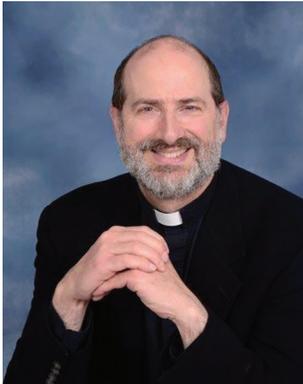




THE
MINISTRIES of
SAINT ANDREW





Welcome from Father John Theodosion

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with joy and heartfelt love in our Lord Jesus Christ that I welcome you to the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church Ministry Handbook. This resource serves as a guide to the many vibrant ministries that form the heart of our parish life.

At Saint Andrew, our ministries exist to serve the needs of our parish and to extend the love of God into our broader community. Whether through liturgical service, education, philanthropy, youth programs, outreach efforts, or fellowship gatherings, there are abundant opportunities to live out our Orthodox Faith in meaningful and transformative ways.

I encourage you to explore the ministries outlined in this handbook with an open heart. Consider how your time, talents, and spiritual gifts might contribute to the life and mission of our Church. Let this be an invitation to a deeper connection with Christ and one another through service, prayer, and community.

May this handbook be a blessing and a guide as you discover your place within the living Body of Christ here at Saint Andrew. Together, let us strive to build up His Church by sharing our faith, supporting one another, and joyfully serving all whom God places in our path.

With love in Christ,

Reverend Father John Theodosion

PARISH COUNCIL

Executive Board

Nikolas Monokandilos, *President* –
John A. Paxos, *Vice President*
Thomas (TJ) Borzeka, *Treasurer*
Steven Mitrakos, *Assistant Treasurer*
George Baroulakis, *Assistant Treasurer*
Chris Tsamutalis, *Recording Secretary*
Maro Nicolaou Schuster, *Corresponding Secretary*

Board Members

Athena Borzeka
Pavlos Giannikopoulos
Sotiria Hambos
John Jelis
Fotios Kontogiannis
Nikolaos Karkanias
George Papanikolaw
Herbert Schuster
Peter Sedereas
Mike Serghiou
Andrew Zezas

All Parish Council members must be Greek Orthodox and in good standing with Saint Andrew for one year prior to the elections in order to run for the Board or the Parish Council. Once elected they must take the following oath:

"I do solemnly affirm that I will uphold the dogma, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship, and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline, and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and that I will faithfully and sincerely uphold the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council. So help me God."

Once a month, Parish Council members meet to consider, discuss and decide on matters pertaining to our community. Regular attendance to Divine Liturgy and monthly meetings is required.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All youth ages 2.5-18 are welcome to share Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion then attend Religious Education classes until dismissal.

Religious Education email - religiouseducationstandrew.com

Directors: Rachel Lopardo – lopardor17@gmail.com | Maro Schuster – maroschuster13@gmail.com

Our Teaching Team

Faye Paskas, Dr. Herbert Schuster, Kia Paskas, Maro Schuster, Marina Venizelos, Vickie Geannakakes, Maria Galvin, Presbytera Athena Theodosion, Dina Aspromatis, Athina Vella, Eleni Koukoularis, Rachel Lopardo, Photeine Lopardo

We are always looking for volunteers at all age levels to join our teaching team!

Our Mission

As Religious Educators, our goal is to teach about our Faith, the Church, and how to lead an Orthodox Christian life. From our youngest members learning about God and Jesus to our older students studying the Saints and Christian connections to social issues, our students are encouraged to ask questions, express their feelings, and celebrate the Greek Orthodox Faith. All children are welcomed with open arms to be apart of building our spiritual, educational, and community relations.

Classrooms

After Holy Communion students should go directly to their classroom where a small snack will be offered. Parents are strongly recommended to advise us of any food allergies through the registration link. We also welcome donations of allergen-free snacks and single-serve small water.

Grades 9-12: Room 103	Grades 2-4: Room 201
Grades 7-8: Room 101	Grades K-1: Room 205
Grades 5-6: Room 102	PreK ages 3-4: Room 206

Our teaching material is guided and largely sourced from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and supplemented by various Orthodox books and websites. For more information and details about curriculum, please visit goarch.org.



