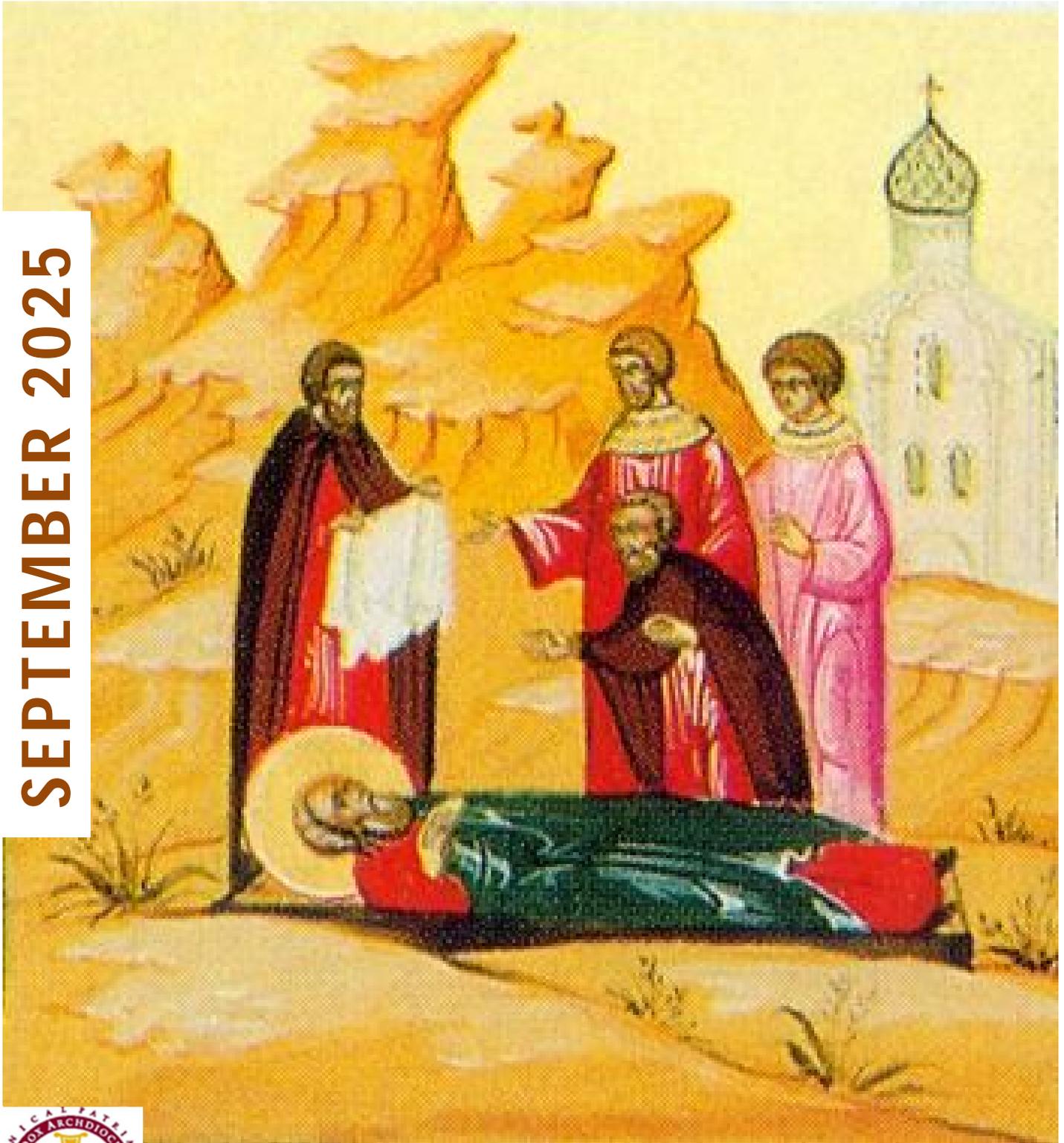


SEPTEMBER 2025



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

ICON OF THE FALLING ASLEEP OF ST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN & EVANGELIST - SEPT 26

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL - SEPT 11

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 1ST DAY OF CLASS - SEPT 14

GYRO & N SOUVLAKI FEST- SEPT 27

2025 MERCEDES-BENZ CAR RAFFLE - SEPT 28

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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

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Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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

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Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

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Please submit your articles and information on time to

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DIVINE SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Sunday 7 Sunday before the Holy Cross**
- Monday 8 THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
- Tuesday 9 HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA
- Sunday 14 +EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**
- Sunday 21 Sunday after the Holy Cross**
- Monday 22 PHOCAS THE MARTYR, BISHOP OF SINOPE *Relics
- Tuesday 23 CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
- Friday 26 FALLING ASLEEP OF JOHN, THE THEOLOGIAN AND EVANGELIST
- Sunday 28 1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE**

OCTOBER

- Sunday 5 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE**
- Sunday 12 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council**
- Saturday 18 ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
- Sunday 19 3rd Sunday of Luke**
- Thursday 23 ST. IAKOVOS THE BROTHER OF THE LORD
- Sunday 26 6th Sunday of Luke | ST DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH BEARER**
- Tuesday 28 OXI DAY" *Greek National Holiday*
+HOLY PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

Weekdays: Orthros begins @ 8AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:15AM

*October 4th we commemorate ST. HIEROTHEOS OF ATHENS *Relics
(We have this saint's Relics at our Saint Andrew Reliquary) **

SEPTEMBER 14TH IS THE 1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School students will attend the Divine Liturgy at 10am, receive Holy Communion, return to their pews for AGIASMO and then proceed to their class.

Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

Σ Ε Π Τ Ε Μ Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ 2025

Κυριακή 7 Προ της Υψώσεως

Δευτέρα 8 ΤΟ ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

Τριτη 9 ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΝ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΙΩΑΚΕΙΜ ΚΑΙ ΆΝΝΗΣ

Κυριακή 14 ΎΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Κυριακή 21 Μετά την Ύψωσιν

Δευτέρα 22 ΦΩΚᾶΣ ΊΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ *Λείψανα

Τρίτη 23 ΣΥΛΛΗΘΙΣ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ

Παρασκευή 26 ΜΕΤΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΥ

Κυριακή 28 Α΄ ΛΟΥΚΑ

Ο Κ Τ Ω Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ

Κυριακή 5 Β΄ ΛΟΥΚΑ

Κυριακή 12 Των Αγίων Πατέρων τής Ζ' Οίκ. Συνόδου

Σάββατο 18 ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗ

Κυριακή 19 Γ΄ Λουκά

Πέμπτη 23 ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΘΕΟΥ

Κυριακή 26 ΣΤ΄ Λουκά ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΑΣ

Τρίτη 28 28^Η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ» ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΚΕΠΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

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

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

*ΕΟΡΤΑΖΕΤΕ στις 4^{ης} Οκτωβρίου ΙΕΡΟΘΕΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ *Λείψανα
(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)**

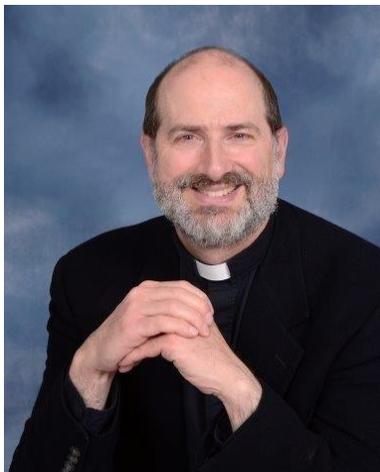
14^Η ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΖΕΙ ΤΟ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 10πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία θα κάνουμε τον **Αγιασμό** και θα συνεχίσουμε στις τάξεις τους.

THE CROSS: A WEAPON, A TROPHY, AND A DOORWAY

Fr. John Theodosion

Friends, on September 14th, the Universal Exaltation of the Cross, we stand before the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not come in sadness, as if the Cross were a sign of defeat—but in awe and joy, for the Cross is the weapon of peace, the trophy of victory, and the very doorway to eternal life.



On this great feast, the Church remembers two mighty events in history. The first happened in the fourth century, when Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine, traveled to Jerusalem and found the very Cross on which our Savior died. Hidden in the earth for centuries, it was brought forth to the faithful, and miracles confirmed its power. The second took place in the seventh century, when the Persians had stolen the Cross from Jerusalem. Years later, Emperor Heraclius recovered it, and in deep humility, carrying it on his shoulders, brought it back into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

But brothers and sisters, this feast is not merely a history lesson. It is not only about wood and nails—it is about the mystery of God’s love, displayed to the whole world. The Church calls this the Universal Exaltation because the Cross is lifted up not for one nation, not for one time, but for every person, everywhere, until the end of time.

The world sees the Cross as a symbol of pain, humiliation, and death. But for us, it is the sign of victory. Christ has taken the worst that the world could give—betrayal, mockery, suffering, and execution—and He has transformed it into life. On the Cross, death itself was put to death.

And here is the hard truth for us: the Lord who carried His Cross also says to us, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” To “take up your cross” is not simply to endure life’s hardships, but to live in the way of humility, obedience, and love that costs us something. It means forgiving when it is difficult, being generous when it feels inconvenient, and trusting God when the path ahead is unclear.

On the feast day, the Cross will be lifted high in the midst of the Church. It will be raised to the four corners of the world, as if to say: Christ reigns everywhere. His love reaches everywhere. His victory is for all. As we bow before it, we are not bowing before a mere object, but before the One who hung upon it for our salvation.

So let us not only venerate the Cross with our lips today—let us carry it in our hearts. Let us live under its sign. Let us remember that every act of patient endurance, every choice to love instead of hate, every step of obedience to God is a way of carrying the Cross and sharing in Christ’s victory.

And so as we carry our own Cross may we do so with courage, with hope, and with the blessing of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross—knowing that it has the power to guard us, to protect us, and to lead us to eternal life. May the example of the Lord on the Cross always be for us a guidepost and an example of sacrificial love.

Ο ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ: ΈΝΑ ΌΠΛΟ, ΈΝΑ ΤΡΟΠΑΙΟ ΚΑΙ ΜΙΑ ΠΥΛΗ

π. Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου

Φίλοι μου, στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, παγκόσμια ημέρα της Ύψωσης του Τιμίου Σταυρού, στεκόμαστε έμπροσθεν του Πολύτιμου και Ζωοδότη Σταυρού του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού. Δεν προσερχόμαστε με θλίψη, λες και είναι ο Σταυρός σημάδι ήττας – αλλά με δέος και χαρά, γιατί ο Σταυρός είναι όπλο ειρήνης, το τρόπαιο της νίκης, και η πύλη για την αιώνια ζωή.

