

OCTOBER 2025



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey



Saint Andrew Family News

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

ST LUKE painting the first icon – celebrating on Saturday October 18

Greek Taverna Night – October 18

OXI DAY 28th HAS Celebration – November 2nd

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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

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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NJ Metropolis Web: www.njgoarch.org G.O. Archdioceses Web: www.goarch.org

Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

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The Saint Andrew Family News is published monthly except in July and August and is distributed free of charge to all members. Submissions are accepted **only as electronic files, (via e-mail attachment)**. Pending availability of space and permission from Editor-in-chief, submissions will be in next month's issue.

Please submit your articles and information on time to
info@standrewgonj.org

*Deadline for the **NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE** is October 15th*

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DIVINE SERVICES

OCTOBER 2025

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" <i>Greek National Holiday</i> +HOLY PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

NOVEMBER

Saturday	1	SS. COSMAS & DAMIAN
Sunday	2	5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE OXI DAY CELEBRATION (HAS PROGRAM IN GYM)
Saturday	8	SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS
Sunday	9	7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE ST. NEKTARIOS
Thursday	13	ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
Friday	14	PHILIP THE APOSTLE <i>ADVENT LENT BEGINS ON 11/15</i>
Sunday	16	ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
Friday	21	THE PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
Friday	21	<i>GREAT HIERARCHICAL VESPERS location TBA</i>
Saturday	22	<i>St. Iakovos of Evia Hierarchical Divine Liturgy location TBA</i>
Sunday	23	9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE
Tuesday	25	ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR
Wednesday	26	THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE ST. STYLIANOS Orthros & Divine Liturgy @5:00PM
Saturday	29	SAINT ANDREW Great Vespers Service TIME TBA
Sunday	30	ST. ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED APOSTLE

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) **

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

Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

Ο Κ Τ Ω Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ

Κυριακή	5	Β' ΛΟΥΚΑ
Κυριακή	12	Των Ἀγίων Πατέρων τῆς Ζ' Οἰκ. 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

Ν Ο Ε Μ Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ

Σάββατο	1	Θαυματοργῶν Ἀναργύρων Κοσμά καί Δαμιανοῦ
Κυριακή	2	ΣΤ' Λουκά / Πρόγραμμα 28 ^{ης} Οκτωβρίου Απογευματινὸ Ἑλληνικὸ Σχολεῖο
Σάββατο	8	+Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΙΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΩΝ ΜΙΧΑΗΛ ΚΑΙ ΓΑΒΡΙΗΛ
Κυριακή	9	Ζ' Λουκά +ΝΕΚΤΑΡΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΠΕΝΤΑΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Πέμπτη	13	Ἰωάννης Χρυσόστομος, Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
Παρασκευή	14	+ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΣΑΡΑΝΤΑΗΜΕΡΟ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑΣ 15/11
Κυριακή	16	+ἈΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗΣ ΜΑΤΘΑΪΟΣ
Παρασκευή	21	ΤΑ ΕΙΣΟΔΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Πέμπτη	21	Μέγας Ἀρχιερατικὸς Ἑσπερινὸς – Θα ανακοινωθεῖ
Παρασκευή	22	Ἀγίου Ἰακώβου Εὐβοίας Ἀρχιερατικῆς Θείας Λειτουργίας - Θα ανακοινωθεῖ
Κυριακή	23	Θ' Λουκά
Τρίτη	25	ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ
Τετάρτη	26	Ἵσσιος Στυλιανὸς ὁ Παφλαγῶν
Τετάρτη	26	ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΩΝ Ἵσσιος Στυλιανὸς ὁ Παφλαγῶν Ὁρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία - ὥρα 5:00μμ
Σάββατο	29	Μέγας Ἑσπερινὸς τοῦ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ ὥρα Θα ανακοινωθεῖ
Κυριακή	30	ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΩΤΟΚΛΗΤΟΥ

Τὴν Κυριακὴ – Ὁρθρος - ὥρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ὥρα 9:30πμ

Τὶς καθημερινές – Ὁρθρος - ὥρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ὥρα 9.πμ

ΕΟΡΤΑΖΕΤΕ στὴς 4^{ης} Οκτωβρίου ΙΕΡΟΘΕΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ *Λείψανα
(Ἐχομε τα Λείψανα τοῦ Ἀγίου στὴν Λειψανοθήκη τῆς ἐκκλησίας μας)*

Οἱ μαθητές τοῦ Κατηχητικὸ ἰχολεῖοῦ θα ἔρθοῦν πρῶτα στὴν Θεία Λειτουργία ὥρα 10πμ, μετὰ τὴν Θεία Κοινωνία θα συνεχίσουνε στὶς τάξεις τους.

Holy Protectress

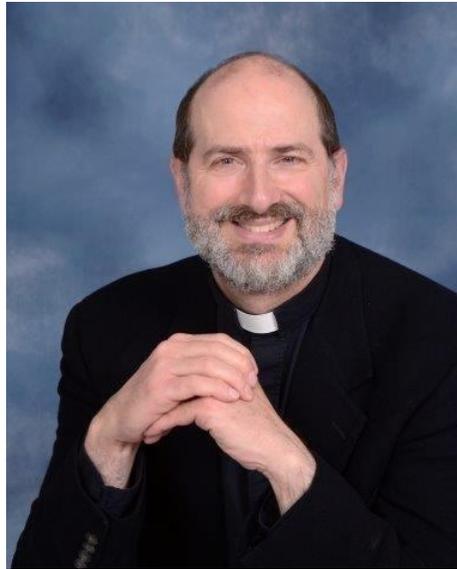
In the month of October, we celebrate the radiant feast of the Holy Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos, a feast that reveals to us the tender love and powerful intercession of the Mother of God for all the faithful.

We remember that blessed night in the 10th century, when the people of Constantinople were gathered in the Church of Blachernae for an all-night vigil.

