

DECEMBER 2024



Your Own from Your Own



*See our Church...
...As it Could Be*



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT- DECEMBER 15TH
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – December 15th
CHRISTMAS LITURGY – December 24th

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

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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*

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DIVINE SERVICES

DECEMBER

Sunday	1	14th Sunday of Luke
Wednesday	4	+ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR *Relics
Friday	6	+ST. NICHOLAS ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA
Sunday	8	10th Sunday of Luke
Monday	9	THE CONCEPTION OF +ST. ANNA
Thursday	12	+ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TRYMITHOUS
Sunday	15	11th Sunday of Luke; +ST. ELEUTHERIOS THE HOLY MARTYR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday	22	Sunday before the Nativity +ST. ANASTASIA THE GREAT MARTYR
Tuesday	24	+EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST, +EUGENIA THE RIGHTEOUS Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespers Liturgy of St Basil the Great @8am
Tuesday	24	+HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom @8PM
Friday	27	+SAINT STEPHEN, Archdeacon and First Martyr
Sunday	29	Sunday after Nativity; Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
Tuesday	31	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION ST. BASIL Great Vespers @3:30pm

JANUARY 2025

Wednesday	1	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION OF ST. BASIL @8:15AM
Friday	3	Orthros & Great Hours
Sunday	5	EVE OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST: Orthros, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom & Great Agiasmos (Fasting Day)
Monday	6	HOLY THEOPHANY, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST - Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and Great Agiasmos
Tuesday	7	THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, BAPTIST +Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Sunday	12	Sunday after Epiphany; Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
Friday	17	+ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
Saturday	18	+ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT & CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA
Sunday	19	12th Sunday of Luke
Sunday	26	15th Sunday Luke Three Hierarchs Program (HAS & RelEd)
Thursday	30	+SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: +BASIL THE GREAT; +GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN; & +JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

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

Weekdays: Orthros begins @ 8AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:00AM

*(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 then proceed to their class.

Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

Δ Ε Κ Ε Μ Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ

- Κυριακή 1 ΙΔ΄ Λουκά**
Τετάρτη 4 +ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ *Λείψανα
Παρασκευή 6 +ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΜΥΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΛΥΚΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
- Κυριακή 8 Ι΄ Λουκά**
Δευτέρα 9 Η ΣΥΛΛΗΨΗΣ ΤΗΣ +ΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΠΡΟΜΗΤΟΡΟΣ ΆΝΝΗΣ
Πέμπτη 12 +ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΤΡΙΜΥΘΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
- Κυριακή 15 ΙΑ΄ Λουκά** +ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ | ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
Κυριακή 22 Κυριακή πρό τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως | +ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΡΙΑΣ
- Τρίτη 24 +ΠΡΟ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, +ΕΥΓΕΝΙΑΣ | Όρθρος, Μεγάλοι Ώραι, Μέγα Εσπερινός, και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου ώρα 8:00πμ
Τρίτη 24 +Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ | Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσοστόμου ώρα 8:00μμ
Παρασκευή 27 +ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ ΠΡΩΤΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΧΙΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΥ
- Κυριακή 29 Κυριακή μετά την Χριστοῦ Γέννησιν**
Τρίτη 31 Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ 3:30ΜΜ

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2025

- Τετάρτη 1 Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ ώρα 8.15πμ
Παρασκευή 3 Όρθρος & Μέγα Ώρες
- Κυριακή 5 Παραμονή των Φώτων Θεοπέμπτου και Θεωνά των μαρτύρων (Νηστεία) – Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσοστόμου και Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού**
- Δευτέρα 6 Τα άγια Θεοφάνεια του Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού - Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου και Μέγα Αγιασμός
Τρίτη 7 Η Σύναξις του Προδρόμου και Βαπτιστού Ιωάννου - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου
- Κυριακή 12 ΑΠΟΔΟΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ;**
Παρασκευή 17 + ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Σάββατου 18 +ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ
- Κυριακή 19 ΙΒ΄ Του Λουκά**
Κυριακή 26 ΙΕ΄ ΜΑΤΘΑΪΟΥ (τῆς ΧΑΝΑΝΑΙΑΣ) (ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ – ΕΑΣ]
Πέμπτη 30 ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ +ΜΕΓΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ, +ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ , +ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ

**Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ
Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.00πμ
(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)*
Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 9.30πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία και θα συνεχίσουν στις τάξεις τους.**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR OUR LORD'S NATIVITY

December 22, **Sunday @ 8:15 am: Sunday before the Nativity**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

December 24, **Tuesday @ 8:00 am: Eve of the Nativity of Christ +Eugenia the Righteous**

- Orthros, Great Hours, & Great Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

December 24, **Tuesday Orthros @6:30 pm & Divine Liturgy @8:00 pm Holy Nativity of**

our Lord - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (*The faithful who have prepared to receive Holy Communion may fast after midday meal and approach for the Holy Eucharist*)

December 27, **Friday @ 8:00 am: +Saint Stephen, Archdeacon and First Martyr**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy

December 29, **Sunday @ 8:15 am: Sunday before Epiphany** – Orthros & Divine Liturgy

December 31, **Tuesday @ 3:30 pm: Circumcision of Our Lord & Commemoration**

St. Basil the Great - Great Vespers

NEW YEAR 2025

January 1, **Wednesday @ 8:15 am: Circumcision of Our Lord and Commemoration of**

St. Basil the Great - Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

January 3, **Friday @ 8:00 am: Orthros & Great Hours**

January 5, **Sunday @ 8:15 am: Eve of Theophany: Theopemptos, Bishop of Nicomedia**

(*Fasting Day*) - Orthros, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom & Great Agiasmos

January 6, **Monday @ 8:00 am: Holy Theophany Baptism of Our Lord and Saviour**

Jesus Christ - Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and Great Agiasmos

January 7, **Tuesday @ 8:00 am: The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet St. John the Baptist** –

Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΕΟΡΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

22 Δεκεμβρίου, Κυριακή ώρα 8:15 πμ: **Κυριακή προ γης Χρηστού Γεννήσεως** – Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

24 Δεκεμβρίου, Τρίτη ώρα 8:00 πμ: **Η προ σάρκα Γέννησις Του Χρηστού + Ευγενίας οσιομάρτυρος** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσσοστόμου

24 Δεκεμβρίου: Τρίτη ώρα Όρθρος ώρα 6:30μμ και Λειτουργία ώρα 8:00 μμ: **Η κατά σάρκα Γέννησις Του Χρηστού** - Λειτουργία Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσσοστόμου (Οι πιστοί που έχουν κάνει την κατάλληλη προετοιμασία μπορούν να νηστέψουν μετά το μεσημεριανό τους γεύμα και να προσέλθουν να λάβουν την Θεία οινωνία)

27 Δεκεμβρίου, Παρασκευή ώρα 8:00 πμ: **+Στέφανος Πρωτομάρτυρας** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

29 Δεκεμβρίου, Κυριακή ώρα 8:15 πμ: **Κυριακή προ των Φώτων** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

31 Δεκεμβρίου, Τρίτη ώρα 3:30 μμ: **Η κατά σάρκα περιτομή του Χρηστού, Βασιλείου αρχιεπισκόπου Καισαρείας** - Μέγα Εσπερινός

ΝΕΟΝ ΈΤΟΣ 2025

1 Ιανουαρίου, Τετάρτη ώρα 8:15 πμ: **Η κατά σάρκα περιτομή του Χρηστού, Βασιλείου αρχιεπισκόπου Καισαρείας** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου

3 Ιανουαρίου, Παρασκευή ώρα 8:00 πμ: Όρθρος & Μέγα Όρες

5 Ιανουαρίου, Κυριακή ώρα 8:15 πμ: **Παραμονή των Φώτων Θεοπέμπτου και Θεωνά των μαρτύρων (Νηστεία)** – Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσσοστόμου και Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού

6 Ιανουαρίου, Δευτέρα ώρα 8:00 πμ: **Τα άγια Θεοφάνεια του Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χρηστού** - Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου και Μέγα Αγιασμός

7 Ιανουαρίου, Τρίτη ώρα 8:00 πμ: **Η Σύναξις του Προδρόμου και Βαπτιστού Ιωάννου** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου

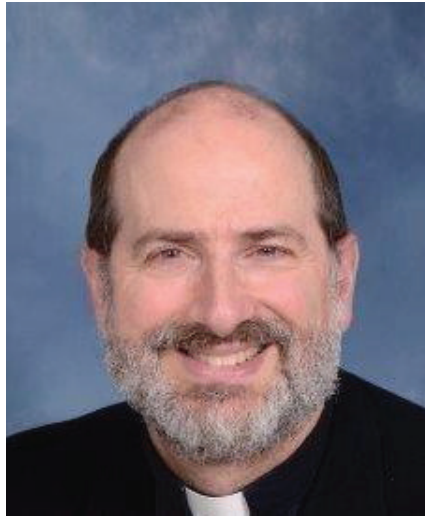
Peace and the Shepherds

Fr. John Theodosion

As I write this, we have just entered the Christmas Fasting period. I was thinking about the theme of peace and how Christ comes to bring us His peace with His birth. But as I write this I also am thinking about the world and all the major issues that are going on for example, the war in Ukraine, the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the recent election cycle and all the controversies surrounding the elections. That only just scratches the surface of major stressors that we see on our TVs, phones and computers. We also have personal stressors and conflicts that we experience at work, school and even at home. As we start to get geared up for the holiday season and the shopping for food and gifts, the preparations for meals and visitors, and holiday parties and gatherings it seems that this time of year is anything but peaceful. Just thinking about it can give us anxiety.

