ June 17th, 6:30pm | |



The Athena Philoptochos Society



Membership! If you haven't yet paid your 2025-2026 Membership, please submit your \$40 membership to Cindi Boukidis or Mia Papangellin.

Red Pascha Eggs: We will be dyeing over 400 eggs for both the Good Friday Retreat and the Anastasi Service.

Lenten Pillow Project: ALL members of St. George are welcome to join in our Lenten Project. This is Year 6 of our Memory Pillow Project for Community Medical Centers. For the past 5 years, we have provided 300 pillows a year for their social workers to use in the Comfort Care units. We are again preparing 300 pillows and will be meeting on April 23rd and April 24th to stuff and sew pillows. We will provide Fasolada and salad for lunch on these work days. We thank Fotini Alfieris and Diane Chrisman for bringing this ministry to us and Cindi Boukidis for taking the lead!

Calendared Events:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, March 31, 10am | - Athena Philoptochos Chapter Meeting |
| Wednesday, April 8, 4pm | - Egg Dying Set-up & Egg Boiling |
| Thursday, April 9, 9am until done | - Pascha Egg-Dying |
| Sunday, April 12, | -Pascha |
| Thursday, April 23, 10am – 5pm | -Lenten Pillow Project |
| Friday, April 24, 10am – 5pm | -Lentin Pillow Project |

Linus Project

The Athena Philoptochos will be starting a new ongoing project of making blankets for Project Linus to help children of all ages in need. Donations of fabric suitable for blankets or quilts, sewing machine thread, yarn, and quilt batting are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations for supplies are also welcome. Stay tuned for additional information coming soon about blanket making get-togethers. For more information please contact Dorie Sexton 559-289-1784 (text only, please) or email dorie_s_2000@yahoo.com.



*You are cordially invited Fancy Luncheon Circle of Sisters
"ONCE UPON A TIME..."*



DATE: Saturday the 18th of April 2026

LOCATION: St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church Social Hall: 3502 N. First Street

Cost: \$35.00

MENU: Savory Mediterranean Chicken, Cold Rice Salad, Southern Carrots

ENTERTAINMENT: Noni's Boutique Fashion Show

REFRESHMENTS: No host bar Mimosa and Wine

RAFFLE: 50/50 Raffle Cash Split and Second Chance Drawings

RSVP: Rodika Nika by March 30, 2026; (559) 942-1008 or rnika@fresnohousing.org

St. George Youth Ministry

Kali Anastasi St. George family,

The last couple months of our youth program have been very exciting and bore much fruit.

Below I will discuss 6 areas that we have had growth.

Items:

Sunday school building rearranging and reorganization

New Family Chapel/Nursery

GOYA Central Valley Lenten Retreat Recap & Theme

Hope & Joy to expand in 2026-27 school year

Youth Program Donations

Camp Scholarships



I: Sunday school building rearranging and reorganization

For those of you who have taken a walk through the Sunday School building you might have noticed that the Catechism Room has been reorganized to seat more people and make better use of the space. This got Clergy and myself discussing how we might be able to do the same for other classrooms. Why do this? Well, we had a couple challenges to solve. First, thank God we are constantly growing, and as such we simply need more space to accommodate this growth. Second, we have been using each room in the Sunday School building as a storage room. This then led to many unknown and known items to be squirreled away and made it difficult for us to know what teaching and ministry material we had at our disposal. We needed to organize each room better and move classes around to better suit the needs of our parish. As such we will have one room (room 2) dedicated to being a supply & storage room for our Sunday school programs and youth ministry resources. This will greatly help us to see what we have and easily access our material in one place.

2: New Family Chapel/Nursery

An additional change that has occurred and will continue to develop in the coming month (maybe two), is the creation of a new “Family Chapel/Nursery” in Sunday school rooms 8 & 9. With the massive influx of families into our parish, we have seen a great need to expand our standing room and accommodations for our families when not in the sanctuary. Our little nursery in room I served us very well for many years but did not provide much room for multiple families to be in there at a time. On a typical Sunday liturgy, it was difficult to have more than three families in there at a time. Three to four parents with one to two children each, would fill up the space very quickly. This would leave parents to wander the property during liturgy or walk around the courtyard due to not having a place to participate in the service or watch their kids. Walking outside with their children will not be a conducive so solution come summertime, or during winter storms.

