

FEBRUARY 2025



Saint Andrew Family News

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

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2

GYRO & SOYVLAKI TAKE OUT – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

GODPARETNS' SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 9

MARDI GRAS – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

SATURDAY OF SOULS – FEBRUARY 22, MARCH 1 & 8



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

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

☎: 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 info@standrewgonj.org*

*Deadline for the **MARCH 2025 ISSUE** is February 17*

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DIVINE SERVICES

FEBRUARY

Saturday	1	ST. TRYPHON OF PHRYGIA / RELICS*
Sunday	2	THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE
Thursday	6	ST. PHOTIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE
Sunday	9	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today [Godparent's Sunday]
Monday	10	ST. HARALAMBOS THE MARTYR / RELICS*
Sunday	16	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Saturday	22	FIRST Saturday of Souls
Sunday	23	Judgement Day (Meatfare Sunday)

MARCH

Saturday	1	SECOND Saturday of Souls (<i>with Kollyva</i>)
Sunday	2	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Sunday
Monday	3	Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm GREAT LENT BEGINS
Wednesday	5	Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday	7	1 st Salutations @6:00pm
Saturday	8	THIRD Saturday of Souls (<i>with Kollyva</i>) [ST. THEODORE <i>commemorated</i>]
Sunday	9	Sunday of Orthodoxy
Monday	10	Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday	12	Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday	14	2 ND Salutations @6:00pm
Sunday	16	Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
Monday	17	Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday	19	Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday	21	3 RD Salutations @6:00pm
Sunday	23	Sunday of the Holy Cross HAS Greek Independence Day Program
<u>in JC, NJ</u>	24	<i>Great Vespers at Evangelismos GOC, Jersey City, NJ</i>
Tuesday	25	ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS Orthros at 8am Divine Liturgy at 9am Greek Independence Day "THE 25 TH OF MARCH"
Wednesday	26	Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday	28	4 th Salutations @6:00pm
Sunday	30	Sunday of St. John Climacus

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

ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

Σάββατο	1	ΤΡΥΦΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΣ* / <i>Λείψανα</i>
Κυριακή	2	+Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
Πέμπτη	6	+ΦΩΤΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ, ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ
Κυριακή	9	ΙΣΤ΄ Λουκᾶ (Τελώνου καί Φαρισαίου) [Κυριακή των Νονών]
Δευτέρα	10	+ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΣ ΪΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ * <i>Λείψανα</i>
Κυριακή	16	ΙΖ΄ Λουκᾶ (τοῦ Ασώτου)
Σάββατο	22	Α΄ Ψυχοσάββατων
Κυριακή	23	Κυριακή τῆς Ἀπόκρεω

ΜΑΡΤΙΟΣ

Σάββατο	1	Β΄ Ψυχοσάββατον (με κόλλυβα)
Κυριακή	2	Κυριακή τῆς Τυροφάγου
Δευτέρα	3	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ [Νηστεία]
Τετάρτη	5	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	7	Α΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Σάββατο	8	Γ΄ Ψυχοσάββατον (με κόλλυβα) / ΑΓΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ
Κυριακή	9	Κυριακή Α΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν (τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας)
Δευτέρα	10	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Τετάρτη	12	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	14	Β΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	16	Κυριακή Β΄ των Νηστειῶν - Γρηγόρου του Παλαμά Ἀρχιεπ. Θεσσαλονίκης)
Δευτέρα	17	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Τετάρτη	19	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	21	Γ΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	23	Κυριακή Γ΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν (τῆς Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως) 25 ^η Μαρτίου Πρόγραμμα Ἑλληνικοῦ Απογευματινοῦ Σχολείου
<i>in JC, NJ</i>	24	Ἐσπερινός στην Ἐκκλησιά JERSEY CITY ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Τρίτη	25	Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ «25η Μαρτίου» Ὁρθρος - <u>ώρα</u> 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 9.15πμ
Τετάρτη	26	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	28	Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	30	Κυριακή Δ΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν - τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Ἰωάννου τοῦ συγγραφέως

Την Κυριακή – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ
Τις καθημερινές – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.00πμ

(Ἐχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη τῆς ἐκκλησίας μας)*

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικοῦ σχολείου θα ἐρθουν πρῶτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 9.30πμ, μετὰ την Θεία Κοινωνία και θα συνεχίσουνε στις τάξεις τους.

Food that Really Satisfies

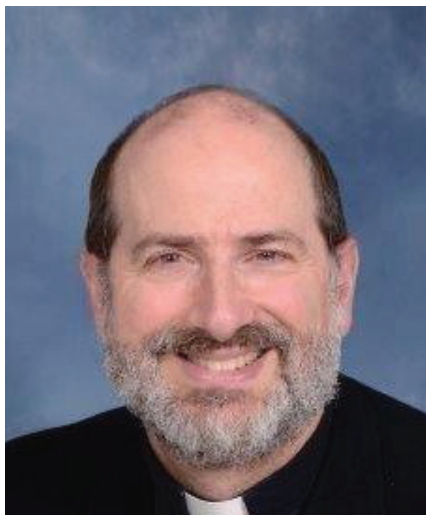
Fr. John Theodosion

A hummingbird near Bingham Canyon, Utah, was seen pressing its bill against the biggest red "flower" in town. No one knows for sure how long it took for the bird to realize you can't get nectar out of a traffic light!

National Wildlife magazine also told about a red-tailed hawk in North Carolina that was seen swooping down in an attempt to carry off a large tomcat. The cat fought back with such fury that the hawk barely escaped with its life.

This kind of foolishness is not just for the birds. Expending a lot of energy to feed our souls with food that doesn't satisfy is something all of us know about. Sometimes we're merely left empty, while at other times we are nearly consumed by the things we pursue. This is why the Lord's words in Isaiah 55 are so relevant. He asks, "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?"

So often in life we pursue things which are ultimately not meaningful or substantive. Sure we get some pleasure or enjoyment from them initially, but material things are not able to satisfy us for the long run. Our good health will leave us eventually and our loving families will eventually die. Even culture and language are only necessary as long as we are



alive. The only thing we take with us when we leave this world is our soul; as stewards we will present our souls and bodies to Him on His great day of judgment. So, what I am speaking about, most specifically, is life eternal, and the things that will bring us life eternal.

Christ pointed us toward His kingdom with the command to repent, and He taught that we should not lay up for ourselves treasures on earth but rather treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not consume. The problem is that we cannot see heaven and we cannot touch heaven... Or can we? At what is commonly called the last supper our Lord Jesus gave us the most precious gift on this earth which is Holy Communion. In Matthew chapter 26 it says, "*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*"

Holy Communion is God's new covenant with us and His pledge to us of eternal life and his Heavenly Kingdom. It is one sign of the most precious gift to us of eternal life. We will oftentimes take this gift for granted, because it is always there and we choose to take it three times a year or refuse it altogether. But if you look closely at this passage Christ says, "Take eat... and Drink from it..." These are commands not requests. In fact in John chapter 6 Jesus says, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."* So we are most certainly supposed to receive Holy Communion and in order to receive Holy Communion we are to attend the whole Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is what helps us to prepare spiritually and mentally to receive Christ's Body and Blood, but this is not all it is. It is also where we begin to experience the Kingdom of Heaven. When we are in the Liturgy we can smell, taste, see and feel God's presence as He brings us closer to Him through the prayers and hymns which are sung each time we gather. So even though

we think that here on earth we cannot experience heaven, we most certainly can. In as much as we fully participate in the heavenly worship of the Divine Liturgy and partake of the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on a frequent basis.