Why were they praying? Because the city was under threat of invasion. Enemies surrounded Constantinople, and the people feared destruction. In their desperation, they did not turn first to weapons or walls, but to the Lord and His Mother. They gathered in vigil, lifting up tears and supplications, asking God to deliver them.

And in the midst of their prayer, the Theotokos herself appeared—radiant, majestic, and full of compassion. She entered the church accompanied by saints and angels, approached the holy altar, and prayed for the people. Then, taking her veil, her omophorion, she spread it over all who were present, as a sign of her protection. St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ, with his disciple Epiphanius, beheld this vision and testified to the people: the Mother of God herself is interceding for you!

This was not only a comfort to them in their hour of need, but also a revelation to the whole Church: The Theotokos continually intercedes for us before her Son. Just as the Psalmist declares, “God is in the midst of her, she shall



not be moved” (Ps. 45:5), so we know that the Mother of God, dwelling in the midst of the Church, cannot be overcome, and through her prayers the faithful are upheld.

St. John of Damascus once prayed: “O Lady, in thee I place my whole hope; guard me under thy protection.” And St. Gregory Palamas teaches us that the Theotokos is “the boundary between the created and the

uncreated,” the ladder by which our petitions rise and God’s mercies descend. Truly, she is the Protectress of the faithful, the refuge of the storm-tossed, and the shield of Christian nations.

The hymnography of this feast expresses it beautifully:

“Today the Virgin standeth in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of saints she invisibly prayeth to God for us all: Angels and hierarchs worship, apostles and prophets rejoice together, since for our sake the Theotokos prayeth to the Eternal God.”

Notice, friends, that she protects us not by her own authority, but by her ceaseless prayers to Christ her Son. Just as she said at Cana, she says to us even now: “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5). Her veil shelters us, but it also directs us to live faithfully as servants of her Son.

Let us learn, then, from the people of Constantinople. In their time of danger, they sought not earthly answers, but gathered in

vigil, humbling themselves before God. And God answered them—not only with deliverance from their enemies, but with the vision of His Mother’s loving care.

So too must we, in times of temptation, fear, or sorrow, turn first to Christ and to His Mother’s prayers. When sin wages war upon us, when despair surrounds us, let us run to her Protection. But let us also remember that to dwell under her veil is to walk in holiness, obedience, and repentance.

Αγία Σκέπη

Τον μήνα Οκτώβριο, εορτάζουμε την λαμπρή εορτή της Αγίας Σκέπης της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου, μία εορτή που μας αποκαλύπτει την τρυφερή αγάπη και ισχυρή προστασία της Μητέρας του Θεού προς όλους τους πιστούς.

Θυμόμαστε την ευλογημένη εκείνη νύχτα τον 10^ο αιώνα, όταν ο λαός της Κωνσταντινούπολης είχαν συγκεντρωθεί στον ναό των Βλαχερνών για ολονύχτια αγρυπνία. Γιατί προσεύχονταν; Επειδή η πόλη απειλούνταν με κατάληψη. Εχθροί είχαν περικυκώσει την Κωνσταντινούπολη και ο κόσμος φοβόταν πως θα καταστραφούν. Στην απελπισία τους, δεν στράφηκαν πρώτα στα όπλα ή στα τείχη, αλλά στον Κύριο και τη Μητέρα Του. Κατέφυγαν στην αγρυπνία και με δάκρυα και ικεσίες ζητούσαν βοήθεια από τον Θεό.

Και ενώ προσεύχονταν, εμφανίστηκε η ίδια η Θεοτόκος -λαμπρή, μαγευτική και γεμάτη συμπόνοια. Εισήλθε στην εκκλησία συνοδευόμενη από αγίους και αγγέλους, πλησίασε την Αγία Τράπεζα και προσευχήθηκε για τον λαό. Έπειτα, πήρε το πέπλο της, το ωμοφόριον, και το άπλωσε πάνω από όσους ήταν εκεί παρόντες, σαν ένα σημάδι της προστασίας της. Ο Άγιος Ανδρέας, ο δια Χριστόν σαλός, με τον απόστολό του Επιφάνιο, είναι

Beloved brothers and sisters, the veil of the Theotokos still extends over the Church today. She has not abandoned us. She intercedes ceaselessly, protecting us from visible and invisible enemies, and guiding us toward salvation in Christ. Let us honor her not only with our lips, but with lives of faith and love, so that through her prayers we may be found worthy of the Kingdom of her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

μάρτυρες αυτού του οράματος: την Μητέρα του Θεού να διαμεσολαβεί η ίδια για όλους!

Αυτό δεν ήταν μόνο παρηγοριά σε αυτή τη μεγάλη ώρα ανάγκης, αλλά ήταν και μία αποκάλυψη σε ολόκληρη την Εκκλησία: Η Θεοτόκος συνεχώς μεσολαβεί στον Υιό της για εμάς. Όπως δηλώνει ο Ψαλμωδός, «Ο Θεός είναι μέσα της, δεν θα μετακινηθεί» (ψ. 45:5), έτσι γνωρίζουμε ότι η Μητέρα του Θεού, που κατοικεί μέσα στην Εκκλησία, δεν μπορεί να νικηθεί, και με τις προσευχές της στηρίζει τους πιστούς.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Δαμασκηνός αναφέρει στην προσευχή του: «Υπεραγία Θεοτόκε, σε σένα εναποθέτω όλη την ελπίδα μου, φύλαξέ μας υπό την σκέπη σου». Και ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Παλαμάς μας διδάσκει ότι η Θεοτόκος είναι «το όριο μεταξύ των θνητών και των θείων,» η σκάλα από την οποία οι αιτήσεις μας ανεβαίνουν στον ουρανό και η σκάλα που το έλεος του Θεού κατεβαίνει. Αληθώς, είναι η Σκέπη των πιστών, το καταφύγιο όσων πέφτουν σε καταιγίδα, και η ασπίδα των Χριστιανικών εθνών.

