



ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ

Very Rev. Fr. Nektarios Cottros, Priest



August 2018

Dear Members of our St. George GOYA and Parents,

By now, most of you are beginning to return from your summer vacations and to your normal routine of Church, school, sports, etc. I hope that your summer was restful and that you are now returning with renewed strength and zeal. Your absence was felt throughout the summer months; this building becomes very lonely, when you are not here. It brings me joy to hear your voices throughout this structure, and I look forward, along with you to beginning the new ecclesiastical and academic year.

As you know, it is the tradition that we begin the new ecclesiastical year with our participation in the Divine Liturgy, as well as the GOYA Open House, which will be held on Sunday, Sunday 9, 2018. During the Divine Liturgy, the 2018-19 Officers of the GOYA will be administered the Oath of Office and installed. Also, an artoclasia will be offered for the health of all the GOYAns and their families. Following the Divine Liturgy, ALL of the GOYAns (current and new), along with their parents (which is a must) and myself, shall gather in the Memorial Room for our first gathering of the New Ecclesiastical Year, as well as an opportunity to discuss our plans for the coming year, while enjoying a brunch meal.

Along with the Oath of Office being administered on September 9th, we shall celebrate a blessing for the beginning of the new Academic Year, with the Blessing of the Waters. Therefore, Sunday School will begin on the 9th, as well. Participation in the Religious Education Program of our parish is required for participation in the activities of GOYA. Part of being an Orthodox Christian is to continuously learn more about our faith, and our teachers give the students an excellent opportunity to do so. Also, please know that attendance will be taken, and your participation in the various programs will be determined, accordingly.

During the Open House, we shall bring your attention to the GOYA Guidelines, and your rights and obligations. Please keep in mind that GOYA is NOT a secular organization... it is a ministry of the Church that includes all aspects of our lives:

religious/spiritual, education, social/cultural and athletic. You will be expected to follow these guidelines everywhere you go. Remember... you are ambassadors of the Orthodox Church, as well as of St. George Church, wherever you go!

Enclosed, you will please find a number of forms, as well as the Calendar and Guidelines. Please read everything, carefully, and complete the forms with your family (the Registration Form is available on-line... please print it, complete and submit). Upon receipt of your signed form, which will indicate to us your understanding of the Guidelines, you will be expected to adhere to the Guidelines. If you are a new member of GOYA, we shall need a copy of your birth certificate. **ALL COMPLETED REGISTRATION MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE FIRST GOYA MEETING IN SEPTEMBER**, along with the \$30.00 stewardship/activities fee. *No one will be allowed to participate until all of the Registration Forms, etc. have been properly completed, signed and submitted.*

Looking forward to your participation, and excited in the opportunity to share in the upcoming events with you, along with the advisors and coaches, I remain

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Fr. Drakos Nektarios". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping tail.