



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

ST ANTHONY THE GREAT (ICON) - JANUARY 17TH

THREE HIERARCHS PROGRAM - JANUARY 28TH

HOUSE BLESSINGS WILL BEGIN – ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ ΣΤΑ ΣΠΙΤΙΑ

Saint Andrew Family News 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 **2**: 973-584-0388 **Fax:** 973-584-3573

E-mail info@standrewgonj.org Web site https://www.standrewgonj.org/ NJ Metropolis Web: www.njgoarch.org G.O. Archdioceses Web: www.goarch.org

Father John Theodosion, Editor in Chief

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The Saint Andrew Family News is published monthly except in July and August and is distributed free of charge to all members. Submissions are accepted only as electronic files, (via e-mail attachment). Pending availability of space and permission from Editor-in-chief, submissions will be in next month's issue.

> Please submit your articles and information on time to Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos <u>info@standrewgonj.org</u>

> Deadline for the **FEBRURY ISSUE** is January 15

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JANUARY 2024 + DIVINE SERVICES

Monday	1	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION OF ST. BASIL @8:15AM				
Friday	5	EVE OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST: +Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespers, & Divine Liturgy Of St. Basil The Great, Great Agiasmos (Fasting Day)				
Saturday	6	Holy Theophany, Baptism Of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & The Great Agiasmos				
Sunday	7	THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, BAPTIST & FORERUNNER; AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY				
Sunday	14	LEAVETAKING OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST				
Wednesday	17	+St. Anthony the Great				
Thursday	18	+St. Athanasios the Great & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria				
Saturday	20	+ St. Euthymios the Great				
Sunday	21	12 th Sunday of Luke				
Sunday	28	15 th Sunday Luke Three Hierarchs Program (HAS & RelEd)				
Tuesday	30	+Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs: +Basil the Great; +Gregory the Theologian; & +John Chrysostom				

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

Sunday School students will attend the Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, receive Holy Communion and proceed to their classes.

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2024 + ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

Δευτέρα	1	Η κατα σαρκα περιτομή του Χρίστου, Βασίλειου αρχιεπίσκοπου Καισαρείας $ωρα 8.15πμ$					
Παρασκευή	5	Проеортіа τῶν Φωτων Θεοπεμπτον & Θεωνα των μαρτύρων (Νηστεία) – Όρθρος, Μέγι Εσπερινό, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου & Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού					
Σάββατο	6	Τα αγια Θεοφανεία του Σωτηρος ημών Ιήσου Χριστου; Μέγας Αγιασμός					
Κυριακή	7	ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟῦ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟῦ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ; ΜΕΘΕΌΡΤΙΑ ΤῶΝ ΦΏΤΩΝ;					
Κυριακή	14	ΑΠΌΔΟΣΙΣ ΤΏΝ ΑΓΊΩΝ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΊΩΝ;					
Τετάρτη	17	+ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ					
Πέμπτη	18	+ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ					
Σαββατο	20	+ΕΥΘΥΜΙΟΥ ΟΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ					
Κυριακή	21	ΙΒ΄ Του Λουκά					
Κυριακή	28	ΙΕ΄ ΜΑΤΘΑΐΟΥ (ΤῆΣ ΧΑΝΑΝΑΙΑΣ) (ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ – ΕΑΣ]					
Τρίτη	30	Των τρίων Ιεραρχών +Μεγα Βασίλειος, +Γρηγορίος ο Θεολόγος , + Ιωάννης Χρυσοστόμος					
		Κυριακή – Όρθρος - <u>ώρα</u> 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 9:30πμ Καθημερινές – Όρθρος - <u>ώρα</u> 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 9πμ					

Οι μαθητές Κατηχητικού θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 9.30πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία στις τάξεις τους.

FEBRUARY + DIVINE SERVICES

Thursday 1 St. Tryphon of Phrygia / Relics*

Friday 2 The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple

Sunday 4 15th Sunday of Matthew

Tuesday 6 St. Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople

Saturday 10 St. Haralambos the Martyr / Relics*

Sunday 11 16th Sunday of Matthew;

Sunday 18 Sunday of the Canaanite; [Godparent's Sunday]

Sunday 25 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today

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

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

Sunday School students will attend the Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, receive Holy Communion and proceed to their classes.

ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ - ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

Πέμπτη 1 ΤΡΎΦΩΝ ΜΆΡΤΥΣ* / Λείψανα

Παρασκευή 2 +Η Υπαπαντή του Χριστού

Κυριακή 4 ΙΕ΄ Ματθαῖου (τοῦ Νομικού)

Τρίτη 6 +Φωτίου του μεγαλού, Πατριαρχής Κωνσταντινούπολεως

Σάββατο 10 +ΧΑΡΑΛΆΜΠΟΣ ἹΕΡΟΜΆΡΤΥΣ * | Λείψανα

Κυριακή 11 ΙΣΤ΄ Ματθαῖου (τῶν Ταλάντων)

Κυριακή 18 ΙΖ΄ Ματθαῖου (τῆς Χαναναίας) [Κυριακή των Νονών]

Κυριακή 25 ΙΣΤ΄ Λουκᾶ (Τελώνου καί Φαρισαίου)

Κυριακή – Όρθρος - <u>ώρα</u> 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 9:30πμ | **Καθημερινές –** Όρθρος - <u>ώρα</u> 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 9πμ

(Εχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)*

Οι μαθητές Κατηχητικού θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 9.30πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία στις τάξεις τους.



SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion Pastor

"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

Dear Steward,

Jesus gave us the Parable of the Talents to teach that we are responsible to use God's gifts – to develop them, to grow them, and then to offer them back to Him. Although we all receive different gifts, we see in this parable that there is no difference in God's reward for what we accomplish with them. If you want to be a faithful servant, then take whatever you have and offer it faithfully to the Lord. It is not about how much you have, but it is what you do with what you have.

This past year we have experienced a resurgence in the ministry programs and things are starting to turn in a positive direction after COVID. However, we have much room for growth as a parish and we are counting on you to help us reach our goals. The Stewardship Ministry of our church has been working very hard to bring materials to help explain our successes and our future direction. For example, in the coming year we are hoping to fulfill one of our major goals which has been to bring a seminary graduate as Pastoral Assistant to our church to help grow and expand the ministries of our church. This is a big step in the life of our parish but one which will yield many fruits in the years to come. We ask you to support the work of the church and its expected growth with an increase in your pledge this year.

I invite you to be with us at on **Sunday January 7th**, **2024**, after Divine Liturgy as we celebrate the new year with the cutting of the Vasilopita and the blessing of our Stewardship Pledges. With your help and support we will initiate our plans to continue the growth and good work going on here at Saint Andrew.

It is our sincere desire to share with you the current vision of our parish leadership and seek your participation in realizing the ambitious goals that we have for the future of our community. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could 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.

As your parish priest, I offer you my thanks for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ's work of salvation.

Rev. Fr John Theodosion

Parish Priest

Yours in Chr



SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion Pastor

«Εύγε, Καλέ και Πιστέ Υπηρέτη»

Αγαπητέ Ενορίτη

Ο Ιησούς μας είπε την Παραβολή των Ταλέντων για να μας διδάξει ότι είμαστε υπεύθυνοι για τη χρήση των δώρων του Θεού – να τα εξελίξουμε, να τα αναπτύξουμε, και μετά να Του τα επιστρέψουμε. Αν και όλοι λαμβάνουμε διαφορετικά δώρα, σε αυτή την παραβολή βλέπουμε ότι δεν υπάρχει διαφορά στην ανταμοιβή του Θεού ό,τι και να καταφέρουμε με αυτά. Εάν θέλεις να είσαι πιστός υπηρέτης, τότε πάρε όλα όσα έχεις και πρόσφερέ τα με πίστη στον Κύριο. Δεν έχει τόσο σημασία πόσα έχεις, αλλά τί κάνεις με αυτά που έχεις.

