

The St. George Messenger

St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott, AZ



St. Paisios Monastery Pilgrimage Feb. 1-3

What better way can there be to begin the New Year than to consecrate it to the Lord in prayer? And in order to allow us the time and space to do so effectively, Fr. Apostolos will lead the parish in a pilgrimage to St. Paisios Monastery in Safford, AZ the weekend of Feb. 1st thru 3rd. The group will leave Prescott noon on Friday since the monastery gate closes promptly at 6:00pm. There we will experience the service schedule and rhythm of monastic prayer through the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. After the service we will enjoy lunch together in the refectory before leaving for Prescott early in the afternoon on Sunday. Fr. Doretheos of the monastery will conduct classes for our pilgrims to help us grow in the faith and to strengthen our relationship with Christ in His Holy Church. St. Paisios is a monastery under the spiritual



direction of His Grace MAXIM of the Serbian Orthodox Church of Western America and of the Abbess, Gerondissa Michaila. The Divine Services are celebrated in English in the beautiful Catholicon pictured above. There are spaces for only 16 pilgrims on this trip and all pilgrims attending will be required

to attend an orientation meeting with Fr. Apostolos before leaving for the monastery to review essential protocols and rules of behavior. We will arrange to ride-share to and from the monastery with those who can drive. For more information please speak with Fr. Apostolos or consult the monastery website at stpaisiosmonastery.org

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Feast Days this Quarter:

- Forefeast of Theophany—Jan 5th
- Holy Theophany—Jan 6th
- St. Anthony the Great—Jan 17th
- St. Athanasius & Cyril—Jan 18th
- Three Holy Hierarchs—Jan 30th
- Theodore the Commander (Vesperal) – Feb 7th
- Saturday of Souls—Mar 9th, 16th, 23rd

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Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference

The 2013 San Francisco Metropolis Clergy/Laity Conference is scheduled at the beautiful St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA on Feb. 25th & 26th. The theme of this year's conference is "I know that whatever God does endures forever."

(Eccl.3:14) where we will receive the Archpastoral blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan GERASIMOS who reminds us; "All our work in the name of God is for His glory and is everlasting in His honor" as we work together "to elevate the

work of our Metropolis and involve more people in our important work as the Body of Christ." Fr. Apostolos will be attending with members of the Parish Council. If you would also like to attend please consult www.sanfran.goarch.org/CLA

OCF Northern AZ College Retreat

Ministering to our Orthodox college students during their University years is vital to their spiritual growth and well-being as many heterodox voices and influences seek to pull them away from the faith. And the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ministry is an essential component to our college kids experience. Fr. Apostolos is coordinating a Northern AZ OCF Retreat between St. George and Holy Cross parish of Flagstaff over the weekend of March 1st-3rd. Fr. Jordan Brown, Dean of Holy Trinity GOC Cathedral of Portland, OR will be the retreat master and will be assisted by Fr. Mario Giannouloulos, Sr. Pastor of Holy Transfiguration GOC of Ogden, UT. The

theme of the Retreat will be "Sharing Your Orthodox Faith in College and Beyond." Orthodox college students face unique challenges as they navigate the space between their unchurched friends and classmates and their heterodox friends who have little basis for understanding Orthodox Christianity. The Retreat can accommodate 20 OCF students and will begin in Flagstaff Friday afternoon through Saturday mid-day before moving to Prescott for Vespers Saturday through Liturgy Sunday. **Host families are needed for the retreatants as well as sponsors for Saturday dinner and lunch Sunday.** Please speak with Fr. Apostolos to learn how you can help!



The Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a College Ministry of the U.S. Synod of Orthodox Bishops for all Orthodox College Students.

Orthodoxy 101 Expands to Sunday Mornings

Ongoing Orthodox Catechism is an integral ministry of every healthy Orthodox parish and the lifelong pursuit of every parishioner. The challenges to faith for ourselves and for our children demand that we take advantage of every opportunity to further our education in the faith. The rapid pace of societal and technological change argues for well-grounded and knowledgeable Orthodox Christians who can contribute meaningfully to the wrenching issues of our day and bring Light to those around us. "Catechism," from the Greek verb *katekein* (instruction received

orally) cannot be gleaned only from books but must arise from the organic experience of the local Eucharistic community. And so, beginning Sunday, February 10th, Fr. Apostolos will offer a short catechism every Sunday from 9:30 to 10:00am between Orthros and Divine Liturgy for those who cannot make the Wednesday evening class offered after the mid-week service. Sunday Orthros will begin at 8:30 to accommodate this additional weekly class. Fr.'s catechism series will last through Pascha and is centered around the history of God's plan of salvation, with such key ele-

"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed." (2 Tim. 2:15)

ments as Church history, dogma, worship, and praxis. The Wednesday night class will continue to meet at 7:00pm through Great Lent. Please mark your weekly calendars and plan to join us Sunday mornings!

Recent Renovations

In every Divine Liturgy we pray "for those who love the beauty of Thy house" and we remember "founders and builders" of the parish. And where the Church is concerned, "good enough" is never good enough. In recognition of this central truth, many dramatic renovations have been made to our parish home and more are coming! Very soon, the 2-piece icon of the Annunciation will be installed on the Royal Doors, a new cross will be installed behind the altar to match the iconostasis. The narthex renovation project is nearly done with an oak baseboard soon to

installed and the older entrance doors will be replaced. Window coverings for the fellowship hall will soon be hung and the third window and exit doorway by the stairs will be re-opened. The entryway between the nave and the hall is soon to be finished with new flooring to match the hall and with repair to the chipped marble tile in the area. Plans are also being made and seed money has been received to install a playground area behind the hall for our little ones this summer. Looking ahead, a proper Bishop's Throne will be custom-built and installed and a traditional



chanters' stand will be purchased. If you would like to contribute to these projects in memory of a loved one please speak with a Parish Council member or with Fr. Apostolos!