To answer this wonderful challenge of growth within our parish, we have decided to dedicate rooms 9&10 (conjoining rooms) to be one larger family chapel/nursery. The goal of that room will be to serve as an overflow for families with young children on Sundays. It will be beautified and decorated in a way to better evoke a prayerful atmosphere while still being conducive to child’s play during the services. I would like to also give a special shout out of gratitude to our wonderful Sunday School teachers who have graciously moved their classrooms to another room to provide this solution. You are loved and appreciated, and your willingness to serve this community is worthy of admiration. Thank you!

If you are interested in helping with this chapel beautification project, please contact me at krusesggoc@gmail.com.

3: GOYA Central Valley Lenten Retreat Recap & Theme

On the 4th weekend of Lent (March 20-22nd) the Metropolis of San Francisco Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, hosted its first ever Central Valley GOYA Lenten Retreat. Our teens and I drove about three hours north to the St. Sava Orthodox Retreat Center in Jackson CA. While there we learned about “Acquiring the Holy Spirit”. We visited the relics of St. Sabastian of Jackson at the church of St. Sava, the first Serbian church established in America. We gave the teens their own personal prayerbooks with 10 different short prayers that can be prayed throughout the day. For example: The Jesus Prayer, a prayer before starting your day, a prayer before a task, a prayer after a task, a prayer before a meal, a prayer of thanksgiving after a meal, prayer for your guardian angel, a prayer before bed, etc. There were 30 campers from all over the Central Valley and we had roughly 15 volunteers to help with cooking, cleaning & counseling the highschoolers. God willing we will be able to attend next year as this was truly a beautiful experience for our teens. [A special thanks to our Athena Philoptochos for sponsoring scholarships for our kids to attend.](#)

Retreat Theme Reflection: “Acquire the Holy Spirit”

Some may be familiar with this theme but many of our young ones were new to this lesson. In a world rife with anxiety and confusion, how do we as Orthodox Christians live a peaceful life in Christ? How do we cultivate a prayer life when our schedules always seem to fill up and prayer becomes “just one more thing” for us to do. The reality is that prayer should be something we find rest in. Christ should be someone we can come to for 5 second, 5 minutes or 50 minutes at a time. Prayer doesn’t need to be fancy or long, it can be simple. It is in doing these simple prayers throughout our day that we begin to make Christ our foundation in a

Continued on next page

world of chaos and “to do’s”.

The lesson is simple, what is healthier? To go for a run once a month, or to go for a 5-10 minute walk every day? Prayer life is similar. Should we have an hour-long conversation with Christ once or twice a month? Or would it perhaps be better to spend many short moments talking with him each day? It is in remembering to cross yourself before we eat our meals, it is in saying the Jesus Prayer before beginning a task (Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner). It is in doing these little things throughout our day that we begin to change the fabric of our souls. We begin to be like St. Seraphim of Serov who physically shown brightly with the uncreated light because he had acquired The Holy Spirit. It is in acquiring the Spirit of Peace (The Holy Spirit), that all our confusion and anxiety is placed into Christ’s arms. It is like a dark room that has a gentle light placed into its center, which then grows brighter each time we light an additional candle with our little prayers. Before long the whole of the room will glow with the warm light of Christ.

4: Hope & Joy expansion:

Hope & Joy will expand to two different age groups beginning the 2026-27 school year. We will follow the metropolis model with has TK-2nd grade as Hope. And Joy will be 3rd-5th grade. The tentative plan is for both age groups to still meet on Tuesday nights from 6-7pm, though they will have separate activities and classes in two different areas on the property. An additional idea is to meet to everyone other week, Hope would meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday and Joy 2nd & 4th. When a final decision is made, communication will go out ahead of time. This wont go into effect until the beginning of the Fall school semester.

5: Youth Program Donations:

First off, thank you to everyone who has donated so many items to the youth program of St. George over the years. We will try to be a bit more intentional about what items we have on the property for the programs. I would like to set up a St. George Youth Program “Wish List” that folks can select vetted items for the program. We have a plethora of donated items that I am organizing and planning activities to use them. Ideally, I would like to proactively plan events and then place needed items on the wish list, instead of receiving unknown items and then retroactively finding an activity to incorporate the donated items. Again, thank you for everyone’s generosity, I pray the spirit of giving continues and that this helps our program to become more streamlined.

