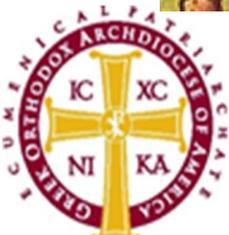


MAY 2023



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF MORRIS COUNTY

- THE ICON OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD – MAY 25
- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRADUATION & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS – MAY 21
- BIANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – MAY 21
- HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL GRADUATION – MAY 25

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF MORRIS COUNTY

On Sundays we celebrate

Orthros @ 8:15 AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM

For other services please check our website or call the office

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

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Please submit your articles and information on time to

Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos info@standrewgonj.org

*Deadline for the **JUNE ISSUE** is May 15th*

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DIVINE SERVICES

MAY 2023

- Wednesday 3 +ST. XENIA OF KALAMATA
- Friday 5 +ST. IRENE THE GREAT MARTYR +ST. EPHRAIM THE HOLY MARTYR
- Sunday 7 Sunday of the Paralytic**
- Wednesday 10 MID PENTECOST (*4th Wednesday after Pascha*)
- Sunday 14 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman | MOTHER'S DAY**
- Sunday 21 Sunday of the Blind Man |**
+ STS CONSTANTINE & HELEN, EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES |
MEMORIAL SERVICE AHEPA & DOP
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRADUATION & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
BIANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- Thursday 25 Holy Ascension
- Sunday 28 Fathers of the 1st Council**

JUNE

- Saturday 3 SATURDAY OF SOULS
Fr. John will visit the Locust Hill Cemetery to pray for our +Loved ones
- Sunday 4 HOLY PENTECOST**
- Monday 5 MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- Sunday 11 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS | + BARTHOLOMEW THE HOLY APOSTLE**
FAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (17 DAYS) 6/12 TO 6/28
- Sunday 18 2nd Sunday of Matthew - FATHER'S DAY**
- Saturday 24 THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- Sunday 25 3rd Sunday of Matthew**
- Thursday 29 STS. PETER AND PAUL
- Friday 30 SYNAXIS OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

*(We have this saint's Relics at our Saint Andrew Reliquary) **

Sundays: Orthros @ 8:15AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:30AM

Weekdays: Orthros @ 8AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:15 AM

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

ΜΑΙΟΣ 2023

Τετάρτη	3	+ΞΕΝΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Παρασκευή	5	+ΑΓΙΑΣ ΕΙΡΗΝΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ, +ΑΓΙΟΥ ΕΦΡΑΙΜ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ
Κυριακή	7	Κυριακή Δ' του Παραλύτου
Τετάρτη	10	ΤΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΣΟΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ
Κυριακή	14	Κυριακή Ε' τής Σαμαρείτιδος <i>ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΜΗΤΕΡΑΣ</i>
Κυριακή	21	Κυριακή ΣΤ' τοῦ Τυφλοῦ; <i>ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ἘΛΕΝΗ ἸΣΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΙ / Μνημόσυνο ΑΗΕΠΑ & Θυγατέρες της Πηνελόπης Πρόγραμμα Αποφοίτησης Κατηχητικού Σχολείου & Βραβεία Υποτροφιών Γενική συνέλευση</i>
Πέμπτη	25	ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΛΗΨΕΩΣ
Κυριακή	28	Κυριακή Ζ' των 318 Αγίων Πατέρων της Οικομ. Συνόδου

ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ

Σάββατο	3	ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ <i>π. Ιωάννης θα επισκεφτεί το Νεκροταφείο στο Ντόβερ μετά την Λειτουργία</i>
Κυριακή	4	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Η' ΤΗΣ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ
Δευτέρα	5	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ
Κυριακή	11	Α' Ματθαίου τῶν Ἁγίων Πάντων <i>ΒΑΡΘΟΛΟΜΑΙΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ; ΒΑΡΝΑΒΑΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ 12/6 - 28/6</i>
Κυριακή	18	Β' Ματθαίου <i>ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ</i>
Σάββατο	24	ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΟῦ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ;
Κυριακή	25	Γ' Ματθαίου
Πέμπτη	29	ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΙ ΠΕΤΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑῦΛΟΣ
Παρασκευή	30	ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤῶΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ

*(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειτουργία της εκκλησία μας)**
Την Κυριακή - Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ
Τις καθημερινές - Ὁρθρος ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:15πμ

ON THE FIFTIETH DAY

by Fr. John Theodosion

Brothers and Sisters, when the children of Israel had been freed from slavery in Egypt this was called Passover. The Jews by the offering of the paschal lamb, and taking the blood of that lamb to be put on the doors of their homes were spared the curse which was uttered by Pharaoh himself 'that the first born child of each family would die.' After this horrific event came Passover; the Jews passing from slavery to freedom, from Egypt to the promised land. After the Passover they journeyed through the desert toward the Promised Land, and they reached Mount Sinai. On the fiftieth day after the Passover, the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai in the form of the burning bush, and with the sound of a trumpet and with thunder and lightning, He gave them the ten commandments of the Law. As a memorial of the giving of the Law, He decreed an annual feast on that day, an offering of the first-fruits, in the form of two loaves of bread, made from the first grain of the new harvest, which were to be brought to the altar. We already know that the Passover Lamb and the deliverance from Egypt foreshadow the death of Christ and our deliverance from sin, as it is written in 1 Corinthians chapter 5: "Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us." He is the true Lamb Who has taken away the sins of the world (John 1:29), Who has redeemed us from the bondage of death and of sin at the price of His own life and blood, and by the example of His own resurrection he has shown us the hope of life and everlasting liberty.

The Jewish Law or the Ten Commandments was given at Mount Sinai on the fiftieth day after the



slaying of the lamb, when the Lord descended upon the mountain in fire. This was the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Likewise, on the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Christ, the grace of the Holy Spirit, descending in the outward appearance of fire, was given to the disciples as they were assembled in the upper room. We read in Act chapter 2 that "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one

accord¹ in one place.²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.⁶And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.⁷Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"⁸And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

The height of the mountain, and the elevation of the upper room, which we see here both indicate the sublimity of the commands and of the gifts. In the Old Testament or the first covenant, the people remained at the base of the mountain, a handful of elders went part way up, and only Moses ascended to the summit. In the New Testament or the second covenant, the whole

community of God's people was gathered at the summit, in the upper room. For the observance of the Law was given to only one nation -- "He hath not dealt so with any nation, neither have the heathen knowledge of His Law" (Psalm 147:20) -- but the gifts of the Spirit to the Church are for the proclaiming of the Gospel to every living person on the face of the earth -- " The LORD's name is praised from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same" Malachi 1:11.

On the Jewish feast of Pentecost, there were to be offered to the Lord every year in perpetuity two loaves of bread, the first-fruits of the new harvest. So at the descent of the Spirit the Gospel was preached with power, and on that day many heard and believed and were baptized, and from men of every nation under heaven about three thousand souls were added to the Church, the first fruits of the new covenant. So every year on the feast of Pentecost, we offer ourselves entirely to God as did the Apostles, and so we as people become an offering to the Lord, an offering of the first-fruits of those who hope in the salvation of the Lord.

Observe how the Law was given to the people of Israel on the fiftieth day of their journey to the Land of Rest that was promised to them in Canaan. So likewise, the grace of the Spirit was given to the people of the new covenant on the fiftieth day, that we might perceive that our journey is directed toward that Heavenly Country that is our Eternal Rest, our place of deep and abiding satisfaction.

The day of Pentecost is the day on which our Church was born. God gave us our Church and our Faith as a new covenant just as he gave the law and the prophets to the Jews in the old covenant. Our Orthodox Church is here to guide us to the promised land; the Kingdom of Heaven where we are freed from every yoke of sin, and our debts, that is to say, our sins -- have all been forgiven and cancelled, the entire company of the people of God will enjoy peace and unending rest and eternal paradise. This is a beautiful Heavenly Vision, is the command of the Lord, it is the fulfillment of all the Lord promised us. This beautiful Heavenly Vision should be our goal and this should be our vision for life in all we do as a parish and as persons

ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΗΝ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗ

Αδερφοί μου, η απελευθέρωση την τέκνων του Ισραήλ από την δουλεία της Αιγύπτου, ονομάστηκε Πάσχα. Οι εβραίοι γλιτώσανε από την κατάρα που εκστόμισε ο ίδιος ο Φαραώ ότι δηλαδή «το πρωτότοκο τέκνο κάθε οικογένειας θα πεθάνει», με το να θυσιάσουν το πασχαλινό αρνί και να βάψουν τις πόρτες των σπιτιών τους με το αίμα αυτού. Μετά από αυτό το φρικτό γεγονός ήρθε το Πάσχα [που σημαίνει πέρασμα], οι εβραίοι περάσανε από την δουλεία στην ελευθερία, από την Αίγυπτο στην Γη της Επαγγελίας. Μετά από το Πάσχα ταξιδέψανε