Οι υμνογράφοι της εορτής εκφράζονται πανέμορφα:

«Σήμερα η Παρθένος στέκεται στο μέσον της Εκκλησίας και με χορωδίες των αγίων αόρατα προσεύχεται στον Θεό για όλους μας: Άγγελοι και ιεράρχες προσκυνούν, οι απόστολοι και οι προφήτες χαίρονται, αφού για χάρη μας προσεύχεται η Θεοτόκος στον Αιώνιο Θεό».

Σημειώστε, φίλοι μου, ότι μας προστατεύει όχι με δική της εξουσία, αλλά με τις ακατάπαυστες προσευχές της στον Χριστό, τον Υιό της. Όπως είπε στην Κανά, μας λέγει ακόμη και τώρα: “Ό,τι ἂν λέγη ὑμῖν ποιήσατε” (Ιωάννης 2:5). Το πέπλο της μας σκεπάζει, αλλά και μας κατευθύνει να ζούμε με πίστη ως δούλοι του Υιού της.

Ας διδαχθούμε λοιπόν, από το λαό της Κωνσταντινούπολης. Σε καιρό κινδύνου, δεν αναζήτησαν επίγειες λύσεις, αλλά μαζεύτηκαν σε αγρυπνία, ταπεινώνοντας τους εαυτούς τους μπροστά στον Θεό. Και ο Θεός ανταποκρίθηκε – όχι μόνο με απαλλαγή από τους εχθρούς τους, αλλά και με το όραμα της Μητέρας Του με την γεμάτη αγάπη φοντίδα της.

Έτσι και εμείς, σε καιρό πειρασμών, φόβου ή λύπης, πρώτα να στρεφόμαστε στον Χριστό και στις προσευχές της Μητέρας Του. Όταν η αμαρτία μας πολεμάει, όταν μας περιβάλλει απελπισία, ας ανατρέξουμε στην Σκέπη της. Αλλά και να θυμόμαστε ότι για να κατοικούμε κάτω από το πέπλο της πρέπει να προχωράμε με αγιότητα, υπακοή και μετάνοια.

Αγαπημένοι μου αδελφοί και αδελφές μου, το πέπλο της Θεοτόκου σκεπάζει και μέχρι σήμερα την Εκκλησία. Δεν μας εγκατέλειψε. Μεσολαβεί ακατάπαυστα, προστατεύοντάς μας από ορατούς και αόρατους εχθρούς, και μας οδηγεί στην σωτηρία εν Χριστώ. Ας την τιμήσουμε όχι μόνο με τα λόγια μας, αλλά και με τις γεμάτες αγάπη και πίστη ζωές μας, και μέσα από τις προσευχές της θα γίνουμε άξιοι της βασιλείας του Υιού της, του Κυρίου ημών Ιησού Χριστού.

Adaptation by: Maria Kiritsis, Athens GR



MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

Saint Andrew parishioners and guests will celebrate our Ministry Fair!

see our church ... as it could be Sunday, October 12th

after Liturgy in the Gym

Each Ministry will be

represented. You can learn about their mission, ask questions, and maybe even join! The Ministry Fair is an opportunity to showcase our ministries' good work, to see our church as it is and to **see our church as it could be**. All are welcome. Please bring a friend! We look forward to sharing this important event with you. Sponsored by the

Saint Andrew Stewardship



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

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Mike Serghiou
Andrew Zezas

Dear Saint Andrew Family:

We would like to inform you on the status of repairs and projects to our Saint Andrew Church. As you are all aware, just like any home/building, things break down and repairs are necessary to continue being a functional Church.

Recently completed projects:

1. We completed a new classroom on the first floor. This required new lighting, putting up a new wall and door, sheet-rocking, and painting. The project took 8 weeks and cost \$15,000 to complete. Religious Education classes and the Greek school are currently utilizing it.
2. The Narthex floor tiles were removed and replaced with brighter tiles. The entire Narthex was also painted. We paid for the paint but the entire work for the project was donated.
3. All lighting fixtures are being replaced with energy efficient LED light bulbs.
4. The HVAC motor was replaced with a motor that will be more energy efficient. JCPL provided a re-bate for this work and therefore this work was completed at no cost to the Church.
5. We installed new parking lot signs making selected Senior & Handicap, parking spots.
6. Installing post for event signs on the front lawn

Projects in urgent need of completion

1. Updating the lighting to the entrance of the Church.
2. Changing the color of the patio to the Church entrance
3. Scraping and painting the entrances doors to the Church
4. Landscaping the front lawn
5. Replacing the lights around the front lawn of the Church
6. Replacing the sidewalks and Belgium blocks
7. Water-proofing the basement
8. Repaving the parking lot
9. Fixing the on-going issue of roof leakage
10. Replacing the ceiling tiles in the Church
11. Clean the dome in the Church

Clearly, we have many challenges before us. Some of these projects can be completed through community volunteers. Many of these will require professional expertise and this will require monetary donations.

Please consider contributing your ideas, time, talent, or funds, to help us keep Saint Andrew beautiful and so it continues to be a place of worship, beauty, and community for us all. For further details on these projects and other projects and how you might help us complete them please contact **John Paxos, Vice-President, (973) 945-2706**

“Lead like a Servant, as Christ did, so that your Parish may flourish in the community it Serve

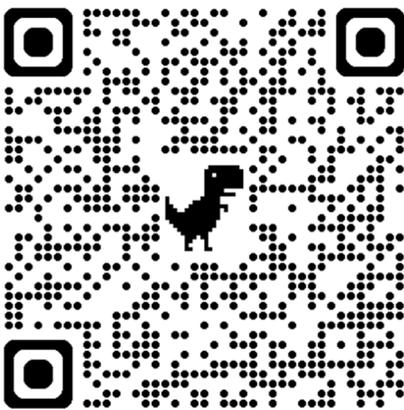
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STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIALS OF SAINT ANDREW PARISHIONERS