6: Camp Scholarships:

Summer Camp Scholarships are available on a first come first serve bases. **There are 6 scholarships available and there is a prerequisite to receiving a scholarship.** The application process will consist of a simple 4-6 sentence paragraph letter emailed to me answering, “What do I hope to gain from this camp experience?”. We are asking that all parents still pay the \$100 deposit when registering their child. We are hoping that all our kids from St. George are going to go together for week 3. If you would like to sponsor a camper and donate a scholarship, please reach out to me via email. My email is krusesggoc@gmail.com

Thank you all for your dedication to the youth of St. George. You are love, appreciated and you make a difference in their lives.

In Christ,

Connor Seraphim Kruse

Pastoral Assistant / Youth Director



Sunday Church School

Our Sunday school program will take a break for the summer. The last day we will meet for the school year is May 31st.



Class of 2026

If someone from our church community is graduating this year, please contact the church office so we can acknowledge them. We will honor our grads on Sun., June 7th.

Summer Camp (For Children Ages 8-18)

Summer Camp Registration is filling up. Our group is going week 3, (only a few spots left). Scholarships available, please contact Connor Kruse (krusesggoc@gmail.com) for more info.

Summer camp website for information and registration:

<https://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp>





GRIEF SUPPORT

A compassionate support group with clergy and lay leadership

For those who are experiencing:

- ◆ A relationship loss
- ◆ Going through, or have been through, a divorce
- ◆ Are grieving the loss of a loved one

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month

6:30pm-7:30pm

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Classroom Building

For more information contact:

Fr. Jim Pappas padrepappas@comcast.net
Shirley Bundros 559-940-9216
Ed Crossman 559-313-7642



Don't forget to save
888-412-2028 in your contacts.

TEXT ALERT SYSTEM

To receive alerts
about our church &
ministry events
please scan the QR
Code or Text
CHURCH to
888-412-2028



Thank you for your patients in
this time of change.

Weekday Ministries

Some weekday ministries will take a break or change the day/time they meet during Lent (March-April). Please check the calendar. Ministries will not meet during Holy Week and the week following Pascha called Bright Week.



New Ministry at St. George!

GRIEF SUPPORT

A compassionate support group with clergy and lay leadership

HOPE & JOY

Youth NIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

EVERY TUESDAY
6:00 - 7:00PM

Ages 6-12 Room 4/5

Please scan the QR Code and Sign up



GOYA NIGHTS!
Time for some Faith & Culture!

Ages 13-18

WHEN & WHERE?
Next Meeting on April 22nd

WHAT IS IT?
Get together to play games and explore different aspects of our faith and culture by learning different Greek Dances, Liturgical Hymns, Church History & Saint Stories

Scan the QR Code to sign up!




We are starting a **MOMS And tots** group!

If you're a mom with a tot (or tots! 0-5yrs)
Sign up with the QR code for updates, meeting times, and details

Next Meeting: TBD




DANCE GROUP

PRACTICE EVERY THURSDAY

GRADES K-3 THURSDAYS FROM 6-7
GRADES 4-9 THURSDAYS FROM 7-8




Greek School

Greek language classes for children and adults have begun. Scan the QR code to sign up for classes. Classes are free, but there is a \$100 fee per student to cover materials.

Classes for Children: Every Tuesday from 5:30pm-6:00pm
Classes for Older Teens & Adults: Every Tuesday from 6:00pm-7:00pm



JOIN THE ST. GEORGE YOUNG ADULT FORUM

AGES 18-35

1ST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
6-7:30PM

SIGN UP HERE

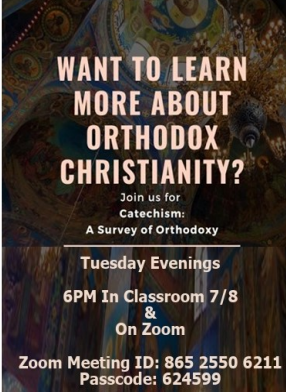



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY?

Join us for Catechism: A Survey of Orthodoxy

Tuesday Evenings
6PM In Classroom 7/8 & On Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 865 2550 6211
Passcode: 624599



Psalms 119:105
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path




St. George Greek Orthodox Church

BIBLE STUDY

JOIN US
WEDNESDAYS AT 9:30AM ON ZOOM

ZOOM MEETING ID: 863 0526 5618
PASSCODE: 537328

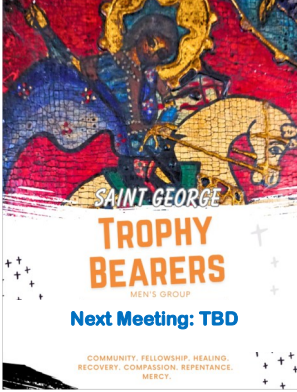
WE WILL MEET ONCE A MONTH IN PERSON FOR BRUNCH AT THE CHURCH - SEE MONTHLY CALENDAR FOR DATES

SAINT GEORGE TROPHY BEARERS

Next Meeting: TBD

COMMUNITY. FELLOWSHIP. HEALING. RECOVERY. COMPASSION. REPENTANCE. MERCY.