Fr. Apostolos to be Keynote Speaker at Youth Workers Conference

Fr. Apostolos will be traveling to Austin, TX on Jan 22nd to deliver the keynote address at the annual Youth Workers Conference for the Archdiocese. This annual event is open to all parish youth workers, Sunday School teachers, Youth Camp Counselors, and others who have a desire to help minister to the youth of their parish in all Orthodox jurisdictions. The theme for this conference is "Shine Forth" and is intended to help raise the bar of expectations where our ministry to the youth of our parish is concerned. Too often, the focus has been on avoiding bad behavior and not on equipping our youth to embrace the Orthodox Faith in a lively and transformative way. In motorcycle safety class, this is referred to as

"target fixation," that is, staring at the object on the roadway you hope to avoid instead of looking in the direction you hope to travel. Riders learn to let their eyes pull them through the turns and twists they encounter and our youth need to acquire this skillset as well. Fr. Apostolos has been involved with parish Youth Ministry since 1985 in a wide variety of roles and served as the Diocese Youth Director under Bp Basil of Wichita in the Antiochian Archdiocese in the mid-1990's. Arrangements have been made with Fr. Andrew to have a supply priest conduct the weekend divine services in the parish as Fr. Will be staying at the conference through Sunday the 27th.

St. George GOYA Youth help prepare 50 Christmas Food Baskets!

The GOYA Youth of the parish gathered in the hall on Thursday, December 20th to help assemble and distribute 50 Christmas Food baskets for needy families in the area! Many of you also helped contribute to this worthwhile outreach project as well. Each basket contained all the essentials for a complete traditional Holiday meal including a Christmas turkey! Other donations allowed us to place a small toy in the basket of those families with small children. Many of the recipi-

ents of the baskets were moved to tears when they saw the baskets and realized that they would now be able to provide a nourishing meal for their families. The Lord's blessings on our GOYA kids who worked hard to see this beautiful ministry done and for all of you who contributed foodstuffs or cash gifts to help make this possible! God willing, we will make food baskets at Western Easter and anticipate the need to make as many as 100 baskets next Christmas !

"Let us not overlook Him here, hungry, in order that He Himself may feed us there. Here let us clothe Him, that He may not send us forth naked from the safe refuge with Him." (St. John Chrysostom)

House Blessing Season

As we celebrate the holy season of Epiphany each year it is customary to have our homes and places of business blessed by the priest. This year, Fr will attempt to arrange the house blessings by area, doing as many blessings in a given zip code on the same day where possible, particularly in Chino Valley, Dewey/Humboldt, and other outlying areas. In order to have your house blessed, please have the following items ready when Fr arrives; a bowl filled partly with water to be blessed, a sprig

of greenery for Fr to sprinkle the water with, a list of names of all family members who live in the house, and an icon and a candle in the area where the prayers will be said. Fr would like to bless as many homes during daylight hours where possible and hopes to get all of our members homes blessed by early February. Please speak with Fr if you would like to coordinate blessings in your area and consult the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to sign up for your house blessing this year.



St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott, AZ

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St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco under the spiritual fatherhood of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, and is open to all. Holy Orthodoxy traces her lineage to the time of Christ and His Apostles who established the early Church under the oversight of the first bishops of the Church such as St. James in Jerusalem, St. Timothy of Ephesus, St. Ignatius of Antioch, and many others. Our liturgical mode of worship was developed in its basic form in the first century synthesis of older Hebrew Temple worship with the Eucharistic emphasis as evidenced by the apology of St. Justin Martyr (+165). Holy Orthodoxy is Apostolic, tracing her modern-day hierarchs back through the centuries to the Apostles themselves, Eucharistic, centered around the celebration of the Mystical Supper and believing the words of Christ Himself in St. John's Gospel, chap 6, and Evangelical, always seeking to spread the Good News (Gr. *Evangelion*) of the salvation of the Cosmos through the Incarnation and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If you would like to learn more, please join us for Sunday worship at 10:00am and consult our website for other scheduled services!

Save the date: All Saints Summer Camp June 2nd through 7th!

Orthodox Summer Camp is one of the most impactful and transformative experiences available to our Orthodox children and teens. Year after year, GOYA members list their week at Summer Camp as the most memorable week of their entire summer. It is here that they learn to embrace their faith in a context of daily morning and evening prayer, lessons with Archdiocese clergy and dedicated Youth Ministers, crafts, athletics, and many other faith-building activities. Lasting friendships with other Orthodox children and teens are also forged in Summer Camp. And we here in Prescott are very blessed to have All Saints Summer Camp in our own backyard at the Pine Summit

Campground! Fr. Apostolos has been appointed to be the Spiritual Director of the Camp and is already working with the Camp Directors to help plan a week of meaningful and transformational service and activities. All Saints Camp is open to all youth from 4th through 12th grade with age-appropriate accommodations and tracks geared to meet the developmental needs of each grade. Please save the dates of June 2nd through the 7th for this year's summer camp experience for your children! Registration information will be forthcoming very soon and we are expecting a great turnout from our parish families this year!