μέσω της ερήμου προς την Γη της Επαγγελίας και φτάσανε στο όρος Σινά. Πενήντα μέρες μετά το Πάσχα ο Κύριος κατέβηκε στο όρος Σινά με την μορφή καιόμενης βάτου συνοδευόμενος από τον ήχο σαλπίγγων, αστραπών και βροντών. Εκεί τους έδωσε τις Δέκα Εντολές. Εις ανάμνησιν αυτού του γεγονότος, θέσπισε μια ετήσια γιορτή για εκείνη τη μέρα, δηλαδή την προσφορά των πρώτων καρπών με την μορφή δύο καρβελιών ψωμιού, φτιαγμένα με το πρώτο σπόρο της νέας σοδειάς, τα οποία έπρεπε να προσκομιστούν στο θυσιαστήριο. Εμείς ήδη γνωρίζουμε ότι ο

Πασχαλινός Αμνός και η λύτρωση από την Αίγυπτο, προμηνύουν τον θάνατο του Χριστού και την λύτρωσή μας από την αμαρτία, όπως είναι γραμμένο στην Α΄ προς Κορινθίους Επιστολή κεφ.5 : «Ο Χριστός ο Αμνός του Πάσχα θυσιάζεται για εμάς». Αυτός είναι ο πραγματικός αμνός του Θεού ο αίρων την αμαρτίαν του κόσμου [κατά Ιωάννη 1:29], Αυτός μας έχει απελευθερώσει από τα δεσμά του θανάτου και της αμαρτίας με τίμημα την ζωή και το αίμα Του, και με το παράδειγμα της Αναστάσεώς Του μας οδήγησε στην ελπίδα της αιώνιας ζωής και ελευθερίας.

Ο Εβραϊκός Νόμος ή οι Δέκα Εντολές αν θέλετε, δόθηκαν πάνω στο όρος Σινά πενήντα ημέρες μετά την θυσία του αμνού, όταν ο Κύριος κατέβηκε στον βουνό με την μορφή φωτιάς. Αυτή ήταν η εβραϊκή εορτή της Πεντηκοστής. Παρομοίως πενήντα ημέρες μετά την Ανάσταση του Χριστού, η χάρις του Αγίου Πνεύματος, δόθηκε στους αποστόλους την ώρα που ήταν συγκεντρωμένοι σε ένα ανώγειο δώμα, υπό την μορφή πύρινων γλωσσών. Διαβάζουμε στις Πράξεις των Αποστόλων κεφ.2 πως : «Όταν έφτασε η μέρα της Πεντηκοστής, ήταν όλοι μαζί συγκεντρωμένοι με ομοψυχία στο ίδιο μέρος. Ξαφνικά ήρθε από τον ουρανό μια βουή σαν να φυσούσε δυνατός άνεμος, και γέμισε όλο το σπίτι όπου έμεναν. Επίσης τους παρουσιάστηκαν γλώσσες σαν φλόγες φωτιάς που μοιράστηκαν και κάθισαν από μία στον καθένα απ' αυτούς. Όλοι τότε πλημμύρισαν από Πνεύμα Άγιο και άρχισαν να μιλούν σε άλλες γλώσσες, ανάλογα με την ικανότητα που τους έδινε το Πνεύμα. Στην Ιερουσαλήμ βρίσκονταν τότε ευσεβείς Ιουδαίοι από όλα τα μέρη του κόσμου. Όταν ακούστηκε αυτή η βουή, συγκεντρώθηκε πλήθος απ' αυτούς και ήταν κατάπληκτοι, γιατί ο καθένας τους άκουγε τους αποστόλους να μιλάνε στη δική του γλώσσα. Είχαν μείνει όλοι εκστατικοί και με

απορία έλεγαν μεταξύ τους: "Μα αυτοί όλοι που μιλάνε δεν είναι Γαλιλαίοι; Πώς λοιπόν εμείς τους ακούμε να μιλάνε στη δική μας μητρική γλώσσα;"».

Το υψόμετρο του όρους καθώς και το υπερυψωμένο ανώγειο δώμα τα οποία βλέπουμε εδώ, υποδεικνύουν το μεγαλείο των εντολών και των δώρων. Στην Παλαιά Διαθήκη ή αλλιώς στην πρώτη συμφωνία με τον Θεό, ο λαός παρέμεινε στους πρόποδες του όρους, κάποιιοι ελάχιστοι ηλικιωμένοι ανεβήκανε λίγο πιο πάνω, και μόνον ο Μωυσής έφτασε στην κορυφή του όρους. Στην Καινή Διαθήκη ή αλλιώς στην δεύτερη συμφωνία με τον Θεό, ολόκληρη η κοινότητα των ανθρώπων του Θεού ήταν συγκεντρωμένη στην κορυφή, στο ανώγειο δώμα. Γιατί η τήρηση του νόμου δόθηκε μόνον σε ένα έθνος - «Δεν έπραξε όμως το ίδιο για κάθε άλλο έθνος, δεν φανέρωσε σε όλα τα έθνη τα παραγγέλματα και τις εντολές του» [Ψαλμός 147:20] -- τα δώρα όμως του Αγίου Πνεύματος προς την Εκκλησία αφορούν το κήρυγμα του Ευαγγελίου σε κάθε άνθρωπο που ζει πάνω στην γη «το όνομα του Κυρίου θα δοξάζεται από την ανατολή του ηλίου μέχρι και την δύση του» [Μαλαχίας 1:11].

Κατά την εβραϊκή εορτή της Πεντηκοστής, κάθε χρόνο έπρεπε να προσφερθούν στον Κύριο δύο καρβέλια ψωμί, οι πρώτοι καρποί της νέας εσοδείας εις το διηνεκές. Κατά τον ίδιο τρόπο με την επιφοίτηση του Πνεύματος ξεκίνησε να κηρύττεται το Ευαγγέλιο με δύναμη, και εκείνη τη συγκεκριμένη μέρα πολλοί ακούσανε και πιστέψανε και βαπτίστηκαν, και άνθρωποι από κάθε έθνος κάτω από τον ουρανό περίπου τρεις χιλιάδες ψυχές προστέθηκαν στην Εκκλησία, οι πρώτοι καρποί της νέας διαθήκης. Έτσι λοιπόν κατά τον εορτασμό της Πεντηκοστής κάθε χρόνο, προσφέρουμε τον εαυτό μας εξ ολοκλήρου στον Θεό όπως ακριβώς κάνανε και οι Απόστολοι, και

με την ανθρώπινη υπόστασή μας γινόμαστε προσφορά προς τον Κύριο, η προσφορά των πρώτων καρπών αυτών που ελπίζουν στην σωτηρία από τον Κύριο.

Παρατηρήστε πώς ο Εβραϊκός Νόμος δόθηκε στον λαό του Ισραήλ την πεντηκοστή ημέρα του ταξιδιού τους προς την Γη της Αναπαύσεως που τους είχε υποσχεθεί στην Χαναάν. Κατά τον ίδιο τρόπο, η χάρις του Πνεύματος δόθηκε στους ανθρώπους της νέας συμφωνίας, την πεντηκοστή ημέρα. Μπορούμε να αντιληφθούμε με αυτό ότι το ταξίδι μας κατευθύνεται προς αυτήν την Ουράνια Χώρα η οποία είναι η Αιώνια Ανάπαυσή μας, η περιοχή της βαθιάς και διαρκούς ικανοποίησής μας.

Η ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής είναι η ημέρα της γέννησης της Εκκλησίας μας. Ο Θεός μας έδωσε την Εκκλησία μας και την Πίστη μας ως νέα συμφωνία – διαθήκη, όπως ακριβώς είχε δώσει

τον εβραϊκό νόμο και τους προφήτες στους εβραίους με την παλιά συμφωνία- διαθήκη. Η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία μας είναι εδώ για να μας οδηγήσει προς την γη της επαγγελίας, την Βασιλεία των Ουρανών όπου θα είμαστε απελευθερωμένοι από τον ζυγό της αμαρτίας, και τις οφειλές και τα χρέη μας δηλαδή τις αμαρτίες μας οι οποίες όλες θα συγχωρεθούν και θα ακυρωθούν και όλη η συντροφιά των ανθρώπων του Θεού θα απολαύσει την ειρήνη και την ατελείωτη ανάπαυση και τον αιώνιο παράδεισο. Αυτό είναι ένα πανέμορφο Ουράνιο Όραμα, είναι η εντολή του Κυρίου, είναι η εκπλήρωση όλων όσων μας έχει υποσχεθεί ο Κύριος. Αυτό το πανέμορφο Ουράνιο Όραμα θα πρέπει να είναι ο στόχος μας και θα πρέπει να είναι το όραμά μας εφ' όρου ζωής για όλα όσα πράττουμε και ως ενορία και ως άτομα.