Now you may be saying to yourself, "I cannot receive Holy Communion unless I have fasted." And you are right, but most of us could use a little more prayer and fasting and a little less food. Our church teaches us how to pray and fast, and most of us have the fasting guidelines hanging on the wall in our homes. Yes, the church calendar that we have in our homes has each of the fasting days marked. This means that we can fast and pray each week and receive Holy Communion each week or each liturgy. You might also be thinking that this will require a reordering of your life and a shifting of focus of much that happens in your life. I think this was exactly Christ's intention when He commanded us to partake of His Body and Blood. He wants us to reorient our lives towards Him and His Heavenly Kingdom. We should also not forget that at each Divine Liturgy we pray, "Having remembered all the saints let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God." There is no confusion here where our lives need to be oriented. This could be a vision statement for each of our lives. I really believe if we focus our lives in this way then we will experience satisfaction and fulfillment in this life.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

The Historical & Personal Meaning of the 40-DAY BLESSING

Icon with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple,
Metropolitan Museum | 1400–1500 Byzantine
Wood, painted, with gold ground ❖ Bequest of Lillie P. Bliss,
1931 (31.67.8)



Jesus was brought to the Temple on the 40th Day

On February 2nd, we celebrate the Feast of “Ypapanti,” often translated as the “Presentation” of our Lord to the Temple, although a more accurate translation would be the “Meeting” between Jesus and Symeon.

The Gospel reading for the feast, Luke 2:22-40, tells us the story which is the origin of the holiday. Jesus was taken by His parents to Jerusalem, “to present Him to the Lord.” Once they arrived at the temple, they were met by Symeon. Symeon was “righteous and devout,” upon whom was the Holy Spirit. It was revealed to Symeon that “he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” When he met the baby Jesus, Symeon took Him into his arms, in accordance with the custom of the Old Testament laws, and blessed Him. Symeon then said to God: “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.” These words are recited by the priest as he holds the baby at the conclusion of the Orthodox Christian 40-Day blessing.

What does this tell us?

But what about this “meeting”? What does it tell us? First, it tells us something of the Jewish practice of presenting a child to the temple. Jesus was brought, according to the custom, forty days after His birth to the temple. Based on His example, we in the Orthodox Church also bring our children to Church for their forty-day blessing. Although it is a brief service, it is indeed powerful and a wonderful opportunity for parents to express their thankfulness to God for giving them their child, and thereby dedicating the child back to God.

This “meeting” of Jesus and Symeon also tells us that Symeon knew of the importance of Jesus, though we know that not everyone did. Symeon knew that Jesus is indeed our salvation. Not everyone understands this fact today, even among all who claim to be Christians. When we present our children to the Church for their 40-day blessing, we have an opportunity to be reminded of our own need to “meet” with Christ and to be thankful to God for our meeting.

We can meet the Lord

When can we meet with Him? We can meet with the Lord when we are in prayer, when we serve our “neighbor,” when we practice His commandments, and when we participate in the sacraments. We have opportunities throughout our day to meet with our Lord; however, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire us! If we do that, we will find numerous opportunities to meet Him daily. All too often, as a consequence of our daily concerns, we place our meetings with the Lord at the bottom of our “to do list” and often fail to finish that list by the end of the day!

In accordance with the practice of the Orthodox Christian faith, we bring our children to the Church, to be presented to the Lord, for their own forty-day blessing. We do so out of our thanksgiving to God. Let us continue that spirit of thanksgiving by meeting with Him throughout our day and throughout our life. Let us not give Him the mere leftovers of our time, but the first fruits, that our meeting may prove to be of great importance to us! Let us keep Him - as we chant in the Hymn of the Feast of His Presentation - as our own “Sun of Righteousness,” guiding us throughout our day and throughout our life, for He has indeed, “conferred upon us the Resurrection.”

Fr. Anthony Stratis

Και χείρας Συμεών ευλογήσας

Την 2^α Φεβρουαρίου η Αγία Εκκλησία εορτάζει την Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού. Δεσποτική εορτή. Τι ακριβώς εορτάζουμε;;

Σαράντα ημέρες μετά την γέννησή Του η Παναγία και ο μνηστήρας Της Ιωσήφ, σύμφωνα με τον μωσαϊκό νομό οδήγησαν τον νεογέννητο Χριστό εις τον ναό των Ιεροσολύμων. Έτσι προβλεπόταν από τον νόμο. Αν το πρωτότοκο παιδί ήταν αγόρι αφιερωνόταν εις τον θεό και οι γονείς του ανάλογα με τις οικονομικές τους δυνατότητες πρόσφεραν ως θυσία ή δυο τρυγόνια ή ένα ζεύγος περιστεριών.

Τον Χριστό υποδέκτηκε ο υπερήλικας Προφήτης Συμεών, ο οποίος είχε λάβει υπόσχεση από τον Θεό ότι πρώτα θα δει τον Σωτήρα του κόσμου και μετά θα πεθάνει. Ο υπέργηρος και Δίκαιος Συμεών από το Άγιο Πνεύμα ογηγηθείς βρέθηκε εις τον ναό και δέκτηκε εις την αγκαλιά του τον Χριστόν τον ευλόγησε και είπε «Νυν απολύεις τον δούλον σου, Δέσποτα κατά το ρήμα σου εν ειρήνη, ότι είδον οι οφθαλμοί μου το σωτήριο σου, ο ητοιμάσας κατά πρόσωπον πάντων των λαών. Φως εις αποκάλυψιν εθνών και δόξαν λαού σου Ισραήλ»(Λουκ. Β'25-32) . Ομολόγησε δηλαδή ότι μετά χαράς κλείνει τους οφθαλμούς του εις τον θάνατο αφού αξιώθηκε να δει τον σωτήρα του κόσμου δηλαδή τον Ιησούν Χριστό.

Παρόντες ήσαν η μητέρα Του η Παναγία και ο Δίκαιος Ιωσήφ, τους οποίους ευλόγησε και απευθυνόμενος προς την Αειπάρθενο Θεοτόκο προέβλεπε το πάθος του Κυρίου και τον πόνο που θα νοιώσει Αυτή βλέποντας τον Υιό Της σταυρωμένο, με τους λόγους «Και σου δε αυτής την ψυχήν διελεύσεται ρομφαία, όπως αν αποκαλυφθώσιν εκ πολλών καρδιών διαλογισμοί». Πράγματι οι προφητείες του Συμεών επαληθεύτηκαν.

Αφού έγιναν τα υπό του νόμου προβλεπόμενα ο Κύριος με την μητέρα Του Παναγία και τον Ιωσήφ επέστρεψαν εις την πόλη Ναζαρέτ και ο μικρός Ιησούς μεγάλωνε πληρούμενος σοφίας και χάρη Θεού ήταν εις αυτόν.

