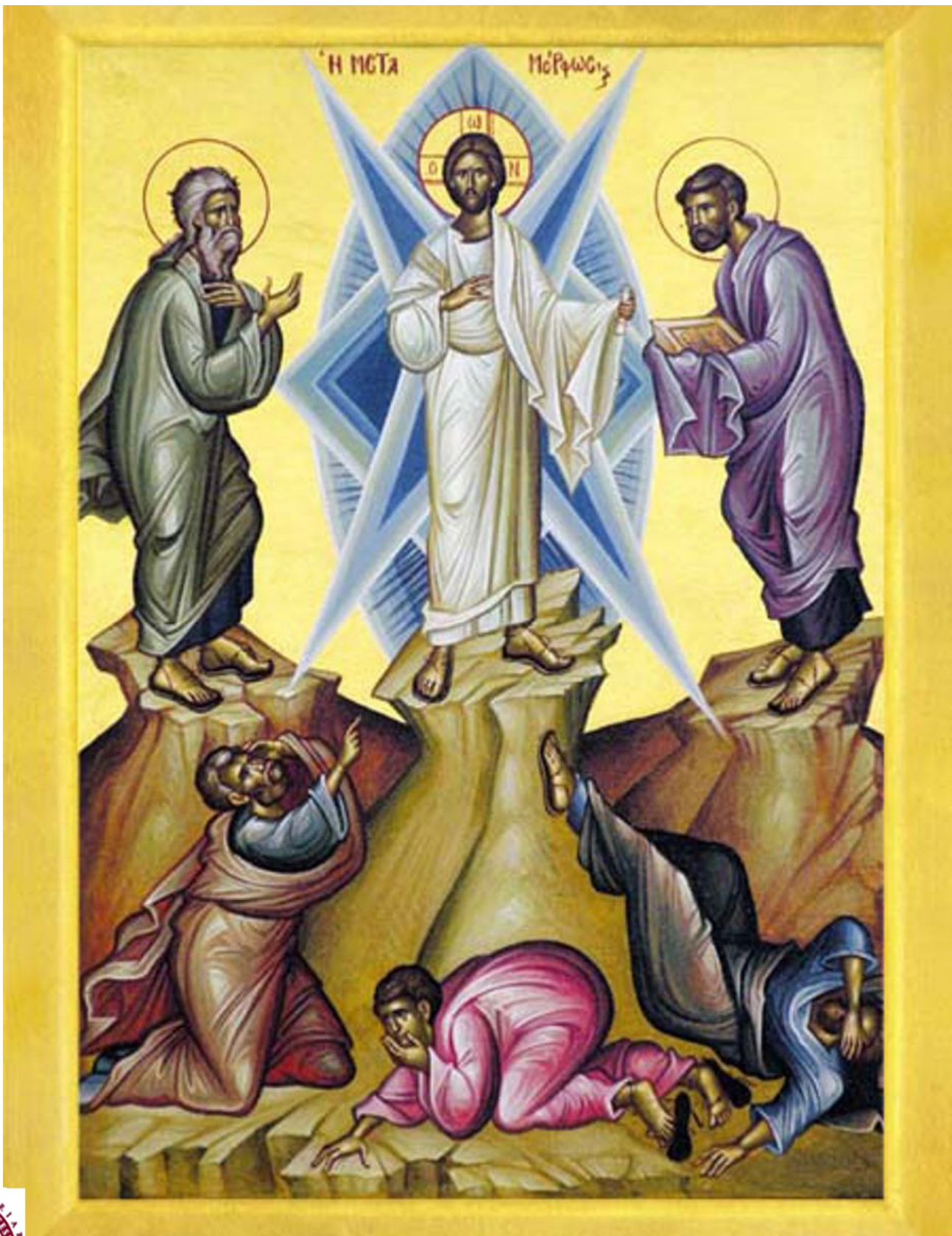


JUNE JULY AUGUST 2025



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey



## Saint Andrew Family News

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

4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF SOULS - JUNE 7

ICON ↑ TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST- AUGUST 6

THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY – AUGUST 15

# 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](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)**

**Web site <https://www.standrewgonj.org/>**

**NJ Metropolis Web: [www.njgoarch.org](http://www.njgoarch.org) G.O. Archdioceses Web: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)**

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](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

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# DIVINE SERVICES

## JUNE

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>FATHERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> COUNCIL</b>
Saturday	7	SATURDAY OF SOULS   <i>FR. JOHN VISITS LOCUST HILL CEM. TO PRAY FOR +LOVED ONES</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>PENTECOST</b>
Monday	9	MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SYNAXIS OF THE TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES; MICHAEL THE NEW MARTYR OF ATHENS / <i>FATHER'S DAY</i></b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>
Tuesday	24	THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>STS. PETER AND PAUL THE HOLY APOSTLES +Orthros &amp; Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</b>

## JULY

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS</b>
<i>*NO Service</i>	17	ST MARINA THE GREAT MARTYR T
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW +PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH)</b>
<i>*NO Service</i>	22	Mary Magdalene, the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles <i>/Relics</i>
<i>*NO Service</i>	25	DORMITION OF ST. ANNA, MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS
<i>*NO Service</i>	26	ST PARASKEVI <i>/Relics</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW +ST PANTELEIMON THE GREAT MARTYR &amp; HEALER <i>/Relics</i></b>

## AUGUST

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>
Monday	4	PARAKLISIS SERVICE @6:30PM
Tuesday	5	<i>GREAT VESPERS</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST</b>
Wed-Thu	6-7	PARAKLISIS SERVICE @6:30PM
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>
Mon-Wed	11-13	PARAKLISIS SERVICE @6:30PM
Thursday	14	<i>GREAT VESPERS (LOCATION TBA)</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>
Thursday	29	BEHEADING ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ( <i>Strict fast Day</i> )
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MATTHEW</b>

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

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

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

*\*NO Service during the weekdays in July*

*Saint Andrew Family News June 2025*



# Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ   Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

## ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ

Κυριακή	1	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Ζ' τῶν 318 Ἀγίων Πατέρων τῆς Α' Οἰκομ. Συνόδου
Σάββατο	7	ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ : π. <i>Ιωάννης θα επισκεφτεί το Νεκροταφείο στο Ντόβερ</i>
Κυριακή	8	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Η' τῆς ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤῆς
Δευτέρα	9	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ; ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ
Κυριακή	15	ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ; ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ;   <i>ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ</i>
Κυριακή	22	Β' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Τρίτη	24	ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ
Κυριακή	29	ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΙ ΠΕΤΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΥΛΟΣ +ΘΡΩΡΟΣ & ΙΕΡΑΤΙΚΗ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ

## ΙΟΥΛΙΟΣ

Κυριακή	6	Δ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Κυριακή	13	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ Δ' ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ
*Καμία Λειτουργία	17	ΑΓΙΑ ΜΑΡΙΝΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΤΗΣ
Κυριακή	20	ΣΤ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ + ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ
*Καμία Λειτουργία	22	ΜΑΡΙΑ Η ΜΑΓΔΑΛΗΝΗ / <i>Λείψανα</i>
*Καμία Λειτουργία	25	ΚΟΙΜΗΣΙΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΎΑΝΝΗΣ, ΜΗΤΡΟΣ Τῆς ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
*Καμία Λειτουργία	26	ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ / <i>Λείψανα</i>
Κυριακή	27	Ε' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ ΠΑΝΤΕΛΕΗΜΩΝ / <i>Λείψανα</i>

## ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ

Κυριακή	4	ΣΤ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Δευτέρα	4	Ακολουθία Παράκλησις - <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
Τρίτη	5	Εσπερινός <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
Τετάρτη	6	Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΥΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
Τετ-Πεμ	6-7	Ακολουθία Παράκλησις - <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
Κυριακή	10	Θ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Δευτ-Τετ	11-13	Ακολουθία Παράκλησις - <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
Πέμπτη	14	Εσπερινός <i>Θα ανακοινωθεί σε πια εκκλησία</i>
Παρασκευή	15	ΚΟΙΜΗΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Κυριακή	17	Ι' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Κυριακή	24	ΙΑ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Θα ανακοινωθεί	29	ΑΠΟΤΟΜΗ ΚΕΦΑΛΗΣ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ ( <i>Αυστηρή Νηστεία</i> )
Κυριακή	31	ΙΒ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ

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

Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ

Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:00πμ

*\*Καμία Λειτουργία της καθημερινές του Ιουλίου*

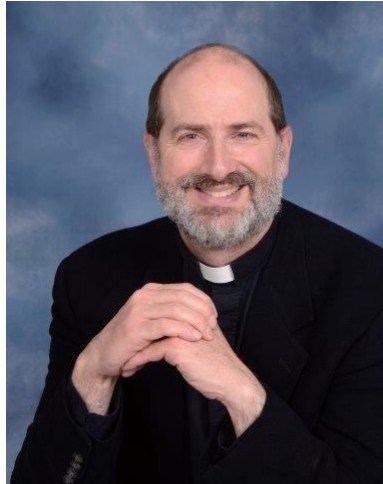


# A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Fr. John Theodosion

Imagine for a moment that you are at Met Life Stadium, but instead of being one of the spectators you are down on the field. You are there to run a race, a marathon and the marathon is your life. As you prepare for the race you look around and notice that the stands are filled with onlookers cheering you on with the hopes that you will win the race. So as you look more closely at those cheering fans you realize these are not ordinary people. These are people who somehow seem familiar. A closer look still reveals that these people are those who have completed the race already. They are the prophets, saints, martyrs, healers and monastics, who have achieved salvation already. And you remember that you have always heard that they were praying for us and interceding to God for us and now you see them with your own eyes as they are cheering you on to victory.