PTA

Katerina Corona – ptastandrew@gmail.com

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a collaborative organization that brings together parents, HAS and religious education teachers, and school staff to support and enhance the educational experience of students. Through events, fundraising, volunteer efforts, and advocacy, the PTA strengthens the school community and helps ensure all students have the resources they need to thrive. One of our PTA's biggest events is the annual Mardi Gras celebration which brings together all PTA families, as well as the entire church community, for a night of fun and fellowship to support our mission. Joining the PTA is a great way to stay involved, make a difference, and build connections within the Greek school and faith in our church. Annual dues are \$35 per family.



SAINT ANDREW HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL (HAS)

Director of Education:

Vasilia Christodoulou: vantonchristo@standrewgonj.com

The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) emphasizes the learning of the Greek language and culture through engaging interactive activities. Students explore Greek traditions and holidays through schoolwide presentations and fun activities from ages 4 to 12 years old. The students learn the foundations of communication in the Greek language while they build lifelong friendships. The students may further their Greek education with advanced tutoring and apply independently for the Ellinomatheia (Certificate of Attainment in Greek) exams that are internationally recognized and provide official certification of Greek language skills, valuable for academic or professional pursuits.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROUP

Athina Vella – amv1823@gmail.com

Little Angels Playgroup is a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to connect with one another in a faith-centered environment of our Saint Andrew community. Rooted in the values of the Greek Orthodox faith, this playgroup offers a welcoming space for fellowship, support, and shared experiences in child-rearing.

Through songs, stories, and gentle activities, our youngest members are introduced to the beauty of our Orthodox faith and Greek culture. Whether you're a first-time parent, grandparent, or caregiver, Little Angels is a place to grow together in faith, friendship, and family.



HOPE & JOY

Jenny Manis – manisjenny@gmail.com

Stala Jellis – stalaandjohn@gmail.com

Holy Orthodox Primary Education, or HOPE, ministers to children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Junior Orthodox Youth, or JOY, ministers to children in 3rd through 6th grade. Some of our larger events are combined. We have various types of meetings including crafts during coffee hour or outings to parks, movie nights, and indoor play centers. We have also hosted parties together with the PTO like the Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat, Mardi Gras, and Sunday of Lazarus Easter Egg Hunt.

For more information, check out our website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hopejoystandrew/home> or to join, please email hopejoystandrews@gmail.com. We hope to see you soon!



GOYA

Christina Kalavrouziotis / Pavlos Giannakopoulos / Anna Sifonios / Irene Baroulakis / George Baroulakis / Sotiria Hambos
saintandrewgoya@gmail.com

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is a ministry for Orthodox Christian teenagers in middle and high school, specifically for those in grades 7 through 12 and between the ages of 12 and 18. Please note that to be eligible, a child must be both in 7th grade and at least 12 years old by October 1 of the current year. Per the Metropolis of New Jersey Youth Regulations, we are unable to accept 7th graders who are still 11 or 6th graders who are already 12.

The mission of GOYA is to help young people grow in their relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to experience the fullness of the Holy Orthodox Faith. Through active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, GOYAns are equipped with the spiritual tools necessary for their journey toward salvation.

Throughout the year, members take part in a wide range of events—social, athletic, artistic, and religious—all of which incorporate elements of our Orthodox Christian faith. GOYAns also have the opportunity to join our advanced Greek dance group, which emphasizes commitment, enthusiasm, teamwork, and peer mentorship. The group practices weekly during the school year and performs traditional dances from Greece and the Hellenic diaspora at Metropolis-wide competitions, local festivals, and our parish's Sights and Sounds event.

We encourage all eligible teens to get involved, make new friends, and build lasting connections within our Orthodox youth community. Saint Andrew currently has over 50 active GOYAns.

GOYA meetings are held monthly at the church. Each meeting is led by the Executive Board—a panel of selected GOYAns—who present the agenda, provide updates on recent and upcoming events, and share financial and membership information. All members are encouraged to participate in discussions and offer input on future activities.