It seems that the things we ourselves organize to celebrate the season are the things that keep us from truly seeing and experiencing the birth of the Lord and the Peace that he brings us. We become so busy with the trappings of the Christmas Season that we are too busy to come to church and experience the services that are the most important and true celebrations of our Lord's birth.

On the night when the Lord Jesus was born, He quietly entered the world, however the Bible tells us that there were indicators that something special was happening. For example,



the Star of Bethlehem and the Angels who appeared to the shepherds in the fields. *Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a ¹³manger."*

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill¹⁵ toward men!"

¹⁵So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷Now when they had seen Him, they made ¹⁸widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The things that happen in this part of the Nativity story have a lot to teach us. First, the Angels of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Immediately the shepherds became afraid, but the Angels said "Do not be afraid for I bring you good tidings of great Joy."

The second thing that happens is that "...there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly

host praising God and saying Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

And the third thing that happened is that the shepherds "...came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger."

All three of these things speak to us and have something to teach us about how we should conduct ourselves during this holiday season. First, we should take heart and do not be afraid as the Angel commanded. Christ has come into the world to give us His peace. He promised, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Don't focus on the world and all its problems, controversies, and issues. Focus rather on Christ on His Love, His Humility, His Kindness and His devotion to us.

Second, we should think about the vision of the angels. The heavenly vision of angels signifies that with the birth of Christ, Heaven and earth

are reunited. Christ comes to earth to bring us back to Heaven where we belong. When we come to church especially during this Lenten period as we approach our Lord's Nativity, we should praise God and sing like the Heavenly Host in this passage.

Third, we see that the shepherds left their flocks and went into Bethlehem to find Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in a manger. The shepherds left all their worldly cares behind and went to see the Christ child. This example is a powerful one for us. We need to lay aside all the cares of this life and focus on Christ Himself.

Friends, when we clear our minds of the craziness of this world, come to church and praise God with our thoughts words and deeds, and lay aside worldly cares and concerns then we will begin to more fully experience the peace and joy of our Lord's Nativity during this Lenten holiday season.

CHRIST BECAME A HUMBLE CHILD, AMBROSE

He was a baby and a child, so that you may be a perfect human. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, so that you may be freed from the snares of death. He was in a manger, so that you may be in the altar. He was on earth that you may be in the stars. He had no other place in the inn, so that you may have many mansions in the heavens. "He, being rich, became poor for your sakes, that through his poverty you might be rich."²⁴ Therefore his poverty is our inheritance, and the Lord's weakness is our virtue. He chose to lack for himself, that he may abound for all.

The sobs of that infancy cleanse me, those tears wash away my sins. Therefore, Lord Jesus, I owe more to your sufferings because I was redeemed than I do to works for which I was created. ...

You see that he is in swaddling clothes. You do not see that he is in heaven. You hear the cries of an infant, but you do not hear the lowing of an ox recognizing its Master, for the ox knows his Owner and the donkey his Master's crib.

Exposition of the Gospel of Luke 2.41-42. 26

2025 Stewardship - Reflection



A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, can I have ten dollars?" The father, wanting to understand, told the boy "Yes, but can you tell me what you plan to do with ten dollars?" The little boy replied quietly, "Daddy, I need the money to buy you a present."

We are not so different from that little boy. In every Divine Liturgy, when our gifts of bread and wine are blessed and lifted up in offering to God our Father, we hear the words, "Your own from Your own we offer to You." We acknowledge that, just like the little boy buying a gift for his father, everything we have and everything we offer to God first comes from Him. In the Divine Liturgy, we offer bread and wine to God with thanksgiving. He returns them to us as His body and blood in Holy Communion as we receive Jesus Christ within us.

*"...but make me worthy, Your sinful and unworthy servant, to offer these Gifts unto You. For You are the Offerer and the Offered, Who accepts and is distributed,
O Christ our God...."*

Priestly prayers before Holy Communion

See our Church, Not as it Is, But as it Could Be.

One church member was heard to say, "I just want the church to be here long enough to have my funeral here." This is a church in survival mode, just paying the bills. We ask, "What does it cost?" "What are the dues?" "How much do I owe?" These are earthly questions. A better question would be, "What can I give so that my church can become all it is meant to be – the Body of Christ on earth." With a vision for the future of our parish we can say, "I want the church to be here for my grandchildren's grandchildren."

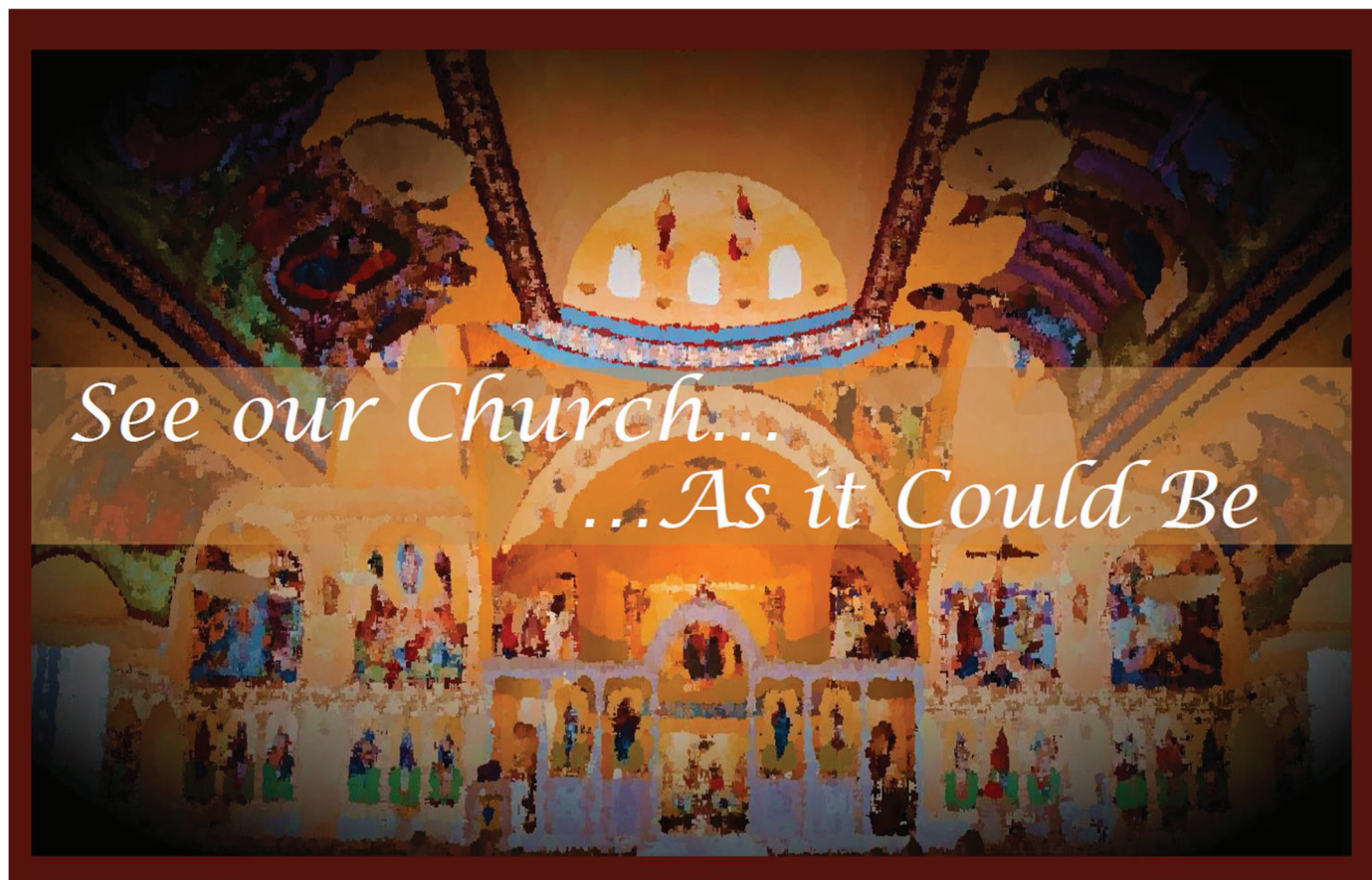
As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God's gift, as a sacrament of God's presence and a means of communion with Him. This way we are able to offer back to God, in thanksgiving and love, the many gifts we receive from Him. Like the boy in the New Testament who offered the five loaves and two fish and Jesus multiplied them to feed the 5,000, God receives our humble gifts and multiplies them to feed the world.