Τον τελευταίο χρόνο παρατηρούμε μία αναζωπύρωση των ενοριακών προγραμμάτων και τα πράγματα εξελίσσονται θετικά μετά τον COVID. Όμως, έχουμε πολύ χώρο για ανάπτυξη ως ενορία και σε εσάς βασιζόμαστε να μας βοηθήσετε να πετύχουμε τους στόχους μας. Τα μέλη της Διακονίας των Οικονομικών της εκκλησίας μας εργάζονται πολύ σκληρά για να φέρουν υλικό που θα βοηθήσει να δείξουμε τις επιτυχίες μας και να εξηγήσουμε τη μελλοντική μας κατεύθυνση. Για παράδειγμα, τον ερχόμενο χρόνο ελπίζουμε να εκπληρώσουμε έναν από τους μεγάλους μας στόχους, να φέρουμε κάποιον απόφοιτο να εργαστεί ως Ποιμαντικός Βοηθός στην εκκλησία μας και να βοηθήσει να μεγαλώσουμε και να επεκτείνουμε τις διακονίες της εκκλησίας μας. Είναι ένα μεγάλο βήμα στη ζωή της ενορίας μας, βήμα που θα αποδώσει πολλούς καρπούς τα επόμενα χρόνια. Σας παρακαλούμε να υποστηρίξετε το έργο της εκκλησίας και την αναμενόμενη ανάπτυξή της με μία αύξηση στην δωρεά σας φέτος.

Σας προσκαλώ να παρευρεθείτε μαζί μας την **Κυριακή 7 Ιανουαρίου 2024**, μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία, να γιορτάσουμε το νέο έτος με την κοπή της Βασιλόπιτας και την ευλογία των προσδοκόμενων Δωρεών σας. Με τη βοήθεια και υποστήριξή σας θα ξεκινήσουμε τα σχέδιά μας για τη συνέχιση της ανάπτυξης και της καλής δουλειάς που γίνεται εδώ στον Άγιο Ανδρέα.

Είναι ειλικοινή μας επιθυμία να μοιραστούμε μαζί σας το παρόν όραμα της διοικητικής ομάδας της ενορίας μας και αναζητούμε τη συμμετοχή σας στην πραγματοποίηση των φιλόδοξων στόχων που έχουμε για το μέλλον της κοινότητάς μας. Βλέπουμε την εκκλησία μας όχι όπως είναι, αλλά πώς θα μπορούσε να είναι. Προσφέρουμε τον θησαυρό μας και τους εαυτούς μας με θυσία, έτσι ώστε, ως μέλη του Σώματος του Χριστού, να αξιοποιήσουμε πλήρως τις δυνατότητές μας για Εκείνον.

 Ω ς ιερεύς της ενορίας σας, σας προσφέρω τις ευχαριστίες μου για την αφοσίωσή σας στην ενορία μας και τη συμμετοχή σας στο έργο του Χριστού για τη σωτηρία.

Εν Χριστώ δικός σας,

Εμάννης Θεοδοσίου Πατήρ Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου

Elections for the Parish Council - December 10th 2023

A Parish Council is the administrative body of a Church community elected by its stewards for the purpose of working together with the Parish Priest or Proistamenos in fulfilling the mission and goals of that community.

Historically, clergy and laity have worked together in dealing with matters of the Church's life. The Parish Council is an example of the synergy of clergy and laity; it is a vehicle for implementing the ongoing mission of the Church and planning the necessary strategies, policies, procedures, and activities that will enable the Parish to move forward in accomplishing God's work.

Elections for the Parish Council were held on December 10th 2023. We would like to welcome back our three re-elected Parish Council members to serve in 2024-2025-2026: Nickolaos Karkanias, Maro Nicolau Schuster, Herb Schuster, and newcomer Andreas Zezas. We would like to share with you a little information about them.

Mr. Nikolas Karkanias

Nik was born in NJ to Greek immigrant parents Maria and Basil (Vasilios) and was raised in Irvington, NJ. In 2003 he married Harriet Giannakopoulos and together they have four children (Barbara, Elisabeth, Loukas, and Lazarus). Nik and his family reside in Lake Hiawatha, NJ. God, family, and culture are most important to Nik and drive how he spends his time. He enjoys Church services, reading Orthodox Christian texts, loving his family, learning and practicing Hellenic Culture and our Orthodox Christian Faith.

He has many hobbies and interests which can benefit the community including Amateur Radio, Photography, Videography, Electronic Music, Technology (e.g., computers/websites), History/Folk History (e.g., Greek History, Arts, Dance, Genealogy), Travel, Camping, Martial Arts, and Emergency Management.



Professionally, Nik received his B.S. in biochemistry at Rutgers University and his Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Florida. Nik has diverse experiences from roles in research, legal, medical education, digital, and medical affairs at several companies over 22 years.

Nik plans to use his work experience, personal interests, and volunteer experiences to engage and help the St. Andrew's community.



Mrs. Maro Nicolaou Schuster

Maro has been an active member of the St. Andrew Community for over 40 years. Maro received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

As a member of the St. Andrew Church Maro gave her time and talents to help the St. Andrew Community. Maro has been Director of Religious Education and continues to be Director for RE and teaches the 5th & 6th grade, Member of the Parish Council and is currently a member of Philoptochos, where she is First Vice President.

Maro is Married to Herbert Schuster have two children, Kristiana & Stefan and a Granddaughter, Raelyn-Kristina.

Maro is on the board of directors for the Cyprus Children's Fund. She was a Greek School Teacher for over 10 years.

Maro has been there for the needs of the St. Andrew community and can be counted on in any Church function to make it a successful effort. She truly recognizes that the Church is the body of Christ and she responds lovingly to all of its needs.

Dr. Herbert Schuster

Herbert has been involved with teaching religious education classes at St. Andrew and currently is a member of the St. Andrew Parish Council. He assists Fr. John on the Bible Studies.

He is the father of Kristiana and Stefan and husband of Maro.

He is a retired research medicinal chemist from Novartis as well as a retired Adjunct Professor of chemistry at both FDU in Madison and Simmons College in Boston. He earned his BS in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass., his MS in chemistry from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and his PhD in chemistry from Rutgers in Newark. His current passion is to grow in the knowledge of God and to deepen his understanding of the Patristic Tradition.





Mr. Andrew Zezas is a proven leader, a corporate real estate industry influencer, and a results-driven executive. Andrew is a well-known business and real estate subject matter expert, who is frequently called upon to advise his clients by providing insights and experience-based guidance and services as a means of solving complex real estate and business challenges.

For more than three decades, enterprise and middle market company senior executives and others have relied on Andrew to provide business and real estate guidance, create strategy, and lead sophisticated acquisitions and dispositions of occupied corporate facilities regionally, in the Americas, and globally.

Throughout Andrew's career, he has sourced, secured, led, and completed billions of dollars in transactions for public and private companies in multiple

industries around North America and across multiple property types. Since 2015 alone, Andrew led and completed 280 transactions with an aggregate value in excess of \$1 Billion. He has completed engagements in 46 U.S. states, 6 Canadian provinces, and 5 countries, and has represented the North America real estate interests of companies from 19 countries.

Andrew draws on his extensive business and relationship development experience in identifying emerging trends and successfully cultivating new opportunities for his clients. Andrew's experience and expertise include:

- Complex real estate transaction strategy
- Planning and executing intelligent facility portfolio strategies
- Identifying and capturing liquidity, risk mitigation
- Supporting financial and operating objectives
- Real estate implications of buy & sell side M&A
- Real estate due diligence and support initiatives for corporate turnarounds, restructures, bankruptcies, and business exit strategies
- Transaction restructuring
- Surplus property disposition strategies, facility acquisitions

Andrew is a highly skilled and dynamic speaker, regularly leading discussions in small executive groups and presenting to groups measured in the hundreds of attendees. He is frequently tapped by executives to provide career, transition, and other advice. His LinkedIn profile includes over 19,000 CFO and other executive connections. Andrew serves as Publisher and Senior Editor of *CFO Intelligence* magazine and other business publications.

Andrew has served on various boards and in volunteer positions, including:

- Member, Finance Committee, Atlantic Health System (2019 to present)
- Chairman and Board Member, Build with Purpose (Formerly, Real Estate Advisory & Development Services) (2007 to 2015)
- Business School Assessment Committee, Montclair State University
- Voluntary Advisory Committee, New Jersey Real Estate Commission
- Various real estate, charity, and not-for-profit organizations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our returning Parish Council members for their hard work over the past years for their commitment to the community of Saint. Andrew. As well as welcome the new addition Andrew Zezas a promising addition to our Parish Council. We look forward to your many contributions in the New Year.