Suddenly your coach approaches you and you ask, "where did all these saints come from are they here for me?" He replies, "they are here for everyone who runs." Then he quotes St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews saying, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2). Things



become clearer because you realize that there are many who have run the race before us and there are many who run with us and many who will run after us, but we all have as our example our Lord Jesus who prepared the way to His heavenly kingdom for us.

As the race begins and we round the first turn we see someone coming out of the stands to run with us. It is a man who is strangely familiar. He introduces himself as Saint Paul. Your mind and heart are filled with wonder and amazement. You think how could Saint Paul be paying attention to me, and running with me. He reminds you of the many letters that he had written and are recorded in the New Testament. We all need encouragement to finish the race and one of the best places to go for encouragement are the letters of St. Paul. But before he returns to the stands he tells you one last thing and he encourages you to follow his example saying, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the **race**, I have kept the faith." Go and do likewise. [2 Timothy 4:7](#)

As St. Paul returns to the stands you think to yourself I want to run the race like him but he was special he had a divine calling from God how can I finish the race like him. Just as you finish this thought a little old lady comes out of the crowd. As she approaches you begin to slow down so she can keep up, but you quickly realize that you have trouble keeping up with her. She introduces herself as Saint Thekla and you ask "how

come you are able to run so fast even though you are so old? She explains that God gives us powers which are not easily understood by the human mind but they are understood by the Christian heart. She then proceeds to tell you a little about her life. St. Thekla's nameday is celebrated on September 26th and her title is the great martyr and equal to the apostles. She was born approximately 25 years after Christ into a peasant family, and her mother was a devout Christian. She learned the faith and decided to become a missionary. After hearing the preaching of St. Paul she became one of his disciples and traveled with him to spread the gospel. She eventually went out on her own as a missionary and traveled to lands, which had never before heard about Christ. In one such land there was a pagan ruler who did not welcome her or her teachings. He took her prisoner and was going to put her to death, but he could not. She was cast into a fire, and she walked away unburned. They tried to cut her with spears and they bounced off of her, and nails could not pierce her skin. Seeing this the pagan ruler became afraid and released her. St. Thekla lived to be ninety years old and died of natural causes.

Before she returns to the stands St. Thekla's gives you some simple advice. "Do not be afraid, the Lord will provide for your every need and he will protect you as he did for me."

Finally, you see a soldier dressed in armor and carrying a sword who joins you in the race. You recognize him from his icon in church. It is St. George! You remember that St. George was a Roman soldier and a Christian who was commanded by the

emperor Diocletian to round up Christians and execute them. St. George of course refused and became a prisoner. When he was brought to the emperor to answer for his disobedience he used this situation to proclaim his faith in Christ and to point out the evil ways of Diocletian. He became a martyr for the faith and was put to death early in the fourth century. His advice to you is this. "Take heart and have faith in God and let this faith give you courage. Do not be afraid to stand up for what you believe is right even if it is unpopular. Then he goes back to the stands.

We continue to run the race; this marathon of life and we do not finish until we leave this world. On this day that we call all saints Sunday I encourage you and remind you that we do not run this race alone. We should follow the advice of St. Paul who said in [1 Corinthians 9](#) "Do you not know that those who run in a **race** all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." We should all run this race of faith in a way that will lead us to salvation following the example of Christ and the saints. The only way to learn about them and their example is to read about them in the Bible and seek out their biographies in books and on the internet. We have a great heritage and we have a tremendous legion of examples who have run the race before us. Now it is our turn to run the race, sharing our faith with our loved ones and those we don't even know so that we may one day join that great cloud of witnesses in the stands. Then we will say along with St. Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the **race**, I have kept the faith."



# RAFFLE



## 2025 MERCEDES-BENZ

### GLC 300 W4 - MSRP \$56,335

**POLAR WHITE | ALL-WHEEL DRIVE | REMOTE START  
NAVIGATION and much more**

**TICKETS \$25 EACH | DRAWING SEPTEMBER 28, 2025, 12:30PM**

To benefit Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church  
1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869 973.584.0388

Winner need not be present at drawing.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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# WE NEED YOU

## to sell CAR RAFFLE TICKETS

**Please sell your raffle tickets, mail, or bring in your money with the stubs to the office, and consider selling more tickets in front of the church.**

We need your help to make this year's raffle a success!

**Sign up for JUST 2 HOURS and sell raffle tickets! Sit and read or even bring your laptop (*Wi-Fi available*). use QR CODE to schedule times / for assistance contact [dimitraP164@gmail.com](mailto:dimitraP164@gmail.com) or 201-874-9084.**



Please consider volunteering and helping in this easy way.  
We need your support.





Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of New Jersey



## **Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**

**Orthros and  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday, June 29, 2025  
9:00 A.M.**

**St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church  
1447 Sussex Turnpike  
Randolph, NJ 07869**

## **His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey Invites All the Faithful to Celebrate the Feast of the Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles**

**Hierarchical Great Vespers,  
and Dinner Reception**

**Sunday, June 29, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**

**Orthros,  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy,  
and Reception**

**Monday, June 30, 2025  
9:00 A.M.**

**St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church  
51 Paramus Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652**

## SAINT ANDREW STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Over the past few years, we have tried to change the perception that Stewardship to the church is related, in any way, to a dues or transactions system. There is no set amount of payment that is expected from our parishioners and the Stewardship pledge should never be viewed as just another bill to pay. To the contrary, a Stewardship pledge should be a response to God's grace. We give to our church because God first gave to us. Everything that we have – our health, our home, the love of our family, our talents, our time – are gifts from God. Stewardship is our way to thank Him for all our many blessings.

So how do we, in practical terms, thank God for all our many blessings? We are asked to tithe. What does it mean to tithe? It means that we give ten percent of our time, our talent, and our treasure to the church. Here at Saint Andrew, we, as a Stewardship Committee, have labeled these concepts "Rounding Up" and "Engagement."

Rounding Up is a shorthand way of describing our journey to tithing. To Round Up, we ask that you prayerfully and honestly look at your finances and decide what percentage of your income you can give for your stewardship offering. Start by calculating what percent of your last year's income you gave to the church. Then round up your gift to the next highest whole number percent of income. If your current offering is at .5% of your income, then next year we ask that you consider rounding up to 1%. The following year, or when you are able, add 1% more and continue adding 1% until you reach 10%.

The concept of Engagement is less technical. Engagement requires that we consider our gifts of time and talent and how they can be used to improve our church and our community. Are you proficient with the computer? Do you sing? Do you have a legal or accounting background? Can you teach? Are you a

licensed plumber, electrician, or contractor? We are fortunate to live in a community of talented, intelligent parishioners. We need you to regard our spiritual home – our church and our community -- as you regard your physical home and your family. Please consider donating your time and your talent to improving our parish.

Of course, we would like your feedback to make sure that we are on the right track. In May, we began reaching out to small groups of parishioners to find out how to better serve you, your family, and our community. Specifically, we are looking to find out what you feel our parish needs and whether you can help us fulfill those needs. We further would like to know what you, as parishioners, need from our church and how can our church better serve you and your family. Through the small group meeting format, we intend to meet with every parishioner willing to meet with us. The meetings will last about an hour and will be held at Saint Andrew on Thursday evenings or after liturgy on Sunday. If neither of these options work, we can arrange to meet at a place and time convenient for you.

Through the Round Up and Engagement Campaigns, we are trying to ensure that the richness of our parish exists, not by simply meeting its expenses, but in its ability to help each other and to serve others in His name, as we have been asked to do.

Thank you to all who have rounded up your Stewardship offering. Thank you to all who have devoted many hours of time and endless talents to our beloved Saint Andrew community.

Have a blessed summer. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our Stewardship journey, please do not hesitate to reach out.

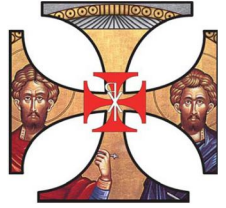
With love in Christ, Your Stewardship Ministry  
Georgia Haglund, Chairperson ([georgiahaglund@gmail.com](mailto:georgiahaglund@gmail.com)),  
Greg Chryslar, Jaime Andrews, Chris Tsamutalis, Nik Karkanias, Ervin Mile





Geek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PHILOPTOCHOS



This year's Philoptochos Tricky Tray was a great success! We had an excellent turnout again and welcomed many familiar faces, as well as new ones. It was a fun-filled, Greek-themed evening! The St. Andrew Philoptochos would like to thank everyone who donated baskets, monetary gifts and ads that appeared in the journal. Additionally, we'd like to express our gratitude to the people who volunteered their time at the event by helping out wherever needed. A special thanks goes out to Father John and Bessie for their unwavering support, and to John A. Paxos and John Laoudis for all of their help before, during and after the Tricky Tray. Finally, we want to thank the Tricky Tray Committee for all of their behind-the-scenes work and dedication in the months leading up to our big event, and on Tricky Tray night itself. None of this would have been possible without all of the support and generosity that came pouring in from our parish members, donors and other philanthropic souls. Thank you all for helping the St. Andrew Philoptochos to carry out one of our most impactful missions again this year. It will be hard to top this year's event, but we look forward to working with everyone again next year to make Tricky Tray 2026 even better!