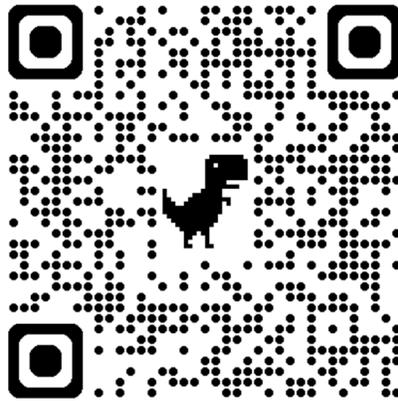
In our ongoing journey to deepen our connections and foster a vibrant community at St. Andrew, we invite you to immerse yourself in the heartfelt testimonials shared by our parishioners and those whose lives have been touched by our shared Faith. As we reflect on our individual and collective spiritual journeys, let us embrace the spirit of love encapsulated in the phrase “Αγαπήσομεν Αλλήλους.” We encourage you to listen with an open heart, as each story carries unique experiences that illustrate the profound impact of faith in our lives.

Use the QR Code to listen to the testimonials of your fellow parishioners: Ervin Mile, Nicholas Tonini, and Nikolas Karkanias. If you would like to share your story with us, please contact our parish office.

Thank you and may God bless you.



Ervin Mile



Nicholas Tonini



Nikolas Karkanias



SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS



Happy Fall from our Army of Agape!

As you may know, Philoptochos is a philanthropic organization dedicated to serving those in need with discretion, kindness, and compassion. We take part in multiple committees to aid in our core mission to support people and families facing hardship. This month, we would like to highlight one of our groups: **KALI PAREA**.

KALI PAREA (meaning “Good Company”) helps support elderly, sick, and struggling members of our parish. This outreach program connects volunteers with members of our community to provide assistance, company, and support in day-to-day life. Kali Parea’s focus is to create connections within our church and uplift those who are struggling. This can range from small moments, such as making a phone call, to larger acts of kindness, such as providing a ride to church or an appointment. These efforts include:

- Visiting during hospital or rehab stays
- Driving to and from church services
- Providing company and conversation during the day
- Checking in on parish members facing difficulty

This program would not be possible without our volunteers who take time out of the day to make a difference in someone else’s life. Kali Parea is looking to add more volunteers who are able to provide rides, company, and conversation to someone in need. Please contact any member of Philoptochos if you are willing to help. Even the youngest members of our parish can provide “good company” to others!

In addition to this program, Philoptochos is in the midst of their annual coat drive for Market Street Mission. We are currently collecting new and gently used winter coats, as well as new hats, gloves, and scarfs to distribute in November. All sizes and styles of winter coats are needed for the colder weather. Please drop off any donations in the Social Hall before Thursday, October 23rd.

We welcome you to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00 pm.

Thank you for being part of our mission through your support and presence of the Saint Andrew Philoptochos Society.

Your sister in Christ,

Rachel Lopardo ,Board Member, 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*
Saint Andrew Family News September 2025



The 28th of October (OXI Day) is a very significant day for all Greeks around the world. As Greeks commemorate the anniversary when Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas said, “NO” to an ultimatum made by the Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini to allow Italian forces to occupy strategic locations in Greece or otherwise face war. As a result, Greece entered World War II and the Greek-Italian war of 1940-1941 began. This “NO!” to fascism proved to be disastrous for the Mussolini’s forces. The Greeks succeeded in pushing the Italian back into Albania after just one week which led to Mussolini’s humiliation. As Greece’s participation in the war was so impressive than many of the surrounding countries, it earned them unprecedented praise and respect, from many great world leaders. At Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School, we proudly continue to celebrate OXI Day!

ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ! --- ΖΗΤΩ ΤΟ ΟΧΙ!

“...until now we would say that the Greeks fight like heroes. From now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks”. Sir Winston Churchill.

Join us to celebrate OXI Day!

The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) students warmly invite you to their 28th of October program on Sunday, **November 2, 2025**, immediately following church services. Come witness their performances and celebrate our Hellenic heritage in the Saint Andrew Auditorium. We look forward to seeing you there!

Religious Education

Welcome back everyone. Our 2025-2026 Religious Education school year began on September 14th!

Students witnessed the **commemoration of the Elevation of the Holy Cross** and learned why we celebrate this important day.

Everyone received a sprig of basil and were welcomed in their new classroom for the first day of class.

Please join on Sunday October 12 in the gym for Ministry Sunday, where you can find out more about the Sunday school curriculum.

St. Andrew
Religious Education
Registration Link



Religious Education

TQRCG



GOYA October Newsletter 2025

For the start of the new GOYA year, we have a new executive board. As President, we have Zoe Sifonios, and her vice presidents are Stamatina Mousis and Maria Kalavrouziotis. Our treasurer is Dean Zervos, along with our Recording Secretary Joseph Theodosion and our Corresponding Secretary Artemisia Baroulakis. Finally, our two social media managers Niko Sifonios and Kosta Giannikopoulos. To kick off the new GOYA year, we hosted a Kick-Off barbeque at the church. We welcome new members and are preparing to have a great and successful year. On Sunday, September 28th, at the Diving for the Holy Cross Celebration, we had Maria Kalavrouziotis, Evan Kalavrouziotis, Stavros Monokandilos and Artemis Baroulakis proudly representing our church. We are so proud of them and for giving such a good representation at this event. We also participated in the Faith Soup Kitchen, and delivered them to those in need.



*The GOYA Board *Dean Zervos and Maria Kalavrouziotis are missing from this photo*

Looking into October, we are planning to go to the 13th hour Haunted House as a GOYA, on October 26th. We also have Mr./Miss GOYA coming up, with Ava Papageorge and Demetris Gergatsoulis competing together, good luck! Additionally, on October 18th we have our annual Taverna Night here at the church. Be sure to buy tickets with your family to enjoy a night full of greek cuisine and dancing, with multiple raffles to win. Taverna Night is the GOYA's biggest fundraiser, so your support and attendance is much appreciated. This month, we have a month filled with basketball and volleyball games, our first game is against Roseland at home, on October 12th. Please come support our GOYA by attending and purchasing items at the stands!