*Adaptation by:
Dina Kyritsis, Thessaloniki, GR*

ORTHROS @8AM & DIVINE LITURGY @9AM

†SATURDAY OF SOULS, June 3rd

*Fr. John Theodosion will be visiting the Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover.
Please call the office and make an appointment if you would like Fr. John to pray
for your loved ones with you at another Cemetery.*

† † † † † †

ΌΡΘΟΣ ΩΡΑ 8ΠΜ & ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΩΡΑ 9ΠΜ

†ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ – 3^{ΗΣ} ΙΟΥΝΙΟΥ

μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία, Ο π. Ιωάννης θα επισκεφτεί το Νεκροταφείο στο Ντόβερ. Εάν θέλετε να επισκεφτεί κάποιο άλλο νεκροταφείο μαζί σας παρακαλούμε να μας τηλεφωνήσετε στο γραφείο και να κανονίσετε για Τρισάγιο.

BIG GREEK FESTIVAL.COM

June 9 – 10 – 11



Friday ♦ June 9 ♦ Lunch 11am – 2pm

Eat in or take out – pre-order at:
standrewgonj.square.site or 973.584.0388

Dinner 5pm – 11pm

Saturday ♦ June 10 ♦ 11am – 11pm

Sunday ♦ June 11 ♦ 12pm – 7pm



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BigGreekFestival.com  





GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

May 2023

Dear Steward of Saint Andrew,

On behalf of the Parish Council, we cordially invite you to attend a Saint Andrew General Assembly meeting on:

Sunday, May 21st, 2023 @ 12:00pm

According to the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese, all parishioners present, and wishing to participate in the discussions and voting, must be active stewards for 2023. This meeting will take place in person at church.

ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΓΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗΣ

Μάιος 2023

Αγαπητέ Steward του Αγίου Ανδρέου,

Εκ μέρους του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου ευρισκόμαστε στην ευχάριστη θέση να σας προσκαλέσουμε στο Συμβούλιο των Ιερατειών του Αγίου Ανδρέου και Γενική Συνέλευση της Κοινότητας που θα γίνει την

Κυριακή 21 Μαΐου ώρα 12:00μμ

Σύμφωνα με το Ενιαίο Καταστατικό των Ενοριών της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής όλοι οι παρόντες οικονόμοι (stewards) για να έχουν δικαίωμα συζητήσεων και ψήφου πρέπει να είναι ενεργά μέλη για το 2023 Αυτή η Συνέλευση θα γίνει αυτοπροσώπως στην εκκλησία.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Nomination and election of Chairperson and appointment of Recording Secretary by the Chairperson for the General Assembly Meeting
3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Buildings and Grounds
6. Festival
7. Car Raffle
8. Youth Safety Compliance
9. New Business, Comments & Questions
10. Closing Prayer

Yours in Christ,

Rev. John Theodosion, *Protopresbyter*

Nick Monokandilos, *Parish Council President*

Τα θέματα είναι τα εξής:

1. Προσευχή έναρξης
2. Υποψηφιότητες - εκλογή Προέδρου και διορισμός εκ του Προέδρου Γραμματέως Πρακτικών για την Γενική Συνέλευση
3. Έγκριση των πρακτικών της προηγούμενης Γενικής Συνελεύσεως
4. Έκθεση Ταμείου
5. Κτίρια και Χώροι
6. Φεστιβάλ
7. Λοταρία αυτοκινήτων
8. Εργαζόμενοι για την Ασφάλεια των Νέων
9. Νεες Επιχειρήσεις, Ερωτήσεις & Παρατηρήσεις
10. Προσευχή

Με αγάπη Χριστού,

Πατήρ Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου, Αιδ. Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος

Νικόλαος Μονοκάντιλος, Πρόεδρος Ενοριακού

Συμβουλίου

Saint Andrew Annual Tricky Tray!
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM | CALLING BEGINS AT 8:00PM

Hosted by the Ladies Philoptochos Society

\$20.00 Entrance Fee includes:

Complimentary coffee, dessert and 25 regular prize tickets

If you would like to reserve a table, please list the names of ALL attendees.

(Table seats 8)

Advance Ticket Bundle: \$60 Value is \$90!

BUNDLES are pre-sale only UNTIL MAY 1st & will NOT be sold at event.

Additional tickets may be purchased at entry.

The Tricky Tray is our main fundraiser, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the following charities:

Saint Peter's Orphanage, Saint Michael's Home and Parkinson's Foundation.

If you have any questions, please contact SaintAndrwsTT@gmail.com



HONOREE GRAND BANQUET
Monday, May 15th @ 6:00 pm
The Venetian in Garfield, NJ

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox church will honor only a few of the many hard working and dedicated parishioners of our community.

This year the following people were chosen to be honored by our church and will receive an award at the banquet. The Community Honoree is **Ioannis (John) Zois**, Parish Council Honoree is **George Papanikolaw**, Philoptochos Honoree is **Irene Laoudis**, GOYA Honoree is **Despina Sedereas**, Greek Education Teacher Honoree is **Anastasia (Stacey) Papanikolaw**, Psalti Honoree is **Panagiotis Fotinis**, Youth Worker Honoree is **Polymnia Crysler**, and Oldest Person being honored is **James Lioudis**.

We would like to thank them all for their services and contributions to the success of our ministries. If you would like to attend this event, please contact the office for reservations and details asap. RSVP by 5/1/23

We will represent the awards to our honorees in our church on a future Sunday TBA.



His Eminence
Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Cordially requests your presence

at the

**2023 Clergy-Laity Assembly
& Philoptochos Convention
Grand Banquet**

on

Monday, May 15, 2023

at

"The Venetian"

546 River Drive, Garfield, New Jersey 07026

Program and Dinner - 6:00pm

Tickets: \$125.00 per person

Please contact and make checks payable to your local parish to purchase tickets.

RSVP to your local parish by May 1, 2023



SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS

From the time that I began my Orthodox journey, I became aware that there were occasions where we would abstain from eating certain foods. My husband-to-be explained the significance of the fast. I mentioned to him as I have mentioned to others in the church that, though it is all very nice to observe these special holidays, saints, and events in this way, we must not lose fact of the way that God wants us to fast more than any other way. Although it comes up in the New Testament, fasting in the Old Testament is as follows:

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” (Isaiah 58.6-7). It is a beautiful passage filled with many promises that is worth the read. However, I am bringing this up now because this article was written during our Lenten fast. In fact, everything we did evolved around our Lenten season. Especially, for the Philoptochos, the season presented many opportunities to do as God is asking of us!

We had the opportunity to help homeless people in whatever way was needed with the “I Am Hope” Easter basket drive. It was organized by a member of our church, Maria Koukoularis. Maria’s sister, Eleni Koukoularis, who is one of our Sunday school teachers, assisted and promoted the drive. Along with many others, members of our Philoptochos donated candy and helped in the making of the baskets. Thanks to the spirit of God working through those who participated, the ambitious goal of 5,000 Easter baskets was met! You can find out more about this at: iamhopenj.org.

In a truly brotherly gathering, members of the three local Orthodox communities (Sts. Peter & Paul, Holy Trinity and us) co-celebrated a Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on March 22. The church was filled and we joyously partook of the Communion cup. The evening culminated in the breaking of bread together with our sisters mainly providing the Lenten refreshments. We enjoyed each other’s fellowship that evening.

On March 31st, Linda Blackiston, Director of Community Engagement at the Institute for Shelter Care, presented a very informative lecture about human trafficking. Listening to Linda’s presentation, informed us how we could help those that are either being, or have the potential of being, trafficked. It was upsetting to learn that this is likely ongoing, unbeknownst to us, in our own communities! For more information call them at (410) 459-3424 or email at Lblackiston@instituteforsheltercare.org.



On Palm Sunday, members of the Philoptochos co-hosted a luncheon. Members prepared and served delicious Lenten food and dessert. This event allowed for the opportunity for the St. Andrew congregation to bond and brainstorm about ways to do God's will. Only through social gatherings such as this are members of the church able to enhance their feeling of belonging to something greater than themselves. Here is an environment where great feasts can begin.

Last, but by no means least of those charities to be highlighted, the Philoptochos sponsored a drive for clothes, blankets and other items to be sent to those in need in Ukraine. May we extend here our sincere thanks to all of those who supported this worthwhile cause. It was a wonderful opportunity to lend a helping hand to our sister Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Whippany.



There are so many needs where the Philoptochos responds to aid; too many to cover in this article. Philoptochos is the very soul of the church. By participating or contributing to this ministry, we are brought that much closer to knowing God and for Him to know us. As Jesus said, "... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. ... Truly I tell you that just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25.35-40). The work never ends. Philoptochos has donated the icon of "The Temptation of Christ", soon to be installed as part of the iconography project. This will make St. Andrew more Orthodox in appearance as blank wall space is replaced with religious imagery.