### TRICKY TRAY COMMITTEE



Antonia Clapsis, Yiota Louca, Maro Schuster, Kia Paskas, Marina Venizelos, Melissa Dobias,  
Irene Laoudis, Julie Ioannou

*Wishing everyone a wonderful and blessed summer!*

*Join us at our next Philoptochos meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

**Executive Board:** President, Marina Venizelos; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Maro Schuster; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Irene Laoudis;  
Treasurer, Salomi Massaras; Assistant Treasurer, Irene Petrou; Recording Secretary, Faye Paskas; Corresponding Secretary, Kia Paskas  
**Board Members:** Antonia Clapsis, Maria Daniskas, Maria Galvin, Joanna Haritos, Panayiota Louca, Irene Sergonis, Athena Theodosion  
Advisor to Board: Mary Michailidis | Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Theodosion



# AGAPE *Αγάπη* LUNCHEON

On May 1<sup>st</sup> at the last Agape Lunch, the meeting began with our usual chit-chat and joy at seeing one another again. This was followed by an incredible dish—**the best-ever pastitsio**—generously prepared by Irene and John Laoudis in loving memory of their daughter, Alyxsondra. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal and deeply appreciated Irene and John's thoughtfulness.

We were also delighted to welcome **Police Officer Oxmani Corona**, who gave a fun and eye-opening presentation on how alcohol affects our ability to drive.

**John Paxos** volunteered to assist—perhaps thinking he'd be rewarded with a glass or two of Metaxa or Ouzo! But instead of drinks, Oxmani brought along high-tech goggles that simulate alcohol impairment.

The demonstration began with a sober John easily walking a straight line. He nailed the first two rounds, but by the third set, we were all laughing as he began to lose his coordination. By the fourth, not only could he not walk a straight line—he could barely walk at all! While it was highly entertaining, the exercise drove home a serious message about the dangers of impaired driving.

## Key Takeaways from Officer Oxmani:

1. **Legal blood alcohol limit:** 0.08
2. **Medications that can impair driving include:**
  - Antidepressants
  - Benadryl
  - NyQuil
  - Ativan
  - Oxycodone*(Always check with your doctor before*

*driving while on any medication—especially a new one. Wait and see how it affects you before getting behind the wheel or operating machinery.)*

3. **Transportation options:** If you're unable to drive, check with your town. Many communities offer assistance with getting to stores, doctor's appointments, and other essential places.
4. **Fatigue matters:** If you've been awake for more than 24 hours, any accident you cause may be considered a civil liability.
5. **Know your limits:**
  - Avoid driving at night if you don't see well.
  - Postpone trips during peak traffic hours if that stresses you.
  - Always follow the speed limit—by the time you see the police, they've already clocked you.
  - And most importantly: **Don't drink and drive.**
6. **Safety tip about unmarked cars:** If you're being pulled over by an unmarked vehicle and feel unsure, **call 911**. They will confirm whether it's a real officer. Always aim to pull over in a populated, well-lit area.

## Route 80 Update:

- Expect **only one lane to be open on Route 80 West**.
- **Route 80 East will remain closed** for now.

The meeting wrapped up with a lively game of **Bingo**, where winners were rewarded with a **second helping of dessert**—a sweet way to end a sweet evening!

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE - ALEXANDER #250

### CHARITABLE GIVING



The **Daughters of Penelope** had a very busy year! Nonstop fun activities. Starting off the 2024-2025 year with hosting the DOP District # 5 Workshop. This year's District #5 governor is Eleni Boyadjis who has had an extraordinary year! In November we hosted successful Trivia / Magic Night and February we hosted Comedy & Lite Bites with Angelo Tsaroukas. Proceeds went to St Andrew, American



Foundation for Suicide Prevention and AHEPA Cancer Foundation to name a few. Throughout the year we had many other events to choose from that were hosted by other DOP, AHEPA chapters & District #5 ranging from Paint n Sip to Evening of Dior to family bowling night to a hockey game and an array of other events.



Something for everyone! This year Daughters of Penelope Alexander # 250 had eight new members. We would like to extend an invitation for you to join.

Please contact Dimitra Pallis for more information 201-874-9084, [dop.alexander250.randolph@gmail.com](mailto:dop.alexander250.randolph@gmail.com). Join us and make 2025-2026 another successful year! Don't forget we have our fashion show on October 11<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to all the graduating seniors and our scholarship winners Marios Christodoulou, Chase Peterson and Brooke Leonardi!

## Religious Education - Reflections

What is religious education? It is more than just "Sunday school" where children attend to learn about the Orthodox Faith. Our Orthodox faith teaches all of us a way to fully live our lives. Orthodoxy is alive and demands each person's commitment through prayer, Bible study, sacramental participation, and communal activity, attending Religious Education classes from 3 years old to 18 years old and doing charitable works. Our children attend religious education classes to obtain the necessary information required for a participatory, relational, functional Orthodoxy that offers a daily witness to our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Why is it important, even urgent, for your family to attend Divine Liturgy and to bring your children to our religious program? We live in a world, which is eagerly "dumbing down" our faith into some sort of personal, moral preferences called religious activity. Jesus warns us of a "lukewarm" faith. We need our faith to work, especially as we are challenged by a world struggling to hold its center. Our religious education efforts at all levels of learning are there to help you and your family to "put on the armor of God", as Paul urges all of us to do.

As a co-director of the religious education program, I would like to acknowledge the many dedicated teachers who not only love our Orthodoxy, but the whole family of God. It is through their dedication to our program that we have a successful Religious Education Program.

We need you and your children to attend on Sundays. All the teachers are prepared and eager to teach the children the Word of GOD. It is important that you bring your children every Sunday. Read their materials, ask them what they learned, and challenge them with questions.

Faith learning is a two-way street! Parents must know their faith and discuss it with their children. Teach them the prayers; sing the hymns together before meals, waking up with morning and evening prayers. This will give the child and the parent a good way to connect with the Lord.

If there is a need to setup an adult class to learn the Orthodox faith, please reach out to us and we will discuss it with Fr. John. We are open to help you in any way possible.

### **Congratulations to our recent Graduates:**

Mario Christodoulou  
Damien Gizas  
Helen Haritos  
Peter Haritos  
Christos Kalavrouziotis  
Elisabeth Karkanias  
Anora Mainkar  
Madison Moschonikolakis  
Angelina Paftinos  
Chase Peterson  
Zoe Turner  
Demetria Watkins  
James Week  
Georgia Worley

We wish all our graduates a blessed journey as they continue in their academic career.

### **Religious Education will begin September 14, 2025**

### **Registrations are now open (Forms in church office)**

### **In October we will have an Open House to review and discuss with the parents our curriculum.**

Religious Education is also for parents to help them understand their faith. We would like to discuss starting a class for parents. We need your response; please reach out to us!

In closing I would like to thank the PTA for their continuing support of the Religious Education.

We want to thank Dina Aspromatis for her attentiveness and for always providing what we need for the Religious Education department.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank Bessie Petrakos for ALL that she does in helping our ministry and all the other ministries. God Bless!!

In the Service of the Lord,  
Maro Nicolaou Schuster





**Religious Education Senior Graduates↑**



**Sunday school Students chanting Christos Anesti in both Greek and English**



**Our youngest Sunday School Class singing “From my head down to my toes The Lord made me”**



## Scholarship Presentations



Philoptochos Scholarship Recipients ↑



AHEPA Scholarship Recipients ↑



Andreas & Lillian Boyadjis Scholarship Recipients ↑

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND HAVE A BLESSED SUMMER**

*Saint Andrew Family News June 2025*

# HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL GRADUATION

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ON MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 2025

Families came together to celebrate our heritage with our children as they recited poems, sang songs and performed our traditional Greek folk dances.

My Dear Sixth Graders,

Ioannis **Aspromatis**, Jeremiah **Bell**, Violetta I. **Benas**, Krystiana **Chaplauske**, Eleni **Dobias**, Emmanuela **Kostis**, Katerina **Lombardo**, Stavros **Monokandilos**, Nickolas **Peterson**, Andrew **Theodosion**.

Congratulations on your graduation! We wish you every success as you continue your journey. As a piece of parting advice, I urge you to remember that in this life you must fight to win. Your knowledge, perseverance, and your confidence are the tools you need to bring to battle.

But, it is important to fight with integrity to achieve a life that will honor you, your families, and all of us, your teachers. Have faith in God, love both of our countries-America and Greece- and be proud of your Greek heritage.

Speak Greek with pride and of course, DO NOT STOP learning our beautiful language. Greek school was just the beginning, the foundation of learning ELLINIKA. Continue to learn and you will not regret it; read a Greek book, a short story, write a message to your friends, or speak with your family.

You will not lose, believe me, but rather the opposite; you will gain self-esteem, self-respect, pride, and the admiration of those around you.

Again, I congratulate you, I thank you and your parents, your teachers, the PTA, Father John, and I wish you all an enjoyable summer!

Your teacher, Hariclea Christodoulou



Αγαπητά μου παιδιά της Στ' τάξης,

Ιωάννης Ασπρομάτης, Ιερεμίας Μπελ, Βιολέττα Ι. Μπενά, Χριστιάνα Τσαπλόσκι, Ελένη Ντομπίας, Εμμανουέλα Κωστή, Αικατερίνα Λομπάρδο, Σταύρος Μονοκάνδηλος, Νικόλας Πίτερσον, Ανδρέας Θεοδοσίου

Θερμά συγχαρητήρια για την αποφοίτηση σας από το Ελληνικό Απογευματινό Σχολείο του Αγίου Ανδρέα!

Σας εύχομαι κάθε επιτυχία στα επόμενα βήματα της ζωής σας, καλή πρόοδο, καλή συνέχεια και καλούς αγώνες. Μάθετε να αγωνίζεστε τίμια, για μια ζωή που θα τιμά πρώτα εσάς, την οικογένεια σας κι όλους εμάς τους δασκάλους σας.