When we see great need in our community and in the world, we may ask, "If God is so loving, then why is there so much poverty and suffering in the world? Where is God when we need Him?" Sometimes the need is so overwhelming that to help at all seems impossible, but in the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, we are taught to offer what we have, no matter the amount, and miracles will happen.

So it is with our church, we often imagine only what is humanly possible. If we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of "Your own from Your own." We will see our church, not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God's generosity and love. With our faithful offering, we will see in our church as they did in the early Church, "...the Lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

"Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches, and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly gifts. Grant them in return for earthly things, heavenly gifts; for temporal, eternal; for corruptible, incorruptible."

- from the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great





Περί Συνδρομών 2025 / Σκέψεις

Ένα αγοράκι ρώτησε τον πατέρα του, «Μπαμπά, μπορείς να μου δώσεις δέκα δολάρια;» Ο πατέρας, προσπαθώντας να καταλάβει, λέει στο αγόρι «Ναι, αλλά μπορείς να μου πεις τί σκοπεύεις να κάνεις με τα δέκα δολάρια;» Το αγοράκι απάντησε σιγανά, «Μπαμπά, χρειάζομαι τα χρήματα για να σου πάρω ένα δώρο.»

Και εμείς δεν διαφέρουμε και πολύ από αυτό το αγοράκι. Σε κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία, όταν τα δώρα του άρτου και του οίνου ευλογούνται και ανυψώνονται ως προσφορά του Θεού και Πατέρα μας, ακούμε τα εξής λόγια, «Τὰ σὰ ἐκ τῶν σῶν σοὶ προσφέρομεν» Αναγνωρίζουμε πως, όπως ακριβώς το αγοράκι αγοράζει ένα δώρο για τον πατέρα του, έτσι και εμείς όλα όσα έχουμε και όσα προσφέρουμε στον Θεό, προέρχονται αρχικά από Εκείνον. Στην Θεία Λειτουργία, προσφέρουμε ψωμί και κρασί στον Θεό για ευχαριστία. Μας τα επιστρέφει ως το σώμα και αίμα Του στη Θεία Κοινωνία όταν μεταλαμβάνουμε τον Ιησού Χριστό μέσα μας.

«.....ἀλλὰ ἀξίωσέ με τὸν ἁμαρτωλὸ καὶ ἀνάξιο δοῦλο Σου νὰ σοῦ προσφέρω τοῦτα τὰ δῶρα. Γιατὶ ἐσύ εἶσαι ἐκεῖνος ποὺ προσφέρεις καὶ προσφέρεσαι, ἐκεῖνος ποὺ δέχεσαι τὰ δῶρα καὶ ὁ ἴδιος ποὺ μοιράζεσαι Χριστὲ Θεέ μας,»

Προσευχές του ιερέως πριν τη Θεία Ευχαριστία.

Δείτε την Εκκλησία μας Όχι όπως είναι, Αλλά όπως θα Μπορούσε να Είναι.

Ένα μέλος της εκκλησίας ακούστηκε να λέει, «Απλά θέλω η εκκλησία να υπάρχει και στο μέλλον για να γίνει η κηδεία μου εδώ.» Αυτή είναι όμως μια εκκλησία σε απλή λειτουργία επιβίωσης, όπου απλά πληρώνονται οι λογαριασμοί. Συνήθως ρωτάμε, «Ποιό είναι το κόστος;» «Ποιές είναι οι οφειλές;» «Πόσα χρωστάμε;» Αυτές είναι επίγειες ερωτήσεις. Μία καλύτερη ερώτηση θα ήταν, «Τί μπορώ να προσφέρω για να γίνει η εκκλησία μου ό,τι προορίζεται να είναι – το Σώμα του Χριστού πάνω στη γη.» Με αυτό το όραμα για το μέλλον της ενορίας μας να λέμε καλύτερα, «Θέλω η εκκλησία να βρίσκεται εδώ και για τα εγγόνια των εγγονών μου.»

Ως Χριστιανοί Ορθόδοξοι, βλέπουμε τον κόσμο ως δώρο Θεού, ως ένα μυστήριο της παρουσίας του Θεού και ένα μέσον της κοινωνίας μαζί Του. Με αυτόν τον τρόπο μπορούμε να ανταποδίδουμε στον Θεό, με ευγνωμοσύνη και αγάπη, τα πολλά δώρα που λαμβάνουμε από Αυτόν. Όπως το αγόρι στην Καινή Διαθήκη που πρόσφερε τα πέντε καρβέλια και δύο ψάρια και ο Ιησούς τα πολλαπλασίασε για να θρέψει 5.000, ο Θεός λαμβάνει τα ταπεινά μας δώρα και τα πολλαπλασιάζει για να θρέψει τον κόσμο.

Όταν βλέπουμε πως στην κοινότητα και τον κόσμο υπάρχει μεγάλη ανάγκη, μπορεί να ρωτήσουμε, «Αν ο Θεός αγαπάει τόσο, τότε γιατί υπάρχει τόση φτώχεια και πόνος στον κόσμο; Πού είναι ο Θεός όταν Τον χρειαζόμαστε; Μερικές φορές η ανάγκη είναι τόσο μεγάλη που φαίνεται αδύνατον να μπορείς να βοηθήσεις, αλλά με το θαύμα των πέντε καρβελιών και δύο ψαριών, έχουμε διδαχθεί να προσφέρουμε ό,τι έχουμε, ανεξάρτητα από την ποσότητα, και θα γίνουν θαύματα.

Έτσι στην εκκλησία μας, συχνά φανταζόμαστε μόνο όσα είναι ανθρωπίνως δυνατόν. Εάν κάνουμε αυτό που μας αναλογεί με πίστη, ο Θεός με αγάπη θα μας επιστρέψει πολλά περισσότερα από όσα μπορούσαμε ποτέ να φανταστούμε. Αυτό είναι το αληθινό νόημα στο «Τὰ Σὰ ἐκ τῶν Σῶν.» Θα βλέπουμε την εκκλησία μας, όχι όπως είναι, αλλά όπως θα μπορούσε να είναι, με τα ταπεινά μας δώρα πολλαπλασιασμένα με του Θεού τη γενναιοδωρία και αγάπη. Με την πιστή προσφορά μας, θα δούμε την εκκλησία μας όπως ήταν η πρώτη εκκλησία, «... Ο δε Κυρίος προσέθετε κάθε ημέραν και άλλους πιστούς εις την Εκκλησίαν, αυτούς που σώζονταν» (Πραξ. 2:47).

«Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, τῶν καρποφορούντων καὶ καλλιεργούντων ἐν ταῖς ἀγίαις σου Ἐκκλησίαις καὶ μεμνημένων τῶν πενήτων. Ἄμειψαι αὐτοὺς τοῖς πλουσίοις σου καὶ ἐπουρανίοις χάρισμασι· χάρισαι αὐτοῖς ἀντὶ τῶν ἐπιγείων τὰ ἐπουράνια, ἀντὶ τῶν προσκαίρων τὰ αἰώνια, ἀντὶ τῶν φθαρτῶν τὰ ἄφθαρτα.»

- από την Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Μεγάλου Βασιλείου



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

“Faith Works Ministry”

Dear Saint Andrew Community,

We are excited to announce a new ministry at Saint Andrew — the Faith Works Ministry!

Faith Works is focused on offering FREE services and advice in domains such as mentoring, interview preparation, resume review, presentation skills and more. We believe that offering these services for free can help our community develop skills and strategies to improve their career or perform better in school.

Nikolas Karkanias will lead this exciting new ministry. Nik has 30 years of practical experience in these areas, largely in the science and healthcare fields. Most of the skills and services can be applied easily to any field.

These services will be offered in person, virtually, or both, to the community on a “first come first served” basis and as our volunteers are available. You do not need to be a member of Saint Andrew to benefit from the services. The service is open to adults and high school students (with parent or guardian present). Our hope is that when you realize any benefits from our ministry that you consider sharing your story.

The ministry will start offering its services on December 1, 2024.

If you are interested in joining Faith Works in a volunteer capacity, we strongly encourage you to join. Anyone is welcome to join Nik in helping to run this ministry, to provide counseling or in whatever capacity you can offer. Nik would be especially grateful if we can get one to two people from our community who are not yet on any of our committees, councils or ministries, but all are welcome to assist.

If you are interested in volunteering for Faith Works or to take advantage of its valuable services, reach out to nikolas.karkanias@gmail.com or the Saint Andrew church office to get in touch.