As we look forward to the year, we plan on having more fundraisers, GOYA bonding activities, and many more dances and competitions. With a new GOYA board and many more members, we are ready to show the other GOYAs what Randolph truly has to offer.

Sincerely, Zoe Sifonios



Hello! Here is our October newsletter from HOPE and JOY. We excitedly welcome Pam Kotsaftis to the team!

We kicked off September with record-breaking attendance at our Social Hour, where everyone enjoyed making pinwheels. Just as pinwheels move with the wind, we are reminded of how the Holy Spirit moves us—unseen, yet powerfully at work.

Our JOY group met with the gym to share ideas for the year and then joined in the craft afterward. Apple picking was another wonderful event, with siblings joining in for a fun-filled day together.

Looking ahead, we'll host a **fall-themed craft at the Ministry Fair on October 12** and are excited to see everyone at the **Harvest Party**, which we're co-hosting with the PTA.



We are also delighted to welcome **Pam Kotsaftis** to our team! Pam will be focusing on HOPE activities for children in **grades K–2**. Younger children and their families are also warmly encouraged to join—especially parents looking to connect with others in our community.

HOPE (K–2nd grade) and **JOY (3rd–6th grade)** are ministries where children and their parents can socialize, grow in faith, and build lasting friendships. We'd love to see you at our events and welcome you to our community!

If you would like to join our email list, please contact us at

hopejoystandrews@gmail.com.

Check out our website for more information:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hopejoystandrew/home>

TRUNK OR TREAT
HARVEST PARTY

Hosted by the PTA and HOPE/JOY
 For all children and parents
 of St. Andrew church

Friday, Oct 24th 6:15 pm

SAINT ANDREW CHURCH

All cars must be decorated by 6:00 p.m.
 sharp

*Rain or shine! Festivities will Continue in the
 Gymnasium with Food, Music and Activities!*

PLEASE NO SCARY OR INAPPROPRIATE COSTUMES
 RSVP through Sign Up Genius
 Please send any questions to
ptastandrew@gmail.com

SEE YOU THERE!

join us on Sunday, October 12 MINISTRY FAIR HOPE/JOY CRAFT



PTA will be using the
SPOND app for
 upcoming events
 and important dates

Reach out to Saint Andrew PTA ptastandrew@gmail.com for more information on becoming a member and receiving these important updates.

1ST PTA Meeting on Thursday, October 2nd @5.00pm in the Social Hall

SAINT ANDREW GRADUATES

continued from September issue of the Saint Andrew Family News

We are delighted to take this opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Saint Andrew Graduates—Damian, Brooke, Angelina, and Demetra—whose inspiring journeys we are proud to share with our cherished community. Each of these exceptional individuals has demonstrated dedication, resilience, and a commitment to excellence that reflects the values of spiritual growth and cultural heritage that St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church nurtures within its walls. As they embark on their next academic adventures, we extend our heartfelt wishes for their continued success and fulfillment in their studies and beyond. Let us all come together to support and uplift our youth, recognizing their contributions and potential to make a positive impact in the world. Congratulations to our graduates; we are excited to witness the bright futures that lie ahead for each of you!

Damian Thomas Gizas has graduated from West Morris Central High School with a 5.728 GPA, earning the honor of salutatorian. Damian had a perfect score on the PSAT, and was named as a National Merit Finalist and Scholar, putting him in the top 0.01% of high school graduates nationwide. Damian was a member of the Chinese Club, the Academy of Science, National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, and founder of the Computer Coding Club. At the age of 14, Damian started taking classes at County College of Morris, and by the end of high school he had the top grade in Calculus 1, Calculus 2, Calculus 3, Ordinary Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, Materials for Engineering Technology, and Engineering Physics. At Rutgers University, he took Analytical Physics 2. At the age of 16, Damian attended the prestigious UPenn Experimental Physics Summer Program and earned the Rydberg Matter Award. Outside of school, Damian earned his Eagle Award in Scouting, and has worked 6 hours a week coaching Brazilian Jiu Jitsu since the age of 12. In the fall, he will be attending The Georgia Institute of Technology majoring in Material Science Engineering.



Brooke Leonardi is graduating from Phillipsburg High School. She is a 4th generation member of the Saint Andrew Community. She is proud of her Hellenic heritage and Greek Orthodox faith .

As a Girl Scout, Brooke has demonstrated outstanding leadership to community service through her Bronze and Silver Award projects. For her Bronze Award, Brooke tackled an important issue by painting the middle school bathrooms with inspirational messages, creating a more positive and uplifting environment for students.

For her Silver Award, Brooke took the initiative to set up a Little Free Library at Thomas Stewart Park, fostering a love for reading and learning within the community. She took the time to plan all phases, including

fundraising, present to township officials for approval, promote the library and ensure its sustainability.

Brooke volunteered at St. Luke's Hospital, did numerous volunteer activities through the Key Club including the local Food Bank. She also volunteered for the Youth Little Liner Basketball Camp. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Brooke has been on the Varsity Basketball team since her freshman year and is currently the captain. She has played traveling basketball since she was 10 years old. Currently on the Hunterdon Basketball AAU league. She received the NJ Star of the Week High School Basketball award and the Skylands Division All Conference Basketball Player award. Brooke also played Lacrosse and Soccer throughout high school. Brooke was able to maintain good grades, play year-round sports and also work two part-time jobs at McDonalds and the Firth Youth Center.

Brooke is excited to attend Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA where she will be majoring in Early Childhood Education. She will also be playing basketball and lacrosse for the college.

Brooke would like to thank the Saint Andrew Community for supporting her with her future endeavors. Brooke's family: Mike, Renee, Steve and Anna Zavros, Irene Kolos (Great Grandmother) are extremely proud of her accomplishments and wish her continued success.