February 10th
Saturday
11am-6pm

Super Bowl TAKE OUT GYRO & SOUVLAKI



order & take out all your favorites more information on menu to come

to volunteer please contact Nick Monokandilos 973 462 3192

GOYA NEWS January 2024



As the GOYA year continues, so does the sports season. On December 3rd, the volleyball and basketball teams participated in the playoffs with the senior volleyball team and the junior basketball team making it to the semifinals. We thank the coaches for their time, hard work, and dedication to these teams. Thank you to the players for representing St. Andrew in all the games with outstanding sportsmanship and Christian values. Now that it's the holiday season, there are many events to look forward to in our GOYA. One of them being Christmas Caroling. Every year, GOYAns go to nursing homes and sing Christmas carols for the elderly to spread some holiday cheer. Christmas Caroling takes place on Saturday, December 16th. Later in December, there is the annual GOYA Christmas Dance. This dance will be a chance for GOYAns to get together and make some new friends while sharing the holiday spirit. It'll take place at St. George in Clifton on December 27th. We hope that both events have a good turnout so that we can end 2023 with a bang!

Written by: Karmen Giannikopoulos



Thank you, Letter,

As we finish the 2023 GOYA basketball and volleyball season, we would like to thank our hardworking Saint Andrew parents, advisors, and players for all their dedication throughout the year. Congratulations to all our teams for doing such a phenomenal job this season! Thank you to our graduating seniors for their continuation in the program these past six years. Thank you to all the parents for driving us to practices and games week after week. Thank you to all the advisor and parent volunteers for helping with the concession stand and with the smooth operation of all our home games. Thank you to all our coaches who have volunteered their time to us and have given us constant support. Thank you to our amazing advisors who have been able to make all this possible for us GOYAns to have an incredible season. A big thank you to Peter Sedereas who has spent the las eight years being our Northern New Jersey Basketball/Volleyball commissioner. Without Coach Peter's continuous dedication to the program through scheduling, working through conflicts and support to the program none of this would be possible.



Thank you for your generosity to our annual collection of TOYS FOR TOTS

On Saturday, December 16th we delivered 439 toys to the US Marines. Know that because of you, we will make Christmas a little brighter for 439 children this year.







SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS



PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP – 2024

Dear past, present and future Philoptochos members,

We pray that your home is filled with health and happiness throughout the new year. We ask you to join or renew your Philoptochos membership for 2024. The fee this year is \$40.

The Philoptochos' mission is to "promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family; and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions."

The Philoptochos chapter at Saint Andrew continues to provide assistance to those in need; locally, nationally and internationally. We are able to do so through several fundraisers, as well as social, educational, religious and cultural activities. Please join us at our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month! ______ PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM I would like to become a **new** member or **renew** my 2024 membership of the Philoptochos Society of Saint Andrew (circle: **new** or **renew**). Membership fee is \$40. Name: _____ Email: ____ Phone #: _____ Please check all that apply to your interests in assisting us. These are a few ways you can help: []Fundraisers []Phone calls []Baking []Marketing []Knitting/pillow making []Other **Donations are welcome** to benefit and support our various charities, including food bank, social services, scholarships, etc. Membership fee: \$40

Optional donation amount: \$_____

(Please make checks payable to Saint Andrew Philoptochos.)

Check total: \$

Return this form and check to: Philoptochos Membership Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike –Randolph, NJ 07869

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Theodosion



ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΕΝΤΙ 2024

HOSTED BY OUR ST. ANDREWS PTA

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

The Meadow Wood 461 Rt.10 East, Randolph NJ

COCKTAIL HOUR, DINNER AND DESSERT

DJ, TRICKY TRAY, 50/50 AND TRADITIONAL DANCES PERFORMED BY OUR GOYA & JR DANCE GROUP

DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

under age 4 (\$10), ages 5-13 (\$35), ages 14-17 (\$55), ages 18+ (\$75) | Cash bar

Round Up Giving

When we ask "how much do I owe" for Stewardship, we are asking the wrong question. We should instead ask "how much have I been blessed." An endless number of Scripture passages make it clear that our obligation of Stewardship over God's many gifts to us is to give in proportion to the blessings we have received. Indeed, the Parable of Talents from Matthew 25:14-30 is all about taking whatever gifts God gives us, putting them out into the world, causing them to multiply, and then giving them back in proportion to what we earned in order to receive the reward of hearing "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much."

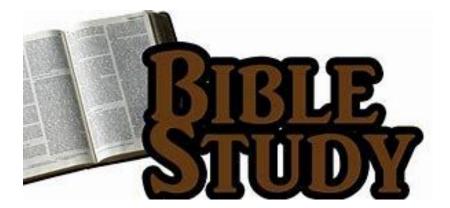
To keep with Holy Scripture, if you are a new Steward, we ask that you give as much as you are able or 1 percent of your income. If you are a returning Steward, we ask that you consider "rounding up" your previous stewardship pledge. Here is how to "round up": First, calculate the percentage of last year's income that you gave to your church to one decimal point (e.g., 0.5%).

Second, "round up" your pledge to the next highest whole number percent of income (e.g., 1%)

Finally, next year and each year after that add 1% more until you reach 10%.

If you have questions or concerns, you may reach out to any member of the Stewardship Committee or the Parish Council. May God bless you as you pursue your own unique stewardship calling.





Join us for
Bible Study
in
Fr. John's Office
on

Thursdays at 7:00pm

January: 11, 18, 25

February: 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

"Well done, Good and Faithful Servant"

There was a man who took a shovel into his backyard each day to dig up a box containing money that he had buried in the ground. Every day he would look at it, count it, and then bury it again.

One day he dug in the usual spot and found that his box and the money were gone. He let out a cry, which brought his neighbor to ask what was the matter. Upon hearing what had happened, the neighbor asked, "What's all the fuss? You weren't using it anyway. Maybe the person who has it now will use it to do something good!"

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Parable of the Talents, in which a man leaving on a long journey called three of his servants and entrusted to each a certain sum of money measured in talents. To one he gave five, to another he gave two and to the third, he gave one talent. Upon his return, the man called his servants to give account for the money with which he had entrusted them. The first two, by wise use of the money had doubled the amount they had received. To these he praised with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

The third servant, who had received one talent, out of fear, had buried the talent in the ground. Upon the man's return, this servant returned to him only the one talent. In anger, the man called him



a "wicked and lazy servant," and taking away the one talent, he gave it to the servant who had ten.

Jesus gave us this parable for us to consider the gifts that God has given us. Although we all receive different gifts, there is no difference in God's reward for what we accomplish with them. If you want to be a faithful servant, then take whatever you have and offer it faithfully to the Lord. It is not about how much ability you have, it is what you do with it.

The gifts we receive are to be multiplied. They are not to be buried in the ground. About this, Saint Gregory the Great wrote that hiding our talent in the earth, is to use our gifts only for earthly things.

In the time of Jesus, a talent referred to substantial amount of money. The message to us today is that God gives each of us something of considerable value and expects good stewardship and a return on what He has given. Although Jesus speaks to us about money in the Parable of the Talents, He is really talking about something far more important.

Whatever blessings we receive, we are to multiply them. We were given our church – our local parish – built by our ancestors and all who have gone before us. We are to grow it – to multiply it – by adding to the number of faithful and growing her ministries. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy (16:17), we read, "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee."

When we cling tightly to our wealth, we are like the man, when forced to swim from a sinking ship, couldn't bear to leave his money behind. He strapped his gold to his body, but as he swam toward shore, the weight of the gold pulled him under and he drowned. Do we own our money or does our money own us?

God gave us his love – do we multiply it or do we keep it for ourselves?

God gave us the Gospel – do we multiply it or do we keep it for ourselves?

God gave us the Church – do we multiply it or do we keep it for ourselves?

Our gift to God and His Church is a sacred act, a form of worship, and a response to all his blessings in our life -- our bodies, our family, the environment, our time, our faith, our neighbor.

Stewardship is our spirituality in action, our faith in action, our theology in action.

Stewardship is personal – between Jesus and us – an expression of love and commitment. A response to all that he has given us.

Some day we will stand before God and show Him what we did with all that He entrusted to us. If we have been faithful stewards of our gifts, He will say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Fr Jim Kordaris

The God who came to us at Bethlehem continues to come to us today. In every liturgy He comes to us as the Word of God, bringing words of eternal life through the Scripture readings and the sermon. Through the Sacrament of Communion He comes to be born again and again in the shabby stables of our hearts. He comes constantly through prayer. He blesses our marriages as He did that in Cana of Galilee. He stands by our sick bed, laying His healing hand upon us through the prayers of the priest. He comes again and again in so many, many ways through the many ministries of His Church. He comes with healing and forgiveness; He comes with strength and guidance. He comes and when He comes, as the Bible says, "the blind see, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free."