Thank you!
Saint Andrew Stewardship Committee

“Stewardship is what you do with all of the gifts God gave you”

As 2024 comes to a close and we begin to prayerfully consider our annual stewardship pledge for Saint Andrew, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank you for your support of the “**Round Up Giving**” campaign. With over 80 stewards and families rounding up and increasing their pledges this year, Saint Andrew was able to give much back to our church and the community at large.

Many church improvement and beautification projects were completed this year including updating the narthex with new tile and paint. Also, a new classroom was built where the original office/entrance was, incorporating new lighting, outlets, tiled floor, and ceiling. The lighting in the kitchen has been replaced, as well as new lights and timers added to the hallway and gym for overall energy efficiency.

In addition to supporting the church, your donations also aided the greater Randolph community by helping our Faith Kitchen ministry serve between 1200-1500 nutritious meals for the hungry. Additionally, through your generous giving, the Knitting, Crocheting & Pillow ministry was able to provide pillows and blankets to those in need.

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.

For 2025 we ask that you consider once again “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 the church to one decimal point (e.g. 1%). Next, “round up” your pledge to the next highest whole number percent of income (e.g. 1%) for 2025.

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

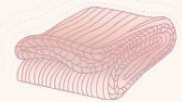


Because of your generous Stewardship pledges in 2024, Saint Andrew was able to...



Serve over 1200 meals through our Faith Kitchen Ministry

Donate pillows & blankets to those in need through our Knitting, Crocheting & Pillow Ministry



Paint & tile the narthex; replace lighting & add timers throughout the building for energy efficiency

Build a new classroom and retile floor & ceiling where the original church office/entrance was



Let's all pledge to do even more by Rounding Up Our Giving in 2025



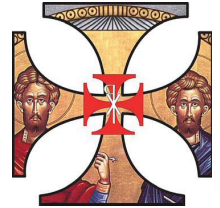


Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS

1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE • RANDOLPH, NJ 07869



PHILOPTOCHOS MISSION

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.

2023-2024

The Executive Board

President

Marina Venizelos

1st Vice President

Maro Schuster

2nd Vice President

Irene Laoudis

Treasurer

Salomi Massaras

Assistant Treasurer

Irene Petrou

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Maria Galvin

Joanna Haritos

Panayiota Louca

Irene Sergonis

Athena Theodosion

Advisor to Board

Mary Michailidis

Spiritual Advisor

Fr John Theodosion

Saint Andrew Philoptochos is very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners who contributed to this year's **Thanksgiving Day Food Drive** to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry. Over the past 25 years, the Interfaith Food Pantry has improved the health and well-being of Morris County residents in need by providing access to food. In 2023 the food pantry distributed over 2,000,220 pounds of food to almost 40,000 households. This year, our parish contributed 1,016 pounds of food to stock the shelves of the pantry in time for Thanksgiving.

We also thank you for your donations to the **Market Street Mission's Annual Coat Drive**. This year, our parish donated nearly 40 coats, as well as 182 winter accessories (hats, gloves, and scarves). These items were distributed to those in need, along with hundreds of other donated coats and winter accessories at the Mission's annual coat drive which took place November 2nd on the Green in Morristown.

Please place your **vasilopita** order by December 1st in time for your New Year's Day celebrations. The vasilopites will be lovingly baked by the sisters of Holy Protection Greek Orthodox Monastery "Agia Skepi" in White Haven, Pennsylvania and made available to you for \$20. You will be able to pick up your vasilopita from our church starting Sunday, December 11th. To place an order, please contact Maro Schuster maroschuster13@gmail.com; Maria Kelly - mariapkelly@hotmail.com or Irene Laoudis ilaoudis@yahoo.com.

As is our tradition, Philoptochos will be publishing a **Saint Andrew Family Christmas Card** this year. For a donation, you can add your name and family to the list of parishioners in the card by December 8th. All proceeds from the card will go directly to families in need in our community. If you wish to be included in the card, please see Marina Venizelos, Irene Laoudis or Kia Paskas.

Looking for a Holiday gift? Consider purchasing a **Saint Andrew Cookbook**. The cost is \$20 and will be sold during coffee hour throughout the holiday season.

On November 29th and 30th we were honored by an Archpastoral visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey. We celebrated our **patron Saint Andrew** with both a Hierarchal Great Vespers and a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Thank you for joining us on both Friday and Saturday.

Please mark your calendars for the annual **Philoptochos Christmas Dinner** to be held at Forte's on Route 10 in Randolph on December 10th. Tickets are \$50. For reservations, please see Marina Venizelos or Maro Schuster.

As we close out 2024, the Philoptochos Society of Saint Andrew wishes to express its gratitude for all the love and support from our community, and we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and all God's blessings in the New Year, 2025!

In the service of the Lord,
Maria I. Daniskas

The Saint Andrew Philoptochos
joyfully invites all of its members, spouses and friends to..

The Philoptochos Christmas Dinner

on December 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm

at **Forte Pizzeria & Ristorante** 486 NJ Route 10 in Randolph
Bruschetta, Salad, Pasta, Choice of Entrée, & dessert

Choice of Entrée: *Eggplant Parm, Shrimp Française, Chicken (Marsala or Française)*

\$50 per person / BYOB

RSVP by Dec 9th to Maro Schuster at 973-570-4924



Ring in 2025

With our Saint Andrew Family!

Please join us for a family friendly



**New Year's Eve
Celebration
Live Greek Band "KEFI"
Saint Andrew Community
Center**

8pm – 1 am

Appetizers, Dinner, Dessert,
Music/Dancing, Champagne
toast at Midnight, Vasilopita,
BYOB (Soda and Water will be available)

Adult ticket \$65 | Teen Ticket (age 12 - 17) \$25 | Child Ticket (under 12) free

Questions? info@standrewgonj.org

GOYA December 2024 Newsletter

Wow, GOYA has been a blast so far, but tis the season... to be jolly, with good times ahead!

We have an exciting season ahead, filled with wonderful opportunities to gather, celebrate, and serve! Firstly, our annual **Christmas Dance** is fast approaching, so make sure to mark your calendars for a night of fun, music, and festive cheer. This year St. Demetrios, Union is inviting the Goyan's to enjoy this year's 2024 Christmas dance spectacular on Friday, December 27th from 7:00pm - 11:00 pm. This event is always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to see everyone dressed up and ready to celebrate!



We are also excited to announce the start of our **Sights and Sounds** practices! If you're interested in showcasing your creativity, now is the time to get involved. These performances are always a hit! Boy oh Boy, it is always a blast, year after year, one of the best events of the year. We can't wait to see the talent our youth group will showcase this year.

Goya celebrated Halloween by carving pumpkins at the church and going to 13 Hour October Fest. Our recent **Bowling Dance** was a huge success! Not only did we have a great time, but we were able to meet and connect with people from other churches. It was a fantastic opportunity to strengthen our relationships with fellow youth groups through some friendly competition on the lanes. There was the bowling portion first, but then there was the dance which took place in Fairview.

The girls' volleyball team and boys' basketball teams have been working hard this season! There has been a significant improvement in everyone's ability. On the weekend of December 7th and 8th, players will compete in the playoffs. Best of luck, St. Andrews.

Evan Kalavrouziotis - Goya Vice President





Hellenic Afternoon School

The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) Fall for Reading event was engaging and fun for our students. The HAS teachers Nicole Pazvanti and Panayiota Louca read story books for all children in our community. HAS will continue to provide Greek language Read Aloud as we translate in English and share a fun activity. Such events bring our children together to connect with a second language while making new friendships.

Additionally, support and visit our bilingual library to access a great selection of genres for children and adult Greek language, cultural and Orthodox religious books. One can find books in both the Greek and English language. We continue to accept book donations, and bring the latest book authors and popular titles. We look forward to see you on our next event!



We emphasize the importance of reading in effectively learning a second language. According to research, there are many positives of using books in early childhood second language acquisition. Since children's literature makes use of natural language patterns in familiar contexts that the students can relate to, it helps students make connections and recollect those language structures at a faster pace. Books do not only contain vocabulary, but the images

provided also help the child understand the meaning without language skills. Reading or read to supports the brain to remember these language structures as the learner will connect an image to the word it represents. Therefore, we would like to promote a strong support network with students and their families. It is imperative parents encourage reading by either reading to their child, playing an audiobook, or participate in a read-aloud on YouTube at home or at HAS school events.





OXI DAY PROGRAM

At Saint Andrew the Hellenic Afternoon School, proudly continues to celebrate OXI Day!

On Sunday October 27th the students of the Hellenic Afternoon School commemorate the Greek's refusal to surrender to fascism during WWII.

Ms Vasilia and Ms Alexia spoke to us about our brave ancestors and the students recited poems and sang songs.

A big **Thank you** to our HAS teachers and students for keeping our customs and traditions vibrant in our community!





DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - ALEXANDER #250

This month on Friday, November 15th, we hosted our biggest fundraiser of the year. WOW! What a fantastic evening of fun, laughter, fellowship and entertainment at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church Daughters of Penelope's Chapter #250 Fundraiser! The evening began with Michael and Mary Gaudisio's hosting of a Trivia game with 13 teams participating! There were five categories of 10 questions each and there were five rounds. The winners were those with the most points and earned a prize, but everyone was a winner in this fun game! In the meantime, many brought their own meal snacks, but purchased a category of desserts with Greek coffees, homemade cake pops, desserts, "loukumades" and more! There was also a mini-Tricky Tray and how lucky were the winners of some very fine gifts as well as the winner of a 50-50 raffle.

The height of the evening was DAVID CORSARO with his MAGIC COMEDY SHOW! How did he do what he did? Thank you to all the volunteers who helped put this evening together and thank you to all who attended our fundraiser.

(Ps. All our volunteers were asked to wear black and red.)

Once again, thank you to all.) A Blessed Thanksgiving to all and we hope to see you again at one of our next ministry fundraisers!

15/11/24- ΟΑΟΥ! Τι φανταστική βραδιά διασκέδασης, γέλιου, συναναστροφής και ψυχαγωγίας στην Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία του Αγίου Ανδρέα Daughters of Penelope's Chapter #250 Fundraiser! Η βραδιά ξεκίνησε με τον Μάικλ και τη Μαίρη Γκαουντίσιο να φιλοξενούν ένα παιχνίδι Trivia με 13 ομάδες να συμμετέχουν! Υπήρχαν πέντε κατηγορίες των 10 ερωτήσεων η καθεμία και υπήρχαν πέντε γύροι. Οι νικητές ήταν αυτοί με τους περισσότερους πόντους και κέρδισαν ένα έπαθλο, αλλά όλοι ήταν νικητές σε αυτό το διασκεδαστικό παιχνίδι! Στο μεταξύ, πολλοί έφεραν τα δικά τους σνακ, αλλά αγόρασαν μια κατηγορία γλυκών με ελληνικούς καφέδες, σπιτικά γλειφιτζούρια, γλυκά, λουκουμάδες και άλλα! Υπήρχε επίσης ένας mini-Tricky Tray και πόσο τυχεροί



ήταν οι νικητές μερικών πολύ καλών δώρων καθώς και ο νικητής μιας κλήρωσης 50-50. Το αποκορύφωμα της βραδιάς ήταν ο DAVID CORSARO με το MAGIC COMEDY SHOW του! Πώς έκανε αυτό που έκανε; Ευχαριστούμε όλους τους εθελοντές που βοήθησαν να οργανωθεί αυτή η βραδιά και ευχαριστούμε όλους όσους παρευρέθηκαν στον έρανο μας. (ps. όλοι οι εθελοντές μας κλήθηκαν να φορέσουν κόκκινο και μαύρο. Για άλλη μια φορά, σας ευχαριστούμε όλους.) Ευλογημένη ημέρα των ευχαριστιών σε όλους και ελπίζουμε να σας δούμε ξανά σε έναν από τους επόμενους εράνους του υπουργείου μας! Να έχετε μια υπέροχη μέρα!

Stay tuned for more fun and fellowship as we welcome comedian Angelo Tsarouchas on February 8th. More details to follow!

In last month's SAINT ABDEW FAMILY NEWS, we offered the article "THANKFULNESS". We are happy to be able to provide this article for our Greek speaking readers in this month's issue.

ΕΥΓΝΩΜΟΣΥΝΗ:

Να Είσαι Άνθρωπος Που Λέει Ευχαριστώ

Πατρός Ιωάννη Θεοδοσίου

Όταν ο Ιησούς έφτασε σε ένα χωριό, συνάντησε δέκα άντρες που ήταν λεπροί. Αυτοί οι άνθρωποι ήταν αναγκασμένοι να μένουν μακριά από τους άλλους ανθρώπους επειδή ήταν άρρωστοι και τους θεωρούσαν ακάθαρτους. Φυσικά, κανείς δεν ήθελε να κολλήσει την αρρώστια της λέπρας. Έτσι, μόλις είδαν τον Χριστό ύψωσαν τις φωνές τους και είπαν, «Κύριε ημών, Ιησού, ελέησον μας!»

Έτσι μόλις τους είδε ο Κύριος, τους είπε, «Πηγαίνετε, παρουσιαστείτε στους ιερείς.» Έτσι και έγινε, και όταν έφτασαν, ήταν καθαροί.

Και ένας από αυτούς, όταν είδε πως είχε θεραπευτεί, επέστρεψε, και με δυνατή φωνή δόξασε τον Θεό, και έπεσε κάτω και ακούμπησε το πρόσωπό του στα πόδια Του, και ευχαρίστησε τον Ιησού. Ήταν ένας Σαμαρείτης.

Ο Ιησούς απαντώντας είπε, «Δεν ήταν δέκα αυτοί που θεραπεύτηκαν; Και πού είναι οι εννέα; Δεν βρέθηκαν άλλοι να δοξάσουν τον Θεό εκτός από αυτόν τον ξένο; Και του είπε, «Σήκω και συνέχισε τον δρόμο σου. Η πίστη σου σε έκανε καλά.» (Κατά Λουκάν 17:11-19)

Αυτό το κείμενο του Ευαγγελίου μας φέρνει πρόσωπο με πρόσωπο με το θέμα της ευγνωμοσύνης. Μάλιστα, σύντομα, σε λίγες εβδομάδες θα εορτάσουμε την εορτή των Ευχαριστιών. Μας έχει ευλογήσει ο Θεός με τόσα πολλά σε αυτή τη ζωή· τόσα πολλά που δυστυχώς τα θεωρούμε δεδομένα. Ζούμε στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες μία χώρα όπου και οι

φτωχότεροι των φτωχών ζουν καλύτερα και από τους πλούσιους άλλων χωρών. Απολαμβάνουμε τα καλύτερα, σπίτια, αυτοκίνητα, εστιατόρια, διακοπές στην Ελλάδα ή στις παραλίες εδώ. Σπαταλούμε τα φυσικά αποθέματα της γης σαν να μην είναι τίποτε, λες και δημιουργήθηκαν εύκολα.. Ακόμη και κάτι τόσο βασικό όσο το νερό, το θεωρούμε δεδομένο. Υπάρχουν άνθρωποι στον κόσμο που πρέπει να διαλέξουν αν θα πουν νερό που θα τους αρρωστήσει ή για να μην αφυδατωθούν. Μερικές φορές το μεγαλύτερό μας παράπονο είναι ότι έχουμε να ασχοληθούμε με πάρα πολλές δραστηριότητες. Λες και μας υποχρεώνει κάποιος να κάνουμε όλες αυτές τις δραστηριότητες.

Είναι τόσο υπέροχο που ζούμε σε αυτή την τόσο ευλογημένη χώρα στην οποία δεν μας λείπουν ποτέ τα βασικά και αναγκαία όπως φαγητό, νερό ή ενδύματα. Ακόμη και όταν αρρωστήσουμε, έχουμε τόσα να είμαστε ευγνώμονες· Καλά νοσοκομεία, φάρμακα, γιατρούς και νοσηλευτές να μας φροντίσουν. Ακόμη και στις δυσκολίες μας είμαστε ευλογημένοι. Σίγουρα δεν είμαστε στη θέση των δέκα λεπρών που εκδιώχθηκαν από την κοινότητά τους λόγω της ασθένειάς τους.

Σίγουρα, ένα από τα μεγαλύτερα προβλήματα σαν κοινωνία είναι ότι εστιάζουμε στα προβλήματά μας αντί στις ευλογίες μας. Πάρτε για παράδειγμα την πίστη μας και την εκκλησία μας. Έχουμε την ευλογία να ζούμε σε μία χώρα όπου έχουμε ελευθερία στην θρησκευτική μας

πίστη και λατρεία που επιλέγουμε, χωρίς καμμία παρέμβαση. Καμμιά φορά όμως ρωτάμε γιατί η εκκλησία ζητά χρήματα; Λες και έρανοι και οι φιλανθρωπικές εκδηλώσεις μπορούν να πληρώσουν για όλες τις ανάγκες της εκκλησίας. Μερικές φορές συμπεριφερόμαστε σαν να είναι η εκκλησία εμπορικό κέντρο (mall)· ένα μέρος που ανήκει σε κάποιον άλλο, όπου σταματάμε για να μπούμε μέσα και να πάρουμε ό,τι χρειαζόμαστε. Ή ίσως θεωρούμε την εκκλησία ως μία ακόμη δραστηριότητα για τα παιδιά μας. Με λυπεί πολύ να ακούω για ανθρώπους που θυμώνουν ή ενοχλούνται να κάνουν χρηματική δωρεά στην εκκλησία και τη θεωρούν ένα λογαριασμό που πρέπει να πληρωθεί πριν διακοπεί η υπηρεσία του, η λειτουργία.