Demitria Watkins was a 2025 graduate of Mount Olive High School. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, NJ prior to moving to Flanders in 2013. At this time, Demitria became a member of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church and immediately became immersed in the community. She participated in Sunday School and JOY, followed by GOYA. Demitria played GOYA volleyball for a few years, while also playing basketball and volleyball in both middle school and for Mount Olive High School. During high school, Demitria was a member of several clubs including the Environmental Club, International Club, World Language Honors Society, and the National English Honors Society.



Demitria was a recipient of the Pearls of Wisdom Foundation Scholarship Award, as well as the Reba Blake Scholarship for Business and Technology. She also received the Renaissance Academic Achievement Award Scholarship. Each of these accolades speak to her character and the kind of young adult she continues to grow into—one who is hardworking, compassionate, and determined to make a positive impact.

Demitria has worked at Target for over a year and spent her summer working, relaxing, and spending time with her friends and family. She now attends The Ohio State University, seeking a degree in Health and Sciences, specifically the pre-Physician's Assistant path. She appreciates those who have taught her the importance of her faith, including Fr. John, which she carries with her each day.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and fashion.

With opportunities to win fabulous prizes.

Tricky Tray tickets will be available at the event.

Reverse Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance.

Payment options listed below

Only 250 tickets will be sold

Every ticket will be drawn!

OU do not need to be present to win

Grand Prize: Florida Beach Getaway (value \$3000)

1st ticket drawn wins a Visa Gift Card \$100

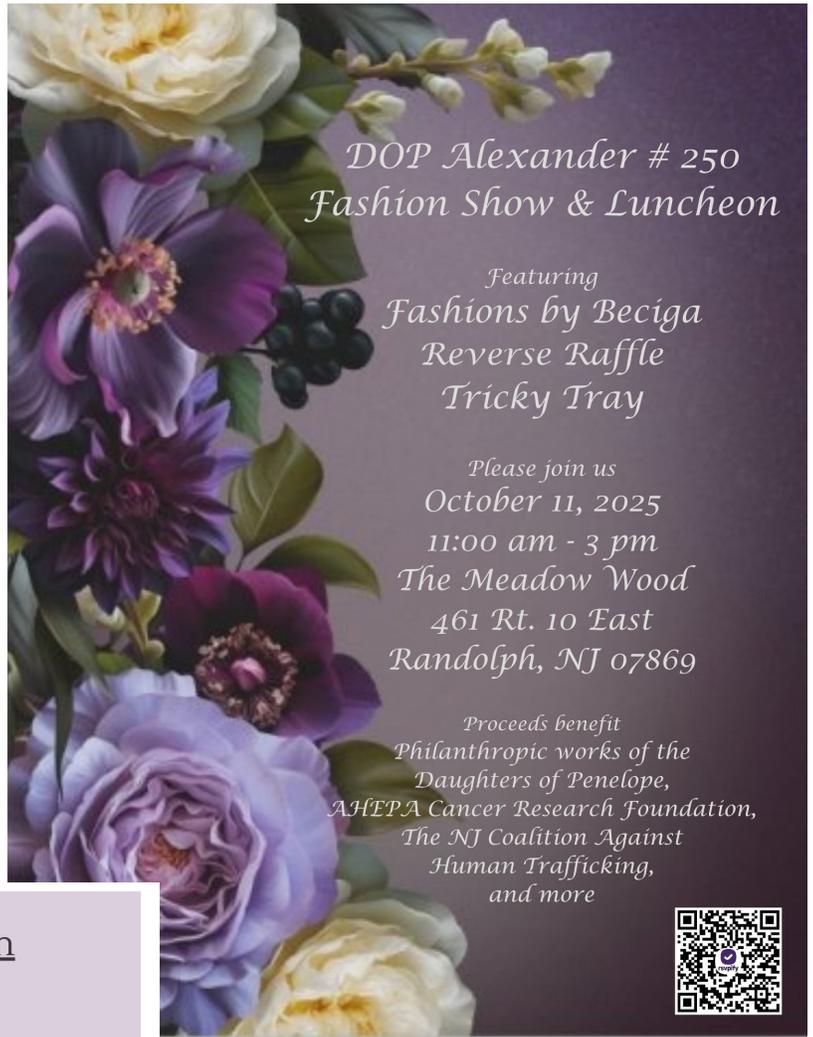
25th, 50th, 75th, 100th, 125th, 150th, & 175th

tickets drawn wins a Visa Gift Card \$150

200th & 225th tickets drawn wins a Visa Gift Card \$200

248th ticket wins 2 Broadway Theater Tickets & 1 Night Hotel Stay NYC (value \$1200)

249th ticket wins David Yurman Pendant (value \$1350)



DOP Alexander # 250 Fashion Show & Luncheon

*Featuring
Fashions by Beciga
Reverse Raffle
Tricky Tray*

*Please join us
October 11, 2025
11:00 am - 3 pm
The Meadow Wood
461 Rt. 10 East
Randolph, NJ 07869*

*Proceeds benefit
Philanthropic works of the
Daughters of Penelope,
AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation,
The NJ Coalition Against
Human Trafficking,
and more*



Fashion Show & Luncheon

\$65.00

RSVPify



<https://alexanderfashionshow2025.rsvpify.com>

VENMO: @DIMITRA-PALLIS-2

ZELLE: DIMITRAPI64@GMAIL.COM

CHECKS Payable To: DOP Alexander # 250

Mail To: Dimitra Pallis President, DOP Alexander # 250

14 Ridgeview Lane

Mt. Arlington, New Jersey 07856

(Last4digitsofmyphone# - 9084)

Reverse Raffle

\$50.00 Reserve your ticket now!
Ticket will be emailed separately

250 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD - EVERY TICKET WILL BE DRAWN

250th ticket drawn Grand Prize: Florida Beach Getaway (value \$3000)

1st ticket drawn wins \$100

25th, 50th, 75th, 100th, 125th, 150th, & 175th tickets drawn wins \$150

200th & 225th tickets drawn wins \$200

248th ticket drawn wins 2 Broadway Theater Tickets & 1 Night Hotel (value \$1200)

249th ticket drawn wins One of Kind David Yurman Pendant (value \$1350)

Tricky Tray

MZ Wallace - Radio City Rockettes - La Mer - Tory Burch

Kate Spade - Vera Bradley - Spa Day - Broadway

And so much more!!