It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

«Εύγε, Καλέ και Πιστέ Υπηρέτη»

Ήταν κάποτε ένας άντρας που κάθε μέρα έπαιρνε το φτυάρι του και πήγαινε στην πίσω αυλή του να ξεθάψει ένα κουτί που περιείχε χρήματα και το είχε θαμμένο στη γη. Κάθε μέρα λοιπόν, τα κοιτούσε, τα μετρούσε και μετά τα έθαβε πάλι.

Μια μέρα έσκαψε στο συνηθισμένο μέρος και ανακάλυψε ότι το κουτί και τα χρήματα είχαν εξαφανιστεί. Έβγαλε μια κραυγή, που έκανε τον γείτονα να τρέξει και να ρωτήσει τί συμβαίνει. Με το που άκουσε τι είχε συμβεί, ο γείτονας ρώτησε, «Γιατί όλη αυτή η φασαρία; Έτσι κι αλλιώς δεν τα ξόδευες. Ίσως αυτός που τα έχει τώρα να τα χρησιμοποιήσει για να κάνει κάτι καλό!»

Στο Κατά Ματθαίον Ευαγγέλιο, διαβάζουμε την Παραβολή των Ταλέντων, στην οποία ένας άνθρωπος φεύγοντας για ένα μακρινό ταξίδι, κάλεσε τρεις από τους υπηρέτες του και εμπιστεύθηκε στον κάθε ένα, ένα συγκεκριμένο ποσό χρημάτων σε τάλαντα. Στον ένα έδωσε πέντε, στον άλλο έδωσε δύο και στον τρίτο, έδωσε ένα τάλαντο. Όταν επέστρεψε, ο άνθρωπος αυτός κάλεσε τους υπηρέτες του για να του δώσουν λογαριασμό για τα χρήματα που τους είχε εμπιστευθεί. Οι δύο πρώτοι έκαναν καλή χρήση των χρημάτων και διπλασίασαν το ποσό που είχαν λάβει. Αυτούς τους επαίνεσε λέγοντας, «Εύγε, καλέ και πιστέ υπηρέτη· ήσουν πιστός με τα λίγα, θα σε κάνω αφέντη περισσότερων. Έλα κοντά στη χαρά του κυρίου σου».

Ο τρίτος υπηρέτης, ο οποίος είχε λάβει ένα τάλαντο, από φόβο είχε θάψει το τάλαντο στη γη. Όταν επέστρεψε ο κύριός του, ο υπηρέτης του επέστρεψε μόνο το ένα τάλαντο. Θυμωμένος, το αφεντικό του τον αποκάλεσε «κακό και τεμπέλη υπηρέτη»,

και παίρνοντάς του το τάλαντο το έδωσε στον υπηρέτη που είχε δέκα.

Ο Ιησούς μας είπε αυτή την παραβολή για να σκεφτούμε για τα δώρα που μας έχει δώσει ο Θεός. Αν και όλοι λαμβάνουμε διαφορετικά δώρα, δεν υπάρχει διαφορά στου Θεού την ανταμοιβή για όσα καταφέρνουμε με αυτά. Αν θέλεις να είσαι πιστός υπηρέτης, τότε πάρε ό,τι έχεις και πρόσφερέ το με πίστη στον Κύριο. Δεν έχει σημασία πόσο ικανός είσαι, αλλά τί θα πράξεις.

Τα δώρα που λαμβάνουμε πρέπει να τα πολλαπλασιάζουμε. Όχι να τα θάβουμε στη γη. Πάνω σε αυτό, ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Μέγας έγραψε πως κρύβοντας το τάλαντό μας στη γη, σημαίνει πως χρησιμοποιούμε τα δώρα μας μόνο στα γήινα πράγματα.

Την εποχή του Ιησού, ένα τάλαντο εθεωρείτο ένα σημαντικό ποσό χρημάτων. Σήμερα, το μήνυμα που παίρνουμε είναι ότι ο Θεός μας δίνει κάτι με σημαντική αξία και περιμένει καλή οικονομία και επιστροφή αυτού που μας έδωσε. Αν και ο Ιησούς ομιλεί για χρήματα στην Παραβολή των Ταλάντων, στην πραγματικότητα ομιλεί για κάτι πολύ πιο σημαντικό.

Ό,τι ευλογίες λάβουμε, πρέπει να τις πολλαπλασιάσουμε. Μας δόθηκε η εκκλησία μας - η τοπική μας ενορία - που χτίστηκε από τους προγόνους μας και όσους έφυγαν πριν από εμάς. Εμείς πρέπει να την μεγαλώσουμε – να την πολλαπλασιάσουμε – αυξάνοντας τον αριθμό των πιστών και επεκτείνοντας τα ποιμαντικά της έργα. Στην Παλαιά Διαθήκη, στο Δευτερονόμιον (16:17),διαβάζουμε, «Ο καθένας θα προσφέρει ό,τι μπορεί ανάλογα με την

ευλογία, που θα του έχει δώσει ο Κύριος ο Θεός σας».

Όταν προσκολλάμε στον πλούτο μας, είμαστε σαν αυτόν τον άνθρωπο, που όταν πιέστηκε να αφήσει το πλοίο που βούλιαζε, δεν μπορούσε να αντέξει να αφήσει τα χρήματά του πίσω. Έδεσε τα χρυσά του στο σώμα του, αλλά καθώς κολυμπούσε προς τη στεριά, το βάρος του χρυσού τον τράβηξε κάτω και πνίγηκε. Κατέχουμε εμείς τα χρήματά μας ή τα χρήματα μας κατέχουν;

Ο Θεός μας έδωσε την αγάπη Του – την πολλαπλασιάζουμε ή την κρατάμε για τον εαυτό μας;

Ο Θεός μας έδωσε το Ευαγγέλιο – το πολλαπλασιάζουμε ή το κρατάμε για τον εαυτό μας;

Ο Θεός μας έδωσε την Εκκλησία – την πολλαπλασιάζουμε ή την κρατάμε για τον εαυτό μας;

Το δώρο μας στον Θεό και την Εκκλησία Του είναι ιερή πράξη, ένα είδος λατρείας προς Αυτόν, και ανταπόδωση για όλες τις ευλογίες Του στη ζωή μας – τα σώματά μας, η οικογένειά μας, το περιβάλλον, ο χρόνος μας, η πίστη μας, ο πλησίον μας.

Η προσφορά μας είναι η έμπρακτη πνευματικότητά μας, η έμπρακτη θεολογία μας.

Η προσφορά στην εκκλησία είναι προσωπική – ανάμεσα στον Ιησού και εμάς – μια έκφραση αγάπης και δέσμευσης. Η ανταπόκριση σε όλα όσα μας έχει χαρίσει.

Κάποια μέρα θα σταθούμε έμπροσθεν του Θεού και θα λογοδοτήσουμε για όσα μας εμπιστεύθηκε. Αν υπήρξαμε πιστοί οικονόμοι των δώρων μας, θα μας πει, «Εύγε, καλέ και πιστέ υπηρέτη. Έλα κοντά στην χαρά του Κυρίου».

Πατήρ Δημ. Κορδάρης

Ο Θεός που ήλθε κοντά μας στην Βηθλεέμ συνεχίζει να μας έρχεται και σήμερα. Σε κάθε λειτουργία μας έρχεται ως ο Λόγος του Θεού, φέρνοντας λόγια για αιώνια ζωή μέσα από την ανάγνωση των Γραφών και του κηρύγματος. Μέσα από την Θεία Κοινωνία έρχεται και γεννιέται ξανά και ξανά στις ταπεινές φάτνες της καρδιάς μας. Έρχεται συνεχώς μέσα από την προσευχή. Ευλογεί τους γάμους μας όπως ευλόγησε και τον γάμο στην Κανά της Γαλιλαίας. Στέκεται δίπλα στο κρεβάτι μας όταν αρρωσταίνουμε, απλώνει το θεραπευτικό Του χέρι πάνω μας μέσα από τις προσευχές του ιερέα. Έρχεται ξανά και ξανά με πολλούς, πολλούς τρόπους μέσα από τα πολλά ποιμαντικά έργα της Εκκλησίας Του. Έρχεται θεραπευτής και συγχωρεί· Έρχεται για ενδυνάμωση και καθοδήγηση. Έρχεται και όταν έρχεται, όπως λέει η Βίβλος, «ο τυφλός βλέπει, ο κουτσός περπατά, και οι φυλακισμένοι ελευθερώνονται».