Join us at the **ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S GROUP**

Faith HOPE Peace

Next Meeting: TBD

Stables School Building



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN 2026



As of 3/15/2026

Dr. Katina Alfieris
 Steve & Fotini Alfieris
 Katherine Angel
 Mike & Kathy Angelos
 Mark & Holly Archon
 Christine Bagetakos
 Fotis & Elisa Biliros
 Dr. Keith Boone & Dr. Vassi Gardikas
 Danny & Amalia Booras
 Andreas & Anna Borgeas
 Kelly Botcher
 Jim & Cindi Boukidis
 Georgia Brandon
 Steve & Penny Buck
 Michael & Lorraine Bukilica
 Rev. Fr. Christian & Presv. Maria
 Burkhard
 Matthew Carter
 Tulla Chrisman
 Merel Dagher
 Ziad Dagher & Fairoz Moussa
 Larry & Cathy Desch
 Paul Dictos
 Andrew & Sara Duffek
 Janet Duke
 Ernest & Cheryl Duran
 Aaron & Elena Edwards
 George Efthemon
 David Erazo
 Bill & Rebecca Farray
 Louis Flores
 Angelia Foanene
 Paulette Giannopoulos
 Jasen & Ashley Gorden
 Dr. Harry G. Harris
 Jim Hawe
 David Hart
 Demtri & Melissa Henry
 Jorge Hernandez & Suphia Samaan
 Irma Hill
 Angie Hyatt
 Bob & Madelyn Jones
 Mary Katherine Jones
 Nathan & Alexis (Rau) Jones
 Husam & Najwa Kaileh
 Tom & Katie Kallos
 Stephen & Melody Kalomiris
 Sam & Gloria Karabinis
 Nabil & Pauline Karam
 James Karas
 Rick & Gina Kazanjian
 Christine Kelsey

Ramzi & Ellie Khachadourian
 Bassel Khoury
 Raed & Karen Khoury
 Ramzy & Doris Khoury
 Ioannis Kokkinidis
 Adolphe & Shahira Korkis
 Connor & Paloma Kruse
 Connor Kwasniewski
 Mina Lighthall
 Nick & Jennifer Linneman
 Nicki Livanis
 Jermeiy & Elisha Logan
 Charlie & Elaine Long
 Rev. Fr. Dcn. S. Michael & Dcna. Phyllis
 Makredes
 Mike & Tiffany Makredes
 Kosta & Vera Marigolas
 Sylvia Marks
 Justin & Justina Martin
 Robert Martone & Rahel Haile
 Andrew Mastoras
 Sorin & Marinella Mazare
 Carre McDonough
 Alexandra McGrady
 Demi Mehas
 George & Cheryl Mehas
 Roland & Kiki (Papangellin) Molanard
 Cris & Amanda Moradian
 Art Murillo
 Badih & Alia Nassar
 Peter T. & Arline Nassar
 Sami & Tania Nassar
 Dr. Ted & Aida Nassar
 Thomas Newton
 Dean Paleologos
 Daniel & Dana Panoff
 H. & L. Papadakis
 Mary Jane Papadopoulous
 George Papangellin
 Mia Papangellin
 Jeff & Lisa Pape
 George & Barbara Pappas
 Rev. Fr. James C. & Presv. Donna Pappas
 Noula Pappas
 Michael & Marsha Philippou
 Debra Price
 Alice Ramirez
 Taylor Rhoads
 Saul Jimenez-Sandoval & Mariana Anagnostopoulos
 Katina Scamagas
 John & Natalie Schultz