Την ημέρα της σπουδαίας αυτής εορτής, η Εκκλησία μνημονεύει δύο τεράστια γεγονότα της ιστορίας. Το πρώτο συνέβη κατά τον τέταρτο αιώνα, όταν η Αγία Ελένη, μητέρα του αυτοκράτορα Κωνσταντίνου, ταξίδεψε στην Ιερουσαλήμ και βρήκε τον Τιμίο Σταυρό πάνω στον οποίο ο Σωτήρας μας πέθανε. Κρυμμένος για αιώνες στο χώμα, βρέθηκε για τους πιστούς κάνοντας θαύματα που πιστοποιούσαν τη δύναμή του. Το δεύτερο γεγονός συνέβη τον έβδομο αιώνα, όταν οι Πέρσες είχαν κλέψει τον Σταυρό από την Ιερουσαλήμ. Χρόνια αργότερα, ο Αυτοκράτωρ Ηράκλειος τον βρήκε και με βαθιά ταπείνωση τον έφερε πίσω στον Ναό του Παναγίου Τάφου κουβαλώντας τον στους ώμους του.

Αδελφοί και αδελφές μου, αυτή η εορτή δεν είναι απλά ένα μάθημα ιστορίας. Δεν έχει να κάνει μόνο με το ξύλο και τα καρφιά – είναι και το ιερό μυστήριο της αγάπης του Θεού που φανερώνεται σε όλο τον κόσμο. Η Εκκλησία την αποκαλεί Παγκόσμια Ύψωση επειδή ο Σταυρός δεν υψώθηκε μόνο για ένα έθνος, αλλά για κάθε άνθρωπο, παντού ως το τέλος του χρόνου.

Ο κόσμος βλέπει τον Σταυρό ως σύμβολο πόνου, ταπείνωσης και θανάτου. Για εμάς όμως, είναι το σύμβολο της νίκης. Ο Χριστός υπέστη τα χειρότερα από τον κόσμο – προδοσία, εμπαιγμό, πόνο και θανάτωση – ο Ιησούς όμως τα μετέτρεψε σε ζωή. Επάνω στον Σταυρό λοιπόν, ο Θάνατος εθανατώθη.

Υπάρχει όμως και η δύσκολη αλήθεια: ο Κύριος που μετέφερε τον Σταυρό Του λέει και σε εμάς, « Όστις θέλει όπισω μου έλθειν, άπαρνησάσθω έαυτόν και άράτω τόν σταυρόν αυτού και άκολουθείτω μοι." Το να πάρεις τον σταυρό σου δεν σημαίνει απλά να αντέχεις τις δυσκολίες της ζωής, αλλά και να ζεις με ταπείνωση, υπακοή και αγάπη που έχει κάποιο τίμημα. Σημαίνει να συγχωρείς όσο δύσκολο και να είναι, να είσαι γενναϊόδωρος όσο δύσκολο και να είναι, να εμπιστεύεσαι τον Θεό όταν ο δρόμος μπροστά σου δεν είναι εύκολος.

Ανήμερα της εορτής, ο Σταυρός ανυψώνεται στο μέσον της Εκκλησίας. Υψώνεται δηλαδή στα τέσσερα σημεία του ορίζοντα, εννοώντας: ο Χριστός βασιλεύει παντού. Η αγάπη Του φτάνει παντού. Η νίκη Του αφορά όλους. Όταν προσκυνούμε τον σταυρό, δεν προσκυνούμε ένα απλό αντικείμενο, αλλά τον Ιησού που κρεμάστηκε πάνω σε αυτόν για τη σωτηρία μας.

Για τον λόγο αυτό, ας μην προσκυνήσουμε τον Σταυρό μόνο με τα χείλη μας σήμερα – ας τον κρατήσουμε μέσα στις καρδιές μας. Ας ζήσουμε κάνοντας τον σταυρό μας. Να θυμόμαστε πως κάθε φορά που δείχνουμε υπομονή σε δοκιμασία, κάθε φορά που επιλέγουμε την αγάπη και όχι το μίσος, κάθε βήμα μας υπακοής στον Θεό είναι τρόποι να σηκώνουμε τον Σταυρό και να μοιραζόμαστε τη νίκη του Χριστού.

Έτσι, ας σηκώσουμε τον δικό μας Σταυρό με θάρρος, με ελπίδα, και με την ευλογία του Πολύτιμου και Ζωοδότη Σταυρού – γνωρίζοντας πως έχει τη δύναμη να μας φυλάει, να μας προστατεύει, και να μας οδηγεί στην αιώνια ζωή. Είθε το παράδειγμα του Κυρίου στον Σταυρό να είναι πάντα οδηγός μας και παράδειγμα θυσιαστικής αγάπης.

Adaptation by Maria Kiritsis, Athens, GR

“A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESS” was included in the previous Saint Andrew Family News. We are happy to offer it this time for our Greek speaking readers.

ΕΝΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΝΕΦΟΣ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩΝ

Πατρός Ιωάννη Θεοδοσίου

Φαντάσου για μια στιγμή πως βρίσκεσαι στο Met Life Stadium, αλλά αντί να είσαι ένας από τους θεατές, είσαι κάτω στον αγωνιστικό χώρο. Βρίσκεσαι εκεί για να τρέξεις σε έναν αγώνα, τον μαραθώνιο και ο μαραθώνιος είναι η ζωή σου. Καθώς προετοιμάζεσαι για τον αγώνα, κοιτάξεις γύρω και παρατηρείς πως οι κερκίδες είναι γεμάτες με θεατές που σε ζητωκραυγάζουν ελπίζοντας να κερδίσεις τον αγώνα. Καθώς όμως κοιτάξεις πιο προσεκτικά τους οπαδούς που ζητωκραυγάζουν, συνειδητοποιείς πως δεν είναι συνηθισμένοι άνθρωποι. Είναι άνθρωποι που σου φαίνονται γνωστοί. Μία πιο κοντινή ματιά αποκαλύπτει πως αυτοί οι άνθρωποι έχουν ήδη ολοκληρώσει τον αγώνα. Είναι οι προφήτες, οι άγιοι, οι μάρτυρες, οι θεραπευτές και οι μοναχοί, που έχουν ήδη πετύχει τη σωτηρία τους. Και θυμάσαι πως πάντα άκουγες πως προσεύχονται και μεσολαβούν στον Θεό για εμάς και τώρα τους βλέπεις με τα μάτια σου να πανηγυρίζουν για τον θρίαμβό σου.

Ξαφνικά ο προπονητής σου σε πλησιάζει και τον ρωτάς, «Από πού ήλθαν όλοι αυτοί οι άγιοι, για εμένα ήλθαν εδώ;» Αυτός απαντά, «βρίσκονται εδώ για όλους όσους τρέχουν». Μετά αναφέρει τα λόγια του Αποστόλου Παύλου στην Προς Εβραίους Επιστολή «Έχοντας, λοιπόν, γύρω μας μια τόσο μεγάλη νεφέλη μαρτύρων, ας τινάξουμε από πάνω μας κάθε φορτίο, και την αμαρτία που εύκολα μας εμπλέκει, κι ας τρέχουμε με υπομονή το αγώνισμα του δύσκολου δρόμου, που έχουμε μπροστά μας. Ας έχουμε τα μάτια μας προσηλωμένα στον Ιησού, που μας έδωσε την πίστη, την οποία και τελειοποιεί. Αυτός, αντί για τη χαρά που θα μπορούσε να έχει, υπέμεινε το σταυρικό θάνατο περιφρονώντας την ατίμωση, και κάθισε στα δεξιά του θρόνου του Θεού. (Προς Εβραίους 12:1-2). Τα πράγματα ξεκαθαρίζουν γιατί συνειδητοποιείτε πως είναι πολλοί που έχουν τρέξει τον αγώνα πριν

από εμάς και είναι πολλοί που τρέχουν μαζί μας και πολλοί που θα τρέξουν μετά από εμάς, όλοι όμως έχουμε για υπόδειγμα τον Κύριο Ιησού Χριστό που προετοίμασε τον δρόμο προς την ουράνια βασιλεία Του για εμάς.

Όταν αρχίσει ο αγώνας και μόλις πάρουμε την πρώτη στροφή, βλέπουμε κάποιον να σηκώνεται από τις κερκίδες να τρέξει μαζί μας. Είναι ένας άνδρας που φαίνεται περιέργως πολύ γνωστός. Συστήνεται ως ο Απόστολος Παύλος. Ο νους και η καρδιά σου γεμίζουν θαυμασμό και έκπληξη. Σκέπτεσαι πώς γίνεται ο Απόστολος Παύλος να με προσέχει και να τρέχει μαζί μου. Σου θυμίζει τις αμέτρητες επιστολές που είχε γράψει και είναι καταγεγραμμένες στην Καινή Διαθήκη. Όλοι χρειαζόμαστε ενθάρρυνση να τερματίσουμε τον αγώνα και ένα από τα καλύτερα μέρη να πας για ενθάρρυνση είναι στις επιστολές του Αποστόλου Παύλου. Πριν επιστρέψει στις κερκίδες, σου λέει κάτι τελευταίο που σε ενθαρρύνει να ακολουθήσεις το παράδειγμά του, «Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα.» Προχώρα και κάνε το ίδιο. Β' Προς Τιμόθεον 4:7

Καθώς ο Απόστολος Παύλος επιστρέφει στις κερκίδες, σκέφτεσαι πως και εγώ θέλω να αγωνιστώ σαν αυτόν, αυτός όμως ήταν ιδιαίτερος, είχε θεϊκό κάλεσμα από τον Θεό, πώς μπορώ να τερματίσω τον αγώνα όπως αυτός. Μόλις ολοκληρώνεις αυτή τη σκέψη μία μικρόσωμη ηλικιωμένη κυρία βγαίνει από το πλήθος. Όσο σε πλησιάζει επιβραδύνεις τα βήματά σου για να μπορέσει να σε φτάσει, όμως σύντομα καταλαβαίνεις πως εσύ δυσκολεύεσαι να συμβαδίζεις μαζί της!