Να σέβεστε τον Θεό, να αγαπάτε και τις δύο πατρίδες μας, την Αμερική αλλά και την Ελλάδα μας, και να είστε περήφανοι για την Ελληνική καταγωγή σας.

Μιλήστε με καμάρι τα όσα Ελληνικά μάθατε σ' αυτό το σχολείο και συνεχίστε να τα μαθαίνετε. Διαβάστε ένα Ελληνικό βιβλίο, μια σύντομη ιστορία, στείλτε ένα μήνυμα στους Έλληνες φίλους σας, μιλήστε με την οικογένεια σας. Έτσι θα κερδίσετε γνώση, αυτοπεποίθηση, αυτοεκτίμηση, περηφάνεια και βεβαίως τον θαυμασμό των φίλων και συγγενών σας.

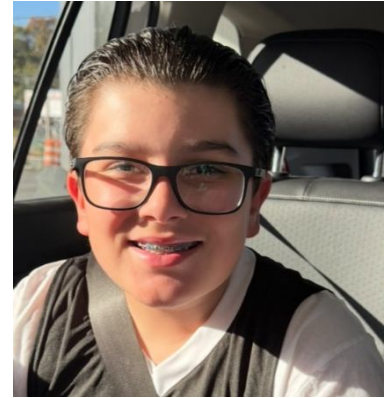
Σας συγχαίρω και πάλι και σας εύχομαι καλή σταδιοδρομία και ο Θεός να είναι πάντα μαζί σας!

Με την αγάπη μου,

Η δασκάλα σας, Χαρίκλεια Χριστοδούλου



My full name is **Ioannis Nekatrios Aspromatis**, but everyone calls me Yannis. I am 13 years old and am currently in 7<sup>th</sup> grade attending St. Therese School in Succasunna. My favorite school subject is Math. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching Olympiacos soccer games, traveling, playing video games, and my favorite sport is Baseball. Every chance I get I am outside practicing and learning all I can about the sport. I try to go to as many baseball games that I can with my dad as we are HUGE Mets fans! I have been playing since I was 7 and I currently play first base on a Roxbury Rec team. This fall I am looking forward to starting a travel/club team.



This year marks my last year in Greek School, I am thankful to all the teachers and friendships I have made throughout the years. I will take with me all I have learned and will continue to practice the Greek language as this is the way I communicate with my grandparents and family from Greece.

Congratulations to all my classmates and I wish everyone a great summer.



Hello! I am **Jeremiah William Bell**, a 13-year-old student who enjoys thinking about life's big questions (like whether we truly exist or just think we do). During my time at Greek School, I have studied the Greek alphabet, worked on verb conjugations, and learned about the connections between the Greek language and our faith traditions.

As an aspiring fantasy author, I have found that studying Greek has given me new perspectives on language and storytelling that I'll use in my future writing.

Beyond Greek School, I enjoy riding my bike through the neighborhood, getting lost in good books, playing video games, and hitting the golf course with my dad. Music is another passion

of mine, with favorites including They Might Be Giants, The Beatles, Pixies, Led Zeppelin, and The Police.

Greek School has been an important part of my journey, teaching me patience, perseverance, and the value of understanding our roots. These lessons will stay with me as I continue to grow in faith and knowledge.

Hello, My name is **Violetta Benas**. I am a 7th grader in Eisenhower Middle School. I am a member of Saint Andrew Goya and I really enjoy participating in Goya activities, such as volleyball and Greek dance.

I am honored to be able to study and learn our unique Greek language at the Hellenic Afternoon School of our church and to make strong friendships and beautiful memories. I would like to thank all my teachers, Mrs. Vasilia and Father John for their love and support.

Lastly, I thank my parents for giving me this opportunity. Best wishes to all of you for a wonderful and safe summer!





My name is **Krystiana Chaplauske**, and I am in my last year at the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School program. I am in 7th grade, live in Long Valley, NJ, am an author, and I play softball. At the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School program, I was able to learn and grow in all parts Greek. I learned the language, the heritage, and the traditions of Greece. I learned how to speak Greek and the complex grammar. I learned about the secret schools when Turkey invaded Greece and when they had to learn in secret caves. There are so many different traditions of the Greek people that I cannot even explain them all here, like making the amazing food (pasticho is my favorite). All the different teachers helped me in so many ways. They told me to call them anytime if I needed help with something, and I am very thankful for that. I met so many new people with the same traditions as me, and I had so much fun with them in class. The classes are fun and engaging. Again, the teachers would help you in class if you needed anything. I learned about Greece's geography. I learned how to Greek dance. I learned so many Greek dances (I love all of them), and still know how to do them all after I graduated! I'd like to thank everyone in the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School program for teaching me and my fellow classmates everything about Greece and preparing me to go to Greece this summer!

My name is **Eleni Dobias** and I have grown up in the Saint Andrew community. Throughout the years in Greek school, I have learned about not only the language but the culture. Greek culture is very unique and very interesting to learn about. I enjoy discovering and learning about my culture. I also enjoy learning about the past and how our ancestors fought for us to learn the language we love in peace. Every Thursday I dedicate two hours to get a better understanding of Greek culture and language. After Greek school, I spend an hour doing Greek dance. This allows me to enjoy the Greek festival that we have every year that I participate in. I work hard to excel in Greek school even though it can be a challenge some days. Looking back on the years of Greek school I am amazed that this will be the end of my Greek school education. I am grateful for the teachers that have guided along the way through this journey. Along the way, I have made friends and memories through Greek school and I will continue making more memories through GOYA. I grew up in Greek school from the age of six and now as a 13-year-old I am growing into a new chapter. I am proud to embrace the culture and share the language by using it in my daily life. Although this part of my life is coming to an end the culture, language, and the memories will forever live on.



**Emmanuela Kostis:** My journey through Greek school has been more than just learning a language – it has been a way to connect with my heritage, my family, and my faith. I have grown up close to my grandparents, who immigrated from Greece and primarily speak Greek. This deep connection to my family has made learning the language even more special, and Greek school has played a huge role in helping me communicate with them. It has also made me more comfortable communicating during our vacations to Greece.

Greek school was also a place where I learned more than just language. The teachers I have had throughout the years have been incredibly supportive, helping me grow in different ways. I will never forget how patient they were, even taking extra virtual time through COVID, to make sure I understood the material while encouraging me to push further. Their dedication has shaped who I am today, and I am so grateful for the guidance they provided. I also love how I get to still see each of them regularly on Sundays.

Aside from the language, the experiences with my classmates have been invaluable. Many of us have been together since we were four years old, and over the years, we have built on these friendships. We have learned Greek dance together and performing at the Greek festival was always a highlight, showcasing our culture with pride. This year, joining GOYA has been another wonderful experience, allowing me to meet other Greek American kids and represent our church at the Metropolis Music and Dance Festival.

Greek school and Sunday school have helped me grow in faith, connect with my heritage, and strengthen my bonds with family and friends. Though I am graduating, my love for Greek culture will continue, and I will keep participating in the GOYA activities as I move forward.

Hello, my name is **Katerina Lombardo**. I am in 7th grade, and I am proud to be a part of the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church community. I moved from Brooklyn, New York City three years ago. My family started coming to Saint Andrew's, and everyone was very welcoming and kind to us. It was a big change moving from the heart of the city to a small town, so it helped so much more that people welcomed us. I joined the Hellenic Afternoon School program when I was in 5th grade. Because of this program I've enhanced my ability to read, write, and speak Greek. I'm so thankful for my amazing teachers who've made this possible and for my classmates who I've had so much fun with at Greek school!



I am a member of St Andrew GOYA and I play volleyball for the church. GOYA has been so much fun and I've made so many great memories and friends because of it! I'm also a part of the Sunday school program. I think this the most important program at the church because it teaches about the life of Jesus Christ and how to have a relationship with God.

I attend Eisenhower Middle School in Roxbury, and I participate in volleyball, basketball, soccer, cheerleading, and I've been on the honor roll multiple times. I am so grateful to have been a part of the Hellenic Afternoon School program, but even more than that, I'm grateful for my Orthodox Christian faith and my church!



Hi, my name is **Stavros Yannis Maglis Monokandilos**. I am from the island of Kalymnos located in the Dodecanese islands in Greece. My community here at St. Andrew has been important in my growth as an orthodox Christian. I have learned about our religion as well as our wonderful traditions.

I have been an altar server since the age of six, and I am still serving. Over the past years, I have experienced the love and compassion of the church, and I try to stay close with my friends.

I recently joined the Goya group at St. Andrew. We have competed in "Sights and Sounds," Olympics, basketball and other events. I was also able to go caroling, visit our older parishioners who are no longer able to attend church, and help prepare sandwiches and serve food at the Faith soup kitchen. I attended Camp Good Shepherd last Summer for the first time and it was a great experience, as I was able to make new friends, with whom I was able to share my faith. For years, I have been attending Greek dance classes and hope to continue to dance beyond my Goya years. Although this time has gone quickly and this chapter of my life is complete, I look forward to what the future has in store for me.

I will keep the Lord by my side, tackle the challenges with faith, and continue to grow as a Greek Orthodox Christian.