Dorie Sexton
 Robert & Helen Sexron
 Melanie Simonian
 Connie Siskey
 Jerry & Marice Smith
 Amanda Sopp
 Ernie & Pam Sopp
 Melissa Sopp
 Kopi & Elaine Sotiropulos
 Vasili & Crystal Sotiropulos
 Rachel Stalis
 Lynne Steele
 Dio & Katie Stefanopoulos
 Elena Stefanopoulos
 Spero Stefanopoulos
 Tom & Peggy Stefanopoulos
 John & Lilika Stratigos
 Deeb & Fahda Tayar
 Dan & Eve Taylor
 Marcia Taylor
 Saki & Angelica Terlikas
 Peter & Teri Theodore
 Fetlework & Hana Tilksew
 Jim & Thekla Tousounis
 Connie Triantis
 Peter & Demetra Vallis
 Jim & Brittney Verros
 Nick & Julie Vlasis
 Kenneth Walls
 Bill & Joanne Weaver
 Ben & Clio Weber
 Zane West
 William & Georgeanne White
 Ryan Wilson
 Michael & Georgette Winton
 Mark & Ellen Wolfshorndl
 James & Tracy Zografos
 Marcus Estabrook & Kara Zografos
 Nickie Zografos
 Matthew & Julie Zoolakis
 Misc. Stewards

**RISE UP AND BUILD
NEHEMIAH 2:18**



Information

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE./ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

MOBILE PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE _____

Dependent Children's Names and Birthdates

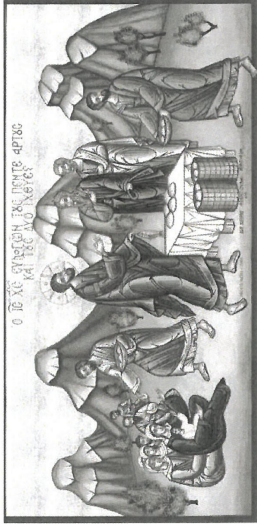
May we include your contact information in the parish directory?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:

May we add you to our parish email list?

Yes No



treasure

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church, the following amount: \$ _____ each week, month or annually (circle one).

online giving

Use our convenient online giving option to make a one-time or periodic gift to the church to fulfill your stewardship commitment. Please visit our online giving site here:

<https://www.stgeorgefresno.org/giving/make-a-donation>, or scan the QR code below.



gift of appreciated stock

I would like to speak with someone about making a gift of appreciated stock to the church.

planned giving

I would like to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan.

time & talent

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (✓). Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

EDUCATION

- ___ Bible Study
- ___ Adult Religious Education
- ___ Intro to Orthodoxy
- ___ Publications
- ___ Speakers

LITURGICAL

- ___ Sanctuary & Altar Care
- ___ Altarboys/Accolytes
- ___ Baking Prosfora
- ___ Choir
- ___ Reader

YOUTH

- ___ Church School Teacher
- ___ Church School Administration
- ___ Mom & Tots
- ___ HOPE & JOY
- ___ GOYA Assistant
- ___ Camp Counselor
- ___ Greek Dance Group

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

- ___ Welcome Team
- ___ New Member Events
- ___ Audio/Video Crew
- ___ Outreach/Military
- ___ Ministry (SGOM)
- ___ Stewardship
- ___ Sunday Fellowship/Coffee
- ___ Young Adult Group
- ___ Senior Ministry
- ___ Men's Group
- ___ Women's Group
- ___ Visitation- Hospital
- ___ Visitation- Shut-ins
- ___ Grief Support Group
- ___ Project Mexico
- ___ Greek Fest Committee
- ___ Athena Philoptochos
- ___ Int'l Orth Christian
- ___ Charitie

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- ___ Landscape
- ___ Plumbing
- ___ Electrical
- ___ Clean-up
- ___ Interior Repairs
- ___ Exterior Repairs
- ___ Roofing

ADMINISTRATION

- ___ Help Fold Mailers

Any other talents or information on items above:

Once completed, please return this commitment card to the church office by email, sggoc@comcast.net, or by mail, 2219 N. Orchard St., Fresno, CA 93703.