Submitted by Joanna Haritos



“Do You Believe?”

By Bill Marianes

I understand death. I've seen it. I buried a goldfish that my daughter really loved but which died notwithstanding her great love. I have buried a father, two in-laws, grandparents and best friends, all of whom I have loved very much. Death is all around us and it's touched all of us. It's about all the evening news likes to talk about. I get death. And I know it will one day get me.

What I have trouble with sometimes is resurrection. I haven't seen it. I don't actually know anyone who came back from the dead. My daughter's goldfish is still buried in our back yard. The physical remnants of loved-ones are scattered in cemeteries all over this country and in Greece. So is resurrection real? Am I the only person who sometimes has doubts? I got to wondering, so I decided to do some research. That's what lawyers do.

In his outstanding book, *America Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, Harvard researcher Robert Putman presents the amazing fact that with respect to Americans: “Eighty percent are absolutely sure that there is a God.” And yet he reports that only “sixty percent are absolutely sure that there is a heaven, although fewer (52%) have this level of certainty about life after death” Which led to his conclusion that: “the vast majority of Americans also believe in God, but Americans are less sure about life beyond the grave.”

Well maybe it is just a modern American thing. Perhaps it is that secular humanist, anti-Christian epidemic that seems to be overtaking our “One nation under God.” So I decided to research the best “believers” I could find who lived in a different time and place. Christ's Apostles.

Among the most faithful men of all times who gave up everything to follow our Lord and ultimately died executing his final instructions to “...make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19). For several years, almost every day of their lives, they walked with

Christ, they ate with Christ, they were directly taught by Christ, and they saw miracle after miracle He performed. Indeed, right before the triumphant entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem (on the day we now celebrate as Palm Sunday), they saw what had to be the ultimate proof of his divinity and the promise of resurrection.

Four days after the death of a dear friend of our Lord (according to John 11:5), Christ brings Lazarus back from the dead and clearly says: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live.” (John 11:25) It can't get any clearer than that, can it? Christ makes resurrection definitive, undeniable, and the Disciples (and others) see it with their own eyes. No witness can possibly have any more doubts about resurrection, right? Well, not so fast. Just a few days later, these very saintly and devout Disciples actually did doubt.

I couldn't believe it. They saw with their own eyes, and yet they doubted. Could that be true? Now I am no theologian or Biblical scholar, but it seemed to this simple country lawyer that again, research was called for. I encourage you to seek proper guidance from a Theologian or scholar. But I just had to see for myself. So I looked at what the Apostles told us in their very own words in the Gospels they wrote. And I found it easily. They didn't attempt to hide their lack of faith or disbelief in an effort to make themselves somehow sound better or more courageous. They were honest and just told us the truth. They doubted.

These holiest of holy men repeatedly heard our Lord describe resurrection, and they saw him demonstrate it with his friend Lazarus (and others). Yet once they witnessed Christ's death on the cross, that perhaps devilish doubt overcame them. Not once, or just one of them. But they all confessed it to us, their descendants.

In Mark 16:11-13 we learn, firsthand, what happened when Christ appeared to his faithful after his death and resurrection: "And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe." (emphasis added) After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either." (emphasis added)

As Matthew describes the Lord's appearance in giving the Disciples their Great Commission, he acknowledges that when the 11 disciples saw our Lord: "...they worshiped Him; but some doubted." (Matthew 28:17) (emphasis added). And the Apostle Luke also acknowledges that they did not believe in Luke 24:11.

What in the world is going on? It appears that there was an epidemic of disbelief from those closest to our Lord. Those who saw Him, and heard Him, and professed to believe in Him. Yet all the eye witnesses, and the most faithful, publicly confess to us that they had their doubts about resurrection. I don't know about you, but this made me feel a little better when I sometimes have my doubts about things. It's like they knew we might sometimes need to be encouraged when we suffer our own occasional disbelief.

And the synonym for doubt, Thomas, had his disbelief forever documented in John 20:24-29. To this day, we call one who lacks belief a "doubting Thomas." The Apostle John tells us that Thomas would confess his belief only after our Lord let him reach out and touch the unthinkable injuries Christ suffered during His crucifixion. And in that precious and amazing moment, it's as if Christ speaks to all of us in this day and time: "Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.'" (John 20:29)

There it is my brothers and sisters. A clear path to receiving our Lord's blessings. The simple act of belief. Belief in His resurrection. Not because we are like the over 500 hundred live witnesses who saw a

resurrected Lord (1 Corinthians 15:5-8), including the Apostle Peter (called Cephas in Holy Scripture), the other Apostles, James, and St. Paul who chronicles Christ's appearance after his death on the cross. We receive the promise that resurrection will be our fate, if only we have faith.

And Hebrews 11:1 teaches us what faith is. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." So we come full circle. I haven't seen a human resurrection. Neither probably have you. And yet we are given a test of faith. What can we use to pass that test? How about a promise from our Lord?

We hear such a promise in one of the many times our Lord promised us life after death. In John 13:36 when Simon Peter asks Christ: "'Lord, where are you going?' Jesus answered him, 'Where I am going you cannot follow Me now; but you shall follow Me afterward.'"

So why do we have doubts? Why do at least 48% of us believe there is NOTHING after this life? And what can we do to learn to have faith? Now this is an important question each of us has to answer for ourselves. It's perhaps one of the most critical questions to which we must seek our own 3 answers. But if we answer that "we believe," our lives must change. No longer can we merely focus on the 50, 60, 70, 80 years we will have on this earth. We have to focus on a much larger objective and a longer period. All of eternity.

Perhaps at this point you're wondering if I will share a secret formula or hidden pathway to belief. I will not. I can't. That's for you to prayerfully seek and find for yourself. However, I confess to you, that I do believe. I know resurrection to be the truth. How, you ask? How can you know and believe that which you have not seen?

I have never seen subatomic particles, but I believe they exist. So I started to make a list of things I believe in but have never seen. My list included sound, earthquakes, Mount Everest, energy, dreams, dinosaurs, emotions, the past, electrons,

the Holy Spirit, the bottom of the ocean, that ALL people have good in them, cancer cells, gut feelings, my ability to lose the 20 pounds I have been losing for the last 20 years, very unsuccessfully. OK, I admit, that last one may not actually exist given my significant and well-chronicled inadequacies.

I believe that if you prayerfully reflect on this you will discover many things in which you believe that you have not seen. These are all proofs that you have faith. Anyone who has ever flown in an airplane or driven a car understands faith. You trust that the other person in control of these multiton, fuel-filled projectiles will either stay out of your way or land it, and you, safely.

But I also realized I have seen so many miracles in my own life that should help me with this faith journey. I have seen the miracle of the births of my two amazing daughters. I have seen the miracle of a sunset (the death of a day), followed by the resurrection of the sunrise on the next day. I have seen people sacrifice significantly and willingly without seeking a return on this earth. Can anything else explain our parents or those who “serve and protect” us every day. What about the love that we have all experienced, perhaps even when we didn’t always deserve it.

How about you?

What miracles have you seen in your life?

Blind people do not physically see as we who have been given the blessing of sight do. And yet they are full of beliefs and will tell you that they believe that they see things sometimes more clearly than we sighted people do. In some respects, blindness can be both a physical phenomenon and a spiritual one. It can also be a self-inflicted wound as it was for the Apostles and those who saw our Lord suffer and did

not believe, that is, until they saw him after his resurrection.

So do you believe in a resurrected Lord? Can you accept the word of holy eyewitnesses: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, James and hundreds of others who saw and believed and shared their seeing and believing so that we who inherited these stories might also believe. If you do believe and call yourself a Christian, what are you doing with your life to demonstrate that belief? How are you living today, so that you can prepare yourself for the eternal life we have all been promised.

When you discover WHY you are here on this earth, and what your Lord has called you to do, you prove you believe and have faith. When you figure out how to take the many gifts he has given you and deploy them for His greater glory and to help prepare you for theosis and salvation, you prove you believe and have faith. When you decide that every day you have left on this earth you will actually live your stewardship calling, you prove you believe and have faith. And when you believe and have faith, you actually become a steward of our Lord’s gifts to you.

It is to that purpose that I have decided to dedicate the remainder of my life as a stewardship calling evangelist. What’s your purpose? What’s your why? What’s your stewardship calling? And most importantly, what are you doing, every day, to prepare a “good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ?”

I pray that you believe and have faith and become a living icon of Christ’s presence every day. May God bless you on your journey as you discover and live your stewardship calling. My prayer for you is that you “SOTPAETJ” (stay on The Path and enjoy the journey).