The National Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries recommends that GOYA be centered around four key pillars: Worship (Liturgia), Fellowship (Koinonia), Service (Diakonia), Witness (Martyria)

If your child meets the age and grade requirements and is interested in joining GOYA, please contact us at saintandrewgoya@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming them into our vibrant youth ministry!



YOUTH MINISTRIES

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Athina Vella – amv1823@gmail.com

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a nationwide program of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Saint Andrew hosts its Parish Festival between January and March and offers an introductory elementary division for students in grades 4-6. The Parish Festival is organized by the Sunday School and is a great first step for our youth to learn how to write a speech and practice public speaking.

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival program offers youth a meaningful opportunity to reflect on and express their faith through public speaking. Participants from across the United States compete at the parish, district, and metropolis levels for the chance to represent their Metropolis at the National Oratorical Festival, typically held in early June. The Festival includes two divisions: Junior (grades 7–9) and Senior (grades 10–12). Students choose from a set of annually updated topics, written by the Department of Religious Education, and are required to prepare and deliver a speech rooted in Orthodox Christian teachings and personal reflection.



Finalists from Jr. and Sr. Divisions advance to the District Festival. Finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The first-place speaker in each metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year. The Oratorical Festival awards over \$60,000 in scholarship money funded by FAITH Endowment Fund, Philoptochos Society, and the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Award Fund. All finalists at the Archdiocese Finals participate in a weekend of activities, the highlight of which is the delivery of their speeches, essays or poems on Saturday morning.

ADULT MINISTRIES

PHILOPTOCHOS

Marina Venizelos – mjvenizelos@gmail.com

Philoptochos is a philanthropic organization rooted in the Greek Orthodox faith, dedicated to serving those in need with discretion, kindness, and compassion. Its mission includes supporting the poor, hungry, sick, elderly, unemployed, widowed, orphaned, and others facing hardship, including victims of disasters and the imprisoned. Through charitable fundraising efforts, Philoptochos provides essential assistance and also ensures the dignified burial of the impoverished. In addition to direct service, the organization promotes the values and teachings of the Greek Orthodox Church through educational programs and active participation in parish life. With the guidance of the Parish Priest and cooperation of the Parish Council, Philoptochos strives to preserve Orthodox Christian traditions while uplifting communities through faith and service.



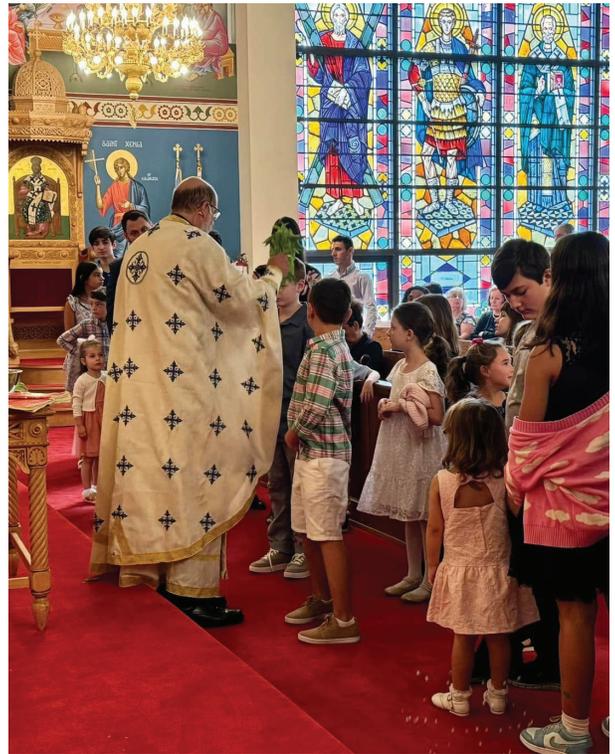
AHEPA – MORRIS COUNTY CHAPTER 300

Peter Tsilios - ptsilios@gmail.com

Thomas J Borzeka - tjb252@yahoo.com

This is the family which stands for American Hellenic Progressive Association. Both AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope strive to keep their Hellenic culture and spirit alive but at the same time they are involved and support many projects in their communities both locally and nationally. They are leaders in philanthropic, educational and cultural activities with local chapters in the United States, Canada and Greece. Their objectives are to promote the social, ethical and intellectual interests of its members and to preserve the ideals and traditions of Hellenism as a contribution to the development of America. Every year they award numerous scholarships to high school seniors going on to college or university.