201-874-9084 / DOP.Alexander250.Randolph@Gmail.com



We welcome all women to join!

Be as active as you want, never any pressure.

Always fun!

Please contact Dimitra Pallis

201-874-9084

DOP.Alexander250.Randolph@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook

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ST. ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

GREEK TAVERNA NIGHT

OCTOBER 18, 2025

MEZZE | BUFFET DINNER | SWEETS | DANCING

MUSIC BY



DJ TOMMY



DOORS OPEN 7PM

— BYOB —

ADULTS \$55

CHILD 5-15 \$35

UNDER 5 FREE

1447 SUSSEX TPKE.
RANDOLPH, NJ 07869
(973) 584-0388

HOSTED BY
ST. ANDREW GOYA





BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS, 7:00PM

FR JOHN'S OFFICE

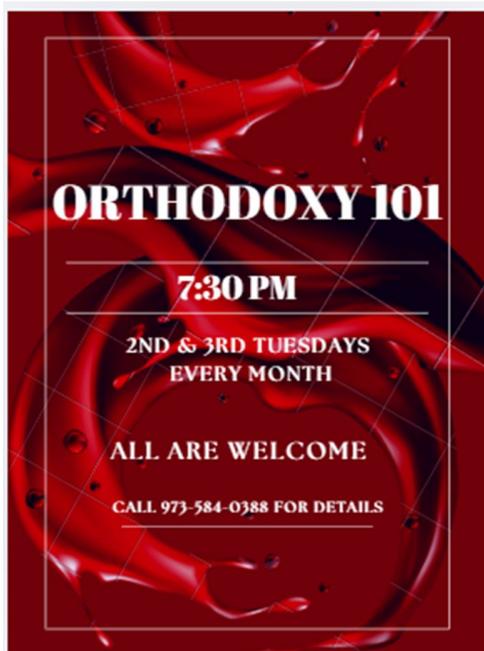
September 18, 25,
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
November 6, 13

ADVENT Bible Study

will be on Fridays @10:30AM

November 14, 21 &
December 5, 12

ORTHODOXY 101



2ND & 3RD Tuesdays of the month at
7:30 pm

October 14, 27
November 4, 11, 18
December 2,

Welcome to first time and lifetime participants alike, join us for an open discussion on the spiritual, historical and theological foundations of the Ancient Christian faith.

Luke the Evangelist

Luke the Evangelist was one of the Four Evangelists—the four traditionally ascribed authors of the canonical gospels. The Early Church Fathers ascribed to him authorship of both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Prominent figures in early Christianity such as Jerome and Eusebius later reaffirmed his authorship, although a lack of conclusive evidence as to the identity of the author of the works has led to discussion in scholarly circles, both secular and religious.

The New Testament mentions Luke briefly a few times, and the Epistle to the Colossians^[3] refers to him as a physician (from Greek for 'one who heals'); thus he is thought to have been both a physician and a disciple of Paul.

Since the early years of the faith, Christians have regarded him as a saint. He is believed to have been a martyr, reportedly having been hanged from an olive tree, though some believe otherwise.^[b] The Eastern Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic church and other major denominations venerate him as **Saint**

Luke the Evangelist and as a patron saint of artists, physicians, bachelors, notaries, butchers, brewers, and others; **his feast day is 18 October**. ...



... As an artist

Luke the Evangelist painting the first icon of the Virgin Mary Christian tradition, starting from the 8th century, states that Luke was the first icon painter. He is said to have painted pictures of the Virgin Mary and Child, in particular the Hodegetria image in Constantinople (now lost). Starting from the 11th century, a number of painted images were venerated as his autograph works, including the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, Our Lady of

Vladimir, and *Madonna del Rosario*. He was also said to have painted Saints Peter and Paul, and to have illustrated a gospel book with a full cycle of miniatures.

The late medieval Guilds of Saint Luke gathered together and protected painters in many cities of Europe, especially Flanders. The Academy of Saint Luke, in Rome, was imitated in many other European cities during the 16th century. The tradition that Luke painted icons of Mary and Jesus has been common, particularly in Eastern Orthodoxy. The tradition also has support from the Saint Thomas Christians of India who claim to still have one of the Theotokos icons that Saint Luke painted and which Saint Thomas brought to India.

The art critic A. I. Uspensky writes that the icons attributed to the brush of the Evangelist Luke have a completely Byzantine character that was fully established only in the 5th-6th centuries.

Άγιος Λουκάς ο Ευαγγελιστής

Ένας από τους τέσσερις ευαγγελιστές, άγιος της Χριστιανικής Εκκλησίας και εκ των συνεργατών του Αποστόλου Παύλου. Σύμφωνα με την παράδοση, είναι ο συγγραφέας του τρίτου συνοπτικού Ευαγγελίου («Κατά Λουκάν») και των «Πράξεων των Αποστόλων». Η μνήμη του τιμάται από τη Χριστιανοσύνη στις **18 Οκτωβρίου**. Την ημέρα αυτή γιορτάζουν όσοι φέρουν το όνομα Λουκάς.