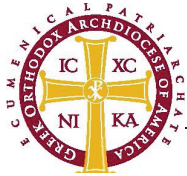
Μυργιώτης Παναγιώτης Μαθηματικός

St Andrew Financial Summary 2024

	Jan-Dec	Budget	\$ over Budget
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	528,223.66	490,200.00	38,023.66
EDUCATION/DANCE NET INCOME	32,716.81	23,100.00	9,616.81
SUMMER CAMP NET INCOME	-	400.00	(400.00)
FUNDRAISING EVENTS NET INCOME	170,635.22	182,500.00	(11,864.78)
OTHER INCOME	93,542.02	93,000.00	542.02
TOTAL INCOME	825,117.71	789,200.00	35,917.71
EXPENSE			
STAFF EXPENSE	341,747.81	413,695.00	(71,947.19)
CAR EXPENSE	13,924.83	12,000.00	1,924.83
INSURANCE EXPENSE	80,840.05	81,856.00	(1,015.95)
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,165.22	6,467.00	(2,301.78)
EQUIPMENT	2,424.25	6,000.00	(3,575.75)
BANK CHARGES	4,480.77	3,550.00	930.77
MORTGAGE PAYMENT (Principal & Interest)	133,764.76	133,725.00	39.76
TELEPHONES/INTERNET EXPENSE	5,352.32	5,700.00	(347.68)
ADVERTISING	655.48	1,500.00	(844.52)
PERMITS	100.00	300.00	(200.00)
RE TAXES	900.24	-	900.24
LITURGICAL	2,027.33	3,800.00	(1,772.67)
UTILITIES	56,052.61	59,000.00	(2,947.39)
SUPPLIES & PRINTING EXPENSE	29,912.44	28,750.00	1,162.44
BLDG & GROUNDS EXP.	58,573.26	49,700.00	8,873.26
POSTAGE & HANDLING	5,646.83	5,500.00	146.83
MINISTRY EXPENSE	81,487.95	82,809.00	(1,321.05)
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	4,515.86	6,000.00	(1,484.14)
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	6,941.78	5,000.00	1,941.78
TRANSPORTATION	-	1,200.00	(1,200.00)
MISC.	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	833,513.79	906,552.00	(73,038.21)
NET CASH RECD (SHORT)	\$ (8,396.08)	\$ (117,352.00)	\$ 108,955.92

From Operations

Unrestricted Cash 12/31/23	72,566.47
Cash generated (used) this year	(8,396.08)
Cash Balance 12/31/24	64,170.39



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

2024 PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP DASHBOARD

	2024	2023	2022	
EXECUTIVE BOARD				
Nicholas Monokandilos <i>President</i>	Total Income	825,118	785,673	768,120
Athena Borzeka <i>Vice President</i>	Total Stewardship Income incl tray	402,264	355,877	356,025
Thomas J Borzeka <i>Treasurer</i>	Total Expenses	833,514	802,984	806,257
Steven Mitrakos <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Net Income or Loss	(8,396)	(17,311)	(38,138)
John A. Paxos <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	% of Expenses Covered by Stewardship	48%	44%	44%
Chris Tsamutalis <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Number of Stewards ²	407	407	415
Maro Nicolaou Schuster <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Median Stewardship Pledge	500	500	500

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Happy New Year! The Financial Stewardship Dashboard above compares 2024 to the prior 2 years. The percentage of expenses covered by Stewardship was flat at 44% for 2022 and 2023. This year we had a slight improvement as Stewardship covered 48% of the expenses for the year. Stewardship was up \$46,000 over last year. This upward trend is a great sign, and we thank all of you that increased your stewardship with our round up 1% on Stewardship. This is encouraging and we pray it will continue in the new year with all your help.

Income fell short of expenses, but the loss is less than half of last year which is almost break even. Unrestricted cash, which is used for operating expenses, is still lower than we would like. We hope that you keep these things in mind when considering support for the community.

Thank you for your support and let's continue this trend in 2025.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Borzeka
Treasurer

- MEMBERS**
- Pavlos Giannikopoulos
 - Nikolas Karkanias
 - George Papanikolaw
 - Herbert Schuster
 - Peter Sedereas
 - Mike Serghiou
 - Andrew Zezas

January Highlights and Upcoming Events

We had a wonderful start to the new year with our Vasilopita cutting on January 12! The JOY children helped Father John distribute the pieces, and the HOPE children decorated pots to plant basil seeds. This activity honored St. Basil and symbolized growth and new beginnings for the year ahead.



On January 25, we had a blast at Xtreme Energy in Rockaway! It was a day filled with fun, energy, and great memories for everyone who attended.

Looking Ahead:

Godparents Sunday on February 9.

We invite you to join us on February 9 for **Godparents Sunday**, immediately following church services. Children are



encouraged to attend the service with their godparents and take communion together. During coffee hour, we'll host a special craft activity for children and their godparents to enjoy together.

If your child's godparent is unable to attend, don't worry—they are still welcome to participate in the craft and join in the fun!

We look forward to celebrating together and hope to see you there!



We are always looking for more parents to join us in this ministry to lead fun events for the children. Any help is welcome! Please email us at hopejoystandrews@gmail.com

Hellenic Afternoon School celebrates NEW YEAR

The PTA and the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School organized a small New Year celebration on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Father John cut the Vasilopita, and the students with their families celebrated our New Year traditions. It was an evening of full of fun and of course a lot of food. Thank you to all who helped and participated in our annual event .



GOYA February News



GOYA is having a busy year! On January 12th, we went to Shawnee mountain to go snow tubing. It was a new activity that we have never done before, and a lot of fun was had by those who attended. If you missed that event, do not worry there are more activities that are coming up.

On the weekend of February 14th Saint Andrew GOYA dance group will participate in the **Metropolis Music and Dance Festival** that will take place in Philadelphia. This will be a celebration of churches coming together from the Metropolis area showcasing folk dancing and liturgical singing. Every Thursday our GOYAn dancers practice their routine to prepare for this big event!

Furthermore, we are working hard preparing for **Sights and Sounds**, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 1st at Holy

Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield. We are preparing with rehearsing our literature pieces, group play, band and choral speaking performances, and various songs from our singing groups. It will be a great opportunity to showcase our creativity and talents. If you would like to watch our group play in action, we will be performing it for our church parishioners on **Sunday, March 9th (A REPLAY)** Please come and show your support!

And if sports are more your thing, practices will begin soon for the upcoming GOYA boys' and girls' soccer tournament and Olympics! More information will be forthcoming. Our year is not over, and there is so much to still look forward to.

Christos Kalavrouziotis

Amazing Love

February 14 is recognized as St. Valentine's Day which originated as a Christian feast day honoring the martyr Valentine. He was imprisoned in the third century by the Romans for ministering to Christians, even restoring sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. It is said that he signed his last letter to this daughter before his execution, "Your Valentine".



Later, around the 14th and 15th century, Valentine was associated with romantic love, often symbolized by "cupid". Sadly, the childish cupid reveals the loss of the deep divine love that Valentine lived.

This raises the question - what is love? Words can be so over-used that they lose their meaning. Two such over-worked words are "GOD" and "LOVE". Losing the meaning of a word can have devastating consequences because words represent our reality. A person "loves" their dog or a certain chocolate; is that the same "love" that person has for family, for spouse, for children, for God? "God" is even more elusive so that simply saying "God is Love" ends up having little or no meaning.