ADULT MINISTRIES

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE – ALEXANDER #250

Group email – DOP.Alexander250.Randolph@gmail.com
Dimitra Pallis – DimitraP164@gmail.com

The mission of the Daughters of Penelope is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family, and Individual Excellence.

Philanthropy and Volunteerism have been pillars throughout the country for the Daughters of Penelope over its many years of existence. From natural disaster relief to raising funds to eliminate life-threatening diseases, to making significant contributions to our local municipalities, the Daughters of Penelope is at the forefront of charitable giving. Yet, this only scratches the surface of the numerous philanthropic works of the association.



AGAPE GROUP

Betty Kelly – vasilekekelly@gmail.com
Julie Ioannou – jioannou18@yahoo.com

Whether you're home during the day or enjoying the golden years of life, you'll find connection, purpose, and plenty of joy with the Agape Group.

Our activities include delicious lunches—sometimes homemade, inspiring guest speakers, fun games and classic movie days, and memorable day trips to exciting destinations including the beautiful Agia Skepi Monastery in Pennsylvania

We meet the last Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Saint Andrew Church Social Hall. There's no membership fee so come be part of something special.



FEED THE HUNGRY / FAITH KITCHEN

John A. Paxos – john.paxos@verizon.net
Georgia Haglund – georgiahaglund@gmail.com

Saint Andrew Feed the Hungry Ministry provides lunch to the homeless and underemployed through Faith Kitchen, a non-profit based at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dover, NJ. Faith Kitchen assigns lunch duties to various volunteer religious groups and serves meals daily, except Sundays.

Saint Andrew is responsible for lunch on the fourth Saturday of each month. Our ministries—Philoptochos, Daughters of Penelope, AHEPA, Parish Council, and GOYA—rotate sponsorship by providing volunteers and covering food costs. A dedicated core team also assists monthly with cooking, sandwich-making, serving, and cleanup.

Volunteers can join the core group or participate with a sponsoring ministry. We meet at 9:00 a.m. at Saint Andrew's kitchen to prepare the day's meal and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Sunday. Food is transported by 11:00 a.m., lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and we return by 1:00 p.m.



KNITTING

Antonia Clapsis – antonioclapsis@gmail.com
John and Ellen Manetas – emanetas@yahoo.com
Julie Ioannou – jioannou18@yahoo.com

About 20 years ago, a group of passionate volunteers from the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos came together with a simple mission: to spread warmth and kindness—one stitch at a time! Since then, our Knitting Group has lovingly crafted cozy blankets and cheerful pillows for those in need, including: nursing homes, veteran homes, low-income housing, the maternity unit at University Hospital, and House of the Good Shepherd. Thanks to the generous support of John and Helen Manetos, we also create beautiful baby blankets for our littlest parishioners when they receive their 40-day blessing.



Currently, the group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11 a.m. in the church social hall. We welcome everyone, regardless of your church, background, or experience level. If you love to create, chat, and make a difference, you're in the right place!

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

CHOIR

Salomi Masaras, Choir Director – sal.massaras@gmail.com

All parishioners young and old, are encouraged to participate. The choir sings during Sunday services from September to June. During Holy Week, the choir leads the congregation in the singing of hymns. It is wonderful to hear the angelic voices of our youth as well as our many talented adults. It does take a certain amount of dedication and commitment to join, but the satisfaction is enormous. Choir members praise God during our Divine Liturgy and are giving a pleasant experience to all the parishioners. If you are interested in taking part in our Saint Andrew Choir, please call the church office for rehearsal times.