Σήμερα που σας γράφω, δεν θέλω καθόλου να σας δημιουργήσω ενοχές ή να σας επιπλήξω αλλά μάλλον να σας ζητήσω να εκτιμάτε όλα όσα έχετε και να είστε ευγνώμονες για αυτά. Ο Θεός σας εμπιστευτήκε ένα σπουδαίο απόθεμα πλούσιων ευλογιών και η εκκλησία θα έπρεπε να είναι πολύ ψηλά στη λίστα με τις ευλογίες σας. Τί θα κάνουμε με όλες αυτές τις ευλογίες; Πρέπει να τις διαφυλάξουμε, να τις φροντίζουμε, να είμαστε ευγνώμονες για αυτές, και το σπουδαιότερο, να τις μοιραζόμαστε.

Θα έπρεπε να είμαστε ιδιαίτερα ευγνώμονες για την εκκλησία μας και την πίστη μας που μας προσφέρουν τόσα πολλά. Είναι ένα μέρος που φέρνουμε τα παιδιά μας να μάθουν για την πίστη μας και τον πολιτισμό μας. Ένα μέρος να εξασκούμε τη λατρεία μας σύμφωνα με την παράδοση που πήραμε από τις μητέρες μας και τους πατέρες μας και αυτοί από τις δικές τους μητέρες και πατέρες. Ένα μέρος να νιώσουμε την εμπειρία της Χριστιανικής κοινωνίας αγάπης

και ένα μέρος να βοηθάμε τους συνανθρώπους μας με πνεύμα Χριστιανικής αγάπης.

Τίποτε όμως από αυτά δεν γίνεται χωρίς εσάς. Χωρίς την σκληρή εργασία σας, χωρίς τις γνώσεις σας, και χωρίς την οικονομική σας υποστήριξη. Όταν συναντιόμαστε ως μια κοινότητα πίστης για να κάνουμε τα έργα του Θεού, μπορούμε και όρη να μετακινήσουμε για όσους κοντά μας βρίσκονται σε ανάγκη και για όσους είναι πολύ μακριά. Γνωρίζουμε ανθρώπους που βρίσκονται σε ανάγκη και πνευματική, και χρηματική και σωματική. Οι ευκαιρίες να βοηθούμε και να υπηρετούμε όσους έχουν ανάγκη στο όνομα του Ιησού είναι ατελείωτες.

Πρέπει να κανονίζουμε τα πολυάσχολα προγράμματά μας και να αφήνουμε χρόνο και για τον Κύριό μας. Για να εκτελέσουμε το έργο Του εδώ στη Γη, να αναζητήσουμε όσους βρίσκονται σε ανάγκη και να βοηθήσουμε όπου μπορούμε. Τόσοι πολλοί από εμάς ξεχειλίζουμε από ευλογίες. Οι κόμπες μας ξεχειλίζουν και ο τρόπος να Του πούμε ευχαριστώ είναι να Του δείξουμε αγάπη φροντίζοντας όσους γύρω μας έχουν ανάγκη. Η εκκλησία μας προσφέρει τόσες πολλές ευκαιρίες που παρουσιάζονται σε διάφορα ποιμαντικά έργα ενεργά στον Άγιο Ανδρέα. Ασχοληθείτε με ένα ή δύο και δείξτε ευγνωμοσύνη στον Θεό με τη δέσμευσή σας να βοηθήσετε κάποιον που βρίσκεται σε ανάγκη σήμερα.

Many thanks to Maria Kiritsis of Athens GR, for providing an adaptation of this article.



The Incarnation

We are all familiar with the cute story of Christmas. The familiar picture of baby Jesus laying in a manger and surrounded by Joseph and Mary with a star shining down distracts us from the event of the Incarnation. The three mysterious wisemen from the “East” bring gifts of a spiritual significance that has been translated into Santa Clause, also a rough remolding of St. Nicholas! We hear in songs how a “Saviour” is born to free us from Sin but, honestly, what does this mean? Isn’t it time to re-think the enormity of this event?

“Everything in Christianity centers on the Incarnation of the Son of God, an invasion of God among men and women in time, bringing and working out a salvation not only understandable by them in their own historical and human life and existence, but historically and concretely accessible to them on earth and in time, in the midst of their frailty, contingency, relativity, and sin. Here in our actual history and existence is the savior God; apart from it the whole mystery of Christ is dissolved into thin air, and the Incarnation means nothing at all. Human nature and historical existence are assumed by the eternal God into oneness with Himself so that without ceasing to be human nature and historical existence they are eternally affirmed and preserved.” (*Incarnation*, Thomas F. Torrance, IVP Academic, 2008, p 8-9).

This boldly states that knowledge of God is only possible in the historical actuality of Jesus Christ. “We find and know God where He has sought us and condescended to communicate Himself, in His objectivity in Jesus Christ. We cannot seek to know Him by transcending His condescension or objectivity” (*Theological Science*, Thomas F. Torrance, Oxford University Press, 1969, p 51).



Jesus asks His apostles and disciples “Who do people say I am?” (Mark 8:27-29). Each of us is challenged by this question. Orthodoxy is not a religion, apart from other possible religions. Sadly, for many, it is treated that way. Bishop Kallistos Ware tells us that “Tradition is not merely formal repetition of what was stated in the past, but it is an active re-experiencing of the Christian message in the present. The only true Tradition is living and creative, formed from the union of human freedom with the grace of the Spirit (*The Inner Kingdom*, Bishop Kallistos Ware, St. Vladimir’s Press, 2001, p 9).

Christmas is a call from Jesus to each of us to bring His Incarnation into our present living. “Christ is never a passive object to be discussed but who continues to put in question and to transfigure the lives of those who recognize Him as the eternal Word made flesh” (*Christ the Heart of Creation*, Rowan Williams, Bloomsbury, 2018, p xvi). What you have to realize is that Christ is a “confession”, not simply a private belief about Him.

To simplify, we should be reminded at Christmas that HOW we speak intelligibly about Jesus as the one in whom God is fully ‘embodied’, incarnate, will give substance to each person’s Orthodox Christ-centered witness to the world. Here in this singular and extremely mysterious event is God the Creator revealing the questions we have about ‘God’. It is not a belief given over to personal preferences. If you believe in God, then what is the substance of this belief? Is it an event or merely an idea? If the Incarnation is God’s coming into creation, everything we have believed is under a new lens. Christmas is now the event that relocates us into creation in such a way that we are called into a new

creation. How symbolic that a New Year begins shortly after Christmas.

If the Incarnation calls each of us to live in it, to inhabit a new creation, then we are called to be made new in order to enter the Kingdom that has arrived in Jesus resting in the manger. The three wise-men from the East remind us that we too must journey and find Jesus. Like them, we need to recognize which “star” to follow. There is a star given as a guide to those who seriously search. Our star today might be the Bible, the Church, the Sacraments, or each other. How then do we accept a Truth that boldly professes that “Christ is

uninterruptedly living a creaturely, finite life on earth and at the same time living out of the depths of divine life and uninterruptedly enjoying the relation that eternally subsists between the divine Source or Father and the divine Word or Son?” (Williams, *ibid*, pxiii). This Christmas come before the Incarnation and allow the incredible reality of this historical event to unsettle you, to confront your beliefs, and find a renewed creation occurring in your deepest level of Being. Then make the New Year truly NEW!

Herbert F. Schuster

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

Christmas December 25, 2024!

On December 25th we will celebrate Christmas! In our diverse world, some celebrate Christmas on January 7th! One little girl in my neighborhood, who is Russian, asked me, “why”! Before I proceed with my article, I am going to place a quote from an AI overview and Google. Parents, research the historical “reasons” with your children as historical events have a lot to do with the calendar changes and it is a lot to research!

“Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7 because they use the Julian calendar, which is 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar used by most other Christians. Certain Eastern Orthodox churches, including those Russian and other traditions, follow the ancient Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar which is used by Catholic and Protestant churches as well as by much of the secular world for everyday use.”

Parents, do your research, and let’s proceed with CHRISTMAS, which for Greek Orthodox Christians,

we celebrate on December 25th, as just a month ago we celebrated an American holiday, Thanksgiving.

Our tables will look a little different now with holly, red and green colors, and preparations for decorating. I usually decorate after December 6th, St. Nicholas Day, when I celebrate my son Nicholas’ name day, but many in my neighborhood even had decorations outside their home before Thanksgiving! That’s okay, but let’s not forget, as I say every Christmas, **“It’s About Christ!** Of course, this time of the season can still be fun, and we can enjoy ourselves and make our children happy with the traditional exchange of gifts, visits to Santa, caroling, partying, and time off from school for the kids.”

We just talked about obesity in our last article. Being that we also celebrated Thanksgiving, we should celebrate our good health, our family and friends in our life, our roof over our head, and so many other positive things. Who should we especially thank? Our Savior of course, JESUS CHRIST, and let’s be

thankful for all we have and the strength He gives us to keep going!