Σου συστήνεται ως Αγία Θέκλα και εσύ τη ρωτάς «Πώς μπορείς και τρέχεις τόσο γρήγορα αφού έχεις μεγάλη ηλικία;» Σου εξηγεί τότε ότι ο Θεός μας δίνει δυνάμεις που

δεν είναι εύκολα κατανοητές από το ανθρώπινο μυαλό αλλά τις κατανοεί μία Χριστιανική καρδιά. Έπειτα στη συνέχεια σου μιλά λίγο για τη ζωή της.

Η εορτή της Αγίας Θέκλας εορτάζεται στις 26 Σεπτεμβρίου και έχει τον τίτλο της σπουδαίας μάρτυρος και της ισαποστόλου. Γεννήθηκε περίπου 25 χρόνια μετά τη γέννηση του Χριστού σε μία οικογένεια αγροτών, και η μητέρα της ήταν ευσεβής Χριστιανή. Διδάχτηκε την πίστη μας και αποφάσισε να γίνει ιεραπόστολος. Αφού άκουσε τα κηρύγματα του Αποστόλου Παύλου, έγινε μαθήτριά του και ταξίδεψε μαζί του για να διαδώσουν το ευαγγέλιο. Αργότερα συνέχισε μόνη της ως ιεραπόστολος και ταξίδεψε σε χώρες που ποτέ πριν δεν είχαν ακούσει για τον Χριστό.

Σε μία τέτοια χώρα υπήρχε ένας ειδωολάτρης κυβερνήτης ο οποίος δεν καλοδέχτηκε ούτε την ίδια ούτε τις διδασκαλίες της. Την έπιασε αιχμάλωτη και επρόκειτο να τη θανατώσει, αλλά δεν μπόρεσε. Την έριξαν στη φωτιά, όμως βγήκε από αυτή χωρίς να έχει καεί. Προσπάθησαν να την κόψουν με σπαθιά και αυτά εκτοξεύθηκαν μακριά της, τα καρφιά επίσης δεν μπορούσαν να τρυπήσουν το δέρμα της. Βλέποντας όλα αυτά ο ειδωολάτρης άρχοντας φοβήθηκε και την άφησε ελεύθερη. Η Αγία Θέκλα έζησε μέχρι την ηλικία των ενενήντα ετών και πέθανε από φυσικά αίτια.

Προτού επιστρέψει στις κερκίδες, η Αγία Θέκλα σου δίνει απλές συμβουλές. «Μην φοβάσαι, ο Κύριος θα προνοήσει για κάθε σου ανάγκη και θα σε προστατέψει όπως έκανε και για εμένα.»

Στο τέλος, βλέπεις ένα στρατιώτη με την πανοπλία του να κρατά και ένα ξίφος και μπαίνει μαζί σου στον αγώνα. Τον αναγνωρίζεις από την εικόνα του στην εκκλησία. Είναι ο Άγιος Γεώργιος! Θυμάσαι ότι ο Άγιος Γεώργιος ήταν Ρωμαίος στρατιώτης και Χριστιανός τον οποίο ο Διοκλητιανός διέταξε να μαζέψει τους Χριστιανούς και να τους εκτελέσει. Ο Άγιος Γεώργιος φυσικά αρνήθηκε και έτσι

πιάστηκε αιχμάλωτος. Όταν τον έφεραν μπροστά στον αυτοκράτορα για να λογοδοτήσει για την ανυπακοή του, βρήκε την ευκαιρία να διακηρύξει την πίστη του στον Χριστό και να φανερώσει τις κακές πράξεις του Διοκλητιανού. Έγινε μάρτυρας για την πίστη του Χριστού και θανατώθηκε στις αρχές του 4^{ου} αιώνα. Η συμβουλή του είναι η ακόλουθη. «Πάρε κουράγιο και έχε πίστη στον Θεό και άσε αυτή την πίστη να να σε εμπυκώσει. Μην φοβάσαι να υποστηρίξεις αυτό που πιστεύεις σωστό ακόμη και αν δεν είναι δημοφιλές». Έπειτα επιστρέφει στις κερκίδες.

Συνεχίζουμε να τρέχουμε στον αγώνα· σε αυτόν τον μαραθώνιο της ζωής και δεν τερματίζουμε μέχρι να φύγουμε από αυτόν τον κόσμο. Αυτή την ημέρα που αποκαλούμε Κυριακή των Αγίων Πάντων σας ενθαρρύνω και σας υπενθυμίζω πως δεν τρέχουμε μόνοι σε αυτόν τον αγώνα. Πρέπει να ακολουθήσουμε τις συμβουλές του Αποστόλου Παύλου που είπε στην Προς Κορινθίους Α' -9 «24 Δεν ξέρετε ότι οι δρομείς στο στάδιο τρέχουν όλοι, ένας όμως παίρνει το βραβείο; Τρέχετε, λοιπόν, κι εσείς έτσι ώστε να κατακτήσετε το βραβείο». Όλοι πρέπει να τρέξουμε αυτόν τον αγώνα της πίστης με τέτοιο τρόπο που θα μας οδηγήσει στην σωτηρία ακολουθώντας το παράδειγμα του Χριστού και των αγίων. Ο μόνος τρόπος να μάθεις για αυτούς και το παράδειγμά τους είναι να διαβάσεις για αυτούς στην Βίβλο και να αναζητήσεις τις βιογραφίες τους σε βιβλία και στο διαδίκτυο. Έχουμε μια σπουδαία κληρονομιά και μία θαυμάσια λεγεώνα παραδειγμάτων που έχουν τρέξει τον αγώνα πριν από εμάς. Τώρα είναι η σειρά μας να τρέξουμε τον αγώνα, μοιραζόμενοι την πίστη μας με τους αγαπημένους μας και με αυτούς που ούτε καν γνωρίζουμε ώστε να μπορέσουμε μία μέρα να βρεθούμε και εμείς σε εκείνο το μεγάλο νέφος των μαρτύρων στις κερκίδες. Τότε θα πούμε μαζί με τον Απόστολο Παύλο, «Αγωνίστηκα στον καλό αγώνα, τερμάτισα τον **αγώνα**, κράτησα την πίστη».

Adaptation by: Maria Kiritis, Athens GR

Dear Saint Andrew Family,

Welcome back to another year of Religious Education! The Religious Education Ministry is anxiously awaiting the first day of Sunday School to meet the students, welcome the families, and continue focusing on our community's spiritual health. This year, we are excited to put into place a theme to help guide our journey of spiritual growth. Our theme this year is **Bringing the Church to our Home**.

Our goal this school year is to help bridge the gap between what we learn at Church and what we face at home. Not only will your children engage in dynamic lessons each week to learn about the Orthodox Faith, but our teachers will be giving you, the families, tools to support these teachings in your day-to-day life. We will travel together to expand, understand, and relate to the Orthodox Tradition, even after you leave St. Andrew each week. Becoming an active participant in your child's learning will help solidify the bonds between your family and our Faith. You may even learn something new that you didn't know before!

We also will be celebrating milestones that each child reaches throughout the school year, like reciting the Lord's Prayer, talking about their patron Saint, and singing the hymns we hear during Divine Liturgy. Keep an eye on our monthly magazine to see what our students are achieving!

Have a child that is ready to be a part of Religious Education each week? Scan the QR code to register!

The Religious Education team is always looking to grow!

If you are interested in learning more about our theme, donating your time in our classrooms, or bringing the Church into your home, reach out to us!

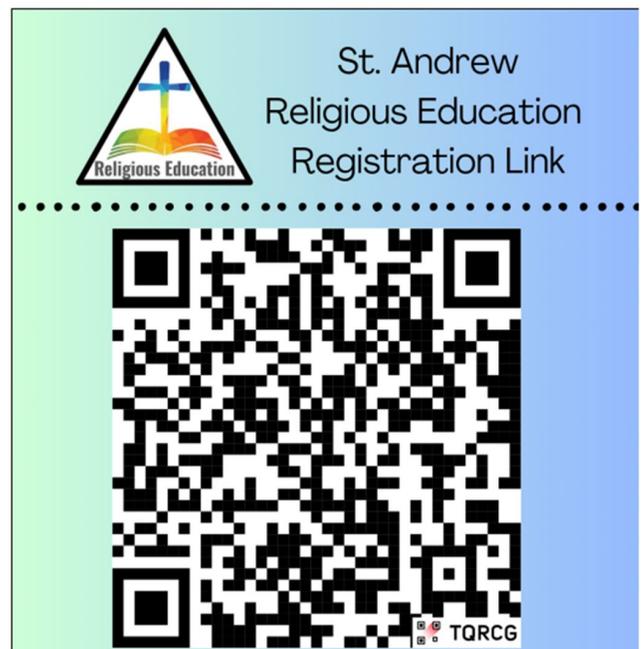
We can always be reached at

religiouseducationstandrews@gmail.com

or at our table on October 12th for Ministry Sunday!

Yours in Christ,

The Religious Education Ministry





Geek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS



Dear Saint Andrew Parishioners,

Welcome to the new ecclesiastical year! We thank you for being part of our mission through your presence and support of the Saint Andrew Philoptochos Society.

We are thrilled to share that thanks to your generous contributions, the proceeds from our recent Tricky Tray event have made a meaningful impact across several worthy causes. Together, we've extended our reach and provided support to the following organizations and efforts:

- **ECLC of New Jersey** – It is a family of non-profit agencies providing lifelong services to persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. The organization has continued to grow and evolve along with the growing needs of its students and adult clients to ensure they can enjoy as fulfilling a life as possible. It currently serves 900 persons and their families. As ECLC began to receive students with greater intellectual challenges, it recognized the lack of meaningful opportunities for graduates who were not able to enter the workforce. It formed its Pride Day Habilitation Programs fifteen years ago, providing socialization, recreation, community involvement and living skills instruction. ECLC recently acquired a new facility in Parsippany to expand its Pride program serving Morris County. Donations from the Philoptochos Society will be used to purchase furnishings and appliances for its model apartment, and equipment for its exercise room.
- **I Am Hope NJ** – This organization is located in Denville, NJ. Their aim is to help families and children in need through various initiatives such as Back to School, Easter Basket Drive, Feed the Homeless, Gift of Christmas, and Warm those in Need. They also offer scholarships and educational programs. The donation from Saint Andrew Philoptochos will help with the purchase of 3,000 backpacks filled with supplies for the new school year.
- **Benny's Bodega** – Benny's Bodega, located in Newton, NJ is a nonprofit organization that provides essential items to people in need. Benny's relies solely on donations and community support in order to operate and provide its services. The organization plans to use the funds donated by the St. Andrew Philoptochos to continue to offer free clothing, food, and basic necessities to those in need.
- **Saint Andrew Social Hall Improvements** – A portion of the proceeds from the Tricky Tray has funded a much-needed new floor and fresh paint in our church's social hall, enhancing the space where we gather in fellowship, celebration, and service. Additional improvements are planned for the serving area too!