Rowan Williams offers us this about love. "To be fully human is to be recreated in the image of Christ's humanity; and that humanity is the perfect human 'translation' of the relationship to the eternal Son to the eternal Father, a relationship of loving and adoring self-giving, a pouring out of life towards the Other. With our minds made still and ready to receive, with our self-generated fantasies about God and ourselves reduced to silence, we are at last at the point where we begin to grow. We need to show to our world the face of a humanity in endless growth towards love, a humanity so delighted and

engaged by the glory of what we look towards that we are prepared to embark on a journey without end to find our way deeply into it, into the heart of the trinitarian life' (Rowan Williams, *The Christian Tradition for Today*, 2017, pg 95-96).

This kind of love, this trinitarian reality, demands a transformation in seeing and hearing. "Christianity is not a doctrine but a life, an incarnation of its action" (Paul Evdokimov, *In the World, of the Church*, 2001, pg 51). How are we changed so that our faith is not merely an assent to ideas but an incarnational call to action, to love as God loves us in Jesus Christ? We must begin with a new attitude about Scripture and the Gospel. "The Gospel is an explosive seed. It is revolutionary. It overturns not the structure of the world but those of the human spirit. The Gospel is the demand of metamorphosis, transformation, of *metanoia* which shatters not only historical structures but makes even itself radiate with light." (Evdokimov, pg 53-55).

So, what does this have to do with St. Valentine's Day? It's about "LOVE", but not the worldly, 'cupid'-like love that flames and flickers with passions. On this day, as we focus on those we love, we are drawn back to God, to our unique creation in which God recognized that it "was not good for humanity to be alone"(Genesis 2:18). Does our love awaken God within ourselves? Are we so deeply structured into our world that a trinitarian life is never actualized, remains nothing more than a functional belief emptied of transforming power? The Orthodox faith is about life but a different kind of living that we imagine about life. Each of us is called into God's love that is revealed in Jesus Christ and actualized by the

Holy Spirit so that we, created in God's image can return our created-ness, our humanity, back to God in the love that unites us to the divine, to the "likeness". Is this not God's purpose for each of us? We are eternally loved!

Yes, God has sent each of us a Valentine's Day card. You need to open it; it's for you! And when you do, after it reads "I love You", you'll see it signed "your God". Wow! What an amazing Love!

Herbert Schuster

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

FEBRUARY LOVE in 2025

We celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and said goodbye to 2024, welcoming 2025! I hope we are all in a good place to move on into the new year!

Now we are in February. We have Groundhog Day, Black History Month, and Presidents Week, but the one that our children like to celebrate the most is Valentine's Day. Who can resist marketing chocolate hearts, flowers, and love sayings in most stores? I have some cute ideas, especially for our younger children!

Our children love to make Valentine's cards, so why not get creative? Sunday School teachers, how about creating Valentine cards with Bible verses? Not everyone is creative in making cards, so here is another idea! Make a God's Love Jar! What is it? Write Bible verses on pieces of paper and put them in a jar. (Growing up, I did not learn that much about the Bible, so I am doing that now.) Parents, you can even do this at home! Each night in February, read one verse out loud from the Bible, discuss it with your children, pray together, and tell them to share it in Sunday School.

Other ideas especially for our preschool children in expressing LOVE is by asking the children to complete ideas about "JESUS LOVES..." and take turns by giving them hints. The theme for February is "Passion for Christ" which refers to the suffering and death of Jesus and the next big religious celebration will be Easter, so "LOVE" again shows up.

What else to do in February to use the theme of LOVE for our children? Our pre-teens and our older teens sometimes think love is only about the opposite sex. Today adolescents, even pre-teens, try to find friends and flirty love through social media. Parents, I know that worries you so what can you say about LOVE that avoids too much social media? Social networking is a wonderful way to connect with people, do not get me wrong. I connect with my church, my schools, my family overseas, and my colleagues, and I find it a positive way to communicate in my community as well. Encourage your children to connect with family members by sending positive LOVE sayings to you, to their grandparents, to uncles, aunts, cousins, even to their own brothers and sisters! Tell them to let them know they are loved even though they do not use that word for them very often. How about planning a hot chocolate get-together with family or friends around Valentine's Day?

So, parents, are you ready for planning your month of LOVE? It is ok to gather all that Valentine's Day chocolate and not eat it all at once or take it away from your children. Focus more on LOVE of our faith and our LOVE for our Lord JESUS CHRIST. Whatever activities you do for Valentine's Day, include Christ in it. Be grateful for His sacrifices and LOVE and in your daily activities in February, for the rest of the year 2025, thank Him for everything and for all that we experience in our daily lives.

My Table Prayer Guide prayer this month is from:

Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow – Nineteenth Century

(Daily prayer for the beginning of the day)

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every hour of the day, reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all who come to me throughout the day with peace of soul and firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all is sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray Yourself in me. Amen.



I hope you all had a Joyous and Merry Christmas, a Healthy and Happy New Year's Day 2025, and have a Healthy and Happy February!

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)

Super Bowl Saturday

Big Greek Gyro & Souvlaki Take-Out Fest!



**Saturday, February 8th from
11am - 6pm**

**Place Your Big Greek Food & Dessert
Pre-Orders Now at:**

<https://standrewgonj.square.site/>



Agape Αγάπη Luncheons

Join us for **Lunch** and
other fun stuff once a
month on



**Thursdays at
11:30am**



January 29, February 27, March 27 & May 1

For more information contact Betty & Jack Kelly or Julie Ioannou

Knitting, Crocheting & Pillow Ministry

Wednesdays at 11am

February 5 & 19

March 5 & 19, April 2

Look for updates in Weekly Bulletin.

For more information contact Ellen Manetas or Antonia Clapsis.

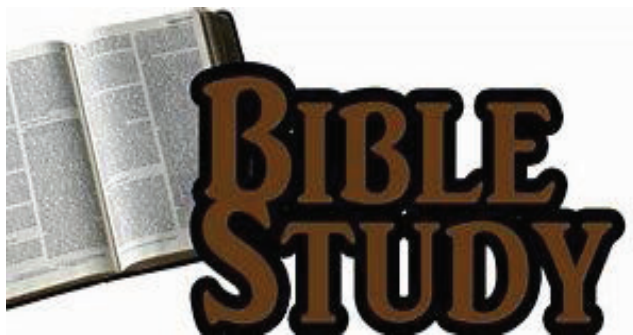


🎵 🎵 **Choir Rehearsals** 🎵 🎵

will be held in church after Liturgy on the following

Sundays: (Feb 23, March 16, April 6)

All are welcome ages 8 and up



Join us for

BIBLE STUDY

Fr. John's Office

Thursdays 7:00pm

Jan: 30, Feb: 6, 3, 20, 27

LENTEN BIBLE Q & A

FRIDAY MORNINGS

IN FR JOHN'S OFFICE

@10:30AM

March 7, 14, 27. 28 and April 4



ST. ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
AHEPA #300 & DOP Alexander #250
PRESENTS

FEBRUARY 8, 2025

**LITE BITES &
COMEDY NIGHT**

FEATURING



Scan or click the QR code to purchase tickets



ANGELO TSAROUCAS
The Knoll Country Club, 12 Knoll Drive, Boonton NJ

\$85 per ticket includes
Beer/Wine, Hors d'oeuvres, Dessert & Coffee

DOORS OPEN AT 7.00 PM, SHOW STARTS AT 8.30 PM

Proceeds to benefit the 5th District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation

For questions contact aborzeka@gmail.com

**GODPARENTS
SUNDAY**

FEBRUARY 9



**GODPARENTS ARE INVITED TO
JOIN THEIR GODCHILD FOR
CHURCH SERVICE, COMMUNION,
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
COFFEE HOUR CRAFT**

Saint Andrew PTA Presents

**ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ
ΓΛ'ΕΝΤΙ 2025**

MARDI GRAS

SAVE THE DATE!!!
February 23rd 2025
Sunday from 4-9pm
at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

*DJ Entertainment - Delicious Food - Tricky/Tray & 50/50
Traditional dances performed by our Jr. Dance Group & Goya
Dancers
More Details coming soon!*

How to Secure a Government Job

Tuesday, Feb. 25 @ 7:00 pm
(Snow date Feb. 26)



Dr. John Paitakes worked as a Somerset County Probation Officer, a Seton Hall University Professor in Criminal Justice, and was a member of the NJ State Parole Board. He will suggest various ways to pursue government positions including Civil service tests, temporary position, special skills, internships, volunteering and more.