It is important also to keep Christmas as simple as possible to truly embrace and understand its meaning. Family traditions are important and parents, keep doing what you have been doing and thank God that you can “keep doing”! This time of the year I love going through pictures from past Christmases. I recently lost my husband, but the photos give me thankfulness towards the Lord that we had 52 Christmases together. Do take photos with your family and celebrate all Christmases!

Now, how do we continue to appreciate Christmas yearly? Give your children a job! Have them not only make a list of gifts, but also a list of tasks! Plan what meal you would like to have on Christmas Day. Go shopping with them and on that day, let them set the table. Use their ideas about the main meal and desserts. Oh yes, decorating is important too!

Please make sure that there is a nativity scene under your tree besides presents. Carefully read a Christmas story about Jesus when placing this most relevant item under the tree. Done? Ok, now put any lights and ornaments you want! Plan your Christmas parties, practice your Greek School and Sunday School poems and songs, play Christmas music, and plan what you will do with your children during their time off from school. Do less and enjoy more!

The children may stress about the gifts more than they do about traditions. That is okay, you can stress about the gifts too! Present a relaxed environment with laughter, music, fun, cooking together, looking through photos together, and greeting family and friends together. All these things are contagious towards happiness and thankfulness for all we can His birth!

This month's Table Prayer Guide Prayers:
CHRISTMAS ROYAL HOURS, 9TH HOUR

Today is born of a Virgin, He who holds creation in the hollow of His hand. As a mortal He is wrapped in swaddling rags, He who is His being cannot be handled. God lies in a manger, who of old established the heavens in the beginning. He is nourished with milk from the breast, He who rained Manna on the People in the desert. He summons Magi, the Bridegroom of the Church. He accepts their gifts, the Son of the Virgin. We worship your birth, O CHRIST. Show us also your divine Epiphany.

Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being, and the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach; Angels with Shepherds give glory, while Magi journey with a star, for to us there has been born a little Child, God before the ages.

Saint Romanos the Melodos | 6th Century, Constantinople

I would like to wish you all a **Joyous and Merry Christmas** and a Healthy and Happy New Year, 2025!

Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions for our “Parents’ Corner” at: alexandraproto@gmail.com

Have a good month!

(You can also find me on Facebook under my name Alexandra Alex Protopapas)
Alexandra Protopapas MEd, Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences – Retired.
Currently Part-time with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC)

(MINISTRY LEADERS, please feel free to send me a blurb with photos of events to post on our Saint Andrew Facebook Group page. I am trying to take photos of all the events, but I am not always available at all events. Thank you, let's do this!)





New Date & Location

10th Anniversary Gala
in Honor of the Episcopal Ordination of
His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Monday, January 13, 2025
The Venetian | Garfield, New Jersey

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey



Music & Dance Festival
Philadelphia: February 14-16, 2025

President's Day Weekend (February 14 – 16, 2025) at the
Sheraton Hotel - Downtown Philadelphia.

Categories include:

- Greek Folk Dancing
(JOY, GOYA and Young Adult Groups)

&

- Parish Youth and Young Adult Liturgical Choirs

saintandrewgoya@gmail.com for more information

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Elections for Parish Council on Sunday December 15th

The Election Committee, we are notifying you of the Parish Council election on **Sunday, December 15th, 2024**, in the church's assembly hall after services until 1:30pm. The purpose of the election is to fill the vacancies on the Parish Council. The election is held according to the Uniform Parish Regulations Article VIII.

The list of nominated candidates follows. Each candidate (for the Parish Council) may prepare a resume indicating their qualifications, education, and general background, which will be posted on the Church Bulletin Board until December 15th, 2024. We urge you to read the resumes and then participate in the voting process.

We would like to remind you that in order to vote in the election, you must be a steward in good standing of Saint Andrew Church and to have fulfilled at least 90% of your 2024 Commitment. You have until **Thursday, December 12th to fulfill 90% of your pledge** or to return your signed 2024 Commitment Card with 90% of your pledge.

The list of eligible voters will be posted in the Church office. If you have any questions about your eligibility, please refer them to the Stewardship Committee and the Election Committee by December 12th, 2024.

ALL VOTES ARE RECORDED.

If you have any questions about the election process, do not hesitate to call the Church office.

Parish Council Nominees 3 Year term 2025-26-27 will be posted on Bulletin Board



Why Should You Serve on the Parish Council?

Fr Jim Kordaris

What will you say when someone offers to nominate you to serve on the parish council? Why would anyone take time to sit through monthly meetings, in addition to the likely committee work that it would entail?

WHY NOT?

It is best to start with the reasons *not* to serve on the parish council. Don't join the parish council to build your resume. Don't join the parish council to network for your business or career. Don't join the parish council because you want your opinions to be heard. We don't serve the Church in order to get something (*it's not about us*). In serving, we give ourselves in service to Jesus Christ and his Church, always pointing to Him and giving glory in all things to Him. We offer our gifts, talents, education, training, and experience to make our local parish a truly welcoming spiritual home for all, leading people to Jesus Christ.

WHY?

What is the purpose of the Church? What is our calling? What is our *Why*? Our purpose in serving

the Church comes from the final instructions –the Great Commission – of Jesus as He was leaving His disciples at His Ascension. As with anyone's last words, Jesus left his disciples – and us – with the most important thing that He wants us to do: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (πάντα τὰ ἔθνη), baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (MT25:32). Then He promised to be with us forever.

THE CALLING TO SERVE

The calling to serve on the Parish Council is a calling to serve God, His Church and your fellow parishioners. For a few years, you will offer your time in order that others may worship freely. You will welcome, assist, fix, organize, evaluate, implement, and cooperate, in service to your church. Most of all, you will love. You will love

God. You will love those with whom you serve. You will love those who enter the doors of your church – those you know and those who may enter for the first time

INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY/FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Should the parish council be filled with experienced, long-term members or is a fresh perspective needed? The answer is *both*. We need our long-time members who, along with our priest, provide institutional memory and continuity. We also need new members to bring fresh eyes to our situation and to offer new solutions. This requires mutual respect for what each brings to the parish council.

RESISTANCE TO CHANGE (SABOTAGE?)

Resistance to change is the greatest impediment to church growth. We need to be open to new ideas and allow for change. “That’s the way we’ve always done it” and “We’ve never done it like that before” are not the basis for good decision-making. We have all heard the saying, “doing the same thing and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity.” In the words of Fr Evan Armatas, “We need to change without changing the unchangeable” (*Reclaiming the Great Commission*, Ancient Faith Press). Resistance to change in its worst form can actually be called sabotage. Rather than resisting change, some may actually sabotage new ways of doing things.

THE CHURCH EXISTS FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY

Are we in the business of staying in business or are we leading people to Christ? The Church exists to bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ. If we carry out this leadership ministry correctly, engaging people in the life of the church, stewardship will thrive naturally as a result.

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP

“The most basic task of the Church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all those under his authority, and to encourage those gifts to be used

to the full for the benefit of all.” St. John Chrysostom is telling us that, as leaders, we need to know our people – their skills, talents, interests and abilities – and engage them in the life of the church. He concludes that only a person who can do this is fit to lead the Church.

SUGGESTED READING:

Canoeing the Mountains by **Tod Bolsinger** is a book on church leadership that uses the explorers Lewis and Clark as a metaphor for church leadership. Lewis and Clark were looking for a waterway to the Pacific but found nothing but mountains. They found that what lay ahead of them was nothing like what they left behind them. They had to leave behind their canoes and paddles and find new navigational tools. The same is true in church leadership. What lies ahead is very different from what we leave behind us.

Reclaiming the Great Commission by **Fr Evan Armatas**

In his book on Orthodox Christian parish leadership, Fr Evan Armatas guides parish leaders in re-thinking their role for developing a healthy parish. Fr. Evan reminds us to see our parish with fresh eyes, discerning and removing impediments, while providing opportunities for growth in the faith. *Reclaiming the Great Commission* is something God does with all of us – clergy and laity – together. Immensely readable, practical, and inspiring, this book from Fr. Evan guides leaders to create healthy parishes that are engaging, welcoming, serving, teaching, and growing.

CONCLUSION

Article 24, Section 1 of the Parish Regulations states, “To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life.” May your ministry be blessed, so that when you have completed your time of service on the parish council, others will be inspired to build upon your excellent work.