It is through events like the Tricky Tray—and through your continued generosity—that we are able to fulfill our mission of *faith in action*, bringing light, love, and practical help to those in need.

We invite you to become a member of Philoptochos and join our Army of Agape! Our meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month! Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm.

In Faith and Fellowship,

Marina Venizelos, *President, Saint Andrew Philoptochos*

Executive Board: *President, Marina Venizelos; 1st Vice President, Maro Schuster; 2nd Vice President, Panayiota Louca ;*

Treasurer, Irene Laoudis; Assistant Treasurer, Athena Theodosion; Recording Secretary, Maria Galvin; Corresponding Secretary, Melissa Dobias

Board Members: *Maria Baker, Antonia Clapsis, Joanna Haritos, Rachel Lopardo, Salomi Massaras, Faye Paskas, Kia Paskas, Irene Petrou, Alexandra Protopapas. | Advisor to Board: Mary Michailidis | Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Theodosion*



ECLC OF NEW JERSEY
 an accredited, nonprofit agency educating
 and providing lifelong services to people
 with intellectual disabilities and their
 families.

The new facility is in Parsippany

Benny's Bodega, located in Newton, NJ- offers
 hardworking people who are struggling a place
 to "shop" for basic needs items free of charge.

I Am Hope NJ
 is a beacon of change, bringing
 hope, warmth, and
 opportunities to
 underprivileged women and
 children

This organization is located in
 Denville, NJ.



SAINT ANDREW HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) offers a unique educational program that emphasizes not only the Greek language, but also our Greek history, culture, and the Greek Orthodox religion. In expanding and experiencing these concepts and ideas, the students participate in various schoolwide cultural and religious day presentations and events during the school year, which showcases students' language skills and the ability to engage with the Hellenic culture historical days. The OXI Day, the Three Hierarchs, the Christmas pageant, and the 25th of March commemoration are such events the students work hard and proudly perform. Our professional, qualified, and dedicated teachers have many years of experience, and look forward to engaging and teaching your children.

The Greek school seeks to instill in our students an understanding of the important contribution Greece has made to our western civilization, to our democratic principles, and to the English language. With this understanding of their ethnic background, the Greek School program leads our children to one of the greatest pieces of knowledge, to "Know Thyself". It is our goal that our children appreciate and understand their Greek language and heritage.

We look forward to providing your child with an effective and rigorous Greek School education and Greek Dance program.

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

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

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN.

Join Our
Community and
Enrich Your Child's
Greek Education.
To Enroll, Contact
the Saint Andrew
Office.



GREEK LANGUAGE CLASSES

Learn Greek
through
engaging and
interactive
activities.



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Explore Greek traditions
and holidays with fun
experiences.



GREEK DANCE 1ST SESSION ON **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH**

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

FILLABLE REGISTRATION FORMS PLEASE SEND TO Church office info@standrewgonj.org



RAFFLE!

2025 MERCEDES-BENZ GLC 300 W4 SUV MSRP \$56,335



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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

To benefit Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869 973.584.0388
Winner need not be present at drawing. IMAGE FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES ONLY, ACTUAL CAR MAY VARY

Please sell your raffle tickets, mail, or bring in our 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*).

To schedule times email info@standrewgoj.org or call 973-584-0388. It is an easy way to help our church meet our annual budget and unforeseen expenses.

We have made over \$1,000 in just one day by manning the curbside raffle ticket sales. Please consider helping out in this easy way. Your church needs your support.



BIG GREEK GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 · 11AM – 6PM

GYRO · SOUVLAKI · GREEK DESSERTS & MORE

ORDER IN ADVANCE · CALL FOR INFO · 973.584.0388

BigGreekFestival.com

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



Daughters of Penelope

Alexander # 250 Chapter News



The DOP has a busy start to our 2025-26 year and we are looking forward to reuniting with everyone.

Come join us to attend our charitable fundraisers! See below for more details.



Eleni Boyadjis is a member of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, N.J., the parish where she was born and raised. Previously, as a member of St. Thomas in Cherry Hill she served on the Parish Council, having held the positions of Vice President and Secretary. Her previous volunteer roles at St. Thomas included St. Thomas Adult Fellowship, Agora Festival Committee, Sunday School teacher, and spent more than a decade as Lead Advisor for GOYA. As the representative to the Delaware Valley Youth Commission, Eleni was selected to serve as the chair of the Metropolis of New Jersey St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. She also served as chair of the Elementary Division at the parish level for numerous years.

Following the example of her parents, she became very active in parish life from an early age. Eleni's early years at St. Andrew (Randolph) included Sunday School, Greek School, Choir, GOYA, and Maids of Athena, where she served as Chapter President and District Governor 5 before serving at a national level as Grand Governor and Grand Secretary. Eleni served as President of her Daughters of Penelope chapter, Alexander #250 for 5 years. She served on the District Lodge of the Daughters of Penelope as District Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor before being elected as District Governor for New Jersey and Delaware. She is a 43-year member of this Sisterhood and cherishes all of the friendships and memories made.



Eleni earned her Juris Doctor degree from Temple University and her Bachelor degree in Political Science and French from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She has been an attorney for over 40 years specializing in Immigration and Naturalization matters. She lives in Mt. Laurel with her husband John and has three adult children and one grandson.

RSVP by September 9th - <https://TestimonialLuncheonEleniB.rsvpify.com>



October 11th - Fashion Show Luncheon featuring Fashion from Beciga, Sparta NJ. We will have a Reverse Raffle and Tricky Tray prizes. Please use QR code or Link for more information or to reserve a ticket.

RSVP by October 1st - <https://alexanderfashionshow2025.rsvpify.com>



Greek Items Basket – Please see any DOP member during coffee hour or contact Dimitra for more information to buy tickets. Drawing is on October 5th.

Ikaria Cookbook, Red Wine, White Wine, Ouzo, Creten Honey, Olives, Loukoumia, Olive Oil, Grape Leaves, Halva, Chocolate, Coffee, Paximadia, Peanuts, Wafers, and Glass Charms

Consider joining the Daughters of Penelope. Our first meeting is on Sunday September 7th after church services. For more information, please contact Dimitra Pallis – 201-874-9084 or DOP.Alexander250.Randolph@gmail.com

Congratulations to all our graduates!

Today, we celebrate not only your hard work and dedication but also the unique journey that has brought you to this pivotal moment in your lives. As you step forward towards your dreams, may God's grace illuminate your path, guiding you with wisdom and strength. The future is indeed bright and brimming with possibilities, and we encourage you to embrace it with confidence and courage. Remember, the Lord has a special plan for each one of you, and as you embark on this new chapter, know that His blessings will accompany you every step of the way. Go forth, with the assurance that you are supported by the love of the St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church community, which stands ready to nurture your spiritual journey and celebrate your achievements with you.

Marios Christodoulou early years in the Saint Andrew community participated in the HOPE and JOY programs, Hellenic Afternoon School, Religious Education, Greek Dance program, and GOYA. As a young boy, Marios enjoyed religious education classes as it engaged his interest to learn more about the Orthodox faith. On Sunday's during Coffee hour, Marios would have discussions with his teachers on various religious topics. He made many friendships in the Saint Andrew community, when he joined the altar boys on Sunday mornings, volunteered in the Big Greek Festival, Gyro Sales, and other fundraisers over the years.

Marios will be graduating Randolph High School in June and is excited to further his education by attending the University of Tampa, in Tampa, Florida. He will pursue a degree in Finance and Entrepreneurship, where he will learn life skills to support his purpose in helping others. His motivation, grit and kindness will positively impact the world for a better environment.



Peter Haritos was a twin born in Trenton in 2007. He lived in Bushkill until the second grade when he was enrolled in the Denville school system. At an early age he showed an interest in cooking which was reinforced when he elected to take a culinary class in middle school. To further this interest he applied, and was accepted, into the culinary program at the Morris County School of Technology in Denville. He has thrived there and was named Student of the month in February 2022. He graduates this year. He has been accepted under the early enrollment plan at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Pk.



He played Little League in Denville for 3 years. At the same time he was a cub scout in Denville.

He started serving in the altar since he was five at Holy Trinity in Stroud Twp., Penn. and soon started serving at St. Andrew where he serves at both churches to this day. On Nov. 29, Metropolitan Apostolos tonsured him as an acolyte. He attended Greek school, graduating in

'20. He has attended Sunday School at both churches. He became a member of G.O.Y.A., participating in Sights & Sounds, the Olympics, and the Soccer Tournament.

He has used his cooking skills by helping with the Faith Kitchen on Saturdays. Recently he has been sought to work in the kitchen at some of St. Andrew's events, especially for the Festival.

Helen Haritos was a twin born in Trenton in 2007. She lived in Bushkill until the second grade when she was enrolled in the Denville school system. At an early age she showed an interest in art and was constantly sketching. She was a Brownie and Girl Scout. She played for one year on Denville soccer and softball teams.

She attended Greek school, graduating in '21. She has attended Sunday School at both St. Andrew and Holy Trinity. She is a member of G.O.Y.A., participating in Sights & Sounds, the Olympics and the Soccer Tournament. At Sights & Sounds she came in first in digital photography bringing recognition to her artwork. She has helped with the Faith Kitchen on Saturdays.

Helen has a strong interest in motorcycles and fast cars. She thought that she would like to be an auto mechanic and enrolled in an auto class at Morris Hills. This year she graduates from Morris Knolls. In 2024, while on a family trip to Rhode Island, she toured The Breakers, one of the Newport Mansions. She was impressed with how the rooms were decorated. In that moment she seemed to find her calling and announced that she wanted to become an interior decorator. She was accepted to the County College of Morris and will be taking courses related to this field. Her long-time interest in art has become a career goal. Recently she was the recipient of the College Club of Dover.



Christos Kalavrouziotis recently graduated from the Morris County Vocational School of Technology in Denville and will be attending Virginia Tech this fall. He will enter the Pamplin School of Business, where he looks forward to exploring his future business career path.