Please Register:
www.randolphlibrary.org



Randolph Township Free Public Library
28 Calais Rd, Randolph NJ 07840
Phone: 973-895-3556

Painless, Blameless, Peaceful

The Most Important Petition of the Divine Liturgy

Published by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis on January 9, 2024

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left.

Matthew 25:31-33

The Divine Liturgy is the consummate prayer. It covers every kind of need we can think of—for peace in the world, for our parish, for the clergy, for the country, for travelers, for the sick and suffering, for good weather, for forgiveness, for repentance, and so many more things that we pray for, not only for ourselves but for everyone. The Divine Liturgy provides a lens through which we can view the world. I may not be sick on a particular day, but there are plenty of people in the world who are sick and when we pray for the sick in the Divine Liturgy, it gives me the opportunity to remember, pray for, and show empathy for those who are sick. At the center of the Divine Liturgy is the offering of bread and wine, and a prayer for God to send down the Holy Spirit to consecrate these gifts to become the Body and Blood of Christ. The faithful then receive the consecrated Gifts in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

One of the dozens of petitions that we pray is *“And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.”* (The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 2015 Translation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, p. 43) This petition essentially entreats the Lord for a “good death.” On any given day, we know that someone is at the end of life—it may be someone we know, or someone we don’t, but people die every day.

And just as we pray in the Divine Liturgy through a global lens for things like peace in the world, we also pray for a good death for everyone in the world, especially the people it is happening to today.

What is a good death? One that is painless, blameless and peaceful, and one that is ready for a good accounting at the awesome judgment seat of Christ. We will discuss in this unit why people die and what happens when we die (according to what is in the Bible). Jesus reveals that at the end of time, there will be a great judgment that awaits every person who has ever lived. And that judgment will determine who goes into everlasting life and who goes into everlasting punishment.

We may or may not hear some of the petitions in our divine services in a personal way. I am not a civil authority or a bishop, so those petitions are never for me, but they are my prayers for others. Sometimes the prayers are personal—I know people who are sick and suffering. However, this petition, for a Christian end to life, is very personal. Because it is going to happen to all of us. And I would argue that this is the most important petition of the Divine Liturgy, because when life on this earth ends, the only thing that will matter is our passing—will it be Christian, painless, blameless, peaceful and will it have a good accounting at the awesome judgment seat of Christ? At some point, good health, good weather, and even peace in the world won’t matter to us—

when we are on our death bed, the only thing that will matter is this petition.

Each time I offer this petition in a service, I make the sign of the cross, and I hear it in a personal way. As I begin writing this unit, I am 51 years old. I am 2,500 weeks away from turning 100. I don't think I'll live to see 100. Both my parents passed at 78. If I follow their track, I have less than 1,500 weeks to live. And who knows, there is always the possibility that I will die in a car accident today. Suffice it to say that sometime in the next 2,500 weeks I am going to die. And so, as I hear this petition, I hear it in a personal way, and pray to God about my own death, that it will be painless, blameless, peaceful, and especially Christian, and that I will have done enough to be accounted worthy of a favorable judgment before the throne of God.

We would never take a journey without a destination. We would not walk around or drive around aimlessly. Everyone who goes anywhere has an idea of where they are going. Everyone who embarks on a project has an idea of where they want it to go. Of course, there are always changes and surprises along the way, but there is a goal and a destination. The destination of every life is to pass away from this life. The goal of every life is (or should be) to be ready by being a good steward of life—using our time and our talent in a way that glorifies God and serves others.

Thus, the church is very wise in keeping this goal in front of us at all times, not in a fatalistic way or in a way that should make us sad, but in a way that should keep us focused and motivated. It is surprising to me that many people do not think about their own death at all, even people who are elderly. Children don't think about losing parents, even though this is the natural order. I can't tell you how many times I've visited people who are terminally ill or even actively dying who not only

are in denial that they are dying but are confused as to why we die. I remember visiting someone many years ago (and this scene has played out several times in my ministry) who was dying and as I visited them in the hospital, they asked "what happens next?" I said, "You are going to die, and then go to the Lord for judgment, and He will then place you where you will be for eternity." It was as if I was speaking a foreign language, as if they've never heard of the concept of death. I pointed out this petition of the Divine Liturgy, since this was a person who had faithfully attended the Divine Liturgy. And I said, "where you are right now is what you've actually been praying for your whole life."

And here is another thing that we will explore in this unit, according to Christ and to the church, death is a good thing. It opens up the gates to heaven. Thus, we shouldn't be surprised, or scared, when this moment is upon us. The Church, in its wisdom, has the destination in front of us at all times. And not as something to be feared, but something for which we are to prepare, and actually embrace.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Thy word. With my whole heart I seek Thee; let me not wander from Thy commandments! I have laid up Thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee. Blessed be Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes! With my lips I declare all the ordinances of Thy mouth. In the ways of Thy testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Thy precepts, and fix my eyes on Thy ways. I will delight in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word. Psalm 119:9-16

When you hear the petition "For a Christian end to our lives" in the Divine Liturgy, pray that for anyone you know who is dying, and pray it also for yourself. And sing the response "Grant this, O Lord," for them and especially for YOU!

Saturdays of the Souls

February 22nd , March 1st & 8th 2025

During memorial services, we commemorate the souls of all Orthodox Christians who have gone before us into eternal rest. In praying for those who have “fallen asleep in the Lord,” we continue to ask that God may have mercy on them in His divine judgment so they may gain the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The names offered during the “SATURDAYS OF THE SOULS” (February 22nd , March 1st & 8th at the beginning of the Lenten season will be commemorated.

Also remember your loved ones by not only submitting their names, but by attending the holy services to offer your own prayers for their eternal rest.

Anyone wishing to do so may also bring or order a dish of memorial wheat (“kollyva”) for use during the service.

Please, bring your **list of names to the service**, or if not able to attend, call the Church Office 973-584-0388 ahead of time or send it by email to info@standrewgonj.org

If you are unable to attend church, you can still participate by clicking on the menu bar LIVESTREAM on our Website or FACEBOOK page.

*Orthros at 8am, Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom approximately at 9am.
May their memory be eternal.*



GREEK PARADE
Celebrating the 204th Anniversary
of Hellenic Independence

FEDERATION OF HELLENIC SOCIETIES
OF GREATER NEW YORK
EST. 1938

©Dimitrios Panagos Photo

**“GREECE: The Birthplace of Democracy
& Strategic Partner of America”**
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 - 1:30 PM
FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • 64TH TO 79TH STREET

Saint Andrew Church
will have a **bus to
NYC**
on a 1st come basis.