Έτσι επιστρέφοντας τις ευλογίες μας στον Θεό θα μπορέσει να συνεχίσει τη συγχώρεσή Του, τη θεραπεία, την απελευθέρωση, την ενδυνάμωση, τη μεταμόρφωση, το έργο αγάπης μέσα από την Εκκλησία. Γιατί ο Θεός, στο Άπειρό Του, έχει επιλέξει να εργάζεται μέσα από εμάς, μέσα από τα δώρα μας, θα συνεχίσει το έργο της σωτηρίας του κόσμου σήμερα.

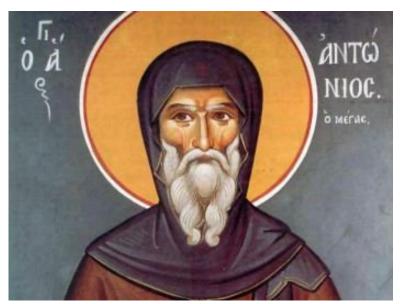
Πατήρ Αντώνιος Μ. Κόνιαρης

Adaptation by: Maria Kiritsis, Athens GR

Who is Saint Anthony The Great?

Saint, Saint Anthony The Great, was born in Hellenized Egypt around 251 AD and reposed in 356 AD. He is also known as St. Anthony of Egypt and St. Anthony of the Desert. Having inherited his parent's sizable wealth, at age 20 after insuring his younger sister was taken care of, he took to heart Christ's admonition and sold all his remaining riches, gave all his wealth to the poor, and went in poverty into the desert to follow Christ, eventually living in solitude in a cave for many years. He is considered the Father of Christian monasticism, the first of the Desert Fathers of ancient Christianity. The asceticism (spiritual athleticism) St. Anthony taught to the other Desert Fathers is followed to this day at the same hermitage he founded some 1700 years ago located between the Nile and the Red Sea, Dayr Mārī Antonios. All Orthodox Christians, even though we are not monks and nuns in desert monasteries, seek to practice this asceticism of St. Anthony as best we can in our everyday lives.

St. Anthony was a fierce defender of our Trinitarian Faith and protected the Holy Church from the ancient heresy of Arianism, which falsely taught that Christ did not share



in God the Father's nature. It is due to St. Anthony and other Church Fathers like him, that we have been Traditioned (handed down) the one True and Apostolic Faith.

Orthodox Christians believe what Scriptures clearly teach us (Psa. 141:2, Rev. 5:8, Rev. 8:3-4): that the Saints in Heaven are very much alive in Christ; they are active and are continually praying for Christians and Christ's Church; their prayers rise as incense before God's Heavenly Altar. We have a special relationship with St. Anthony the Great; as a Church, we ask for his protective prayers and intercessions on our behalf, exactly the same as we ask one another in our circle of family and friends to pray for us.

Troparion (hymn)

"Thou didst become like the zealous Elija,
And didst follow John the Baptist in his upright ways.
As a dweller in the wilderness,
Thou didst steady the world by prayer.
Oh, Father Anthony, intercede with Christ our God
For our soul's salvation."

Άγιος Αντώνιος ο Μέγας

Ονομαστός χριστιανός ασκητής της Αιγύπτου και θεμελιωτής του μοναχικού βίου στην Ανατολή. Η μνήμη του εορτάζεται στις 17 Ιανουαρίου.

Ο Αντώνιος γεννήθηκε γύρω στο 250 στην πόλη Κομά της Άνω Αιγύπτου, από γονείς εύπορους και ευλαβείς. Έζησε στα χρόνια ρωμαίων αυτοκρατόρων, όπως ο Διοκλητιανός (284-305), ο Μαξιμιανός (285-305) και ο Μέγας Κωνσταντίνος. Από την παιδική του ηλικία ήταν ολιγαρκής και αυτάρκης κι έδειξε ενδιαφέρον για τη λατρευτική ζωή της εκκλησίας.

Σε ηλικία 20 ετών έχασε και τους δύο γονείς του. Έξι μήνες αργότερα μοίρασε τα υπάρχοντά του στους φτωχούς, υπακούοντας στην ευαγγελική περικοπή του πλούσιου νεανίσκου, και αποσύρθηκε σε σπήλαιο της ερήμου, όπου έζησε ασκητικό βίο για 25 συναπτά έτη. Η φήμη του διαδόθηκε σύντομα στις τοπικές εκκλησίες, πολλοί δε χριστιανοί κατέφευγαν στην ίδια περιοχή για να ασκητεύσουν και να ακούσουν τη διδασκαλία του.

Το έτος 311, κατά το διωγμό του αυτοκράτορα Μαξιμίνου (307-313), κατήλθε στην Αλεξάνδρεια, για να ενθαρρύνει και να βοηθήσει τους πιστούς της τοπικής εκκλησίας. Όταν έπαυσε ο διωγμός, ο Αντώνιος επανήλθε στην έρημο. Αισθανόταν, όμως, ενοχλημένος από την παρουσία πολλών πιστών που πήγαιναν να τον συναντήσουν κι έτσι αναζήτησε ένα νέο καταφύγιο στο όρος Κολξίμ της Ερυθράς Θάλασσας. Κι εκεί, όμως, προσέρχονταν πολλοί χριστιανοί για να λάβουν την ευλογία του και να θεραπευτούν. Η φήμη του έφθασε μέχρι και τα υψηλά κλιμάκια της αυτοκρατορίας. Ο Μέγας Κωνσταντίνος και γιοι του, Κωνστάντιος και Κώνστας, είχαν τακτική αλληλογραφία μαζί του και τον συμβουλεύονταν για διάφορα θέματα.

Κατά τη διάρκεια του ασκητικού βίου του δεν άλλαξε ποτέ ένδυμα, ούτε έπλυνε το σώμα ή τα πόδια του με νερό. Δίδασκε τους μαθητές του να μη θεωρούν τίποτε ανώτερο από την αγάπη του Χριστού και να μη νομίζουν ότι επειδή απέχουν από τα κοσμικά αγαθά, στερούνται κάτι αξιόλογο. Το να αφήνει κανείς τα επίγεια αγαθά, έλεγε, είναι σαν να καταφρονεί μία δραχμή από χαλκό, για να κερδίσει εκατό χρυσές. Τόνιζε ότι δεν πρέπει να λησμονούμε ότι ο ανθρώπινος βίος είναι πρόσκαιρος συγκρινόμενος προς την αιώνια ζωή και ότι δεν πρέπει να κοπιάζουμε για την απόκτηση πρόσκαιρων αγαθών, τα οποία δεν μπορούμε να πάρουμε μαζί μας, αλλά για την αγαθών, απόκτηση αιώνιων δηλαδή φρόνησης, της δικαιοσύνης, της σωφροσύνης, της ανδρείας, της συνέσεως και της αγάπης.

Ο Άγιος Αντώνιος, ο επονομασθείς από την εκκλησία Μέγας, κοιμήθηκε το 356 σε ηλικία 105 ετών, έχοντας απόλυτη σωματική και πνευματική υγεία. Λίγο πριν από την αποδημία του χάρισε στους δύο πιο διαπρεπείς μαθητές του, τον Σεραπίωνα και τον Μέγα Αθανάσιο, τα μοναδικά του περιουσιακά στοιχεία, ένα χιτώνιο και δύο μηλωτές (προβιές). Σύμφωνα με την επιθυμία του, ο τόπος της ταφής του παρέμεινε μυστικός. Αργότερα, τα λείψανά του μεταφέρθηκε στην εκκλησία του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου στην Αλεξάνδρεια επί Ιουστινιανού (561) και από εκεί το 635 στην Κωνσταντινούπολη. Τον 11ο αιώνα τα παρέλαβε ένα γάλλος ευγενής, ονόματι Ζοσλέν, ο οποίος τα εναπόθεσε στο Αββαείο του Αγίου Αντωνίου, στην ομώνυμη πόλη της Ν.Α. Γαλλίας (Saint-Antoine-l'Abbaye), όπου βρίσκονται σήμερα.