Bill Marianes is the Chief Evangelist Officer of the Stewardship Calling ministry focused on helping people and parishes discover and live their stewardship callings so that they may have a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ. The always free www.stewardshipcalling.com website contains many resources to help churches and parishioners with stewardship, strategic planning, engaged discipleship, discovering your WHY, servant leadership, effective communications and church operational excellence. Bill is also a member of the Orthodox Ministry Services Team: <https://orthodoxministry.org/>. Bill can be reached at Bill@stewardshipcalling.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
JUNIOR ORATORICAL
PRESENTATIONS
SR. GRADUATION AWARDS
CEREMONY
SCHOLARSHIP
PRESENTATIONS

*Will be held in the Church immediately after
Divine Liturgy on
Sunday May 21st*

Hellenic Afternoon School
GRADUATION

THURSDAY MAY 25TH AT 5PM

All students must arrive
at 4:30pm in the gymnasium.

Please join us to celebrate our
heritage with our children as they
recite poems sing songs and perform
our traditional Greek folk dances.

Refreshments will be offered by the Saint Andrew PTA.

CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Wo-Me-To, Jarrettsville, MD

Virginia July 9-15
Ages 10-18
Location: Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA

New Jersey July 16-22
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Linwood Macdonald, Sandyston, NJ

Register here
<http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn>

More Information <https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR BIG GREEK FESTIVAL

June 9-10-11

We are looking forward to having our **Annual Big Greek Festival at Saint Andrew.**

It is only possible with the contributions of our devoted volunteers, like you! Please consider joining the festival team. You can volunteer for a specific area or let us assign a location to you. (before during and/or after)

Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners, to serve the church community, and to show pride in our Greek heritage and Orthodox faith.

COME JOIN US: A great fellowship event -- come make friends that last a lifetime! Look for Volunteer Signup sheets by the church office.

Ascension of Our Lord

Orthros and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Thursday May 25th 2023 -

Introduction

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.



Historical Background



The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is

also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Icon of the Feast



The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church.

The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension. St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that he was not present at the Ascension. At that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus. But he became a Christian and one of the greatest Apostles and missionaries of Church.

The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is its Head, its guide, its source of inspiration and teaching; it receives its commission and ministry from Him, and fulfils it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Ascension

This Feast of our Lord is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is conducted on the day of the Feast and preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Scripture readings for the Feast are the following: At Vespers: Isaiah 2:2-3, 62:10-63:9; Zechariah 14:1,4,8-11. At the Orthros (Matins) Mark 16:9-20; At the Divine Liturgy: [Acts 1:1-12](#); [Luke 24:36-53](#).

Hymns of the Feast

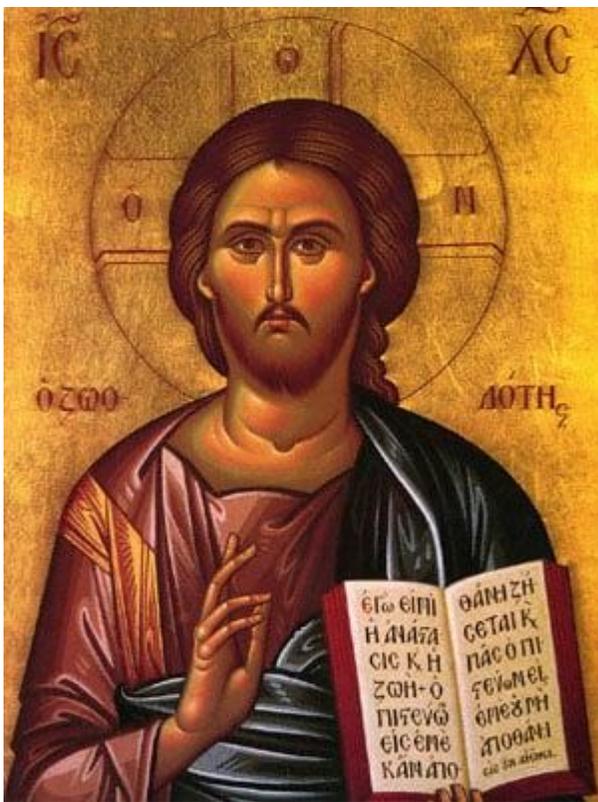
Apolytikion (Fourth Tone)

O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion (Plagal of the Second Tone)

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."

Holy Ascension



The Gospel According to Luke 24:36-53

At that time, having risen from the dead, Jesus went up and stood among His disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish [and some honeycomb], and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and

that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name in all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the Temple blessing God.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 24:36-53 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀναστὰς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκ νεκρῶν ἔστη ἐν μέσῳ τῶν Μαθητῶν, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Πτοηθέντες δὲ καὶ ἔμβοβοι γενόμενοι, ἐδόκουν πνεῦμα θεωρεῖν. Καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Τί τεταραγμένοι ἐστέ, καὶ διατὶ διαλογισμοὶ ἀναβαίνουνσιν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; Ἴδετε τὰς χεῖράς μου καὶ τοὺς πόδας μου, ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐγὼ εἰμι, ψηλαφήσατέ με καὶ ἴδετε, ὅτι πνεῦμα σὰρκα καὶ ὀστέα οὐκ ἔχει, καθὼς ἐμὲ θεωρεῖτε ἔχοντα. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν, ἐπέδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τοὺς πόδας. Ἔτι δὲ ἀπιστούντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῆς χαρᾶς, καὶ θαυμαζόντων, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἔχετε τι βρώσιμον ἐνθάδε; Οἱ δὲ ἐπέδωκαν αὐτῷ ἰχθύος ὀπτοῦ μέρος, καὶ ἀπὸ μελισσίου κηρίου. Καὶ λαβὼν, ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν ἔφαγεν. Εἶπε δὲ αὐτοῖς· Οὗτοι οἱ λόγοι, οὓς ἐλάλησα πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔτι ὧν σὺν ὑμῖν, ὅτι δεῖ πληρωθῆναι πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ νόμῳ Μωσέως καὶ Προφήταις καὶ Ψαλμοῖς περὶ ἐμοῦ. Τότε διήνοιξεν αὐτῶν τὸν νοῦν, τοῦ συνιέναι τὰς Γραφάς· καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ὅτι οὕτω γέγραπται, καὶ οὕτως εἶδει παθεῖν τὸν Χριστόν, καὶ ἀναστῆναι ἐκ νεκρῶν τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ, καὶ κηρυχθῆναι ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ μετάνοιαν καὶ ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, ἀρξάμενον ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ. Ὑμεῖς δὲ ἐστε μάρτυρες τούτων. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς μου ἐφ' ὑμᾶς· ὑμεῖς δὲ καθίσατε ἐν τῇ πόλει Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἕως οὗ ἐνδύσησθε δύναμιν ἐξ ὕψους. Ἐξήγαγε δὲ αὐτοὺς ἔξω εἰς Βηθανίαν, καὶ ἐπάρας τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ, εὐλόγησεν αὐτούς. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ εὐλογεῖν αὐτὸν αὐτούς, διέστη ἀπ' αὐτῶν, καὶ ἀνεφέρετο εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν. Καὶ αὐτοὶ, προσκυνήσαντες αὐτόν, ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ μετὰ χαρᾶς μεγάλης. Καὶ ἦσαν διαπαντός ἐν τῷ Ἱερῷ, αἰνοῦντες καὶ εὐλογοῦντες τὸν Θεόν. Ἀμήν.



Τι ακριβώς γιορτάζουμε της Αναλήψεως

Την Πέμπτη 25/5/23 - Όρθρος ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:15πμ

Μετά το Πάσχα, 39 ημέρες, τιμάται η εορτή της Αναλήψεως. Ο Κύριός μας Ιησούς Χριστός μετά την λαμπροφόρο Ανάστασή Του από τους νεκρούς, δεν εγκατέλειψε αμέσως τον κόσμο, αλλά συνέχισε για σαράντα ημέρες να εμφανίζεται στους μαθητές Του (Πράξ.1,3).

Αυτές οι μεταναστάσιμες εμφανίσεις Του προς αυτούς είχαν πολύ μεγάλη σημασία. Έπρεπε οι πρώην δύσπιστοι και φοβισμένοι μαθητές να βιώσουν το γεγονός της Αναστάσεως του Διδασκάλου τους και να αποβάλλουν κάθε δισταγμό και ψήγμα απιστίας για Εκείνον.

Την τεσσαρακοστή λοιπόν ημέρα, σύμφωνα με το Ευαγγέλιο του Λουκά, ο Κύριος τους μαθητές του «εξήγαγε έξω έως τη Βηθανία», στο όρος των Έλαιών όπου συνήθως προσηύχето. «Και αφού σήκωσε τα χέρια του, τους ευλόγησε». (Λουκά 24,50) και «ευλογώντας τους, εχωρίσθηκε απ' αυτούς και εφέρετο προς τα πάνω, στον ουρανό» μέχρι που τον έχασαν από τα μάτια τους. Και μετά αφού Τον προσκύνησαν επέστρεψαν στην Ιερουσαλήμ με χαρά μεγάλη και έμεναν συνεχώς στο ναό υμνολογώντας και δοξολογώντας το Θεό.