CHANTERS

Panagiotis (Takis) Fotinis, Chanter – tfotinis@yahoo.com

Byzantine chants are an integral part of Greek Orthodox Services. The music of the Orthodox Church is renowned for its beauty and ability to put parishioners in a prayerful state of mind. Byzantine chants are based on ancient Greek tones and many of the chants can trace their origin to the time of the apostles. Once you step into an Orthodox Church all of your senses are engaged, the beauty of the icons, the smell of the incense, and music of the chanters raise our prayers to God's ears.

ALTAR BOYS

All boys in the parish, 3rd grade and older, may serve as an Altar Boy. Altar boys must be on time each Sunday and take part in the special services throughout the year. If your son wishes to participate in the duties and responsibilities of Alter Boy, please speak with Fr. John.

PROSPHORA BAKERS

Prospora is the Greek word for offerings and refers to the bread offered by the faithful to God to be sanctified in the Holy Eucharist. Baking prospora is a unique and tangible way for Orthodox Christians to actively participate in the Divine Liturgy. Each week several parishioners bake prospora on behalf of the entire community. For more information, please contact the church office.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

On Sunday mornings, a rotation of groups assists in greeting and seating worshipers and receiving offerings at the end of Divine Liturgy. Serving as a greeter is an important ministry to welcome parishioners and visitors, as well as creating an orderly environment for worship. For more information, please contact the church office.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

ORTHODOX LENTEN DISCUSSION AND ORTHODOXY 101

The goals of this ministry are to enrich our spiritual growth and to increase our awareness of our Orthodox Faith. Topics of discussion include aspects of the Orthodox Faith, Bible Q and A, as well as reading and understanding the Bible, and how these apply to our daily lives. For more information, please contact the church office.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible study is held in the Fall, Winter, and Spring on Thursday evenings. Past discussions have centered on the lives of important figures of the New and Old Testament, the Book of Acts, the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. Although it is not necessary, preparation for each class is highly encouraged to get the most out of each session. Please feel free to join us! For more information contact the church office.

FAITH WORKS MINISTRY

Nikolas Karkanias – nikolas.karkanias@gmail.com

The Faith Works ministry is focused on offering free services and advice in areas like mentoring, interview preparation, resume review, presentation skills and more. Our goal is to equip the community with valuable skills and strategies that can enhance careers and academic performance. These services are offered in person, virtually, or both. These services are open to everyone, regardless of whether you're a member of Saint Andrew. Adults and high school students (with a parent or guardian) are welcome to take part.

OTHER SEMINARS AND PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS

Saint Andrew engages in seminars and philanthropic efforts driven by parishioners and parishioner interest. Please reach out if you are interested in leading an initiative.

BOOKSTORE

Our Parish Bookstore carries a beautiful selection of books and icons for the edification of our parishioners and visitors. In the Bookstore you will find items useful for home worship: the Orthodox Bible, prayer books, incense burners, prayer ropes, etc., and a variety of Orthodox books for adults and children to help us grow in our faith. The Bookstore is located in the lobby outside of the Saint Andrew office. The bookstore is open during office hours, Sundays following the Divine Liturgy, and after other church services.

THE GREAT FEASTS OF THE CHURCH

FEAST	DATE
The Nativity of the Theotokos	September 8
The Elevation of the Holy Cross	September 14
The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple	November 21
The Nativity of Christ	December 25
Theophany (the Baptism of Our Lord)	January 6
The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple	February 2
The Annunciation	March 25
Palm Sunday	Sunday before Pascha
Pascha	Great and Holy Pascha
Ascension	Forty days after Pascha
Pentecost	Fifty days after Pascha
The Transfiguration	August 6
The Dormition of the Theotokos	August 15

MOVABLE ECCLESIASTICAL DATES

FEAST	2026	2027
Triodion Begins	February 1	February 21
Lent Begins	February 23	March 15
Saturday of Lazarus	April 4	April 24
Palm Sunday	April 5	April 25
Pascha	April 12	May 2
Western Easter	April 5	March 28
Ascension	May 21	June 10
Pentecost	May 31	June 20