



# St. George Greek Orthodox Church

*“My hope is that we will seize the opportunity that is literally being forced upon us, to become more altruistic, more compassionate toward others, more patient, and indeed more faithful.”*  
-Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

## Stewardship Appeal 2021

Dear Member of our St. George Family,

It has been a difficult year. A year that has taught us to work on our patience, and flexibility, and to encourage us to find the blessing in every situation. Though we are not *all* able to gather in our spiritual home for prayer and fellowship, we remain united as a family, always present for one another in love and support. We look forward to the time when we can all safely gather together in our beloved St. George.

Through it all, we have never stopped ministering to our St. George family in new and exciting ways. We have been streaming our services to keep you connected when you are unable to attend in person. We offer online chats and Bible studies to connect with one another through prayer and God's Word. We are reaching out to our members to be sure they are able to meet their basic needs in this crisis. We have organized food & clothing collections which have been distributed to local families in need.

In spite of the challenges of this year, our Community is seeing strong, positive growth. As leaders of our parish, we are working to build upon that growth with new ministries, as well as ongoing, that will keep us connected as the St. George family. Our youth continue to learn about their Orthodox faith and connecting with each other through online group lessons and activities. Our high school group has started a new series titled, *The Relationship Project*. The young adult group has been meeting for Bible studies and creative gatherings. We have started a new Orthodox men's group. Married couples from our parish have taken part in our *Eight Dates* series. These new and existing ministries will continue to support the long-term mission of our parish when this current crisis has passed.

It is important to remember that, in the words of Archbishop Elpidophoros, “The Ekklesia extends far beyond the four walls of any church building.” The Church is not the building, but rather, it is people of faith that remain connected, drawing spiritual nourishment from God and strength from one another. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact us and we will help in any way we can.

We thank you for your continued support of St. George Church and its ministries. With prayer and consideration, please review the enclosed Stewardship Commitment Card. We ask that you consider committing to the future of our Church by giving the minimum amount suggested in order for us to meet our financial obligations, without relying on the Food Festival. This will ensure that special fundraisers, like the Food Festival, can be used to further grow our Community.

With love in Christ,

Parish Priest

“For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.”  
-Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

Parish Council President

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# Through the Grapevine

## Light a Candle

If you would like us to light a candle in the church for you, please contact the church office at [sggoc@comcast.net](mailto:sggoc@comcast.net), or (559)233-0397.



## Chats, Bible Studies and More!

St. George Church is offering a wide variety of online options. We invite you to join one of our chats or bible studies on Zoom. Check out the calendar, and our website: [www.stgeorgefresno.org](http://www.stgeorgefresno.org), for dates and times. To join one of our chats or bible studies go to the following link and enter the meeting ID and password..

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261968467?pwd=ellhR3NZTk0rN0tHTGRpcHRKLzgydz09>

You can also join all chats and bible studies by calling in with your telephone.

Dial: (669)900-9128 Meeting ID: 261 968 467 Password: 646251

## Live Streaming Church Services

St. George is live streaming all of our church services on Facebook Live. Go to

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgegreekorthodoxchurch/> to watch services live.

## Condolences To:

The Rockas family in the falling asleep of Eleni (Helen) Rockas.

The Kokalis family in the falling asleep of John Kokalis.

The Pappas family in the falling asleep of Presvytera's father, Donald.

May their memory be eternal.

## Memorials in December and January:

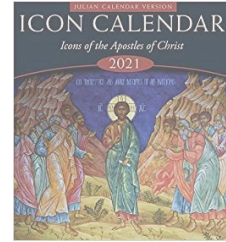
December 20th: Josephine (40-days) and Jim Wu.

January 10th: Paul Zografos (40-days).

May their memory be eternal.

## Available in the Bookstore

The 2021 Icon Calendar is now available in the St. George Bookstore for \$15 each plus tax. Please contact the church office at [sggoc@comcast.net](mailto:sggoc@comcast.net) or 559-233-0397, if you would like to purchase a calendar. All Bookstore items can be preordered with contactless pickup available.



## Home Blessings

Due to the current situation, home blessings will be by appointment only. If you would like your home or business blessed, please contact the church office to make an appointment. Email: [sggoc@comcast.net](mailto:sggoc@comcast.net) or phone: 559-233-0397.

## Young Adults Forum

Join us for the last of the Fall/Winter Young Adult Forum on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30pm. For more information go to: [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org).

## Men's Group

The upcoming dates for the men's group are: January 14th and 28th at 7:00pm. We will continue our Lionheart series.

## Zoom Login Info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/261968467?pwd=ellhR3NZTk0rN0tHTGRpcHRKLzgydz09>

Meeting ID: 261 968 467 Password: 646251

## Couples Date Night Series

Join us in January on the 7th, 21st and in February on the 4th and 18th, for the final four dates of our series. For more information go to: [Young Married Couples — Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Youth and Young Adult Ministries \(gosfyouth.org\)](http://www.gosfyouth.org).

# Youth Ministries

## December Highlights

One of the highlights of the year was our special Christmas program which included a visit from St. Nicholas himself. During our Youth Activities Zoom for all children up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he told us about his life and helped us find ways that we can also get into the Christmas spirit through giving to our families and friends.



In December our kids created their own gingerbread houses during activity time. What amazing creations!



Our St. George families also had the opportunity to sponsor local families and help provide them with Christmas gifts as well as blankets, socks, and hats. A huge thanks to our St. George Outreach Committee for leading the charge!



The kids were also instrumental in helping out at both our November and December drive-thru Greek Fests.

## January Announcement

All of our youth activities will be taking a break from Christmas through Theophany (the traditional "12 days of Christmas"). Please see the calendar for our January dates.

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
There will be no chats, Bible studies, or youth activities the week of January 3rd-9th.					1 Office Closed New Years Services  Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy at 11:30am	2
3 Orthros  10:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am	4	5 Divine Liturgy only 11:30am with Blessing of the Waters to follow 	6 Orthros 10:30am & Divine Liturgy 11:30am with Blessing of the Waters to follow 	7 St. John the Baptist Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy  11:30am <b>Couples Date Night 6:30pm</b>	8	9
10 Orthros  10:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am <b>SS PreK-2nd at 12:45pm</b>	11 Chat with the Three Lowerarchs at 3pm <b>Philoptochos Mtg 6:30pm</b> High School Activity 7:00pm	12 Jr. High Activity 6:30pm	13 Chat with the Three Lowerarchs at 3pm	14 Morning Bible Study at 9:30am  Men's Group at 7:00pm	15	16
17 Orthros  10:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am <b>SS 3rd-6th at 12:45pm</b>	18 Chat with the Three Lowerarchs at 3pm  High School Activity 7:00pm	19 Parish Council Meeting at 6:30pm  Jr. High Activity 6:30pm	20 Chat with the Three Lowerarchs at 3pm	21 Morning Bible Study at 9:30am  Couples Date Night 6:30pm	22	23
24 Orthros  10:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am <b>SS PreK-2nd at 12:45pm</b>	25 Chat with the Three Lowerarchs at 3pm  High School Activity 7:00pm	26 Jr. High Activity 6:30pm	27 Chat with the Three Lowerarchs at 3pm	28 Morning Bible Study at 9:30am  Men's Group at 7:00pm	29	30 3 Hierarchs Orthros 10:30am & Divine Liturgy at 11:30am 
31 Orthros  10:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am <b>SS 3rd-6th at 12:45pm</b>						