Ο ευαγγελιστής Μάρκος, περιγράφοντας πιο λακωνικά το θαυμαστό και συνάμα συγκινητικό γεγονός, αναφέρει πως μετά από την ρητή αποστολή των μαθητών σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο κηρύττοντας και βαπτίζοντας τα έθνη, «ανελήφθη εις τον ουρανό και εκάθισεν εκ δεξιών του Θεού. Εκείνοι δε εξελθόντες εκήρυξαν πανταχού, του Κυρίου συνεργούντος και τον λόγον βεβαιούντος δια των επακολουθούντων σημείων» (Μαρκ.16,19-20).

Αυτή η ευλογία είναι πια η αρχή της Πεντηκοστής. Ο Κύριος ανέρχεται για να μας στείλει το

παράκλητο Πνεύμα, όπως λέγει το τροπάριο της εορτής: «Ανυψώθηκες στη δόξα, Χριστέ Θεέ μας, αφού χαροποίησες τους μαθητές σου με την επαγγελία του Αγίου Πνεύματος και βεβαιώθηκαν από την ευλογία σου».

Η Ανάληψη του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού αποτελεί αναμφίβολα το θριαμβευτικό πέρας της επί γης παρουσίας Του και του απολυτρωτικού έργου Του. «Ανελήφθη εν δόξη» για να επιβεβαιώσει την θεία ιδιότητά Του στους παριστάμενους μαθητές Του. Για να τους στηρίξει περισσότερο στον τιτάνιο πραγματικά αγώνα, που Εκείνος τους ανάθεσε, δηλαδή τη συνέχιση του σωτηριώδους έργου Του για το ανθρώπινο γένος.

Ο Κύριος Ιησούς Χριστός ανήλθε στους ουραμούς, αλλά δεν εγκατέλειψε το ανθρώπινο γένος, για το οποίο έχυσε το τίμιο Αίμα Του. Μπορεί να κάθισε στα δεξιά του Θεού στους ένδοξους ουραμούς, όμως η παρουσία Του εκτείνεται ως τη γη και ως τα έσχατα της δημιουργίας. Άφησε στη γη την Εκκλησία Του, η οποία είναι το ίδιο το αναστημένο, αφθαρτοποιημένο και θεωμένο σώμα Του, για να είναι το μέσον της σωτηρίας όλων των ανθρωπίνων προσώπων, που θέλουν να σωθούν. Νοητή ψυχή του σώματός Του είναι ο Θεός Παράκλητος, «το Πνεύμα της αλήθειας» (Ιωάν. 15,26), ο Οποίος επεδήμησε κατά την αγία ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής σε αυτό, για να παραμείνει ως τη συντέλεια του κόσμου.

Η σωτηρία συντελείται με την οργανική συσσωμάτωση των πιστών στο θεανδρικό Σώμα του Χριστού. Αυτό εννοούσε, όταν υποσχόταν στους μαθητές Του: «ιδού εγώ μεθ' υμών ειμί πάσας τας ημέρας έως της συντελείας του αιώνος» (Ματθ.28,20).

Get your raffle tickets at Saint Andrew



RAFFLE!



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Winner need not be present at drawing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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GOYA NEWS

Sights and sounds with GOYA was an enjoyable experience for me. I participated in the English play and Greek dance but next year I definitely want to do more activities. We had many practices to prepare for our performances, but it all paid off in the end. My friends and I spent all day together watching our own and other church's performances. At the end of the day, there is a dance and church service which leads up to the main event. The awards at the end of the day are the most exciting part, where everyone sits in anticipation to hear what they've won. Sights and sounds truly is a rewarding day.

Written By: Demi Katechis



**GOYA PREPARING FOOD
FOR FAITH KITCHEN**

**GOYA WILL HOST AGAIN
on
Saturday June 24th**



GOYA 2022-23 Executive Board:

President: Despina | *VP:* Jonathan and Dora |
Treasurer: Peter | *Recording Secretary:* Ava |
Corresponding Sec.: Michael | *Historian:* Vageli

Board Members: Karmen, Demi, Themelis, Elisabeth

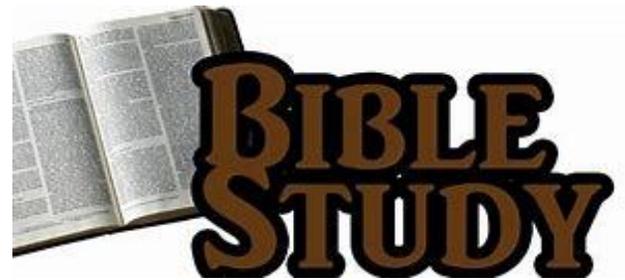
Advisers: Polymnia Crysler, Marlena Karipidis, Roslyn Monokandilos, Diana Sedereas, Peter Sedereas



Making Palm Crosses on Saturday of Lazarus... the whole community pitched in and helped... we were done in not time!

Scripture Talk
 UNVEILING THE SCRIPTURES TUESDAYS 7 PM - 8 PM EST
 FROM A TO Ω VIA ZOOM

GUEST 13: FATHER KONSTANTINOS KOUTROUBAS
 HOLY CROSS G.O.C., STROUDSBURG, PA



Join us for
 On May 4, 11, 18
 Thursday night
 At 7:30pm
 for Bible Study
 Fr. John's Office

Scripture Talk reveals the Scriptures one week at a time.
 A different priest is invited each week to help guide our discussion.
 The meeting begins every Tuesday, 7-8 pm EST, on Zoom. Weekly Zoom Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88548756745>
 Please share this ministry as we continue to unveil the Word of God.

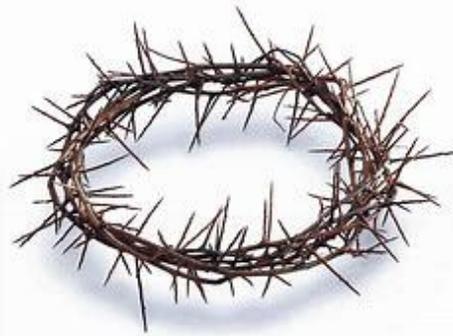
Thorns, Flowers... or BoTH!

Recently I heard sermons following the Unnailing Service and Lamentation vespers on Holy Friday. Following the Lamentations, the priest stated how beautiful the Epitaphio (actually it is the Kouvouklion) was decorated. Truly it was adorned with many beautiful flowers. Flowers adorned the body of Christ within it. They reflected the beauty of the moment and the Resurrection, which was to come the following evening, as well as the liturgy the next morning where we were to "make a joyful noise".

Indeed, the Kouvouklion looked beautiful. He went on to say how in one church in lieu of flowers a crown of thorns was placed on the body of Christ. The parishioners explained that it was in keeping with what had been done to the Lord. He replied that it was not a nice image and since the Lord had endured spitting and scourging would it be in keeping doing that as well? The point was well made, and the thorns were replaced.

Earlier there was a different sermon given at the Unnailing service. The uniqueness of the week was brought forth. The Orthodox Church approaches Holy Week, particularly starting on Holy Wednesday, in a different way. The priest stated that the week is not about us. It is solely about Jesus. We become a part of his journey during his last week on earth as man. This week there are no miracles or parables to teach or inspire us. We become witness to what Jesus will endure. Two different perspectives for the same journey!

Sermons should make us think and keep something within us for the week at least. Our attendance at



church should not be simply a visit to God's home, meeting whatever obligation we perceive needs to be met, then returning home to our lives. In reflecting on these two points I remember attending a church in Virginia where a crown of thorns had been placed on the Cross. It seemed appropriate and it gave more impact visually and mentally. Rather than just hearing the words of His passion there was a connection with what had transpired. A very Orthodox experience. It's been said many times that our experience in church is to fully envelope us. Visually through the icons, sensually with incense, hearing the chanting and the priest's prayers and petitions and ultimately taste with the distribution of the Eucharist.

Years ago, following a lecture, the question was asked if Orthodox should see the movie 'The Passion of Christ'. It had been produced by Mel Gibson who explicitly expressed that his deep Catholic faith was a force in making the film. Apparently, this reasoning had raised a discussion amongst the Orthodox bishops. After some reflection it was decided that it presented the facts, however blatantly gory, accurately and anything that gave us insight into what occurred to Jesus should be seen however disturbing they might be. The Orthodox faith stresses the joy of the Resurrection while the Western church focused on the Passion. Yet both make up the whole story. Neither should be overlooked.



At another church that I attended the priest distributed 20 penny nails following the 12 Bible

vespers on Holy Thursday. Approximately 3/8 " in diameter and 5" long, they were similar to the nails used to crucify Jesus. The next night he apologized for having given them because he hadn't intended to create such a mournful reaction. He felt that he shouldn't have made his parishioners so sad. Although the point had been made about the ordeal to which we had subjected Jesus.