Christos has been a devoted and active member of our St. Andrew's community. He served faithfully as an altar boy, generously volunteered at the annual Greek Festival, and led his peers as President of the 2024 GOYA class. As part of his leadership, he helped plan the 2024 Harvest Dance—an event joyfully hosted by St. Andrew's for the first time in seven years.

In addition to his church involvement, Christos participated in several charitable efforts, including serving meals at Faith Kitchen and collecting gifts for the annual Toys for Tots run. Furthermore, he took his enjoyment for music and DJ-ed at the local assisted living home- The Country Home. His time at St. Andrew's has blessed him with lifelong friendships, grounded in a shared faith and love for the Orthodox Church.

Outside of church, Christos enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing soccer, and DJing. We pray for God's continued guidance and blessings as he embarks on this exciting next chapter at Virginia Tech.



Elisabeth "Liz" Karkanias is graduating from Parsippany High School. She has been a member of the St. Andrew Community since birth. She attended Sunday School, Greek School, participated in GOYA and has helped at the festival. She has been a part of the GOYA volleyball team since 7th grade. She was the captain of the PHS Varsity Volleyball team as well as played club volleyball. Liz has been a member of the Foreign Language Honors Society, National Honors Society, Treasurer of Key Club, a Bi-Literacy recipient for Spanish, Spanish Club, Environmental Club, Peer Buddies and a STEM diploma recipient.

Liz was selected to attend both the Women's Leadership Academy Conference and the District Education Conference where she furthered her networking and communication skills in workshops and team building. Liz spent her junior year working as a cashier at Wegmans and for her Senior Year Internship working on a farm where she will continue through

the summer before college. In her spare time you can find Liz catching some rays, traveling, gardening, and spending time with friends and family.

Liz would like to thank the entire St. Andrew Community, especially Father John, her Sunday School and Greek School teachers and her GOYA Advisors for helping her learn, love and live her faith. Liz will be attending University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) in the fall to major in Environmental Engineering.

Anora Mainkar is graduating from Morris Knolls High School and will be attending County College of Morris to pursue her future career in Early Childhood Education. She has been a member of the St. Andrew community since her move to Denville in 2013.

Always passionate about her faith, Anora has participated in every oratorical festival when she was old enough to partake in the event to share her love of her Christian faith with others. Her experiences in Sunday school helped cultivate her passion for teaching through the support and guidance of her Sunday school teachers. This led to her opportunity to volunteer as a Sunday School Teacher's Assistant for pre-k which blossomed her love into Early Childhood Education.

She is grateful for St. Andrew, her religious teachers, and Father John for helping her understand herself as an individual through shaping her faith, giving her opportunities and the strengths to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.



Chase Peterson is currently a student at Pope John XXIII Regional High School where he will graduate in June 2025. He has always been driven by a love for learning, a strong work ethic, and a desire to lead by example—both inside and outside the classroom. Chase takes pride in his academic success and involvement in the National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, and the Science National Honor Society, where he supports tutoring and community events. This fall, he will be attending Florida Institute of Technology to study aeronautical science.

Athletics played a big role in his life. As a mid-distance runner on his track team, he earned four varsity letters and was honored with the Most

Improved Award. In addition, he was one of the top runners on the team and work hard to motivate younger teammates. Chase values leadership through action and commitment, which he brings to other roles too—from organizing faith-based service projects to helping plan student retreats.

In the summer of 2024, he shadowed engineers at the Picatinny Arsenal Military Base. That experience deepened his interest in aerospace and engineering, combining a passion for aviation and technical design.

Church has always been a central part of his life and personal development. Attending Sunday School as well as being an active member of the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA), participated in numerous service projects, church events, and retreats. From preparing food and assisting with festivals to engaging in outreach and charity efforts, found a strong sense of purpose and connection within his faith community. Chase served as an altar boy, which has strengthened his appreciation for tradition, discipline, and service to others. These experiences have taught him the value of humility, teamwork, and giving back to those in need.

We are thrilled to announce the remarkable achievement of our scholarship recipients from the SAINT ANDREW PHILOPTOCHOS, AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, and the esteemed ANDREAS & LILLIAN BOYADJIS SCHOLARSHIPS program. These scholarships not only serve as a testament to academic excellence but also embodies the spirit of growth and development within our St. Andrew community. As proud recipients, they stand as inspiring examples of how educational opportunities can flourish in a nurturing environment, motivating others to pursue their own aspirations. We invite you to join us in celebrating this achievement and encourage the recipients to share their unique journey, illustrating how this scholarship has enriched their faith and deepened their engagement with our beloved community. Together, let us continue to foster inclusivity and support within our St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church family by considering contributions towards future scholarships, ensuring that many more can experience the transformative power of education and spirituality.

Maria Brouard is a 6th year MD/PhD Candidate at Tufts University. She has a joint bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering from Harvard University. Maria finished her PhD in Cellular, Molecular, Developmental Biology, and her project focused on small molecule discovery for autophagy modulation. Currently, she is looking forward to finishing her program and is still deciding what she would like to specialize in clinically. Maria is a proud graduate of Dover High School and a proud St. Andrew's Church member! Whenever she is home in NJ, she loves to come to service at church and sing in the choir. During her time at St. Andrew's, Maria was a participant in GOYA, Greek School, and Sunday School. She also taught Sunday School and sang in the church choir.

Maria currently attends St. John the Baptist Church in Boston and teaches Sunday School there. She also chants and reads whenever she is able to make it on time (Greek time is still a thing...). When she is not in clinic or in the lab, Maria loves to bake, exercise, and referee soccer. Her studies are inspired by

her Pappou who is in Thessaloniki and her mother Angeliki. They are her role models, and she is supported by the love of her brother Dimitri, and her Giagia and Nona in Thessaloniki! She is extremely thankful and honored to get the ANDREAS & LILLIAN BOYADJIS SCHOLARSHIP to help her finish her program and for the support of Father John and of the St. Andrew community that she has received throughout the years.





ST. ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

GREEK TAVERNA NIGHT



OCTOBER 18, 2025

MEZZE | BUFFET DINNER | SWEETS | BOUZOUKI | DANCING

MUSIC BY



DJ TOMMY



DOORS OPEN 7PM

— BYOB —

ADULTS \$55

CHILD 5-15 \$35

UNDER 5 FREE

HOSTED BY
ST. ANDREW GOYA

1447 SUSSEX TPKE.
RANDOLPH, NJ 07869

The Falling Asleep of St John the Theologian

commemorated 26th September



The icon of the Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian depicts the beloved Apostle's peaceful repose, symbolizing his close relationship with Christ and his spiritual legacy as the Evangelist and Theologian, marked by the eagle symbol of divine theological insight.

The Holy and Divine Theologian, John the Evangelist was the son of Zebedee and Salome (one of the daughters of Saint Joseph the Betrothed), and the brother of James the Great. John and his brother were called at the same time to be followers of Christ and became two of the three (the other, Apostle Peter) closest disciples of Christ. They witnessed the healing of many people, the Light of the Transfiguration at Tabor, as well as many other miracles. Saint John, being the youngest of all the disciples, was also the most beloved disciple of Christ, following Him from the beginning of his ministry all the way to his Crucifixion and Burial. In the icon depicted, the Evangelist is shown leaning on the Lord's chest at the Last Supper, a sign of love between the two.

After the Resurrection of the Lord, the Evangelist took the Theotokos to his home as his own mother. After her Dormition, he went to Ephesus to preach the Word of God. Having been denounced by pagans, he was given a poisoned drink, which failed to kill him. He was then exiled to the island of Patmos where he converted many to Christ, but most famously, where he wrote the Book of Revelations, the last book of the Holy Bible. Having returned to Ephesus, he wrote the gospel under his name and also another 3 letters, all a part of the New Testament. Saint John lived to well over 100 and outlived every single eyewitness of Christ. By this time, his message was simple: love one another. He was buried and when some of his disciples came later to farewell him, they

found his grave empty, thus his body having been translated to Heaven.

The following are some additional details from another account of St. John's life:

"While he was on Patmos, John received a letter from the Bishop of Athens, Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3) who was then ninety-nine years old. He praised John as the daystar of the Gospel and prophesied that he would soon be freed. Indeed when Trajan succeeded Nerva (AD 98), he recalled Saint John to Ephesus, to the great sorrow of the people of Patmos whom he had converted. John did not want to leave them unconsolated. Strengthened by a sign from heaven, he fasted with them for three days; then, accompanied by Prochorus, he went up into a mountain where he directed all the powers of his soul towards the Lord.

Suddenly the sky was rent by fearful flashes of lightning and claps of thunder. Prochorus was overwhelmed and fell to the ground while John remained impassible in contemplation. He heard a voice like thunder proclaiming from the height of heaven: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Prochorus transcribed this message of salvation, revealed to John as was once the

Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, but this time not for the Jews alone, but for all even to the ends of the earth.

It was also on Patmos that John wrote the New Testament book known as the Apocalypse or Revelation. John saw Christ, having the appearance of a young man Whose "face was like the sun shining in full strength." Reassuring John, who "fell at his feet as though dead," the Lord said: "Fear not; I am the First and the Last; I am He that Lives and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore and have the keys of Death and of Hell. Write the things that you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter" (Revelation 1:17ff). Then in successive revelations John was shown what will happen at the end of time: the gathering strength of iniquity, the coming of the Antichrist, his warfare against the faithful and his final struggle against Christ who, in the end, will cast him forever into Hell with the Devil and his angels. It was also given him to see in his vision the violent upheavals that will take place in the world, the fiery end of all things, and the final triumph of the Son of man, the general Resurrection and the Last Judgment."

taken from: <http://www.goarch.org/special/johntheapostle>

From the *Matins* service:

John, when you leaned close upon on the breast * of divine Wisdom himself, * you drew out as if from a well * waters of theology, and you watered the world with them. * And with the knowledge about the Trinity, * you dried the ocean of pagan godlessness; * you were an animate * pillar of both cloud and fire, guiding us * to the heavenly possession and inheritance.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Θεολόγος και Ευαγγελιστής

Ο Ιωάννης, ο αγαπημένος μαθητής του Ιησού, ήταν γιος του Ζεβεδαίου και της Σαλώμης και νεώτερος αδελφός του αποστόλου Ιακώβου. Γεννήθηκε στη Γαλιλαία και δεν μορφώθηκε καθώς από μικρός βοηθούσε τον πατέρα του που ήταν ψαράς. Στην αρχή έγινε μαθητής του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου και αμέσως μόλις γνώρισε τον Ιησού έγινε μαθητής του μαζί με τον αδερφό του τον Ιάκωβο. Η Εκκλησία μας του απένειμε την προσωνυμία του Θεολόγου.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Θεολόγος είναι ο Ευαγγελιστής της αγάπης. Όχι μόνο γιατί αναφέρεται συνεχώς στα κείμενα του στη αγάπη, αλλά κυρίως γιατί την βίωσε και την εξέφραζε. Αγαπούσε πολύ τον Διδάσκαλό του. Τον ακολούθησε και στις πιο δύσκολες ώρες της επίγειας ζωής Του. Όταν οι άλλοι μαθητές ήταν κρυμμένοι «διά τον φόβον των Ιουδαίων», αυτός ήταν παρών στην σύλληψή Του, στην δίκη και στον Γολγοθά, όπου κάτω από τον Σταυρό στις κρίσιμες εκείνες στιγμές του εμπιστεύθηκε ο Χριστός την μητέρα Του.