My name is **Nicholas Peterson** and I am in the graduating class of the Saint Andrew Greek School Program. I am the son of Charles and Eleni Peterson and the brother of Chase and Constantine (Dean). I am in 7th grade at Pope John Middle School, where I have been on the honor roll. I have enjoyed my time learning about Greek religion, culture and language these past eight years. Before the Greek School Program, my grandmother would bring me to the church for "Mazi Me Th Mama" playgroup, where many of the kids that participated became my very good friends. Being a member of the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church means a lot to me. Because of the Saint Andrew Greek School program, I have a better understanding of Greek culture and why it is so important in my family. Saint Andrew Greek School has given me the opportunity to learn from some amazing teachers, make lifelong friendships as well as give back to the community. I am a part of an even bigger family. I love being a part of this church and community. The one event I look forward to every year is the Annual Big Greek Festival. I enjoy performing Greek folk dances, volunteering as well as being able to eat all the amazing food! Over the past several years, I have been an altar boy, which I have enjoyed. Recently, I was named a Pop Warner All-American Scholar and inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Pope John. Besides being an active member here, I have had leadership roles within my sport clubs and school community. I was the captain of the North Warren Football team and President of the Early Act Club. Currently, I am playing lacrosse and roller hockey, which I really enjoy. Giving back to the community is important too, each year I help my home community by participating in a Roadside Clean up and the Township Annual Tree Lighting. I plan to continue giving back to my community, continuing my involvement at Saint Andrew, and focusing on school and family!



Hi, I am **Andreas Theodosion**, and I have been doing Greek school since preschool. I was born in 2011. My parents are Fr. John and Presvytera Athena. We live in Randolph, and I go to Randolph Middle School. Greek School has been a roller coaster of a ride. It has been fun and frustrating. I remember when we were learning how to say plate and fork and spoon, they gave us plastic fork and spoons to remember. One of the other kids thought we were going to eat. That is how fun and crazy Greek school was. You know the Greeks. Once a week I was forced to go, but now I realize that it was worth it. I have learned a lot, and I will keep growing.

## HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>** at 4:30pm **AGIASMO** in Church  
followed by OPEN HOUSE and then first day of Class for all HAS grades

**GREEK DANCE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**Group 1 @ 6:30pm | Group 2 @ 7:15 pm | GOYA @ 8:00pm**

FILLABLE REGISTRATION FORMS PLEASE SEND TO Church office [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)



## MOTHER OF THE YEAR 2025

### Julie Ioannou – A Life of Service, Family, and Faith

Julie Ioannou was born in New York City and moved to New Jersey at the age of ten, when her father accepted a position as the state's first Forensic Toxicologist. Her family's early connection to the St. Andrew community was significant—her father served as the first Building Committee President tasked with relocating St. Andrew Church from Dover to Randolph. Years later, Julie herself would continue this legacy through her leadership and involvement in fundraising efforts for the St. Andrew Community Center.



Julie grew up attending Sunday School and Greek School regularly, where she developed a strong foundation in both faith and language. She credits her command of the Greek language to the instruction of a highly knowledgeable and disciplined teacher, Kyria Lefki, as well as to the continued influence of her husband and their koumbari: Yiota Louca, Rikka Petrou, and Maru Constantinos.

After graduating from Parsippany Hills High School, Julie was encouraged by her parents to pursue higher education locally, but after a great compromise enrolled at Cedar Crest College, an all-women's college in Pennsylvania. The friendships she formed there remain strong to this day, and she recently reunited with her college classmates in St. Augustine, Florida.

Julie earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and began her professional career in local hospitals, spending 13 years in the Emergency Department at Morristown Memorial Hospital. She later transitioned into school nursing, a role that allowed her more time with her family and the opportunity to travel to Greece during the summers. Julie continued her education by earning a Master's degree in Education and went on to support teachers in delivering health education in school settings.

In 1985, Julie met her husband, Peter Ioannou, and they were married the following year. This year, they celebrated 39 years of marriage and take the greatest pride in their three children: Dean and his wife Juliette, Kyri (aka Richard), and Niki. Together, Julie and Peter

enjoy an active lifestyle that includes biking, kayaking, sailing, and hiking.

Julie has been a dedicated and active member of St. Andrew Church for several decades. She served two terms on the church board and co-founded the Friendship Finders group alongside Mary Hadjiyerou, Lida Bard, Barbara Petrakis, Anna Kavalos, Athena Borzeka, Fotini Lopardo, and Jenice Janulis. This group would later evolve into what is now known as Hope and Joy.

While raising her children, Julie also taught 3rd grade Sunday School with

Herb Shuster and Yiota Louca. She later stepped down from this role to serve as President of the Hellenic Afternoon School, a position she held for five years. During her tenure, she co-founded an English as a Second Language program with Jenice Janulis and Helen Wiskow. One of her most meaningful contributions was co-founding the St. Andrew Dance Groups with Tina Rotsides—a program she deeply values for its role in fostering cultural pride and connection among the youth.

Julie supported GOYA during her children's participation and continues to remain actively involved in church life through her membership in the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos. She has also proudly served in nearly every capacity at the annual Festival over the past 30 years.

Following her retirement from school nursing three years ago, Julie embraced what she affectionately refers to as a “full-time, non-paying job” at St. Andrew Church. Her activities include participating in the Knitting Group, the Agape Group, and her favorite—the Baking Group, led by Maria Stamoutsos, who is her all-time favorite boss.

Most recently, Julie has taken on the herculean task of organizing the space behind the church's Altar, with the vision of transforming it into a functional and welcoming area for broader community use.

Through decades of service, leadership, and quiet dedication, Julie Ioannou's life reflects a deep and enduring commitment to her family, her faith, and her community.

## Spiritual Health

We live in perilous times but seldom connect them with spiritual reality. How do we assess our spiritual health? What does it even mean to evaluate one's spiritual health? We all know about sugar levels and blood pressure and their impact on our physical lives, but what indicators do we use to measure the health of our spirituality? As Orthodox Christians, what are we to examine in order to reveal our spiritual health?

The Fathers of our Church were extremely concerned about spiritual health and what makes us spiritually "sick". How many of us "Sunday" Orthodox even know what these Fathers gave us in order to be spiritually healthy? Let us explore what these Holy people of God have given to us for our spiritual benefit and prepare ourselves to be ready to be welcomed into God's Kingdom.

**What is making many of us "spiritually sick"?** These can be identified as **Passions** which are **uncontrolled** desires, appetites, or inclinations that lead a person away from God and towards sin. Because humanity is "fallen", these passions affect our soul's actions and this leads to an unhealthy spiritual life. The Fathers recognized that passions need to be overcome with virtues. Passions are a spiritual disease that disrupt our relationship with God. What is critical for any Orthodox Christian is to recognize that the passions are born through our choices and actions. Passions don't just happen to you; you empower them. They are within you control. Passions don't simply go away. Often painful work is required. "Ascetic theology doesn't mean you have to retreat to a monastery; instead, this theology offers disciplines and practices that will allow

God's grace into your life and cultivate virtues to replace the passions.

**So, what are these passions?** Our faith recognizes eight passions. Let us explore these because unless you recognize them, you will not be able to overcome them through virtue. Notice, you overcome passions with virtues, not simply "giving" them up. You must do some serious work. You must take your medicines!

**Gluttony** centers on an excessive desire for food and drink. This becomes **lust** when we



have uncontrolled desire for things and is often sexually driven. When this desire becomes an excessive desire for money and possessions, it is called **avarice** and is seen in greed and selfishness. This attachment to things produces **anger** which is associated with resentment and bitterness and causes conflict

and division. **Acedia** is sloth, apathy and comes with spiritual boredom, disinterest, so that spiritual actions are done as routines having no zeal. Here we encounter **despair** which is often a deep quest for genuine meaning. This leads to **despondency** in which hope fades and there is a loss of motivation. Often, rather than a complete loss of self, there is produced a desperate **pride** in which individuals seek attention and admiration in the world. Here is created a persona, but a false self. This is a fragile sense of meaning where pride lies to each one of us about who we are.

**Our Orthodox faith challenges us to fight against passions through prayer, fasting, and spiritual disciplines.** Virtues are our real way to develop positive qualities that align with God's will. These virtues are revealed to us in Christ and in Him our

spiritual health, the very life of our soul, experiences healing. To become a new creation means that the old “self” must die. No matter how long you hold onto a seed, it will never flower unless planted and this means releasing its identity as a seed. Each of us needs to seriously discover Christ in order to develop virtues. Knowledge of your faith is critical. It cannot just remain as vague information regarding some historical event.

**It is critical to recognize that God loves us** passionately and seeks our fulfillment in God. We all know John 3:16 but how real is this “word” from God to how you live your life? Fulfillment is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. However, “self-renunciation, rejection of pride, and obedience violently clash with contemporary culture, which values self-affirmation, self-realization, self-esteem, and empowerment” (**SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY**, Diogenes Allen, 1997, page 77). When we detach ourselves from Christ, we rely on worldly models by which we create ourselves. But the risk of being exposed embraces the passions. What we desire everyone else to recognize as ourselves becomes our reality. “Ironically, it is the very urge to live well, which God has given us, that drives us to seek fullness

elsewhere and resist God’s call. The need to think well of ourselves is something that both leads us to God and blocks us from God. The human condition is such that God’s call is always heard in a distorted form. Until we can hear more clearly, with some detachment, God seems the enemy of our self-realization” (Diogenes Allen, page 78). Sin is our condition of being sick, spiritually sick. It is a “sickness unto death” as Kierkegaard once proclaimed.

**Passions keep away the Holy Spirit.** Recall that the Holy Spirit is always associated with creation so that for you to be “new”, the be “born again”, you absolutely need the Holy Spirit bringing you into that new creation, a creation which has nothing to do with “self-realization” or becoming one with the universe! The time is never more urgent to get right with God. The Church is our hospital and the right place to have your spiritual health brought back into recovery. Begin with prayer, then open the Bible, and seek spiritual guidance. It is too risky to live in poor spiritual health! The Bridegroom draws near! Expect Him in readiness. This is no time for procrastination.