The Creed, which we recite at every liturgy, is an affirmation of our faith. The Fathers of the Church in composing it laid out the basic tenants of the Church so that there would be unity in what we believe. There's a subsection within it that reads "He suffered and was buried". Apparently, the Fathers felt that this distinction was important and had to be made. It was not a convenient death of natural causes. As God it could have been but was not.

Thorns or nails, it opens the door for us to share what the Lord experienced. It shouldn't be rejected. It is our "walk" to Golgotha in a manner of speaking. It reflects on the ugliness and cruelty of the secular world in which we are submerged. We need not take it to its finality and experience death but experience what we can.

Finally, we must understand that this is not the devastating experience that our human minds perceive. There's a number of complex issues at play. God had never experienced human suffering or pain. It's not in His nature. As the Incarnate Son, on the Cross, He does this. The events that occurred were pre-ordained. There was no escaping them. Ultimately death had to come. Without death, there's no entrance into Hades. Without death there's no trampling down death. Without death there is no Resurrection. Lastly without death and the resultant Resurrection there's no Christian faith.

The joy of the Resurrection is slowly approached. The Epitaphio is beautifully decorated with flowers as is the church. In baseball terms we can say we're "rounding 3rd and heading home" at this point. The church is decorated in flowers and candles are lit bringing an inkling of light into our lives. But it's not the moment. The candles are extinguished but a flower is given to us to bring something of beauty into our homes. In slightly more than 24 hrs. another light will be brought forth. This one we take home to remind us of the light in our lives. We have transitioned from thorns to flowers.

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

Christ Haritos



The poster features the AHEPA logo in the top left corner. The main text is centered and reads: "AHEPA Chapter 300 Annual CIGAR NIGHT". Below this, the date and time are "Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 6:30 PM" and the location is "The Meadow Wood - Randolph, NJ". A list of amenities follows: "Fine Cigars | Open Bar | Hors D'oeuvres | Gourmet Food Carving Station | Delicious Desserts | Raffles & Prizes". It also lists "2023 Honorees: Senator Anthony Bucco, Esq | Mr. Panayiotis 'Takis' Seretis". Donation information is provided: "Donation \$140 Before 4/15/23 - \$160 4/15/23 and After". The proceeds are for "Benefit Goryeb Children's Hospital & AHEPA Service Dogs". Contact information includes "For More Info Email: ahepa300@gmail.com" and "Non - Smokers Welcome | Smoking Area is Outdoors". At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text "Scan QR code to purchase tickets or go to https://order-of-ahepa-morris-county.square.site/". The background of the poster shows a close-up of a cigar and a glass of whiskey.

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

“MAY - 2023 – TEEN GAMBLING RETURNS”

XRISTOS ANESTI!!! I hope all had a blessed Easter with Family & Friends.

Online gambling is the one vice that unfortunately has taken over some of adolescent time!

Again, a parishioner contacted me about their teen who may be gambling. Quite a few years ago I wrote an article about teen gambling, but in the past few years, especially during the pandemic, many of our younger generation have discovered an easy way to gamble. Parents do not overlook the fact that gambling can be as dangerous as drugs and alcohol.

Did you notice your teen needing \$\$\$ money during the Super Bowl in February and March Madness? What about obsession on their phone using \$\$\$ money for online games, not necessarily viewing sports? Look at all the ads on television and those coming to our devices encouraging all of us to use our devices to gamble not only on sports, but on casino games and regular video games. Ads such as BONUS \$\$, DOUBLE your \$\$, play \$20, get \$20 back! Recent research from the Harvard School of Public Health and the Annenberg Public Policy Center indicates again that there has been a 600% increase in teen gambling in the past years.

Most gambling in the past with teens occurred with peers gambling on sports with classmates in high school and college because they could not go to the racetrack or casinos. Today many of our teen gamblers are “crypto gamblers” and they gamble quietly in their rooms, and whenever they are alone. Gambling can start innocently with \$20 in March Madness and basketball, then baseball, (the popular sports gambling of the school or office pool), and now they can even gamble on the lottery on their devices! For many years parents worried about their

teens getting involved with drugs and alcohol and never considered that gambling can become an addiction as well.

Teen gambling can result in poor academic performance in school as they focus on their “secret gambling” and stress about getting out of debt when they keep using whatever funds they have. They may begin feeling depressed, begin lying about feeling ill, and begin isolating themselves from activities. Many may not even share their desire with family and friends that they want to get back on their devices and may say they have too much homework. Their homework may be to win back what they lost gambling.

Be aware of mood changes and isolation. Parents may worry about their teens getting involved with drugs and alcohol or if they are thinking of having sex, but now they may have one more thing to worry about. Yes parents! Worry about teen gambling! The best thing parents can do to prevent a teenage gambling addiction is to just keep doing what you're doing and stay involved and encourage your teens to be involved in GOYA, school activities, church, and family gatherings.

We still have a couple of months before we fully begin going to outdoor activities again so plan them. Also, encourage them to take part in our wonderful St. Andrew's G.O.Y.A!!!

There is so much to do! Below are some “signs of a teen gambling addiction which comes from the source, [“Teen+Gambling=Trouble”, UConn Health Center in the News. Office of Communication.](#)

Signs of a teen gambling addiction

There are a few signs that a teenager may be involved in a gambling addiction.

Here are some of the red flags:

- *Begins to sell personal belongings.*
- *Borrows money from friends and family and does not repay it.*

- *Steals and lies.*
- *Has a large amount of cash that cannot be explained.*
- *Has a great deal of debt that cannot be explained.*
- *Strangers call on the phone with increasing frequency.*
- *Withdraws from his or her regular social groups and activities.*
- *Makes "900" number calls to gambling numbers.*
- *Appears distracted and anxious; can be moody or depressed.*
- *Unexplained absences from school or work.*
- *Breaks curfew regularly.*
- *Spends hours on online gaming sites.*
- *Obsession with sports scores can indicate a sports gambling habit.*

I would like to wish you all a blessed month of May and let's all get out into the sunshine as yes, we did have a mild winter in New Jersey this year.!

My Table Prayer Guide prayer today is from a *Prayer for "Upon Completion of a Task"*

"Thank you, Lord for Your strength and guidance in my work. You are the fulfillment of all good things. Fill my soul with joy and gladness, that I may praise You always. AMEN



Feel free to e-mail me or call with your comments and suggestions for our "Parents' Corner" at: alexandraproto@gmail.com (973) 214-2583 (You can also find me on Facebook under my name, Alexandra Alex Protopapas) **Alexandra Protopapas MEd** Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences – Retired, but active with Educational Services Commission of Morris County, (ESC) and currently assigned to Academy of St. Elizabeth part-time.



Thank you everyone for supporting the people and children of Ukraine this winter. We delivered 38 large boxes to St. John's Ukrainian Church in Whippany representing 180 coats, 169 blankets and 120 boots/shoes. Thank you again for your generous support. UACCNJ Ukrainian American Cultural Center of NJ

SAINT ANDREW COMMUNITY PARTNERS "DIAMOND PARTICIPANTS"

Contact the church office if you would like information on becoming a Community Partner. There are various levels and opportunities that you and your business can participate in



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Please pray for the Health of _____ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.
Kindly accept this **HONOR GIFT** for the occasion of:

NAME DAY, BIRTHDAY, WEDDING, ANNIVERSARY, GRADUATION .. OTHER

as a token of Love, please **ACKNOWLEDGE** my/our gift to:

NAME & ADDRESS OF HONOREE _____

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HONOR GIFTS PAYABLE TO ST. ANDREW ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΗ

CONSTANTINO MICHAEL PAPAMARKOS, son of Paul and Anna (Kitsos) Papamarkos of Succasunna, NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday at 1:00pm on April 2nd, 2023 and given the name **CONSTANTINO – ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ**. Godparents were Ioannis and Barbara (Kufatsides) Benas.

Congratulations to all and we wish them all the blessings.
Συγχαρητήρια σε όλους και τους ευχόμαστε όλες τις ευλογίες.

WEDDING - ΓΑΜΟΣ

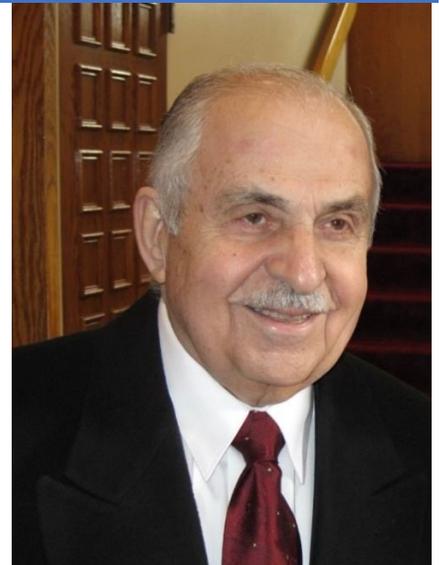
On Saturday April 22nd, 2023 at 2:00pm **John J. Paxos** wed Stephanie Checchio of Hoboken, NJ. Officiant was Rev. Fr. John Theodosion, sponsor was Costas (Gus) Paxos, witness was Venessa Lima.