Και αυτός τίμησε την επιθυμία του Κυρίου και μέχρι την Κοίμηση της την φρόντιζε ως αληθινή του μητέρα. Μαζί με τον αδερφό του Ιάκωβο και τον Πέτρο αποτελούσαν την τριάδα των μαθητών που είχε μαζί του ο Χριστός στην ανάσταση της κόρης του Ιαείρου, στο όρος Θαβώρ, όπου «μετεμορφώθη έμπροσθεν αυτών», καθώς και στην Γεσθημανή, όπου προσευχήθηκε πριν από το πάθος Του.

Ο Ιωάννης είναι ο συγγραφέας του 4ου κατά σειρά Ευαγγελίου στην Καινή Διαθήκη, το θεολογικότερο όλων και θεωρούμενο ως Ευαγγέλιο της αγάπης, καθώς επίσης τριών Καθολικών Επιστολών και της Αποκάλυψης.

Τη ζωή του κοντά στον Κύριο τη γνωρίζουμε μέσα από τα Ευαγγέλια της Καινής Διαθήκης. Ο Ιωάννης συνέχισε έντονα την δράση του και μετά την Ανάληψη του Κυρίου. Αυτός και ο Πέτρος ήταν οι πρώτοι που κήρυξαν μετά τη

επιφοίτηση του Αγ. Πνεύματος σε όλο τον κόσμο το λόγο του Κυρίου.

Η παράδοση, επίσης, μας λέει ότι ο Ιωάννης κήρυξε το Ευαγγέλιο στη Μικρά Ασία, και ιδιαίτερα στην Έφεσο. Στα χρόνια του αυτοκράτορα Δομετιανού βασανίστηκε και εξορίστηκε στη Πάτμο, όπου έγραψε την Αποκάλυψη. Σε μεγάλη ηλικία ξαναγύρισε στην Έφεσο όπου συνέγραψε το ευαγγέλιο του.

Ο Ιωάννης έζησε γύρω στα 100 χρόνια (κοιμήθηκε ειρηνικά γύρω στο 105 με 106 μ.Χ.). Εκείνο, όμως, που αξίζει να αναφέρουμε, είναι η φράση που συνεχώς έλεγε στους μαθητές του: «Τεκνία, αγαπατε αλληλους» (Ιωαν. ιγ' 34), που σημαίνει, παιδιά μου, να αγαπάτε ο ένας τον άλλο.

Αρκετοί είχαν την άποψη ότι ο Ιωάννης δεν πέθανε, αλλά μετατέθηκε στην άλλη ζωή, όπως ο Ενώχ και ο Ηλίας. Αφορμή γι' αυτή την άποψη έδωσε το γνωστό ευαγγελικό χωρίο, Ιωάννου κα' 22. Όμως, ο αμέσως επόμενος στίχος κα' 23 διευκρινίζει τα πράγματα. Η παράδοση που ασπάσθηκε η Εκκλησία μας είναι η έξης: Ο Ιωάννης σε βαθειά γεράματα πέθανε στην Έφεσο και τάφηκε έξω απ' αυτή. Αλλά μετά από μερικές ημέρες, όταν οι μαθητές του επισκέφθηκαν τον τάφο, βρήκαν αυτόν κενό. Η Εκκλησία μας, λοιπόν, δέχεται ότι στον αγαπημένο μαθητή του Κυρίου συνέβη ότι και με την Παναγία μητέρα Του. Δηλαδή, ο Ιωάννης να μεν πέθανε και ετάφη, αλλά μετά τρεις ημέρες αναστήθηκε και μετέστη στην αιώνια ζωή, για την οποία ο ίδιος, να τί λέει σχετικά: «Ο έχων τὸν υἱὸν ἔχει τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ μὴ ἔχων τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ τὴν ζωὴν οὐκ ἔχει» (Α' επιστολή Ιωάννου, ε' 12). Εκείνος, δηλαδή, που είναι ενωμένος μέσω της πίστης με το Χριστό και τον έχει δικό του, έχει την αληθινή και αιώνια ζωή. Εκείνος, όμως, που δεν έχει τον Υιό του Θεού, να έχει υπ' όψιν του πως δεν έχει και την αληθινή και αιώνια ζωή.

Τη μνήμη του η εκκλησία μας τι γιορτάζει στις 8 Μαΐου και στις 26 Σεπτεμβρίου.

Απολυτίκιον

Ἀπόστολε Χριστῶ τῷ Θεῷ ἠγαπημένε, ἐπιτάχυνον, ῥῦσαι λαὸν ἀναπολόγητον, δέχεται σε προσπίπτοντα, ὁ ἐπιπεσόντα τῷ στήθει καταδεξάμενος· ὃν ἰκέτευε, Θεολόγε, καὶ ἐπίμονον νέφος ἔθνων διασκεδάσαι, αἰτούμενος ἡμῖν εἰρήνην, καὶ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Source: <https://www.patmosislandinfo.gr/apocalypse/stjohn/index.html>

THE LITURGICAL NEW YEAR

There is tendency to make our Orthodox faith “seasonal”! Human survival has always depended on seasonal patterns associated with food. September is a celebration of harvest. The new year begins with enough food to ensure the survival of families and societies. Read the story of Joseph in Genesis and you will see his importance to Egypt that needed to gather enough food to survive a long famine. It was food that brought foreigners to Egypt and it was food that led to the reconciliation of Joseph with his brothers. Jesus is called the “bread of life” and the Eucharist consists of bread and wine transformed into His living presence. Yes, FOOD brings us together. When we entertain we have a variety of foods. We gather around the table of food for fellowship. Food brings relationships. Food also reminds us of the need to cooperate in getting enough of it to meet our needs. Most of us are so unsensitized to the efforts needed to bring the food we require as shopping in supermarkets has made it easily accessible. In fact, many of us have an abundance of food stored in cupboards and are foods often forgotten.

But we are not just physical, mechanistic machines in need of fuel to continue existing. Here is where who we are becomes more perplexing because there is “more” to us than just this. This is apparent in the tremendous religious diversity we see in the world. This “more” has each of us looking for meaning to who we truly are. Some simply dismiss this as an evolutionary tactic for survival through a common purpose. This raises the important question - what is the correct answer?

Where do you go to get “spiritual” food? Do you even know what you should get? Most of



us will agree that a steady diet of “fast” foods can become harmful to your health because we all know the dangers of excessive salt, sugar, and fats in our diets. It takes effort to eat healthy. It also takes considerable effort to feed your spiritual health. Is going to Church once a week sufficient? Do you go to Church looking for a “fast” spiritual meal? Will it be enough to last

until the next Sunday? Try not eating for a week and see what real hunger feels like. Is that the kind of hunger you feel deep in your soul? Chances are, you may not even notice a “spiritual” hunger. It’s like eating too much junk food until one day you discover you’ve gained weight and don’t feel very healthy. Spiritual hunger can slowly increase until one day, when you need a functional spiritual life, it’s much too weak to be effective.

The Liturgical Year is a designed exercise program for developing your effective spiritual health. To “get in shape” you may have to change your food intake, maybe begin an exercise routine, and set your mind to positive expectations. It all means “WORK”! Shouldn’t your spiritual health be given that same amount of work? Coming to Church should become a quest for nourishment. In prayer we aren’t talking to a trainer who might help us get better; we’re talking with God, the Creator, who transforms the brokenness of our spiritual life into a vibrant, healthy relationship for the purpose of bringing our “image” into Christ’s “likeness”. We are called on a journey, a process of renewal called Theosis. Salvation is a process of transformation from your unhealthy condition to a healthy, whole person whose purpose is being realized within your transformation.

Just like anything worth doing, this also requires hard, realistic effort. If you haven't opened God's Word in a while and don't know how to start, come to Church, bring your Bible, and seek help and guidance. If you've lost your connection to the Divine Liturgy, participate in it by listening and praying. Finally, rediscover the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ as often as you can. Here is the most healthiest food for your spiritual life. That can only

happen if you make the effort to truly attend and participate in the Orthodox life.

A New Year is opportunity time. Now you are called to a healthy spiritual life through the Church's exercise program. Are you ready? Then come and truly be there - participate and live fully your spiritual life.

Hebert F. Schuster

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

September 2025 - Ready for School, Parents?

It is time to shop for school supplies, clothing, and use your psychology as a parent to encourage your children that schools are open. How wonderful it will be to get back into the regular school time routine again, including Greek School, Sunday School, GOYA, and going to church! Summer is over, and I hope spending time at home or on vacation was full of activities and fun!

The school year needs preparation for your children to continue concentrating on their life skills and begin preparing for their academic skills as well. Please make the effort to attend their open-house school meeting and all parent-teacher conferences. Ask them questions about the subjects they are taking and ask to see their books as well as their online texts, which may be new for them.

Right away, schedule a time for homework and be consistent with the time. If they tell you, "I have no homework," then ask them what they learned. Do not do homework with them and encourage them to ASK THE TEACHER FOR ASSISTANCE when they do not understand something. Teach your children to be independent and gather assignments in an organized notepad. Find one thing to do with

your child related to school. Encourage silent reading, not television or electronic devices. Even setting aside 20 minutes each evening is a good habit to develop before watching television or playing games. Additionally, have them keep a journal using "real paper," not an iPad or computer, to maintain their writing skills, especially handwriting, for the younger ones. Have them write a letter to their grandparents or anyone! Even have the younger children color in a coloring book to develop their motor skills. When was the last time your children helped you set up for dinner and talked about weekend plans? Encourage a prayer during mealtime. Summer was probably unstructured with minimum rules, so your children will need to get into a routine with more structure.