Fr Jim Kordaris serves the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as Director of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism, and leads the parish of St George in Kingston, New York. Fr Jim has BA and MBA degrees from the University of Minnesota, and received his MDiv from Holy Cross. Prior to attending Holy Cross School of Theology, Fr Jim served the parish of St Mary’s (Kimisis) in Minneapolis in many capacities, including Parish Council President, Treasurer, Stewardship Chair, Festival Co-Chair, Bible Study Leader, Camp Counselor and more



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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Students of our Religious Education and Hellenic Afternoon Schools will present a CHRISTMAS PAGEANT on **Sunday, December 15th** after Liturgy

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου μαζί με τους μαθητές του Ελληνικού Απογευματινού Σχολείου θα μας παρουσιάσουν το ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ, την **Κυριακή 15 Δεκεμβρίου** μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία



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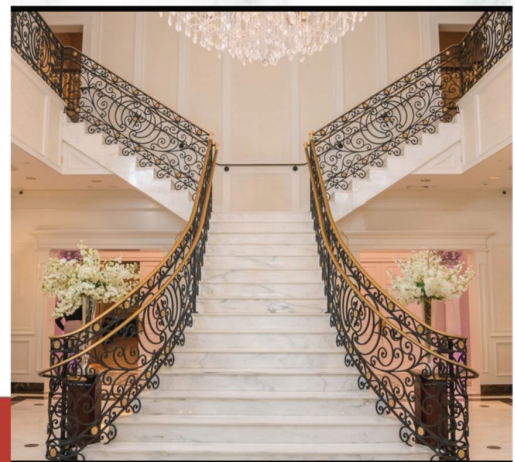
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BAPTISMS - ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

SOPHIE KATHERINE GEANNAKOPOULOS, daughter of Christopher and Stephanie Lynn (Eastlake) **Geannakopoulos**, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, November 9th at 11:00 am and given the name **ΣΟΦΙΑ-SOPHIA**. Godmother was Katrina Prisco.



MALCOLM ALEXANDER MOSHEN, son of Christopher and Lindsay (Hefferon) **Gornall** was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, November 16th at 1:00 pm and given the name **ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ-ALEXANDER**. Godfather was Tyler John Mornhineway.

GRANT DOUGLAS GORNALL, son of Christopher and Lindsay (Hefferon) **Gornall** was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, November 16th at 1:00pm am and given the name **ΧΡΙΣΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ - CHRISTOPHOROS**. Godfather was Michael Hefferon.

Celebrant priest was Rev Protopresbyter John Theodosion

Wishing them all the Lord's blessings



MEMORIAL SERVICES

Set me as a seal upon your heart; for love is as strong as death.

The Song of Songs 8:6

Prayer for the dead is seen by Orthodox Christians as an essential component of our faith in Jesus Christ. Praying for those who have died is not merely an expression of mourning, it is a proclamation that Christ has risen from the dead and that, in His love, even death cannot separate us from one another! Forty days after the death of a loved one (or on the Sunday nearest to the 40 days), it is the custom of our Church to celebrate a prayer service in remembrance of the deceased known in English as a Memorial Service. In this service we ask God to “grant rest” to the deceased “in the bosom of Abraham” (Luke 16:22-23) and to place him/her “in a place of light, a place of happiness, a place of refreshment, where there is no pain, no sorrow and no suffering” (Revelation 21:4) as we did during the funeral service.

A tray of boiled wheat, raisins and powdered sugar called “*kolyva*” in Greek is prepared for the service and is later, at the parish coffee hour, distributed to the community. This practice is based on the words of the Lord Jesus used to describe His own death and resurrection, “Amen, I say to you: unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat. But if it dies, it brings forth a good harvest” (John 12:24). The tray of *kolyva* is a symbol of our faith in the life-giving death and resurrection of Christ.

Point of information: If you do not know how to prepare a tray of *kolyva*, arrangements can be made for its preparation by calling the parish office.

In addition to the 40-day Memorial Service, Memorial Services are normally held annually on or near the anniversary of the loved one’s death. The parish office must be informed of the family’s intention to offer a Memorial Service at least two weeks prior to the desired date. Please note that, in keeping with the ancient way in which we conduct our worship, Memorial Services may not be prayed from Lazarus Saturday through Holy Week, Pascha and the Sunday of St. Thomas; nor on the major feast days of our Church (December 25th - Christmas; January 6th - Epiphany; February 2nd - the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple; August 6th - the Transfiguration of our Lord; August 15th - the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos; September 14th - the Exaltation of the Cross; etc.).

Everyone is also encouraged to remember their departed loved ones annually by submitting their names to be commemorated on the Saturdays of Souls associated with Great Lent and the celebration of Pentecost.

“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

Romans 14:8

Donations Received +In Memory of:

+William, +Sophia, +Andriana, +Christos Anagnost

John & Kathleen Anagnost

+Christina and +George Kalavriziotis

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SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR * LOOK FOR UPDATES ON WEEKLY E BULLETIN OR ON WEBSITE: Parish Calendar - St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church (standrewgonj.org)

<https://standrwgonj.org/parish-calendar/>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

CHOIR PRACTICE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 11AM

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays 9am

GOYA VOLLEYBALL Tuesdays @6:30PM

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

KNITTING & PILLOW ALTERNATE Wednesdays 11am

GOYA BASKETBALL Wednesday @6:00PM

Hellenic Afternoon School Thu 4:30pm

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

Greek Dancing GOYA/ Grp 3 Thursdays

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN DECEMBER: 12/1 PHILOPTOCHOS, 12/8 PTA, 12/15 DOP, 12/22 GOYA, 12/29 BAKALIKO

12/1 No Rel Ed – Family Worship

12/4 @11am KNITTING, CROCHETING & PILLOW MINISTRIES MEET AS WELL ON 12/18

12/6 @10:30am BIBLE Q & A ; also on: Dec 13 & 20

12/6 @6PM MOVIE NIGHT see promo on pg 31

2/8 Religious Education REHEARSAL for Pageant

12/9 @7:30pm Parish Council Meeting

12/10 Philoptochos Christmas Dinner | promo pg. 17

12/14 NON-PARISH EVENT (HOLIDAY PARTY) in our gym

12/15 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (12/22 Snow Date)

12/15 ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

12/19 @11:30am AGAPE LUNCHEON

12/20 METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING @6PM

12/22 CHOIR REHEARSALS AFTER SERVICES

12/26 NO HAS CLASS NO GREEK DANCE

12/28 FAITH KITCHEN – DOP/AHEPA HOSTING

12/31 @8PM S.A. NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY | promo pg 17

2025 JANUARY IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN JANUARY: 1/5 PHILOPTOCHOS, 1/12 PTA, 1/19 DOP, 1/26 GOYA

1/2 @4:30PM HAS CLASSES RESUME | CUTTING OF VASILOPITA@6PM | GREEK DANCE RESUMES

1/4 @11AM BAPTISM

1/4 NNJ YAL NEW YEARS BASH @7:30PM

1/5 CUTTING & DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY VASILOPITA

1/10 Grand Banquet in honor of His Eminence

1/20-1/23 NATIONAL CLERGY COUPLE RETREAT

1/25 FAITH KITCHEN - PARISH COUNCIL

1/25 NNJ GREEK LETTERS EVENT AT PARAMUS NJ @6PM

1/26 THREE HIERARCHS PROGRAM AFTER SERVICES IN CHURCH

1/28 @7PM PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN FEBRUARY: 2/2 PHILOPTOCHOS, 2/9 PTA, 2/16 DOP, 2/23 GOYA

2/4 @8AM LIFELINE SCREENINGS AT SA SOCIAL HALL

2/8 @11AM -6 PM GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST

2/9 TRIODION BEGINS



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The deceased was the beloved _____(husband, wife, father, mother, other) of bereaved*

Please ACKNOWLEDGE my/our gift to a member of the family.

NAME & ADDRESS OF BEREAVED*_____

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Coffee Hour: Irene Laoudis

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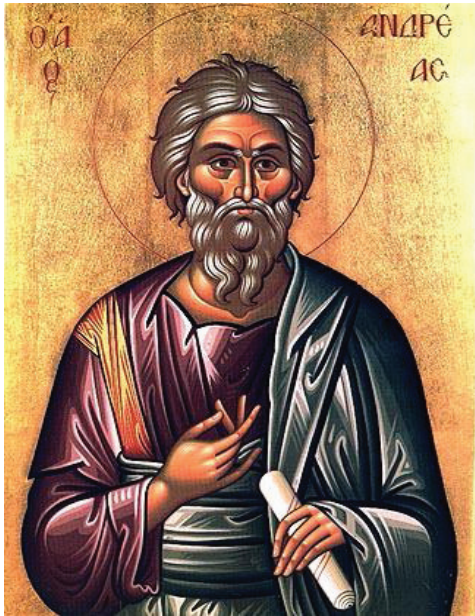
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God's Generosity

Saint Gregory the Theologian writes, "You will never overcome God's generosity, even if you give away all that you have. And however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God (Or 14.22).

Leave the Rest to God

You cannot do *everything*, but you can do *something*. God wants you to do your best and leave the rest to him. Saint Theofan said, "Exert all your strength, but rest your concern for success on God."

The Lord doesn't expect any more from us than what we have to offer. But He does expect us to be faithful and that we do our very best for Him.

We do our best and leave the rest to Him.

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.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ

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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.