Herbert Schuster

## *Spring Agape Αγάπη Invitation*

**JUNE 12, 2025**

**Thursday at 12 NOON**

**Anthony & Sons Bakery**

**15 Route 10 East in Succasunna**

**BYOB / \$30.00**



**Julie Ioannou 201 602-1359 or Joanne Diamantidis 973-432-1950**

# PARENTS' CORNER

*By Alexandra Protopapas*

## IT'S JUNE AND SUMMER, 2025 ALREADY?

Is it June already? Wow, what a wonderful month of May we had with cool weather, warm weather, some early graduations, the end of Greek School and Sunday School, our wonderful Greek Festival, GOYA activities, some proms, and now it's time to plan JUNE AND SUMMER!

Congratulations to all our ministries, as there were so many activities and events during the fall, winter, spring, and now we are in the summer months and parents, keep busy with your children and remind them of all that they did, all that they accomplished, and keep it going in the summer! Parents, are you ready?

As our older adolescent students are ready to move on in their lives, we know that they will face new challenges and experiences, and sometimes, these challenges and new experiences will impact their faith. What can you do to help them stay connected to our Greek Orthodox faith when they go to higher education, decide to be employed somewhere, or go to the armed services? Even young preteens need to keep up with their spiritual practices and prayer in scripture reading. Somehow, as a parent, you could help them find role models or mentors who share their same faith values. Remind them that just because it's summer, it doesn't mean they can't get involved in activities that have to do with compassion, kindness, faith, and, of course, they can engage in fun activities. Encourage them to keep in touch with those they were in GOYA with, Hope & Joy, Greek School, Sunday School, and let them know that the church is not closed on Sundays in the summer! Vacation time? Seek Greek Orthodox churches wherever

you go. Visit and seek out Greek restaurants, and do not let them forget all that they have learned.

For the younger children, you can continue to create faith-based crafts and activities. For all adolescents and young children, think about possibly going to Camp Good Shepherd or looking for activities that focus on faith and spirituality. Keep having discussions about values and morals, and maybe read Bible stories or stories about the lives of saints. My favorite would be cooking together traditional Greek meals, and when you need to celebrate a birthday, make Greek food part of your theme!

Parents want to have fun too in the summer. Of course, you can go on vacation with your children, camping, swimming, dancing, even encourage summer school, and do not let them say, "Hurray, school is over!" Do not let them forget all that they learned in their regular schools as well, and please have them do some academic practice. Have them keep reading books, shopping with you, and ask them to keep track of money spent. Have them write a journal of what they did for the week, where they went, good times, bad times, and share their thoughts with you by reading the journals with you at the end of each month.

I will try to enjoy my summer and make the best of the good weather! I will try to travel, read my summer novels, watch television, and connect with family and friends. I hope we all have a blessed summer and hope we meet through activities sponsored by the church, whether in the summer, fall, winter, or spring!



This month's **Table Prayer Guide** is from **The Church of the Home – "Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home"** by **Rev. Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris**

*The most influential school in the world is not Oxford or Harvard or the Sorbonne or Yale or Cambridge. It is the home. The question is not, "Is there a school under your roof?" The real question is, "How good is the school under your roof?" What are you teaching? If the one hour a week spent in Church and Church School is to be effective, it must be supplemented in the greatest of all schools, the home, by dedicated Christian parents who, by family discussions, family prayer, a special family evening, family Bible reading, family devotions at the supper table, will give their children the greatest gift possible: the knowledge of the One, True God Christ Jesus Who will walk with them through life, strengthen them, heal them, guide them, and give meaning to their life, grant the peace of God and lead them ultimately to life eternal."*



I wish you all a blessed month and a healthy and joyous summer!  
Feel free to email me or call with your comments and suggestions for our "Parents' Corner"  
at: [alexandraproto@gmail.com](mailto:alexandraproto@gmail.com) (973) 214-2583

(You can also find me on FACEBOOK under my name, Alexandra Alex Protopapas)

**Alexandra Protopapas MEd** Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences –  
Retired, part-time at Educational Services Commission of Morris County (ESC).

**On Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> we recognized our very deserving honorees**



## Metropolis Northern NJ St Andrew Community Honorees

left to right: GOYA Honoree **Zoe Sifonios**; Greek Education Teacher Honoree **Hariclea Christodoulou**; Religious Education Teacher Honoree **Rachel Lopardo**; Philoptochos Honoree **Salomi Massaras**; Parish Council Honoree **Thomas J Borzeka**; Community Honoree **Despina Zapantis**; Senior Steward honoree **John Gounaris**; Pastor **Fr John Theodosion**.

## SATURDAY OF SOULS BEFORE PENTECOST SUNDAY

**Nine days after Christ's Ascension, i.e. the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday**, the Church commemorates all those who have fallen asleep from Adam to this day. This Soul Saturday, in many parts of Greece, they make the golden kolliva.

Folk tradition, but also legends, state in relation to the golden foliage that Christ on the eve of the Resurrection gives souls the freedom to "wander" the earth.

Saturday, well, before Pentecost Sunday freedom of souls ends and they must return to their places in heaven and even full!

Relatives on Saturday eve, i.e. Friday morning, make the kollivas that go to church in the afternoon for the priest to read them, so that the souls of their dead may "eat" and return to heaven full of love the village that the world will give them ("God like) in the share

At that moment, the souls have gathered and one asks the other: "Do you have a hook to eat?" Any soul that has no glue, either because the relatives have forgotten it, or because it has no one to remember it, its other souls give it to "eat" from their own so that it does not return "known" as they say in some parts of Greece, that is, hungry.

The popular tradition that one soul wants to share its kolliva with another, is based on the general importance given by the Church regarding the Pentecost kolliva where all the dead are commemorated, who for various reasons did not have the a chance to benefit of the monuments.



In every tradition kollivas are part of our tradition, our religion, but also one of the healthiest sweets.

The materials should be 9 because 9 are the things of angels, while each material has its own symbolism.

1. **SITARI**: the dead (the earthy element)
2. **Sugar**: The Sweetness of Heaven
3. Raisins: the Vine (Jesus)
4. **Parsley**: resting "in the place of chlorine"
5. **Grated toast or sesame**: the soil ("...let the soil that covers him be light...")
6. **Pomegranate**: Heaven's Mercy, Splendor
7. **Cinnamon**: the aroma, the aromas ("...perfume in a memorial of a funeral, deposited...", "...They smelled the grave and smelly myra...")
8. **Almonds**: eugenia, life perpetuated with the offspring (instead of almonds walnuts)
9. **Cups** (silver and white): bones that remain unchanged as the body is worn out.



# ΤΟ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ ΠΡΙΝ ΤΗΝ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Εννέα μέρες μετά την Ανάληψη του Χριστού, δηλαδή το **Σάββατο πριν την Κυριακή της Πεντηκοστής**, η Εκκλησία μνημονεύει όλους τούς κεκοιμημένους από τον Αδάμ μέχρι σήμερα. Το Ψυχοσάββατο αυτό, σε πολλά μέρη της Ελλάδας, φτιάχνουν τα χρυσά κόλλυβα.

Η λαϊκή παράδοση, αλλά και οι θρύλοι, αναφέρουν σε σχέση με τα χρυσά κόλλυβα ότι ο Χριστός το βράδυ της Αναστάσεως δίνει στις ψυχές την ελευθερία να «σεργιανίσουν» στη γη.

Το Σάββατο, λοιπόν, πριν την Κυριακή της Πεντηκοστής η ελευθερία των ψυχών τελειώνει και πρέπει να επιστρέψουν στις θέσεις τους στον ουρανό και μάλιστα χορτάτες!

Οι συγγενείς την παραμονή του Σαββάτου, δηλαδή το πρωί της Παρασκευής, φτιάχνουν τα κόλλυβα τα οποία πηγαίνουν στην εκκλησία το απόγευμα να τα διαβάσει ο ιερέας, ώστε οι ψυχές των νεκρών τους να «φάνε» και να επιστρέψουν στον ουρανό χορτασμένες από το συχώριο που θα τους δίνει ο κόσμος («Θεός σχωρές τον») στο μοίρασμα.

Εκείνη τη στιγμή, οι ψυχές έχουν συγκεντρωθεί και η μια ρωτάει την άλλη: «εσύ έχεις κόλλυβο να φας;». Όποια ψυχή δεν έχει κόλλυβο, είτε γιατί την ξέχασαν οι συγγενείς, είτε γιατί δεν έχει κανέναν να την θυμηθεί, οι άλλες ψυχές της δίνουν να «φάει» από το δικό τους για να μην επιστρέψει «ξερή» όπως λένε σε κάποια μέρη της Ελλάδας, δηλαδή πεινασμένη.

Η λαϊκή παράδοση που θέλει η μια ψυχή μοιράζεται το κόλλυβο της με την άλλη, έχει τη βάση της στη γενική σημασία που δίνει η Εκκλησία σχετικά με τα κόλλυβα της Πεντηκοστής όπου μνημονεύονται όλοι οι νεκροί, οι οποίοι για διάφορους λόγους δεν είχαν την ευκαιρία να τύχουν της ωφελείας των μνημοσύνων.



Σε κάθε παράδοση τα κόλλυβα είναι μέρος της παράδοσης μας, της θρησκείας μας, αλλά και ένα από τα πλέον υγιεινά γλυκά.

Τα υλικά πρέπει να είναι 9 γιατί 9 είναι τα τάγματα των αγγέλων, ενώ το κάθε υλικό έχει το δικό του συμβολισμό.