Απολυτίκιο

Τον ζηλωτήν Ηλίαν τοις τρόποις μιμούμενος, τω Βαπτιστή ευθείαις ταις τρίβοις επόμενος, Πάτερ Αντώνιε, της ερήμου γέγονας οικιστής, και την οικουμένην εστήριξας ευχαίς σου.

Διό πρέσβευε Χριστώ τω Θεώ, σωθήναι τας ψυχάς ημώνηηγή:

A blessed Christmas celebration after a year of hard work when the Daughters of Penelope, Philoptochos, AHEPA and Greek Language Program came together in fellowship on **Thursday**, **December 14t**^h at Benito's Trattoria in Chester. Thank you to Dimitra Pallis for all of the work and time she put in to





GODPARENT'S SUNDAY February 18th

Please join us as we celebrate and pray for this special relationship and ask for God's blessing for godparents and godchildren everywhere. Let us make it a Day for Godparents, Godchildren, Family and Friends to Worship God Together. Following the Services please join us in the social hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Shaping a theology of money

David P. King

Religious institutions need not live out of a scarcity mindset.

Our religious communities are full of the necessary assets to cultivate a culture of generosity, writes David P. King, the Karen Lake Buttrey Director of Lake Institute on Faith & Giving.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015

Religion and money? Throw in politics, and you have everything your parents told you not to talk about.

Yet the topics should not be off-putting. In fact, a theology of money is central to our individual spiritual formation, the health of our institutions and the way we participate in God's mission in the world.

But we need to change the conversation.

Most faith-and-finance conversations focus on needs -- the assumption that something is missing. In our families, congregations, and institutions, we are searching for solutions to scarcity: how to curb our spending, meet the material needs in our communities or raise enough money to balance our budgets.

But what if that approach takes us in the wrong direction?

According to social policy expert John McKnight, "You don't know what you need until you know what you have." As a leading proponent of asset-based community development (ABCD), McKnight suggests flipping the script when trying to work for change in communities: start by discovering the assets, gifts, and resources in a community, rather than focusing on what people lack.

Instead of bemoaning what is missing, take stock of what you have. That is the recipe for change.

Every community, no matter how impoverished, has institutions and resources. The people who live there have gifts, talents, and enthusiasms. If we start with these assets instead of needs, we see the community in a different way. Then we can join others to capitalize on these assets to work for community change.

What if we followed the same advice for when we address faith and finances?

Instead of determining what we need or lack, we might focus on what God has already entrusted to us. What comes to mind?

While we each must shape our own theology of money, at the core is our response of gratitude to God's generosity. At stake is who God is: God is generous, gracious, loving and merciful.

In our first attempts, we might default to material assets: budgets, buildings, endowments. But if we take a second look, we can appreciate the nonmaterial assets.

Our vision and mission are also assets; they keep us fixed on our goals and keep us from wandering off course.

What about human capital (knowledge, skills, resources, commitment, values)? What about social capital (community networks, partnerships, traditions)? For many of our organizations, the stories of transformed individuals or communities are among our richest resources.

At Broadway United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, for example, traditional helping ministries were closed down and a "roving listener" was hired to go out into the neighborhood and see what people were doing there and then help connect them to the church.

An asset-based approach fits perfectly with a biblical concept of stewardship. It is a helpful tool in analyzing an organization or community, but it is more than a technique. It can also be a way of seeing the world.

When we talk about the way we see the world around us, we are speaking theological language. This is essential to note when shaping a theology of money.

Too often when we talk about money, we ignore theological resources. For our personal finances, we turn to accountants or financial planners. In our religious institutions, we rely on professional fundraisers or capital campaign consultants.

There is much to learn and gain from all these professions, but we cannot forget that our relationship to money is an issue of religious practice and practical theology.

At Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, we offer practical tools of religious fundraising, but we first help faith leaders address issues of money theologically. Most are eager to make the shift with us, but it remains a foreign way of thinking. Many people of faith approach the topic of money with anxiety.

Religious leaders are uncomfortable and uncertain in discussing the subject, so the church often ignores and abdicates our theology of money to the culture around us. That is dangerous. Our relationship with money says much about who God is, what God provides us, and how God invites and enables us to respond.

While we each must shape our own theology of money, at the core is our response of gratitude to God's generosity. At stake is who God is: God is generous, gracious, loving and merciful.

A Christian's life of faith is rooted in and shaped by grateful response to God's generosity. How we understand and live in relation to money and possessions is dependent on how we understand, live into and participate in the "abundant life" that God provides.

A theology of money, then, is not simply a fundraising technique, a stewardship sermon or a collection of doctrines. It is a way of seeing the world.

Our relationship with money serves as a witness to who God is and what God calls us to as faithful Christians. Responding to God's generosity leads us to participate in God's generosity toward others. And that generosity is best practiced in community.

If forced to rely only on our power, we will inevitably fall short. But if we see ourselves as a part of something bigger (local communities of faith as well as God's overarching work in the world), then we can have confidence in the abundance God promises.

This does not mean relying on the power of positive thinking. As Duke Divinity School research professor and practical theologian Craig Dykstra has said, "life abundant" is not the same as an abundant lifestyle.

If our theology of money is the way we see the world, it is also the way we live in this world. This way of living is a spiritual practice, and it is a practice we have to cultivate over time.

For too long, religious institutions have viewed money as a means to an end -- raising resources for our mission. For too long, religious leaders have avoided addressing the fact that how we spend our money is directly related to how we live our life of faith.

Religious institutions need not live out of a scarcity mindset. Our religious communities are full of the necessary assets to cultivate a culture of generosity.

It is the practices, the stories, the relationships, the mission, and our eschatological hope that make generosity possible. If we nurture these assets, not simply as tools for fundraising success, but rather as the foundations for a theology of money, then the church has all the assets it needs.

By King Karen Lake Buttrey Director of Lake Institute on Faith & Giving |https://faithandleadership.com/david-p-king-shaping-theology-money?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Shaping%20a%20theology%20of%20money&utm_campaign=faith leadership

PARENTS' CORNER | By Alexandra Protopapas

JANUARY RESOLUTIONS - 2024

Welcome once again! Last month we spoke about keeping CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS and being alone especially during holidays. This month it is about resolutions.

Resolutions also have a religious background, and here it is from the Internet:

The ancient Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. [2]

The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named.[3]

In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. [2]

At watchnight services, many Christians prepare for the year ahead by praying and making these resolutions.[4]

There are other religious parallels to this tradition. During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness. People may act similarly during the Catholic fasting period of Lent, though the motive behind this holiday is more of sacrifice than of responsibility, in fact the practice of New Year's resolutions partially came from the Lenten sacrifices. [4] The concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.



My Resolutions for 2024?

Start a gratitude journal. Yes, I have had losses these past years, but God and Prayer got me through daily, more than once a day. I thank God and I started to write down positive moments while writing these articles.

Improve my mental and physical wellness. Don't we all need to do that?

Try to get a better sleep routine. I try to fall asleep, but I have difficulty at

times. I do wake up early however and after my morning prayer I begin my routine!

Stop procrastinating. Ugh! I need to stop putting things off.

Get rid of clutter. This will take forever! So many things that I think I need, but I really don't.

Upcycle my wardrobe. I do need to update.

Listen to music. I do like the old songs, and I love the fast, happy Greek songs, and Spotify helps!

Walk more as an easy exercise. Walking my dog keeps me moving even with my orthopedic issues.

Ignore chaos, strive for calmness. Less to with the news, more listening to people who want to talk. Less interrupting when people speak.

Less time with technology - more sun.

HOW ABOUT YOU? Prayer should not be a resolution; it should be a mandatory task daily or even more than once a day. That's what keeps me going when I overthink too much!

My Table Prayer Guide prayer today is from "Prayers for Special Occasions – The Priest's Service Book:

Prayer on the First Day of the Year

"O Lord our God, Who have placed times and seasons under Your own authority, Who, in your infinite compassion and goodness, have counted us worthy to enter a new year of Your loving kindness, bless it and keep us in peace."

Once again, during this blessed time of the year, we all have good days and bad days so let's focus on always depending on God's will.

With these ongoing spiritual goals, let's also celebrate Theophania, Epiphany Day, January 6th, with a special prayer for the occasion.

I would like to also add my morning prayer and when I wake up in the morning, sometimes I stress on what the day will bring. With this prayer, I'm good!

Coffee will taste better...