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			I Bible Study 9:30am on Zoom Presanctified at St. Peter's 6pm ✝ Greek Fest Meeting 7:00pm 🇬🇷	2 Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm	3 Presanctified 9am ✝ Young Adult Forum 6pm	4 Sat. of Lazarus—Orthros at 9am, DL 9:45am palm cross making & pancake breakfast to follow GOYA Pickle Ball 2pm Vespers at St. Peter's 5pm ✝
5 Orthros at 8:15am ✝ Divine Liturgy at 9:30am <i>Palm Sunday</i> Bridegroom 6pm ✝	6 Presanctified 9am ✝ Bridegroom 6pm ✝	7 Presanctified 9am ✝ Bridegroom 6pm ✝	8 Presanctified 9am ✝ Holy Unction 3pm ✝ Bridegroom 6pm ✝	9 Vespers Liturgy 9am ✝ Egg Dyeing Crucifixion Service 6pm ✝	10 Decorating Christs Tomb 8am ✝ Royal Hours 9am Kids Retreat 10am-3pm Burial Service 3pm ✝ Lamentations 7pm ✝	11 Vespers Liturgy 9am ✝ Great Canon 11pm followed by Resurrection Service (12am) ✝
HOLY WEEK: No Confessions During Holy Week						
12 Pascha ✝ Agape service 1pm Picnic 2pm 	13 Office Closed for Bright Monday Services at St. Peter's 10am ✝	14 Parish Council Meeting 6:00pm	15	16 Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm	17	18
19 Orthros at 8:15am; Divine Liturgy 9:30am ✝	20	21 Hope/Joy 6pm Catechism 6pm Greek School 5:30pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm Grief Support 6:30pm	22 Bible Study 9:30am Church SGOM 3pm on Zoom Vespers for Feast-day of St. George 5pm ✝ GOYA 6pm	23 Feastday of St. George—Orthros 9am & Divine Liturgy 9:45am ✝ Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Lent Pillow Project 10am-5pm</div>	24	25 Philoxenia Feast 6pm @ St. George 
26 Orthros at 8:15am; Divine Liturgy 9:30am ✝	27	28 Hope/Joy 6pm Catechism 6pm Philoptochos Mtg 6pm Greek School 5:30pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm	29 Bible Study 9:30am Church Service 5pm ✝ GOYA 6pm Greek Fest Mtg 6:30pm 🇬🇷	30 Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm		Calendar subject to change

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Calendar subject to change					I Young Adult Forum 6pm	2
3 Orthros at 8:15am  Divine Liturgy at 9:30am	4	5 Hope/Joy 6pm Catechism 6pm Philoptochos Mtg 6pm Greek School 5:30pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm Grief Support 6:30pm	6 Bible Study 9:30am Church Service 5pm  GOYA 6pm	7 Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm	8	9
10 Orthros at 8:15am  Divine Liturgy at 9:30am <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12 Hope/Joy 6pm Catechism 6pm Parish Council Meeting 6pm Greek School 5:30pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm	13 Bible Study 9:30am Church Service 5pm  GOYA 6pm	14 Ascension  Orthros 9am, Divine Lit. 9:45am Greek Fest Pre: Tiropita 4pm-7pm  Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm AHEPA/DOP 7pm	15 Greek Fest Pre: Tiropita 4pm-7pm 	16 Men's Group 4pm Greek Fest Pre: Tiropita 4pm-7pm 
17 Orthros at 8:15am  Divine Liturgy at 9:30am	18	19 Hope/Joy 6pm Catechism 6pm Greek School 5:30pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm Grief Support 6:30pm	20 Service 5pm  GOYA 6pm	21 Sts. Constatine & Helen Orthros 9am, Divine Lit. 9:45am  Angel Babies Work Day 1pm-4pm Greek Fest Meal Prep 4pm-8pm  Dance Group 6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm	22 Greek Fest Meal Prep 8am-12pm 	23
24 Orthros at 8:15am  Divine Liturgy at 9:30am 31 Orthros at 8:15am  Divine Liturgy at 9:30am <i>Last Day of SS Pentecost</i>	25 Office Closed  MEMORIAL DAY	26 Greek Fest  Prep: Diples 7am-4pm Hope/Joy 6pm Catechism 6pm Greek School 5:30pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm	27 Greek Fest  Prep: Diples 7am-4pm Service 5pm  GOYA 6pm Greek Fest Mtg. 6:30pm 	28 Greek Fest Prep: Diples 7am-4pm 	29 Greek Fest Prep: Diples 7am-4pm 	30 Philoptochos Member of the Year Luncheon Men's Group 4pm

Angels

Cynthia Radoumis in m/o beloved mother, Daisy Addicott

Joan Arabatzis

Irma Hill in m/o Tom & Robyn Hill

Andrew Mastoras

Melinda Mastora

Carre McDonough in m/o Nicholas Lahanas by his grandchildren

Carol Mohan in m/o Bob & Paula Shartz

Cynthia & Jerry Stiavelli

Marcia Taylor in m/o Bud Taylor

Dan and Eve Taylor

Archangels

In m/o Emanuel "Mike" and Mary Alfieris

In m/o John, Bessie & George Antonaros

Tom & Kathy Armstrong in m/o our family with us and those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Georgia Brandon in m/o Dave and brother George