**\$30 per adult
\$10 per student**

Contact office ASAP &
secure your seat.

info@stanadrewgonj.org
973-5840388

CONGRATULATIONS DR. JOANNE VARRATOS-DIAMANTIDIS!

An Unsung Hero No More

You sit next to her in a pew during liturgy. You share a quick hello during coffee hour. You volunteer to help her sell raffle tickets at the festival. You think you know her, but you really do not understand the profound impact that Joanne has had on your life. Her humility cannot be overstated. If you or a loved one has ever been hospitalized or needed medical treatment, the good care you received was very likely as a result of



Joanne's life work. Though it is a long time coming, Joanne has been awarded the title of Woman of the Year and will be honored at the Daughters of Penelope 12th Biennial Salute to Women for 2025.

With degrees from National American University, a certificate in nursing education from Rutgers University, the University of Pennsylvania and Hunter College, Joanne has been a nurse educator for the past 40 years. Currently, Joanne is a full-time tenured Full Professor of Nursing at Bergen Community College where she teaches in the areas of Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Fundamentals, Mental Health and Medical Surgical Nursing; is in charge of the Didactic and clinical practice; runs the College's Simulation Lab; and taught an on-line Registered Nurse Refresher Program.

Joanne began her career at Bellevue Hospital and Mt. Sinai Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where she supervised and managed transportation of high-risk infants to appropriate Level III facilities within New York City. It was during these early years of nursing that she discovered her passion for teaching -- understanding that teaching was the framework through which she could change the nursing profession.

Since then, Joanne has taught in numerous colleges and universities, including Felician University, William Paterson University, Mountainside School of Nursing/Caldwell College, Rutgers University, Passaic County Community College, Muhlenberg School of Nursing, St. Francis School of Nursing and

for the past 20 years at Bergen Community College, where during the Coronavirus pandemic, Joanne and her student nurses administered the COVID-19 vaccine to the public. While at St. Francis, Joanne developed and coordinated the OR tech program for St. Mary's Hospital in Hoboken. In fact, Joanne was on the front line at St. Francis in Jersey City on 9/11, devoting endless hours to the care of victims and first responders of the tragic

attack.

One of her most significant accomplishments is the development of "ESL for the Health Professions," a health care course for English as a Second Language students trying to enter the medical profession. Beginning in 2016, Bergen Community College adopted Joanne's course for ESL students. This program has helped thousands of ESL students excel in nursing, otherwise allowing them to graduate and obtain an RN license.

As a member of Saint Andrew, Joanne is always available to deliver care or help in any way she can. Since 2000, Joanne is the Camp Nurse for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey and Camp Good Shepherd. She was sponsored by the St. Andrew community in 2018 to attend Project Mexico and, for the past 18 years has been a member of the Daughters of Penelope, currently serving as the Chapter's Vice President.

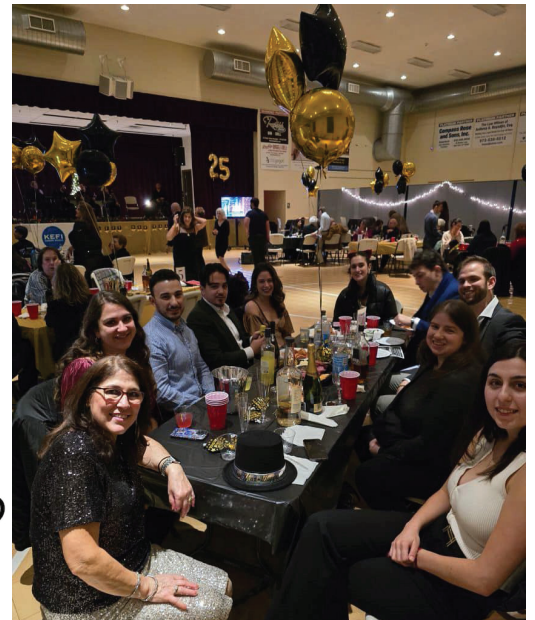
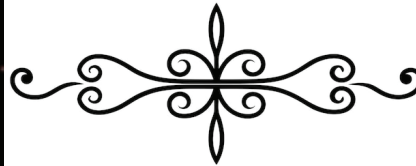
Congratulations Joanne! It is an honor and a privilege to call you a sister and a friend.

By the way, this is the second time in a row that a woman from the Saint Andrew community was recognized at the Biennial Salute to Women. In 2023, our own Sylvia Christakos was honored. Be aware members of the Saint Andrew community. You never know who may be sitting next to you!

Daughters of Penelope
Alexander Chapter #250



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
 On December 31st
 at
 Saint Andrew Community
 Center



SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY
 January 5th, 2025
 Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord
 and Saviour Jesus Christ
GREAT AGIASMOS SERVICE
Κυριακή προ των Φώτων
 Τα άγια Θεοφάνεια του Σωτήρος
 ημών Ιησού Χριστού
ΜΕΓΑΣ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ



**CUTTING & DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY VASILOPITA
 ON SUNDAY JANUARY 12TH, THE SAINT ANDREW CHOIR GOT THE COIN THIS YEAR**



10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Members and representatives from the ministries of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph NJ attended the 10th Anniversary Gala in Honor of the Episcopal Ordination of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, keynote speaker & honoree. In attendance were clergy and representatives from all the Greek Orthodox Churches in NJ and as well as many guests from other states. Keynote speaker also was His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. AXIOS



**ST ANDREW G.O. CHURCH
Represents**

Saint Andrew is recruiting for a Parish Office Manager to replace our current Office Manager who is planning for a well-deserved retirement. Please see the position description below. Interested applicants can apply or ask questions by sending their resume or questions to nikolas.karkanias@gmail.com.

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Job Description

This individual is responsible for supporting daily operations and special projects in assistance of the Parish Priest/Clergy and Parish Council Executive Committee.

The Parish Office Manager is a highly visible position and is expected to have a genuine, friendly attitude in all communications and interactions for the parish. Customer service is key. The Parish Office Manager is managed day to day by the Parish Priest on site and accountable to the Parish Council. The office manager will also provide instructions for the Parish Custodian.

* Indicates a primary responsibility for the Parish Ministry Assistant and a secondary responsibility for the Parish Office Manager.