Many children are now involved in several out-of-school activities in clubs, sports, dancing school, Greek school, GOYA, etc., so please try to keep the structure and do not let them forget that they must learn to balance their time to avoid getting overwhelmed and stressed.

With that in mind, my prayer this month from my book "*A Table Prayer Guide*" is from "*Prayers for Special Occasions: September 1st, the beginning of the Church year*" (*Matins Hymn, September 1st*)

“Christ our God, Your Kingdom is an everlasting one and Your lordship is over all. You have made all things with wisdom and have established proper times and seasons for our lives. We give thanks to You in all circumstances and for all things. Lord, bless the beginning of our Church Year with Your goodness. Grant that this liturgical year be for all of us a year of grace. Make us worthy with purity of heart always to praise You. Lord, glory to You!”



I want to wish everyone a blessed September! Please reach out to me if you see me in church, as I will be taking photos of most of our activities sponsored by our ministries and posting them on our St. Andrew Facebook group page and sending them to our magazine as well. I am also a member of the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos, so come sign up with us! The more, the merrier!

Feel free to email me or call with your comments and suggestions for our “Parents’ Corner” at: 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).

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The Words We Choose

Fr. Jim Kordaris

A few years after graduating from seminary, a recently ordained priest was serving as an assistant priest in a parish in Long Island. Picking up the phone one day, he heard the voice of his Dogmatics professor from seminary. The professor politely asked, "How do you like your parish?" The young priest responded that he loved it and felt lucky to be there.

The response from his professor would ring in his ears forever. "Luck is not an Orthodox concept," the professor told him. "We say we are blessed." From that day forward, the young priest replaced the word "lucky" with the word "blessed."

It seems like such a simple thing and maybe not that important – until you think about it. Changing this one word in the way we describe our feelings about good things in our life does something very important. It gives credit where it is due. All good things in life come from God and they are a blessing. There's no luck involved.

We need to listen to new ways of expressing ourselves and to choose our words carefully -- even if we have been saying things in a certain way all of our life.

Archdeacon John Chryssavgis has written that "The Church is by definition a place and a process of communion, ever open to and inviting all people without discrimination. A place of hospitality and welcome.... an earthly reflection of the unity of God as Trinity. ...a community of people with different, yet complementary gifts. ...a vision of wholeness and healing, of caring, and sharing." He goes on to say, "The Gospel of Christ challenges us: 'Just as the body is one and has many members . . . so it is with Christ' (1 Cor. 12.12)."

Fr John then asks the question: We all accept and proclaim that this is what the Church is and stands for. Why is it then that, all too often, certain people among us and around us – usually those whom we consider as being unfamiliar or strangers, somehow being different – are marginalized and even excluded? Wherever this happens, even by passive omission, the Church is not what it is called to be. The Church is denied its reality.

Saint Paul writes to the Romans "For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function, so we, though we are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another . . . We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us" (Rom. 12.4-6). Every one of us brings a special and unique set of characteristics, talents and gifts to the Church.

In his booklet, *The Body of Christ* (orthodoxmarketplace.com) about making the Church accessible to those of us with disabilities, Fr. John moves us from whatever phrase we have used in the past, such as "crippled," "handicapped" or "disabled" to the phrase that recognizes individuals as people first – "People with disabilities."



This might be dismissed as just the latest politically correct phrase in a long line of politically correct phrases with which people are always correcting us. But is it?

Words are important. Using the most appropriate words and phrases can more correctly express our beliefs and our respect for others. In the middle of the previous century, the word often used was “crippled,” which hopefully makes us cringe today. In the same way we have set aside the word “handicapped” because it diminishes the personhood of the one to whom it refers. Handicapped originally implied a hat-in-hand into which people placed money for the less fortunate.

Instead of the words, “handicapped,” “cripple,” “victim,” “retarded,” “stricken,” “poor,” “unfortunate,” “autistic” or “special needs,” we use the phrase “person with disabilities.” This is called “person-first” language. It describes what a person has rather than what a person is. It reminds us that, first of all, we are describing a person – a person created by God with a unique set of gifts and abilities.

Our country observes the date of June 19th. This date is celebrated by many as the day of emancipation for the people that had been enslaved since before the founding of the United States. We have all learned, since elementary school, that President Lincoln “freed the slaves.” That was the phrase that was used. We may have never thought much more about it. But in recent news and commentaries, we heard the term “slave” replaced with “enslaved people.” We may not have noticed it at first or at least didn’t think

about the importance for us as Christians to again adjust our vocabulary.

But words matter. The term “slaves” might make it easier to accept the way people were treated for a long time in this country. We seem to look the other way when we learn that George Washington, the “Father of our Country” and other founding fathers had slaves. But at the time of his death, George Washington had 317 slaves. These were 317 real people – men, women and children – living in America, who were bought and sold like a commodity.

Archbishop Iakovos once spoke of himself as “a man who was born a slave,” on the Island of Imvros, under Turkish rule.

So, once again, we might need to change our vocabulary, to recognize the personhood of those about whom we are speaking. “Enslaved people” makes us think and hopefully brings us to realize that God did not create people to be slaves. These people were “enslaved” by other people. The men and women it describes are human beings – persons created by God; human beings with the same inherent dignity, rights and feelings as anyone else.

In conclusion, we are called to see Jesus Christ in all people. He told us, “...as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

These seemingly small changes in the way we see and describe our world can help to form in us virtues such as patience, kindness, honesty, empathy, and forgiveness. These, in turn, help us to grow in love for the other, and to avoid the pitfalls of fear, anger and hatred. Instead of seeing only the appearance of the people God places in our path each day, we can look into their eyes and see the person created by God.

Note: The newly ordained priest was the author. The professor was Fr Emmanuel Clapsis.
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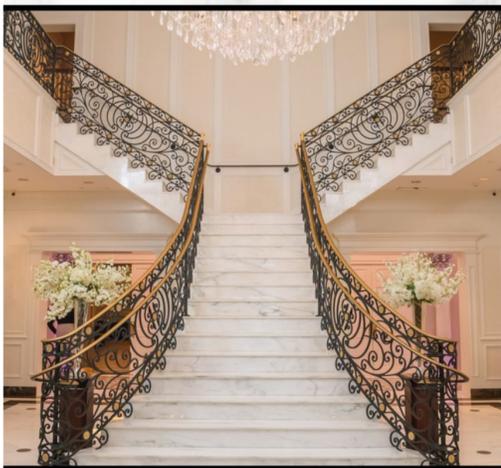
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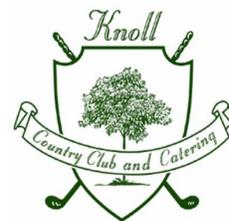


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BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

GIACOMO KENNETH FERRONE, son of James Ferrone and Erin Biegel was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Tuesday, June 15th, 2025, at 12:00pm and given the name **ΙΑΚΩΒΟΣ - JAMES**, Godfather was Georgios N. Seretis



JAMES JOSEPH ABBOUD III, son of James Abboud and Mindy Goodman was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Tuesday, June 15th, 2025, at 12:00pm and given the name **ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ - GEORGE**. Godfather was Demetrios N. Seretis.



ZOE MARIA PERIDES, daughter of Tsampicos Nikolaos and Stefanie Ann (Granato) Perides was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, June 21st, 2025, at 11:00 am and given the name **ΜΑΡΙΑ - MARIA**. Godmother was Anna Papanikolaou.



LINA ANGELICA DEMOPOULOS, daughter of Demetrios Zachary Demopoulos and Angelica Nicole Spiropoulos was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, June 22nd, 2025, at 1:00pm and given the name **KATERINA - KATERINA**. Godparents were Christopher and Lauren Spiropoulos.



BOBBY CHRISTOS SPIROPOULOS, son of Christopher Bobby Spiropoulos and Lauren Hope Talamini was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, June 28th, 2025, at 12:00pm and given the name **ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΣ - HARALAMBOS**. Godfather was Athanasios Kazanas.



THEA COUMBIS STRANAHAN, Daughter of Kyle Jacob Stranahan and Alexandra Nicole Coumbis was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, June 28th, 2025, at 1:30pm and given the name **ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑ - THEODORA**. Godmother was Niki Ioannou.

WEDDING - ΓΑΜΟΣ

On Sunday June 28, 2025, at 1:30pm **James Boffa**, NJ and **Angeliki Donati** of Sparta, NJ, were joined in Holy Matrimony at Sts Nicholas, Constantine and Helen Church in Roseland, NJ according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Sponsor was Spiridoula Fotinis – Officiants were **Fr. George Khitiri** and Fr John Theodosion.



WEDDINGS IN GREECE – ΓΑΜΟΙ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ



On Saturday July 26th , 2025, in the Cathedral of PANAGIA VRYSIANI in the Metropolis of KARPATIOS GREECE, SPIRIDON J. MOSKONAS wed ALEXANDRA M. PRZYBOJEWSKI of Jersey City, NJ. Sponsor was Nikitas Theodosion. Celebrant was Fr. John Theodosion and Fr Lazaros Navrozoglou

On Thursday, July 31st , 2025, in the Cathedral of ANAGIAS PLAGIAS in the Metropolis of KARPATIOS GREECE, CHRIS J. TRIANTAFYLLOS wed ALEXANDRA A. KOSTIS of Morristown, New Jersey. Sponsors were Evagelia Stavrakis and Alex Zikas. Celebrant was Fr. Epifanios Christos.

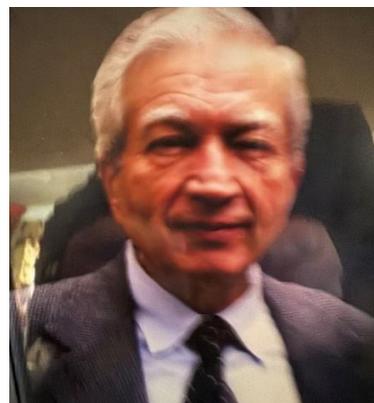


Congratulations to all and we wish them all the blessings.
Συγχαρητήρια σε όλους και τους ευχόμαστε όλες τις ευλογίες.

Constantinos E. Seretis, 86, passed away on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at Morristown Medical Center. He was born on March 22, 1939 in Elaftheriani, Nafpaktos, Greece.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Constantina (Voulgaris); his sons: Efthimios (Argyro) and Petros; and his grandsons: Nicholas and Alexander Seretis.

