



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We pray this message finds you healthy and safe from the coronavirus pandemic.

Our faith is being tested. We must remain steadfast and continue to place our faith in God and pray to Him for everyone's health and safety.

Our Metropolis has closed all churches, including offices, until further notice, with the exception of church services by the priest and cantor.

Our spiritual leader Fr. John Theodosion is continuously adapting his ministry by leveraging technology to overcome the imposed stay home order and social restrictions.

Our Parish Council has taken measures to help mitigate the effects on our St. Andrew Church.

1. **Orthodox Faith and Worship:** we have initiated streaming our Church services online via Facebook Live. We have to also anticipate the unthinkable of likely not being able to physically celebrate Pascha together.
2. **Outreach:** our Philoptochos has already reached out to help those in need.
3. **Education:** our Sunday and Greek Schools have adopted Distant Learning programs.
4. **Financial:**
 - a. we have implemented cost-saving measures by suspending unnecessary services, such as cleaning and disposal.
 - b. we are exploring an interest rate mortgage reduction and any possible insurance coverage.
 - c. we have made the difficult decision to cancel our festival and car raffle scheduled for June, and all their related commitments - to mitigate incurring the significant financial burden/risk with the current uncertain outlook.
 - d. we have initiated an emergency "Festival Fund" campaign to help make up the significant fundraising shortfall by asking 200 families to pledge/contribute \$1,000, or whatever amount is possible within their means is greatly appreciated. Many Parish Council members have already contributed to this fund to show our commitment to St. Andrew.
 - e. we will closely monitor our church's financial health and continuously adapt with prudent measures.
5. **Communication:** we will attempt to keep everyone updated on the situation as things unfold. We ask that everyone continues to stay home and stay safe.

Please continue to pray to God for everyone's health, safety and salvation.

Through prayer, support and spiritual guidance, we will overcome this unprecedented crisis and come out stronger together, and, closer to God.

Thank you for your love and support for His St. Andrew. God Bless.

In His Service,


Steven P. Mitrakos
Parish Council President

2020

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