My Morning Prayer from now on....

to surrender completely to Your holy will. Every hour of this day enlighten me and strengthen me for everything. Whatever news I receive during this day, teach me to accept it calmly and with the conviction that it comes from Your holy will. Guide my thoughts and feelings in all my works and words. In all unforeseen circumstances do not let me forget that everything comes from You. Teach me to treat each member of my family with honesty and prudence so that I do not compare and upset anyone. Lord, give me the strength to endure the trouble and all the events of this day throughout its duration. Guide my will and teach me to pray, To believe, to endure, to forgive and to love.

Amen. 🕰

Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions for our "Parents' Corner" at: alexandraproto@gmail.com - Have a good month and a Blessed Thanksgiving! | (You can also find me on Facebook & Messenger under my name Alexandra Alex Protopapas) | Alexandra Protopapas Med | Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences – Retired | Educational Services of Morris County (ESC) (currently part-time at Academy of St Elizabeth)



Knitting Crocheting and Pillow Ministries

Invite you to join them on Wednesdays in 2024

At 11:00 am

For a couple of hours of fellowship with friends and a little lunch

Please come to the Saint Andrew Social Hall

on Wednesday

January 10 & 24

February 7 & 21

March 6 & 20

April 3 & 17

May 16 & 30

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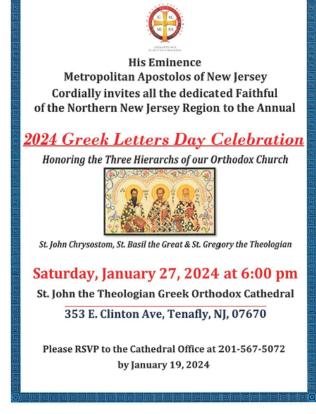
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hosted by:

St. George Greek Orthodox Church 1101 River Road Piscataway, NJ 08854



Consider attending these wonderful events that are taking pace in our community.



BAPTISM - BAΠΤΙΣΗ

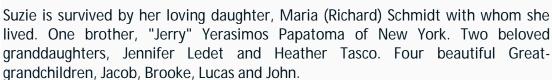
STYLIANI ANNA JULIANO daughter of Michael and Christina (Renga) Juliano was received into Greek Orthodox Church by the Holy Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday December 9th, 2023, at 1:00pm and given the name **ANNA**. Godmother was Maria Papazoglou.

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

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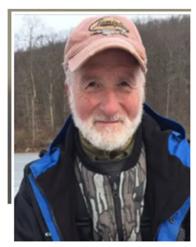
+SULTANA "SUZAN" PETRAKIS, 90 of Great Meadows, NJ passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 with her loving family by her side. Born in Istanbul, Turkey, Suzan was the daughter of the late Theofilos and Fotini Sevastopoulos Papatoma.

Suzan or "YiaYia" as she was affectionally known was a one-of-a-kind old school woman that made sure you knew where she stood with you. Once you met her, you would never forget her! She and her beloved, late husband Lazarus "Larry" Petrakis traveled the world together. A woman of devout faith, Suzan was a parishioner of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ for many years. She was formerly employed as a travel consultant with First Morris Travel in Convent Station.





The Viewing was on Monday, December 11th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High Street, Hackettstown, NJ. **A Funeral Service** for the repose of her soul was on Monday, December 11th at 12:00pm in Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, in Randolph NJ, with Father John Theodosion officiating. Interment followed in the Holy Rood Cemetery, Morristown, NJ.



+DEMETRIOS JIM MICHOLAS, 76 of Oak Ridge, New Jersey passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on November 24, 2023, after a lengthy illness. Jim was born on April 16, 1947, to Paul and Aphrodite Micholas in Alameda, California. His family moved to Paterson, New Jersey when he was 4 years old.

After graduating from Butler High School, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. After serving for 4 years, he became a draftsman and later worked for Curtiss-Wright Corporation as a welder in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey working on nuclear reactors and turbine engines. There he met and married Sharon lannone in 1974, going on to have two sons Tom and Michael. After leaving Curtiss-Wright he started his own company JTM Welding where he serviced local businesses such as Hidden Valley Ski Resort, Craigmeur Ski Resort, Action Park, Mountain Creek, and many others. He then worked for Dewey Electronics in Oakland, New Jersey for 26 years working on government contracts

for the Army and Navy.

Jim's hobbies (while not working 50 plus hours a week) included fishing, gardening, car building, sailing, astronomy, hiking, boating, stamp collecting, rock and fossil hunting, motorcycle riding and spending time with his beloved granddaughters.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife Sharon, his beloved sons Tom and Michael and daughters-in-law, Suzanne and Allison Micholas and his precious granddaughters, Lauren, and Juliana.

Jim is also survived by his beloved sister Paulette Huber and nephew and niece, Paul Huber and his wife Carol and their son Jaxon and Ronnie Huber and her partner Mike and their daughter Charli. His brothers-in law, Fred lannone and wife Lorraine, nieces and nephew, Jackie and her son Logan, Steven, Julie and wife Ally and their daughter Holly, Joseph lannone and his wife Gina and nieces Justine and Jana, and sister-in-law Rose Mary lannone.

Jim always had an encouraging word, infectious smile, and great love and support for all his family members and friends. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone that needed it. He treasured his family and embraced every moment with them. Jim lived a full and vibrant life, always putting his family first. He brought joy and happiness to all, and his loving spirit will remain in our hearts and memories forever.

A visitation was held at Morrison Etheridge Funeral Home, 86 Bartholdi Ave, Butler, New Jersey on Thursday, November 30th, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. **A Funeral Services** for the repose of his soul was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, New Jersey on Friday, December 1st, at 11 a.m. Interment followed at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Chester, New Jersey.

+NICKOLAS A. STAIKOS, 76 passed away on Thursday, November 23rd at his residence in Dover, NJ surrounded by his family. He was born on August 14, 1947 in Pokista Greece, to Alexandros and Lambrini (Gizas) Staikos and was the oldest of 6 children. He is predeceased by his brother, Odysseas Staikos who died in infancy.

He is survived and will be missed by his loving wife of 49 years Georgia (Nakopoulos) and his children Linda (Brian) Alex (Angela) and Demetrios Staikos. Nick was very proud of his children and will be forever cherished and remembered as Papou by his four loving grandchildren Demitri, Nicholas, Antony and Georgina. His grandchildren were his pride and joy and he loved spending any time he could with them. Nick is also survived by his brothers, Vasilios (Marina), Konstantinos (Stavroula), sisters, Yianoula (Vasilios) and Panagiota (Nickolas) and many nieces and nephews.



Nick worked as a cook on a merchant marine and traveled the world. He jumped ship in the US hoping to begin a new life where a man dedicated to hard work could thrive and control his own destiny. Nickolas returned to Greece in 1974 to marry Georgia and together they returned to NJ where they built an amazing life and raised their three children. Nick went on to work numerous restaurant jobs before starting his own restaurant, the Rainbow Restaurant in Caldwell, NJ.

Nick and Georgia enjoyed traveling extensively however his true love was returning to his beloved Greece where he built his dream home for his family in the US and Greece but was truly the happiest spending time in Nafpaktos and his village, Pokista. His legacy will live on in his beloved family who will keep his memory eternal.

Visitation was be held at Tuttle Funeral Home in Randolph, NJ November 27th from 4-7pm. **The Funeral Service** for the repose of his soul was held on November 28th at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ at 10am. Interment followed at the Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover NJ.

May their Memory be eternal. Αιωνία μνήμη αυτών

DONATIONS can be made in HONOR of a joyous occasion, in GRATITUDE for someone who helped you in a special way, or in MEMORY of a loved one to SAINT ANDREW Greek Orthodox Church | 1447 Sussex Turnpike | Randolph, NJ 07869 or website: https://www.standrewgonj.org/ and choose PayPal / online WeShare We will notify the recipient (or bereaved) of your kind thoughtfulness, we will pray in our Liturgy for you, the recipient and or bereaved, and we will announce your donation in upcoming magazine.

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George Milonas

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Spiros Milonas

Hristos Milonas

Ioannis & Antonia Gizas

Paleocostas Family

George & Sofia Savramis

Michael & Tina Diffley

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Debbie Burne donated by Joan & Mark Goldstein

HOUSE BLESSINGS

Fr. John Theodosion has begun the HOUSE BLESSINGS in our community on the 1st week in January 2024. Saint Andrew Parishioners will be notified of his pending visit.