Responsibilities include:

- Basic online or in-person meeting scheduling/arranging/attending
- Coordinate Priest's schedule
- Manage correspondence by phone, email, text, regular mail (e.g., staff the church phones and email)
- Assisting with communication tasks and development of materials
- Development and distribution of Church-related materials and presentations
- Ordering supplies, keeping inventory for office materials, bulletins, newsletters, etc.
- Routine upkeep of office equipment (i.e., telephones, fax machines, printers, and copiers)
- Coordination of Mail and FedEx, UPS, etc.
- Other tasks as assigned by the Priest, or Parish Council President or their delegate.
- Edits and distributes the Monthly Magazine, bulletin, and E-Bulletin.
- Support Ministries with Administrative support as appropriate.
- *Event management (reservations, coordination)
- *Scheduling Sacraments. Filing/record keeping of important Church documents such as Baptismal Certificates, Marriage Certificates, etc. with the Metropolis and Town.
- *Coordinate special events and visits from Church leaders or media with other ministries as needed.
- *Learn and use Church management software as directed, such as PDS, and manage paperwork (contact information, sacramental paperwork and processes)

Job Requirements:

- Associate’s degree with minimum of 5 years prior administrative experience working in an office/business environment
- Must have excellent interpersonal and communications skills (both verbal and written)
- Must respect confidential information (stewardship, contact information, or sacramental information, etc.)
- Successful annual background check
- Must be fluent in English and Greek, written and verbal, for both languages at the equivalent of a high school level. Must be able to translate from English to Greek and Greek to English, verbal and written, as needed, without reliance on translation software or services.
- Must be on site Monday-Friday at least 10 am -5 pm unless the office is closed due to a Federal or Ecclesiastical holiday or weather or security event. Any exceptions must be approved by the Parish Council President or their delegate.
- Produce reports at least 1 working day before the meeting for which the report was requested.
- Ability to handle funds (cash & checks) in coordination with the Treasurer, as needed.
- Attend staff meetings and individual meetings with the supervisor.
- Highly organized; Able to recognize priorities for assigned projects and work with minimal supervision; Resourceful and proactive
- Able to multi-task and complete projects/assignments in a timely manner
- Proficient with Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.)
- Attendance at General Assembly Meetings and any other “parish wide special” meeting is mandatory.



MEMORIAL GIFT

SAINT ANDREW | 1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE | RANDOLPH, NJ 07869-1830

Please remember the Late † _____ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.
Kindly accept the memorial gift as a token of Love and Respect in his/her memory.

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* _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF DONOR(S) _____

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

BAPTISMS - ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

CELINE AURORA JANULIS, daughter of Thomas and Shella (Aprilliani) Janulis was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, January 4th at 11:00am and given the name **CELESTINE**. Godfather was Christos Diamantidis, and Godmother was Nicole Frangoudis.



MARIE-CATHERINE WIESENBORN, daughter of Ralph and Sabine (Schyra) Wiesenborn was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, January 12th at 3:00pm am and given the name **MARIE**. Godmother was Alexandra Z. Katsoudas.

Celebrant priest was Rev Protopresbyter John Theodosion

Wishing them all the Lord's blessings

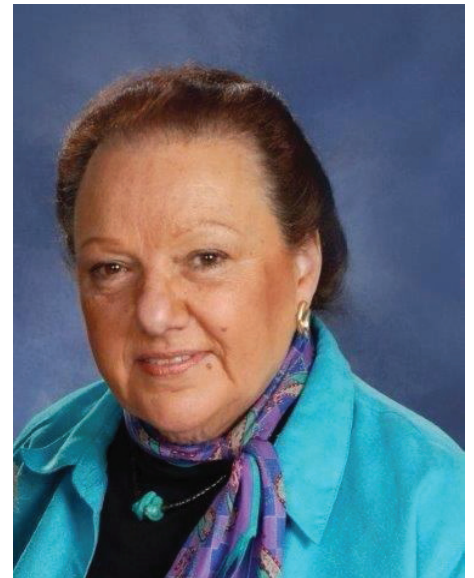
OBITS & FUNERAL SERVICES – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

PARASKEVI (Patricia Kuris) Blackford

September 23, 1948 - January 5, 2025 (76 years old)

Patricia K. Blackford, beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend, passed away on January 5, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was 76 years old and leaves behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and an unwavering devotion to her faith, family, and community.

Born into a proud Greek Orthodox family, Pat held her heritage close to her heart throughout her life. She was married at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ, where she was an active member, contributing significantly to church life. In 2013, she and her husband, Charles, relocated to Georgetown, Indiana, where they became members of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Louisville, KY. Pat's involvement in the church was extensive. She was a dedicated leader of the Philoptochos Society, organizing and completing numerous charitable projects that supported both the church and the community. Her work as an assistant teacher for religious education and participation in various church organizations brought her great fulfillment, as she was always eager to give back.



Known for her warmth and generosity, Pat never met a stranger. Her infectious kindness and compassion touched everyone she encountered, and she leaves behind a legacy that will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

In addition to her church work, Pat had an accomplished professional background. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Marymount College and worked as the Director of Brewster Gallery in New York City. Later, she became a Fine Art Appraiser and held the role of Supervisor of Clinical and X-ray at Morris County Orthopedic practices. She was also a Medical Administrator, supporting the founding doctors of the practice. Pat was a licensed amateur radio operator (N2SKX) and a volunteer examiner, further exemplifying her dedication to service. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Stella (Johns) Kuris, as well as brothers Peter Kuris and George Kuris and godson/nephew John George Kuris

Pat is survived by her devoted husband, Charles Elliott Blackford, IV of Georgetown, IN; daughter Christine and son-in-law Charles Wesley Jr. (Wes) Albro of New Albany, IN; son Lee J. and daughter-in-law Stephanie Oddo, and grandson Racer L. Oddo of East Hampton, NY. She is also survived by her extended family, including her sisters-in-law Katherine Kuris (NY), Rose Kuris, nephews John and Sonya Kuris (NJ/FL), Paul and Nadia Kuris (NY), Peter and Lisa Kuris (NY), nieces Desi and Sal Alamo (NY), and Stacey and Gregory Stefanatos, their children Alexandra and Lee (NY), as well as step-children Charles E. Blackford V and Rachel Blackford, their children Isabel, Ben, and Claire (IA), and Brian D. and Kristie Blackford and their children Lacey, Emily, James, and Madison (Great Falls, MT).

Visitation were on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM and on Wednesday, January 15th 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (930 Ormsby Ln, Louisville, KY 40242). A burial was held at the Bethlehem Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Pat's memory to either Assumption Greek Orthodox Church or Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, with Patricia K. Blackford in the memo line.

Vasilios Basil S. Kasimis MD.

Dr. Basil S. Kasimis, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend and distinguished physician, passed away peacefully on December 8, 2024, at his home in Lake Mary, Florida, at the age of 78. Born on June 19, 1946, in Athens, Greece, Dr. Kasimis lived most of his life in New Jersey, where he built an extraordinary career and raised his family before moving to Florida in 2021. He is survived by his loving wife, Katerina; his daughter Anna Patounakis and her husband, George Patounakis, of Longwood, Florida; his daughter Elizabeth 'Jenny' Manis and her husband, Jeffrey Manis, of Randolph, New Jersey; his cherished grandchildren: Katerina, Eleni, Joseph, and Emily; and many loving friends and relatives.

An exemplary student, Dr. Kasimis graduated summa cum laude from the National University of Athens Medical School in 1970 and earned his Doctor of Science degree in 1974. Between 1970 and 1972, he served honorably as a military physician in the Greek Army. His ambition led him to the United States in 1974, where he dedicated his career to advancing medical research and oncology care.



Dr. Kasimis began his U.S. medical career as an intern at South Baltimore General Hospital, later rising to chief resident by 1977. He further specialized with fellowships in medical oncology and hematology at Boston University. Over the course of his remarkable career, he held academic appointments at leading institutions, including the University of California, UMDNJ-Rutgers Medical School, and Rutgers University, where he served as a professor of medicine until his retirement in 2014.

From 1986 to 2014, Dr. Kasimis led the Hematology-Oncology Section at the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Healthcare System in East Orange, where he fought tirelessly to renovate and modernize its cancer treatment facilities. He authored over 200 publications, served as principal investigator on approximately 85 studies, and received numerous awards for his contributions to cancer research, including the Gallo Award for Excellence and the National Cancer Institute CTSU Certificate of Excellence.