James & Evelyn M. Boosalis in m/o Dr. N.G. Boosalis

Michael & Lorraine Bukilica

Joanne & Bill Dau in m/o Anne & Gus Kossaras

George Efthemon & Elizabeth Wellington in m/o Sam &

Helen Efthemon

Wayne A. Gomes

In m/o Art & Christine Gonos

Vicky Heppner in m/o George, Stella, George Jr. and Steven Vlasis

Angie & Ashley Hyatt in m/o Tom Hyatt

John and Demetria Kallas with prayers for our family both with us and who have fallen asleep in the Lord

Jim and Toni Kalogrides in m/o Nick and Eleni Paleologos

Jim Karas Jr. in m/o Jim Karas

In m/o Nick Kephalos

Ramzi & Ilham Khachadourian in m/o Khachadourians & Habayeb

Elaine Kourafas and family in m/o Nick Tom Kourafas

Mina Lighthall, granddaughters and greatgrandchildren in m/o Andreas Froutzis our Papou and my dad

Mina Lighthall in m/o of David Lighthall

Charlie & Elaine Long in m/o Viola & Richard Abrahamian

Charlie & Elaine Long in m/o Annette Abrahamian Maseda

Irene Mabry in m/o Dennis Mabry

Irene Mabry in m/o George, Vicky and John Kokalis

George & Pam Sarantos & Georgia Brandon in m/o Yiayia Moosios

John Macris in m/o Athina, Katerina & Dimitrios Macris

Theodora & Themis Michailides in m/o Kyriaki & Ioannis

Michailides and prayers for our family

In m/o Alex "Pappy" Papulias and Marie Papulias

Angela Petropulos Pappanastos in m/o Edna and Peter Petropulos and Stella Vlahiotis

George & Pam Sarantos in m/o my parents

Robert & Helen Sexton in m/o our parents

Dena, Frank, Stephanie, Laura & Stephanie Siskey in m/o Bill & Anthie Kourafas

The Sopp Family in m/o Mary Jeannette Sopp

Alicia & Yannis M. Stavropoulos M.D. in memory of our parents

Harry Skofis in m/o Elie, Koula, and George Skofis

John & Susan Stockton

Connie Triantis and Family in m/o Athanasios Triantis & the Strusis & Triantis Families

Voula Xenos in m/o Spiro Xenos

Nickie Zografos & Family in m/o Paul Zografos

In m/o Stavros, Thalia, Elaine (Kuretsos), Dorothy, Elaine,

Mary, Billie, Nick, David, James, George Giannopoulos families

Communications Outreach Supporters: Our Angels and Archangels

The years see many changes, and the support of our Angels and Archangels has been a valued necessity to the St. George Monthly Newsletter. This ministry has allowed St. George to continue to keep our parishioners connected in a time when it is even more important to do so. If you would like to help offset the cost of the Communication Outreach Ministry, which includes the monthly newsletter, parish website, text messaging system and list serve, we ask that you consider contributing \$30.00 a year to become an Angel Booster, or \$60.00 a year to become a Archangel Booster. Your name or the name of a loved one who's memory you wish to commemorate, will be printed in The Voice of St. George Newsletter for the calendar year of 2026. We thank you for your support which enables us to stay in touch with the parishioners of St. George.

Archangel Supporter: **\$60.00** for 2026 Calendar Year (Per Family Name of Individual)

Angel Supporter: **\$30.00** for 2026 Calendar Year (Per Family Name or Individual)

2026

All donations towards the Archangel/Angel Supporter are for the Calendar year 2025.

All names will run through Jan. 2026

Please print clearly the name or names exactly as you wish them to appear in the Newsletter.

Name or Names: _____

And / Or

St. George Greek Community of Fresno
2219 N. Orchard St.
Fresno, CA 93703

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fresno, California
Permit No. 1978

Return Service Requested

See You Sunday

Orthros at 8:15am and
Divine Liturgy at 9:30am



www.facebook.com/stgeorgegreekorthodoxchurch



@



ssgoc@comcast.net



www.stgeorgefresno.org



559-233-0397



559-233-0564