Please look for a "BLUE POST CARD" indicating date and time.

We will also be announcing in the WEEKLY BULLETIN the TOWNS that Fr. John will be visiting. If you do not receive "BLUE POST CARD" when your TOWN is listed please contact the office ASAP to make arrangements for «AGIASMO» in your home.

NOTE: Please do not offer Fr. John any food or snacks. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated, but unfortunately his time is very limited and will only delay his next visit.

Rescheduling of missed appointments will be after Pascha. 973-584-0388

ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΥΣ

Ο π. Ιωάννης Θεοδόσιου θα ξεκινήσει τις επίσκεψις για αγιασμό στην κοινότητά μας την 1^η εβδομάδα του Ιανουάριο του 2024.

Οι Ενορίτες θα ενημερωθούν για την εκκρεμούσα επίσκεψή του. Θα λάβετε μια ΜΠΛΕ ΚΑΡΤΑ που δείχνει την ημερομηνία και την ώρα.

Επίσης θα ανακοινώσουμε στο ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΙΚΟ ΔΕΛΤΙΟ την πόλη που ο π. Ιωάννης θα επισκεφθεί. Εάν δεν λάβετε " ΜΠΛΕ ΚΑΡΤΑ " όταν η ΠΟΛΗ σας είναι καταχωρημένη, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με το γραφείο όσο το συντομότερο και κάντε ρυθμίσεις για τον «Αγιασμό» στο σπίτι σας.

ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΗ: Παρακαλούμε μην προσφέρετε στον π Ιωάννη φαγητό ούτε αναψυκτικά . Η φιλοξενία σας εκτιμάται πολύ, αλλά δυστυχώς ο χρόνος του είναι πολύ περιορισμένος και θα καθυστερήσει την επόμενη επίσκεψή του.

Η αναδιάταξη των αναπάντητων συναντήσεων θα γίνει μετά το Πάσχα. 973-584-0388

SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR * LOOK FOR UPDATES ON WEEKLY E BULLETIN

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

<u>PILLOW & KNITTING</u> ALTERNATE Wednesdays 11am

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays **9am**

Hellenic Afternoon School Thu 4:30pm

Greek Dancing Thu Grp 1 @6:30 & Grp 2 @7:15pm

Greek Dancing GOYA/ Grp 3 Thursdays @8:00pm

LAP TB Determined

<u>Scripture Talk</u> Tue @7-8 pm Weekly Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88548756745

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN <u>DECEMBER</u>: 12/3 PHILOPTOCHOS, 12/10 PTA, 12/17 DOP, 12/24 GOYA, 12/31 BAKALIKO

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN JANUARY 2024: 1/7 PHILOPTOCHOS, 1/14 PTA, 1/21 DOP, 1/28 GOYA

1/7 Vasilopita Cutting in Church1/7 Stewardship Sunday

1/8 @7:30PM Parish Council Meeting

1/10 @ 11am Knitting Crocheting and Pillow Ministries

1/11 @7pm BIBLE STUDY also on 1/18,1/25

1/13 Saturday PTA Field Trip to Sky -Zone @2pm

1/14 @12pm DOP Meeting (Room 102)

1/15 @6:30 Stewardship Meeting

1/23 @7pm Philoptochos Meeting

1/24 @ 11am Knitting Crocheting and Pillow Ministries

1/25 @7pm GOYA Meeting

1/27 - FAITH KITCHEN Parish Council

1/27 3 Hierarchs/Greek Letters Celebration at St John Cathedral in Tenafly NJ W@6pm

1/28 Three Hierarch Program /Rel Ed & HAS in church

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN FEBRUARY: 2/4 PHILOPTOCHOS, 2/11 PTA, 2/18 DOP, 2/25 GOYA

2/1 @7pm BIBLE STUDY also on 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 & 2/29

2/10 @11AM-6PM GYRO SALE

2/10 @11AM BAPTISM

2/14 @8AM LIFELINE SCREENING

2/16 NNJYC Valentine's Dance at St Anna @6pm

2/18 GODPARENT'S SUNDAY

2/24 - FAITH KITCHEN Philoptochos hosting 2/24 @2PM YACCARINO_IBRAHIM WEDDING

2/25 TRIODION BEGINS

2/25 @4PM MARDI GRAS -PTA @ MEADOWOOD RANDOLPH NJ

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN MARCH: 3/3 PHILOPTOCHOS, 03/10 PTA, 3/17 DOP, 3/24 GOYA, 3/31 BAKALIKO

3/2 & 3/9 GOYA Sights and Sounds in Westfield NJ

3/9 SATURDAY OF SOULS 3/16 & 3/23

3/9 @6-9PM PTA MOVIE NIGHT at St Andrew

3/14 @11:30AM THURSDAY **AGAPE LUNCH**

3/17 OXI DAY Program /HAS

3/18 Lent Begins (KATHARI DEFTERA)

3/23- FAITH KITCHEN GOYA hosting

3/31 WESTERN EASTER

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN <u>APRIL</u>: 4/7 PHILOPTOCHOS, 4/14 PTA, 4/21 GOYA, 4/28 ALL ORGANIZATIONS,

4/6 NNJYC St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in Trenton NJ

4/27 - FAITH KITCHEN DOP/AHEPA hosting

4/27 Saturday of Lazarus ●LAP-HOPE-JOY EGG HUNT

PALM CROSSES ●POTLUCK LENTEN LUNCH

4/28 Palm Sunday Community Lunch

5/5 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

5/10 Tricky Tray – Philoptochos

5/11 PTA Medieval Times

5/18 @4PM PANAGAKOS_AMARTULA WEDDING

5/19 AHEPA & DOP Memorial Service

5/25 - FAITH KITCHEN Parish Council hosting

May 25-26 NNJYC Metropolis Indoor Olympics-Monmouth University – West Long Branch NJ

5/27 MEMORIAL DAY

5/30 – GRADUATION HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

6/1@3PM NICOLAOU_ROGGENKAMP WEDDING

6/2 AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS & GRADUATION RELED

June 7_8_9 Saint Andrew Big Greek Festival

6/15 @3PM GIZAS_RECENELLO WEDDING



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Bakaliko: Maria Stamoutsos **Coffee Hour**: Irene Laoudis

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AHEPA: Peter Tsilios, President

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Christina Kalavrouziotis, Anna Sifonios , *GOYA Advisors*

Hellenic Dance

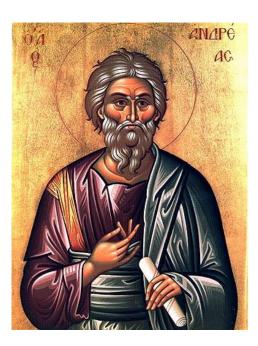
GOYA Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor (assisted by:* Pavlos Giannikopoulos)

Jr & Sr Groups Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*

SAINT ANDREW

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE, RANDOLPH, NJ 07869-1830
info@standrewgonj.org 973-584-0388 phone

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Non-Profit Org.
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Offering our Blessings

973-584-3573 fax

The God who came to us at Bethlehem continues to come to us today. In every liturgy He comes to us as the Word of God, bringing words of eternal life through the Scripture readings and the sermon. Through the Sacrament of Communion He comes to be born again and again in the shabby stables of our hearts. He comes constantly through prayer. He blesses our marriages as He did that in Cana of Galilee. He stands by our sick bed, laying His healing hand upon us through the prayers of the priest. He comes again and again in so many, many ways through the many ministries of His Church. He comes with healing and forgiveness; He comes with strength and guidance. He comes and when He comes, as the Bible says, "the blind see, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free."

It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

HYMN OF THE APOSTLE SAINT ANDREW

As first called of the Apostles and brother of Peter the Preeminent, O Andrew, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the whole world, and great mercy to our souls.

Απολυτικίο του Αποστολού Ανδρεού

Ως των Αποστόλων πρωτόκλητος, και του κορυφαίου αυτάδελφος, τον Δεσπότην των όλων Ανδρέα ικέτευε, ειρήνην τη οικουμένη δωρήσασθαι, και ταις ψυχαίς ημών το μέγα έλεο

THE SAINT ANDREW VISION STATEMENT

Our Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church is a welcoming place where our family is committed to God, and salvation through Orthodox worship, Christian education, philanthropy, and sharing of Hellenic culture, for the benefit of those whose lives we touch.