1. **Σιτάρι**: οι νεκροί (το γήινο στοιχείο) 2. **Ζάχαρη**: η γλυκύτητα του Παραδείσου 3. Σταφίδες: η Άμπελος (ο Χριστός) 4. **Μαϊντανός**: η ανάπαυση «εν τόπω χλοερών» 5. Φρυγανιά τριμμένη ή σουσάμι: το χώμα («..ας είναι ελαφρύ το χώμα που τον σκεπάζει..») 6. **Ρόδι**: τα ελέη του Παραδείσου, η λαμπρότητα 7. **Κανέλλα**: η ευωδία, τα αρώματα («..αρώμασι εν μνήματι κηδεύσας απέθετο..», «..μύραναν τον τάφο αι μυροφόροι μύρα..») 8. **Αμύγδαλα**: η ευγονία, η ζωή που διαιωνίζεται με τους απογόνους (αντί για αμύγδαλα μπορούν να χρησιμοποιηθούν καρύδια) 9. **Κουφέτα** (ασημένια και λευκά): τα οστά που μένουν αναλλοίωτα καθώς το σώμα φθείρεται.



# WILL THEY COME BACK?

## Ideas on Welcoming and Retaining the Un-churched and the De-churched

*Fr. Jim Kordaris*



A newspaper reporter was interviewing the mother of a large family of children. The reporter asked her the difficult question, "Which of your children do you love the most?"

Her reply showed what a wise and loving mother she was. She told the reporter, "I love the one who is away until he returns home; the one who is sick until he is well; the one who is hurt until the hurt disappears; and the one who is lost until he is found."

God loves us in the same way. He loves and waits for his children that have left to return to him. He also loves his children that are lost and he seeks to find them.

Much is being written and said about outreach to the "un-churched" and the "de-churched." Many positive and creative ideas, programs and resources have been developed, and more are currently being developed. These efforts at bringing people to the local church may be broadly focused or they may be efforts of a local parish in its own community. Whatever the scope of our efforts to educate, inform and bring home the un-churched and dechurched, the

critical variable in this equation will always be the local parish.

Management expert Peter Drucker was told the story of a museum that once polled its visitors to determine why they had come to the museum. The greatest number of visitors replied that they came into the museum because it was raining outside. The second-most frequent response was that they came in to use the restroom. To this story, Drucker responded with the question, "How many of these visitors came back?"

Through our outreach efforts—and sometimes despite the lack of them—God will bring people through the doors of our churches. They will come for various reasons. The question we must ask ourselves is, "How many of them will come back?" We need to realize that within five minutes of entering a church, most first-time visitors have already decided whether they are coming back.

For the un-churched seeking a spiritual home, the majority of our outreach may entail removing impediments that keep first-time visitors from entering or feeling welcome in our local church. We need to realize that the "Greek" in the name

of our Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek flag that waves outside causes many non-Greek visitors to wonder whether they would be welcome in our parishes. Potential visitors often assume that they are not.

The church website is the way that most first-time visitors will find a church. The message we send on our home page provides a first impression of the parish. This is where the visitor needs to find the first message of welcome, along with a schedule of services and descriptions of the various ministries of the parish. The home page should avoid including large amounts of administrative information, focusing instead on a message of welcome.

In the book *Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door*, authors Tom Clegg and Warren Bird write of their findings that people generally have three fundamental needs:

1. **Transcendence:** to know God and to feel His presence
2. **Significance:** to have purpose and to do something meaningful
3. **Community:** to connect with others through meaningful relationships

Visitors to our churches can feel the presence of God through participation in the Divine Liturgy and other services, and by being surrounded in worship and prayer by people living transfigured lives. We can provide opportunities to minister to others through the various community service projects in which the parish members participate, and by encouraging members to lead additional ministries of service to the community. We provide a sense of community by creating opportunities for the people to gather socially following Divine Liturgy for food and refreshments and other occasions and events.

A useful test is to approach our local parish as if for the first time. What would our first impression be? Are the doors open and easy to find? Is the physical appearance of the building welcoming? Is there a sign indicating the time of the services? Is there a sign welcoming all to the parish? Does someone greet us and help us when we enter? Can we understand the services? Is information on the faith readily available?

One Greek Orthodox woman, after visiting a church with her non-Orthodox husband and two children, wrote the following about her visit: "Lighting the candle no one greeted me; they could see I was new."

A sincere smile, a firm handshake and a word of welcome may be the most important missionary work we do. Bill Hybels, the pastor and founder of Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, has written that "friendliness can have eternal consequences." This is true for the visitor as well as the greeter.

An important step that may be taken is one advocated by Fr. Charles Joanides in his research and writing on intermarriage in the Greek Orthodox Church. Fr. Charles suggests that a parish mentoring program can be essential in integrating the non-Orthodox spouse into the community. This program could be expanded to all inquirers, catechumens and new converts to the faith.

Fr. Charles writes, "Like godparents, mentors are resource persons who assume the responsibility of providing information to the non-Orthodox regarding any number of different questions and concerns." These concerns could be religious, cultural or just practical. A parish mentoring program ensures that individuals new to the faith will have a parishioner available to them who can provide information and help them to connect with others in the community. A mentor can reduce initial culture shock, and increase feelings of welcome and belonging.

Thus far we have focused on those coming to church for the first time— the “un-churched.” There is an equally important group of people who were raised in the Church but, for one reason or another, are no longer active. When these people return, it is critical that we be sensitive to the fact that it is difficult to return. Active members often speak without thinking, making the returning Orthodox Christians feel judged for their absence, rather than encouraged for their return.

In this situation, it is important to remove “should” language, such as, “You should be here every Sunday,” with encouraging language, as in, “We missed you” or “We’re so glad you’re here.” It is also important to get returnees reintegrated into the community as quickly as possible, finding a need for their particular skill sets, or a ministry group to which they would be a welcome addition.

These de-churched individuals are seen in Church during Holy Week and Christmas, and occasionally for memorials, funerals, weddings and baptisms. These are times when we can reach them in a new way, showing them that their reasons for not attending may no longer be valid. One priest, in his opening comments to the inevitable full house on Palm Sunday, says the following: “It’s a blessing to see you all here. I know that some of the reasons people don’t attend church on a regular basis are 1) The services are too long; 2) It’s all in Greek and you don’t understand it; and 3) It’s all about the money. Well, today we started Divine Liturgy on time and finished in one hour and fifteen minutes, all of my parts were done in English or English and Greek, we passed only one tray, and the candles

when you entered were a free-will offering. So unless you have any other reasons, please come back on a regular basis. We miss you.”

Thom Rainer ([ThomRainer.com](http://ThomRainer.com)), a researcher and writer specializing in church growth and the un-churched, provides a great deal of information on ways to welcome those that come through our doors, including a list of things we should never say to first-time visitors. His work is a great resource in reaching the un-churched and de-churched.

The key to keeping existing members, bringing back the inactive Orthodox Christians and welcoming those who are searching for what our Church has to offer can be stated in two words: *education and engagement*. Our people need to know their faith, and they need to be engaged in the life of the parish. Parish leadership must take every opportunity and utilize every resource available to accomplish this.

In 1986, Archbishop Iakovos appointed a Commission for an Archdiocesan Theological Agenda. Their report, published in 1990 by Holy Cross Press, still speaks to us today:

*...[T]he faith commitment has more and more become a matter of personal choice than of social or cultural heritage. This means that Orthodox Christians must be both challenged and helped to move beyond religious nominalism to a conscious choosing of the Orthodox way of life based on personal knowledge of the Orthodox Faith and personal experience of its value amidst the problems of everyday life.*

*Fr. Jim Kordaris serves the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as Director of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism. He served the parish of St. George on West 54<sup>th</sup> Street on in New York for 14 years. He has been serving the Church of St. George in Kingston, NY since 2018.*

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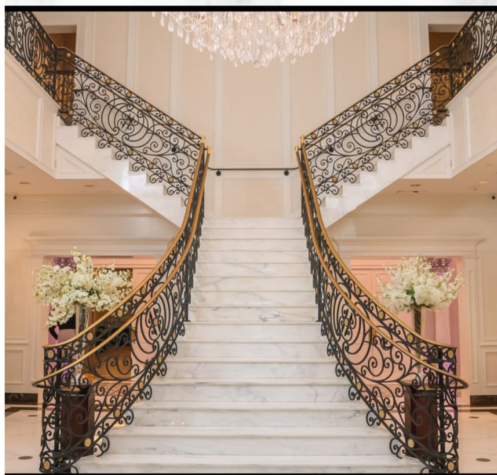
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*Contact the church office if you would  
like information on becoming a  
Community Partner.  
There are various levels and  
opportunities that you and your  
business can participate in*



## BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ



on the right: KASSANDRA EFSTRATIA CHRISTATOS, daughter of Peter Spiro Christatos and Athina Kritharis was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 am and given the name **ΚΑΣΣΑΝΔΡΑ ΕΥΣΤΡΑΤΙΑ - KASSANDRA EFSTRATIA**. Godmother was Amalia Nectaria Kritharis.

on the left: ELIANA ZOE ROSENGARTH, daughter of Derek Joseph Rosengarth and Sara Alexandra Marin was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:30 pm and given the name **ΕΛΕΑΝΑ – ELIANA**. Godmother was Alyssa Salvesen.

## OBIT & FUNERAL SERVICE – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΑ & ΚΗΔΕΙΑ

**Foteos Z. Glicos**, 91, passed away on Sunday, April 20, 2025, at St. Clare's Hospital in Dover. He was born in New York City, New York on April 29, 1933, to his parents Zeseos and Katena Glicos.

