



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

# SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

## *Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship*

The Holy Eucharist is called Holy Communion because it unites us to one another as the Body of Christ. The word *Eucharist* comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. This is what we do when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy – we are giving thanks. The Eucharist – the sacrament of Holy Communion – is the focus of our parish life. As Eucharistic Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God’s gift. We offer our small piece of the world back to God in thanksgiving with the words, “Thine own of Thine own we offer to Thee....”

In this our 60<sup>th</sup> year as a Community of Saint Andrew we have bounced back in many ways from the effects of the Coronavirus, however I would say we are not out of the woods. So many of our programs are operating like they were before the pandemic began. At this time, though, some have not, namely the Agape group, Sunday School and the PTA. We are counting on all of our families to help get these programs back up and running like they did in the past. As well, in the coming year we will be focusing our efforts to provide Faith and Family Evenings at the church, to expand our ministries to the poor and needy and continue to minister to all of our parishioners both young and old.

We ask you to show your thanks to God by supporting the worthy ministries of our church. Giving to His Church is an important way to thank God for His grace and generosity that most of us experience. The question is not, “What are the dues?” but “How can I thank God for my many blessings?” We are stewards of what we have learned from the Gospel and we are the caretakers of Saint Andrew. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could and should be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

Before completing the enclosed Commitment Card and Information Form, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. A check mailed to the church is most meaningful when accompanied by your presence, by your leadership, by your willingness to serve, by your prayers, and by your commitment. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of your commitment and an expression of thanks for the many blessings in your life. Saint Andrew really needs you in order to fulfill its potential.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Fr. John Theodosion



Parish Priest