Visitations were held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph at 9:00 am on Friday, May 30th, 2025, followed by the **Funeral Service** for the repose of his soul at 10:00AM. **Interment** was at Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover. Arrangements by Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph (Tuttlefh.com)



Stanley Karoly, age 76, of Rockaway Township, New Jersey, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at his home in Rockaway Township, New Jersey.

Stanley was born in New York, New York to the late Adolph and Sally Karoly, and was raised in the Lower East Side. Throughout his adolescence, Stanley showed great perseverance and determination by selling newspapers, shining shoes, and driving taxis. After graduating high school, he furthered his education, eventually earning his Masters Degree. Stan entered the workforce as an Electrical Engineer and proudly retired as the Chief Electrical Engineer for the NYC Transit Authority in 2021. Stan met the love of his life, Irene, in the mid seventies and they were married soon after. The pair resided in Astoria until 1988, when their family moved to Rockaway, NJ. Stan enjoyed playing paddle ball and tennis, and taking long

walks where he would cheerfully greet the children and dogs of the neighborhood.

"Karolys never give up, they keep on going" is our family motto.

In addition to his parents Boomie and Sally, Stanley is preceded in death by his uncles Sydney, Henry and Abraham; his aunts Esther, Frieda, Angie, and recently, his cousin Mimi. He is survived by his cherished wife of almost 50 years, Irene Karoly; two children: Sotos Karoly and Patricia Karoly; two grandchildren: Genesis and Makarios, who lovingly referred to him as Pappou; one brother: Jeffrey (Louisa); as well as his niece and nephew: Francis and Jeffrey.

A Graveside Service was held Thursday, May 22, 2025, 10:00 AM at Marcella Union Cemetery.

Konstantinos "Kostas" Rekasas, 60, of Bedminster, NJ, passed away on July 9, 2025, in New York City.

Funeral service was held at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ on July 17, 2025 at 10AM with Reverend George Khitiri officiating. Burial was at Somerset Hills Memorial Park. Visitation was held at Gallaway & Crane Funeral Home on July 16, 2025 from 4pm to 7pm.

Konstantinos was born in Metsovo, Greece to his parents Vassilis Rekasas and Anna Stavrou on August 25, 1964. He went to high school at Lyceum of Evosmos Thessaloniki, and graduated in 1982. He went on to earn a degree in Information Systems from Baruch College, where at age 18, he had moved to New York City from Greece. He worked as a Cloud Solutions Architect for Microsoft for two years, after working as a Senior Solutions Architect at Amazon Web Solutions for three years. He had previously worked in similar fields at Atlantic Health, Mount Sinai, CBS,



and Giorgio Armani. He enjoyed listening to his favorite music, attending concerts, and spending time with his family.

Konstantinos Rekasas is survived by his wife, Hwayoung Kim of Bedminster, his children Anna Rekasas of Bedminster, Christina Rekasas of Bedminster, William Rekasas of Bedminster, George Rekasas of Bedminster, parents, Vassilis Rekasas of Thessaloniki, Anna Rekasas of Thessaloniki, brother George Rekasas of Thessaloniki, nieces Ioanna Rekasas of Thessaloniki, Vassiliki Rekasas of Thessaloniki, as well as Uncle Dimitrios "Jimmy" and Auntie Pauline Rekasas of Valley Stream, and cousins Konstantinos "Dino" Rekasas and Nicolas Rekasas of Valley Stream. He is preceded in death by his late wife, Liu Yang.

Kostas brought warmth, wisdom, and kindness to everyone fortunate enough to meet him. His absence leaves a void that words cannot fully express, felt deeply by his family, friends, and countless others whose lives he quietly yet profoundly touched. As we grieve his passing, let us honor his memory by remembering the way he lived, with selflessness, generosity, and unwavering love, and the lasting impact he left on all who had the privilege to know him. For further information, or to leave an online condolence message please visit www.gcfuneralhome.com

Robert B. Ardis, 99, of Chester, NJ, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2025, at Morristown Medical Center, just three months shy of his 100th birthday.

Born on November 25, 1925, in Bay City, Michigan, Robert was the son of the late Emberson and Ethel Ardis. He grew up in Standish, Michigan, and went on to earn an undergraduate degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan, followed by a law degree from NYU.

A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Robert often said the best things that ever happened to him were marrying his beloved wife, Cathy, serving in the Navy, and working at Bell Labs. He had a distinguished career as a Patent Attorney Director for Bell Labs in Murray Hill, NJ.

Robert resided in the Four Seasons community in Chester for the past 25 years, having previously lived in Mountainside, NJ. He remained intellectually curious and engaged throughout his life, enjoying classical music—particularly Beethoven—tinkering with computers, staying current with politics, and watching Fox News. A lifelong animal lover, he especially adored cats in his later years.

He was actively involved with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and maintained professional affiliations with the New York and Illinois Bar Associations, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and various naval and military organizations.

Robert will be remembered for his sharp mind, deep patriotism, and unwavering love for his family and country.

Robert is survived by his sister, Margaret Webb, sister-in-law, Anastasia "Stasi" Carumpalos, his nieces and nephews, Susan, Christine, Jan, Bob, Ann, and David, and many grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Catherine Ardis in 2007, his brother, Mark B. Ardis, and his niece, Barbara.

A Funeral Service was held for the repose of his soul on August 14th at 11am at Saint Andrew in Randolph, NJ. Internment at the Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, NJ.



SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR

* LOOK FOR UPDATES IN WEEKLY E BULLETIN OR ON WEBSITE [Parish Calendar - St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church](#)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays **9am**

KNITTING & PILLOW 1ST & 2ND Wednesday **11am**
2nd & 3rd Wednesday **@6pm**

Hellenic Afternoon School Thu **4:30pm**

Greek Dancing Thursdays **@6:30 & @7:15pm**

Greek Dancing GOYA/ Grp 3 Thursdays

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

9/1 ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

9/3 @11AM KNITTING GROUP NEXT ON 9/17

9/7 DOP MEETING

9/7 GOYA KICK OFF BBQ

9/8 @7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NEXT 10/6

9/10 @6PM KNITTING GROUP NEXT ON 9/24

9/11 HAS 1ST DAY OF CLASSES

9/14 1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

9/14 HOPE CRAFT / JOY MEETING

9/14 @1PM BAPTISM REYES

9/18 1ST DAY OF GREEK DANCE

9/23 @7PM PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING NEXT 10/28

9/25 @11:30AM AGAPE LUNCHEON NEXT 10/23

9/27 FAITH KITCHEN - GOYA

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

9/28 BACKPACK BLESSING

9/28 @12:30 BAPTISM

9/28 @12:30PM CAR RAFFLE DRAWING

9/28 HOPE & JOY APPLE PICKING/SUN HIGH ORCHARDS

9/28 DOP TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR ELENI BOYADJIS

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

10/2 @7-9PM MODERN GREEK ADULT LANGUAGE

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

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

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

10/12 MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY

10/12 @3PM BAPTISM

10/18 @7PM TAVERNA NIGHT AT ST ANDREW

10/25 FAITH KITCHEN - PHILOPTOCHOS

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

11/2 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMORIAL SERVICE

11/2 @12PM OXI DAY (HAS Celebration)

11/9 @12PM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11/16 HOPE & JOY THANKSGIVING CRAFT

11/22 FAITH KITCHEN - GOYA

11/27 THANKSGIVING DAY

11/27 NO Hellenic Afternoon School or Dance

11/29 **Great 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 Philoptochos**

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

12/7 Elections for Parish Council

12/7 HOPE & JOY Gingerbread house decorating

12/14 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RELED & HAS

12/16 METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

12/21 SNOW DATE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

12/27 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP

Reservations for Saint Andrew Community Center Gym, Social Hall or Classrooms must be made with Church Office.

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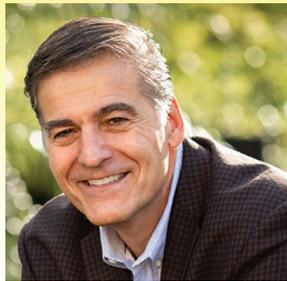
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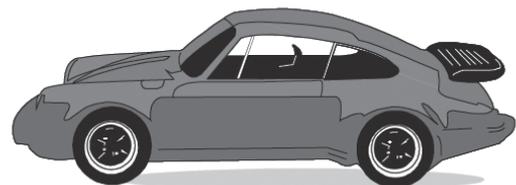
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TEACHING STAFF: Dr. Herbert Schuster, Faye Paskas, Kia Paskas, Maro Schuster, Marina Venizelos, Vickie Geannakakes, Maria Galvin, Presbytera Athena Theodosion, Dina Aspromatis, Eleni Koukoularis, Photeine Lopardo, Rachel Lopardo

BYZANTINE CHANTERS/CHOIR

Panagiotis Fotinis, *Chanter*

Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

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TEACHERS: Haroula Christodoulou, Eleni Zeris, Stacey Papanikolaw, Alexandra Kontogiannis, Effie Kritharis, Vasilias 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, Irene Baroulakis, George Baroulakis, Sotiria Hambos *GOYA Advisors*

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

Jr & Sr Groups Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*



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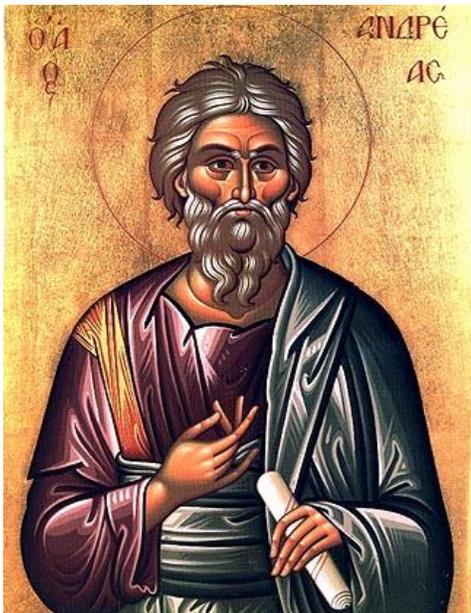
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generously giving to others of all we have?

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 ατάδελφος, τον Δεσπότην των όλων Ανδρέα ικέτευε, ειρήνην τη οικουμένη δωρήσασθαι, και ταις ψυχαίς ημών το μέγα έλεο.

THE SAINT ANDREW VISION STATEMENT

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