Foteos worked as a Plant Operations Technician with Equitable Insurance Company before retiring. He also proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. One of his favorite hobbies was traveling with his wife, Christine. After retirement, he worked for Ayers Chevrolet.

Foteos is survived by his beloved wife, Hrisanthe "Christine" Glicos. He is also survived by two sons: James "Jimmy" Glicos of Roxbury, and Mike Glicos and his wife Greta of Conning, New York. He leaves behind three grandchildren: Christin, Brian, and Katena Glicos.

A Visitation was held on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 9:30 am at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church with a Funeral Service for the repose of his soul was at 10:30 am. Interment followed at Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover.



# 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 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas; January 6<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany; February 2<sup>nd</sup> - the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple; August 6<sup>th</sup> - the Transfiguration of our Lord; August 15<sup>th</sup> - the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos; September 14<sup>th</sup> - 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

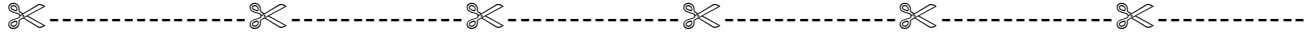
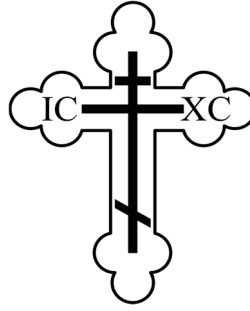


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**+Elaine Romano**  
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## HONOR GIFT

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

Please pray for the **Health** of \_\_\_\_\_ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.

Kindly accept this **HONOR GIFT** for the occasion of:

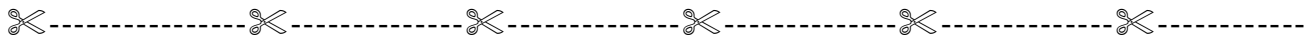
\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME DAY, BIRTHDAY, WEDDING, ANNIVERSARY, GRADUATION .. OTHER

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

**NAME & ADDRESS OF HONOREE** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & ADDRESS OF DONOR(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

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



## 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*

# SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR \*LOOK FOR UPDATES IN WEEKLY E BULLETIN OR ON WEBSITE

## Parish Calendar - St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN JUNE:** 6/1 , FESTIVAL ,  
6/8 PHILOPTOCHOS , 6/22 DOP, 6/29 SUMMER SCHEDULE

### **COFFEE HOUR HOSTS JULY & AUGUST SUMMER SCHEDULE**

**Summer Coffee Hour:** It is our summer tradition that all coffee hour trays will benefit our Ministries. We all share the responsibility of bringing food. Please bring a cake, cookies, fruit, etc. to church with you from time to time to add to our coffee hour table. Or, arrange to host a COFFEE HOUR by contacting the church **office**. Thanking-you in advance for your participation this summer.

6/4 @11:30am KNITTING GROUP *June 18; Sept 3 & 17*

6/7 SATURDAY OF SOULS

6/8 PENETECOST

6/8 DOP EOY LUNCHEON IN SA SOCIAL HALL

6/9 PHILOPTOCHOS EOY DINNER AT BRUNOS

6/12 @11:30am AGAPE Luncheon *next on 9/25*

6/15 FATHER'S DAY

6/14 @3:30PM BAPTISM

6/16 @7:30pm Parish Council Meeting **next on:**

6/20 @8AM-5PM LIFELINE

6/20 @7PM Movie Man of God in Social Hall

6/21 @11AM BAPTISM

6/22 @1PM BAPTISM

6/28 FAITH KITCHEN - PHILOPTOCHOS

6/28 @12PM BAPTISM @1:30 BAPTISM

6/29 His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of NJ will be visiting our parish to celebrate with us

7/4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

7/12-20 CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD | LINWOOD SANDYSTON NJ

7/20 Turkish invasion of Cyprus launched on 20 July 1974

7/26 FAITH KITCHEN - PARISH COUNCIL

8/15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

8/23 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP& AHEPA

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN SEPTEMBER:** 9/7 PHILOPTOCHOS,  
9/14 DOP, 9/21 PTA, 9/28 PARISH COUNCIL

9/1 ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

9/11 HAS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF CLASSES

9/14 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

DATE TBA BACKPACK BLESSING

9/18 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF GREEK DANCE

9/25 @11:30AM AGAPE LUNCHEON

9/27 FAITH KITCHEN - GOYA

9/27 @11AM-6PM **GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST**

9/28 @12:30 BAPTISM

9/28 @12:30PM **CAR RAFFLE DRAWING**

9/28 DOP TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR ELENI BOYADJIS

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN OCTOBER:** 10/5 PHILOPTOCHOS, 10/12 PTA, 10/19 DOP, 10/26 GOYA

10/4@10AM-4PM DOP DISTRICT WORKSHOP AT SA

10/5-10/10 NATIONAL CLERGY RETREAT IN NAPLES FL

10/11 DOP FASHION SHOW IN MEADOW WOOD @11AM

DATE TBA MINISTRY SUNDAY

10/18 @7PM TAVERNA NIGHT AT ST ANDREW

10/25 FAITH KITCHEN - PHILOPTOCHOS

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN NOVEMBER :** 11/2 PHILOPTOCHOS, 11/9 PTA, 11/21 DOP, 11/23 GOYA

11/2 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMORIAL SERVICE

DATE TBA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11/22 FAITH KITCHEN - GOYA

11/27 THANKSGIVING DAY

11/27 NO Hellenic Afternoon School or Dance Classes

11/29 **Great Hierarchical Vespers & Artoclasia** followed by reception in our Community Center hosted by Philoptochos

11/30 **Saint Andrew Day Celebrations** Our Patron Saint followed by Luncheon hosted by our Philoptochos

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN DECEMBER :** 12/7 PHILOPTOCHOS, 12/14 PTA, 12/21 DOP, 12/28 GOYA

12/27 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP



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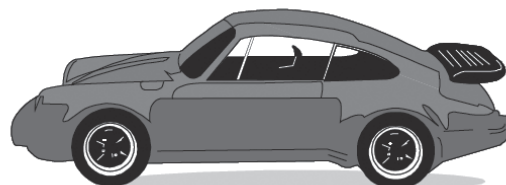
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Rev. John Theodosion [frjohn@standrewgonj.org](mailto:frjohn@standrewgonj.org)

## **OFFICE STAFF**

**Office Manager**, Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

**Financial Administrator**, Cathy Barrett [fin@standrewgonj.org](mailto:fin@standrewgonj.org)

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Georgia Haglund, *Chairperson*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*DIRECTORS*: Maro Nicolaou Schuster & Rachel Lopardo

*TEACHING STAFF*: Dr. Herbert Schuster, Faye Paskas, Kia Paskas, Maro Schuster, Marina Venizelos, Vickie Geannakakes, Maria Galvin, Presbyteria Athena Theodosion, Dina Aspromatis, Eleni Koukoularis, Photeine Lopardo, Rachel Lopardo

## **BYZANTINE CHANTERS/CHOIR**

Panagiotis Fotinis, *Chanter*

Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

## **HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Fr. John Theodosion, Athena Borzeka, Vasilgia Christodoulou, Maria Galvin

## **HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

*DIRECTOR*: Vasilgia Christodoulou

*TEACHERS*: Haroula Christodoulou, Eleni Zeris, Stacey Papanikolaw, Alexandra Kontogiannis, Effie Kritharis, Vasilgia Christodoulou, Yiota Louca, Nicole Pazvanti

## **MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS**

**Ladies Philoptochos Society**: Marina Venizelos, *President*

**Knitting, Crocheting & Pillow Ministries**: Ellen Manetas & Antonia Clapsis

**Bakaliko**: Maria Stamoutsos

**Coffee Hour**: Irene Laoudis

**Agape Group**: Betty and Jack Kelly & Julie Ioannou, Irene Laoudis

**AHEPA**: Peter Tsilios, *President*

**Daughters of Penelope**: Dimitra Pallis, *President*

**PTA**: *Parents of HAS & Religious Education*

**Little Angels Playgroup (LAP)** *need chairperson*

**HOPE** Stala Jellis & **JOY** Jenny Manis

## **GOYA**

Zoe Sifonios, *GOYA President*

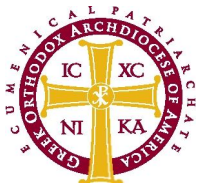
Pavlos Giannikopoulos, Christina Kalavrouziotis, Anna Sifonios,  
Cathy Mantinaos, Irene Baroulakis, *GOYA Advisors*

## **Hellenic Dance**

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

**Jr & Sr Groups** Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*





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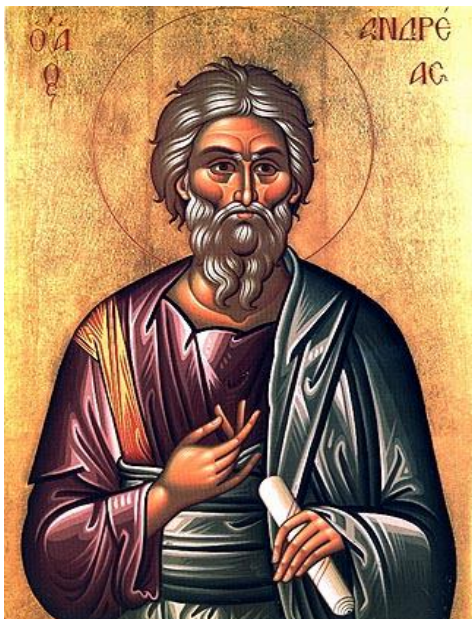
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#### HYMN OF THE APOSTLE SAINT ANDREW

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

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

#### THE SAINT ANDREW VISION STATEMENT

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