Basil Kasimis was admired not only for his professional achievements but also for his vibrant personality and zest for life. In 1975, he married Katerina Markantonis, his high school crush. Their serendipitous reunion at a bus stop years after they graduated high school led to a 49-year marriage filled with love, laughter, and family. Basil was a devout Greek Orthodox Christian and dedicated member of AHEPA. He attended St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Piscataway, NJ until he moved to Florida in 2021 where he regularly attended Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Orlando in Maitland, Florida.

He loved spending time with his family, tending to his roses, traveling, and engaging in spirited games of Backgammon and Parcheesi, winning of course, every time he played. He found joy in studying history, going to museums, and learning new skills, even taking up piano at the age of 70. In his later years, he still loved going to Disney World and Cape May with his extended family and grandkids as often as possible. Basil was known for his quick wit and sense of humor, making jokes and bringing smiles to his loved ones until the moment he left us.

Dr. Kasimis leaves behind a legacy of compassion, brilliance, and love. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him but forever remembered for the lives he touched and the inspiration he provided.

Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Orlando in Maitland, Florida on Friday, December 13th at noon, with a viewing at 11am.

Trisagion Service for the repose of his soul and Burial was on December 20th at 12:30pm at the Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery on the corner of Quaker Ave & Quaker Church Road in Randolph, NJ.

Donations Received +In Memory of:

+Patricia Blackford

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George & Marina Venizelos

+Vasilios Kasimis

Katherine Kasimis

Emmanuel & Anna Patounakis

+Michael Lopardo

Chrysanthe Borezka

Vickie Geannakakes

Angeliki Brouard

George & Marina Venizelos

Chrysanthe Borzeka

+Ioannis Karipidis

George & Marina Venizelos

Chrysanthe Borzeka

+Eleni Stamatou

Seretis/Paleocostas Family

Chrysanthe Borzeka

Vasilios & Voula Seretis

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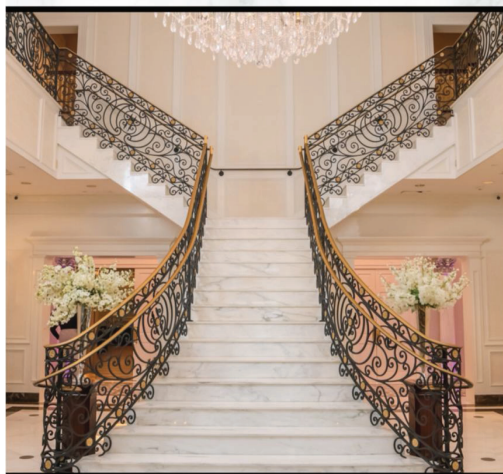


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SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR * LOOK FOR UPDATES ON WEEKLY E BULLETIN OR ON WEBSITE: [Parish Calendar - St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church \(standrewgonj.org\)](http://Parish Calendar - St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church (standrewgonj.org))

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

CHOIR PRACTICE SUNDAY MONTHLY 11:30AM

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays 9am

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

KNITTING & PILLOW ALTERNATE Wednesdays 11am

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 FEBRUARY: 2/2 PHILOPTOCHOS,
2/9 PTA, 2/16 DOP, 2/23 GOYA,

2/1 @9AM-1PM SOCCER GYM NON-PARISH RENTAL

2/1 NON-PARISH EVENT – SOCIAL HALL

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

2/5 @11am Knitting Crocheting and Pillow Ministry meet also on 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2

2/6 @7pm Bible Study also on Feb: 13, 20, & 27

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

2/8 AHEPA & DOP COMEDY NIGHT at Knoll Country Club, 12 Knoll Dr, Boonton, NJ at 7pm

2/9 GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

2/9 HOPE & JOY CRAFT W GODPARENTS /RM 103

2/9 HAS READ ALOUD IN GREEK /RM 101

2/10 @7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEET |3/17, 4/7, 5/13. 6/9

2/14-16 2025 Music & Dance Festival in Philadelphia

2/15 @9AM SOCCER GYM NON-PARISH RENTAL

2/22 SATURDAY OF SOULS ALSO ON 3/1 & 3/8

2/22 @9AM-1PM SOCCER GYM NON-PARISH RENTAL

2/22 FAITH KITCHEN - PHILOPTOCHOS

2/23 MARDI GRAS AT ST ANDREW SUNDAY 4-9PM

2/23 CHOIR REHEARSALS ALSO ON 3/16 & 4/6

2/25 @7PM PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING | 3/25, 4/22, 5/27

2/27 @11:30AM AGAPE LUNCH ALSO ON 3/27 AND 5/1

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN MARCH: 3/2 PHILOPTOCHOS,
3/9 PTA, 3/16 DOP, 3/23 GOYA, 3/30 BAKALIKO

3/1 @9AM SOCCER GYM NON-PARISH RENTAL

3/1 SIGHTS & SOUNDS AT HOLY TRINITY

3/2 Daughters of Penelope SALUTE TO WOMEN AWARD at the Pines Manor in Edison NJ @1:30pm

3/3 LENT BEGINS

3/5 NON-PARISH EVENT-SOCIAL HALL & 1ST FLOOR CLASSROOMS

3/7 @10:30AM Lenten Q & A in Fr John's Office also on March:14, 27, 28 & April 4

3/8 @9AM-1PM SOCCER GYM NON-PARISH RENTAL

3/9 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

3/9 GOYA SIGHTS & SOUNDS REPLAY AT ST ANDREW GYM

3/22 NNJ Oratorical Festival / at St Andrew Randolph |
St Andrew is hosting the Metropolitan Oratorical Festival, GOYAns will participate in Mandatory Event.(moved from 3/15/25)

3/16 NON-PARISH EVENT (INDIAN PROGRAM) in our gym

3/21-3/23 CGS NJ Retreat

3/22 @9AM-1PM SOCCER GYM NON-PARISH RENTAL

3/22 FAITH KITCHEN - GOYA

3/22 NNJ Oratorical Festival / at St Andrew Randolph |
St Andrew is hosting the Metropolitan Oratorical Festival, GOYAns will participate in Mandatory Event.(moved from 3/15/25)

3/23 HAS Greek Independence Day Program in Gym

3/30 GID PARADE in NYC @1pm

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN APRIL: 4/6 PHILOPTOCHOS,
4/13 PALM SUNDAY ALL ORGANIZATIONS , 4/20 PASCHA,
4/27 GOYA

4/5 10a-2p NON-PARISH EVENT (WOMEN'S RETREAT) in our Social Hall and CR on 1st floor

4/5 VISIT TO THE MONASTERY arrival 10am (carpooling from church leaving at 8:30am)

4/12 **Saturday of Lazarus** join us for a Lenten Luncheon and Paschal Egg Hunt and making the Palm Crosses

4/13 PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON OFFERED BY ALL ORGANIZATIONS

4/17 -NO HAS CLASS -NO GREEK DANCE HOLY WEEK

4/26 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP & AHEPA

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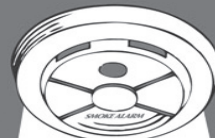
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Bakaliko: Maria Stamoutsos

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Agape Group: Betty and Jack Kelly & Julie Ioannou

AHEPA: Peter Tsilios, *President*

Daughters of Penelope: Dimitra Pallis, *President*

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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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και του κορυφαίου ατάδελφος,
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.