Congratulations and may God always bless you with lots of love and joy.
Συγχαρητήρια, ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί πάντα με πολλή αγάπη και χαρά!

OBIT & FUNERAL SERVICE - ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΟ & ΚΗΔΕΙΑ

+Panagiotis Nikolaos Seretis “Takis” his nickname, 95, passed away peacefully Sunday evening March 19th, 2023.

Takis was born in Patras Greece on August 6th, 1927. He was the youngest of 8 siblings of which only 4 survived past the age of 7 because of illnesses and lack of medicine during that time. His father Niko passed when Takis was just 13 years old, during the start of WWII, leaving his sisters and his widowed mother Dimitroula to take care of him. They all moved to Maglareika, his mom’s village due to difficult times where they lived off the land. He went back to Patras after the war and received an education at University of Patras Greece as a journalist and accountant. He was an editor for a local newspaper on the side and did bookkeeping as well. He served in the Greek military as a 1st lieutenant and received a medal of honor by the Greek Government for his prior service as a messenger via bicycle when he was a teenager during WWII, running classified letters to Allies.



Takis greatest accomplishments happened when he came to America in 1956 and moved to Dover, NJ where he lived with his sister Despina and her husband Nick Pittas. His dream was to establish and raise money to build a Greek Orthodox Church for the local Greek community in Dover and the surrounding towns. He accomplished that by spearheading a group of 5 that went door to door for donations, and by contacting and convincing the Archdiocese that one was needed and would flourish. In 1962 his dream came true. An old church in Dover was purchased and converted to St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church, where he even chose the name St. Andrew, the patron saint of Patras Greece. He sent word over to Greece through Father Poulos of Astoria, and they sent over Father Constantine Tsigas, the nephew of Father Poulos. Father Tsigas later became the priest of St. Andrews for over 4 decades.

In 1963 he returned to Greece to visit his mom and sisters and eventually married the love of his life Soultana Grapsas. Together with Soultana he returned to America and later brought over her entire family. They worked extremely hard in the restaurant industry while starting a family of 2 sons, Nick and Jimmy while also getting his bartending certification. Takis also graduated Dover Business College and learned the first 3 computer languages, basic, ascal, and fortran. He founded the Lakeside Luncheonette which later became the Jefferson Diner and is still operating and successful after 39 years.

Takis leaves behind six loving grandchildren, Nina, Panagioti, Nicoletta, Giorgio, Sophia, and Demetri. After Takis retired, he spent time writing books that he also translated from Greek to English. His hobbies included playing cards rigorously with his friends and family, fishing, swimming, spending summers in Greece, writing, doing crossword puzzles, Greek dancing, Greek music, and watching sports on TV and on his iphone. He will be remembered for being a religious person who led by example, a family man, a walking encyclopedia, and a humorous man with a very strong will, strong character, and a larger-than-life personality who would often be chosen for master of ceremonies at political fundraisers and functions.

He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Soultana, his two sons, Nick and Jimmy, daughter in law Debbie, Sophia, grandchildren Nina, Panagioti, Nicoletta, Giorgio, Sophia, Demetri along with nieces and nephews in America, Greece and Australia.

Visitation was at the Tuttle Funeral Home on Route 10, Randolph NJ on Wednesday March 22ND, 4pm-8pm. THE **FUNERAL SERVICE** for the repose of **+Panagiotis'** soul was prayed at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Thursday March 23rd at 10am. Followed by the burial at Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover, NJ.



+Anastasios Tasos Pentikis February 2, 1937 – April 6, 2023 of Randolph, NJ, died peacefully in the morning of April 6, 2023, a day full of sunshine and God's Grace.

Tasos was predeceased by his loving wife, Grace Pentikis (Morogeorges), who he devotedly cared for during a lengthy illness until her death in 2005. He was also predeceased by his stepson, Terry Rigos, in 2011. He is survived by his son, Dean Pentikis of Rumson, NJ, his daughter-in-law Evelyn, and their children Luke Anastasios and Alec Dionysus. He is also survived by his stepdaughter Irene and her husband Jimmy Kokenos of Shelton, CT; their children, Peter Kokenos and his wife Lara of Easton, CT and their three children; Christina and her husband Dr. Ignatius Komninakas of Easton, CT and their three children; Dennis Kokenos and his wife Stephanie of

Newtown, CT and their three children; his stepdaughter-in-law JoAnne Rigos of Roanoke, VA and her children Stephen Rigos and his wife Megan of Ellicott City, MD and their daughter; Stephanie Browning and her husband Matthew of Troutville, VA and their three children.

Tasos was born in Eratini, Greece on February 2, 1937 to Haralambos and Violetta Pentikis. He is survived by one sister who resides in Eratini, Greece. He is predeceased by his three brothers. He also has numerous nieces and extended family residing in Greece who he spoke fondly of and loved very much.

After serving in the Greek military, he joined the merchant marines and immigrated to America in the mid-1960's. He met his wife, Grace, in Dover, NJ. They married on May 28, 1966 and enjoyed a long and loving marriage. He attended St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ where he and Grace were active

members. Like most Greek immigrants, he was an entrepreneur. Over the years he owned and operated Ernie's Liquors and then Tasos' Coffee Shop in Mendham, NJ until he became a machinist at Howmet Engine Systems in Dover, NJ. Upon retirement he began working at Randolph YMCA where he made many new friends and stayed in shape by walking on the treadmill and lifting weights. He loved socializing at the YMCA and at local diners where he practiced his jokes. In 2017, he moved to Monmouth County to be closer to his son and grandsons, Luke and Alec, who he called his "Levendis" (handsome and gallant men). He very much enjoyed cheering for them at their many soccer games over the years.

"Papou" was known for his gentle kindness, good nature, and humor. He loved wearing plaid shirts, tan baseball hats, and was adept at one liners—often joking about getting a haircut even though he was bald. He loved celebrating holidays and visits with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, on a regular basis. He will be truly missed.

A FUNERAL SERVICE for the repose of **+Anastasios'** soul was at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church at 11:00am on Tuesday April 11th, 2023. Viewing was at 10:15am also at Saint Andrew. **Interment** followed at the Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover NJ.

Zoe-Nina (Joy) Ellas

We are heartbroken to have to tell you that we have lost one of the brightest, strongest, shining lights of this world in a tragic unexpected turn of events. Zoe passed away from a sudden and fatal brain aneurysm on March 15th, 2023, in Los Angeles, CA. Zoe, sister extraordinaire, loving wife, devoted daughter and an emerging force in the affordable housing community who gave so much of herself to us and the world. We will never forget her and may her light continue to shine on through all of us. We will forever miss her; the intense pain that we feel from her sudden loss is a testament to how much we loved her and how much we miss her love.

Zoe has left behind her husband Eric Keller, sister Christina and husband Jeff Bauer, and her parents Alike and George Ellas.

A TRTISAGION SERVICE was prayed for the repose of **+Zoe's** soul at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph NJ on Monday April 24th at 1pm.



May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η μνήμη αυτών.

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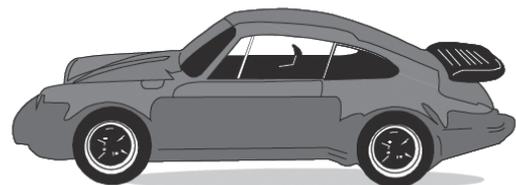
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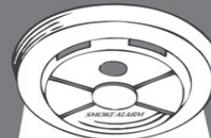
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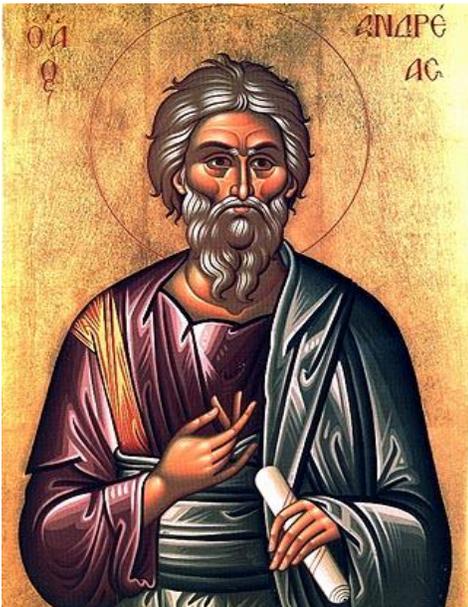
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τον Δεσπότην των όλων Ανδρέα ικέτευε,
ειρήνην τη οικουμένη δωρήσασθαι,
και ταις ψυχαίς ημών το μέγα έλεο

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