Ο Λουκάς, σύμφωνα με την παράδοση (Ευσέβιος), γεννήθηκε στην Αντιόχεια της Συρίας, έζησε τον 1ο αιώνα και ήταν ένας από τους πλέον μορφωμένους ανθρώπους της εποχής του. Αρχικά ήταν ειδωλολάτρης, όπως φαίνεται από το γεγονός ότι δεν μνημονεύεται από τον απόστολο Παύλο (Κολοσσαείς δ' 11) μεταξύ των μαθητών και ακολούθων του, που ήταν Εβραίοι, καθώς και από την προέλευση του ονόματός του, που αποτελεί σύντμηση του λατινικού Λουκιανός. Για τον τρόπο και τον χρόνο μεταστροφής του στη χριστιανική πίστη δεν γνωρίζουμε τίποτε.

Από τη δεύτερη όμως ακόμη αποστολική περιοδεία του ο Λουκάς ήταν συνοδός και συνεργάτης του αποστόλου Παύλου, όπως φαίνεται από εδάφια των «Πράξεων των Αποστόλων». Συνόδευσε τον Παύλο στη Μακεδονία από την Τρωάδα (Πράξ. ιστ' 11-12) και παρέμεινε στους Φιλίππους πιθανότατα μέχρι το τέλος της τρίτης αποστολικής πορείας του Παύλου. Τέλος, συνόδευσε τον Παύλο από την Καισάρεια στη Ρώμη (Πράξ. κζ' 1, κη' 16).

Ως προς τη δράση του Λουκά μετά τον θάνατο του Παύλου, δεν γνωρίζουμε το παραμικρό μετά βεβαιότητας. Σύμφωνα με την παράδοση, ο Λουκάς κήρυξε τη χριστιανική πίστη στη Δαλματία, Γαλλία, Ιταλία και Μακεδονία (Επιφάνιος) και στην Αχαΐα ([Γρηγόριος Ναζιανζηνός](#)). Ο Συμεών ο Μεταφραστής λέγει ότι από τη Ρώμη ο Λουκάς μετέβη στην Ανατολή, διέσχισε τη Λιβύη κι έφθασε στην Αίγυπτο. Εκεί χειροτονήθηκε επίσκοπος στην περιοχή της Θηβαΐδας, όπου και πέθανε.

Άλλοι συγγραφείς και εκκλησιαστικοί πατέρες αναφέρουν ότι πέθανε στη Θήβα της Βοιωτίας (Μάξιμος Μαργούνιος), ενώ ο Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος υποστηρίζει ότι μαρτύρησε. Ο Ισίδωρος της Σεβίλλης γράφει ότι



πέθανε σε ηλικία 74 ετών και ο Νικηφόρος Κάλλιστος ογδόντα ετών.

Παλαιότατη παράδοση θέλει τον Λουκά ζωγράφο, που φιλοτέχνησε μάλιστα την εικόνα της Παναγίας. Την παράδοση αυτή προϋποθέτει η ορθόδοξη εκκλησιαστική υμνολογία στον Παρακλητικό Κανόνα της Παναγίας:

*Άλαλα τα χείλη των ασεβών,
των μη προσκυνούντων, την εικόνα σου την σεπτήν,
την ιστορηθείσαν, υπό του Αποστόλου,
Λουκά ιερωτάτου, την οδηγήτριαν.*

Ο ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς ήταν κάτοχος μεγάλης ελληνιστικής παιδείας και γνώστης της ιστορικής μεθόδου της εποχής του. Τα έργα του, το «Ευαγγέλιο» και οι «Πράξεις Αποστόλων», παρουσιάζουν ευχέρεια χρήσης της Ελληνιστικής Κοινής και αποτελούν ένα από τα πρώτα ιστορικά μνημεία του χριστιανισμού.

Στον Δυτικό χριστιανικό κόσμο, ο Άγιος Λουκάς είναι προστάτης των καλλιτεχνών, των γιατρών, των χειρουργών, των μαθητών και των κρεοπωλών.

Πηγή: <https://www.sansimera.gr/biographies/1025>

Neo's Journey: Through The Matrix to Personhood

"...love is always free, and without freedom there is no love" (K. Ware, Sorbornost, 8:2, 1986)

In 1999, the world was introduced to *The Matrix*. The premise of the movie suggests that we are living in a simulated computer program and the year is really 2199. The world lost the war against the AIs and they are using humans as Energizer batteries so they can use the energy from our bodies to power themselves. Humans are slaves and are no longer born but grown in pods.

However, there's a group of humans who were able to escape the matrix by discerning what is real and what is not. These humans banded together to free humanity. In order for this group to truly succeed, they need to find the One who will "deliver" them from the matrix. Morpheus, their current leader, feels that Thomas Anderson is the One. By day he is Thomas Anderson, programmer, but at night he's the hacker known as Neo. (Get it? Neo is an anagram for the word "one").

With me so far? In the articles I've read about *The Matrix*, spirituality is the predominant motif. However, I see Neo as an everyman who is struggling with his personhood. At the beginning of *The Matrix*, Neo is lying on the couch seemingly bored. He perks up when a message begins typing on his screen. Through a series of events, he meets Morpheus who tells him the truth: humanity is enslaved by the AIs. Morpheus asks Neo to join them.

Before Neo decides, Morpheus tells him: "...I can only show you the door. You're the one who has to walk through it." So he swallows the red



pill (freedom) rather than the blue pill (slavery) and gets sucked down a rabbit hole. He, then, ends up (re-born?) in a pod with tubes attached to his body. He pulls the tubes out, falls out of his gooey liquid and gets sucked down into a slide and right into water.

He is rescued by the Nebuchadnezzar and begins his training about how to navigate through the matrix. Apparently, the process is very easy. A program is uploaded into your brain and voila, instant expert.

Neo realizes that he never knew anything—either about himself or the world around him. He begins to establish bonds. Neo likes Morpheus, Trinity, and the others and they reciprocate in kind (except for Cypher who turns out to be a Judas). Neo realizes life is complex. Without a community he is no one. He might as well as an "m" between the "e" and the "o" and become Nemo (or no one). Being a part of a community, makes him a unique person. As Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of Diokleia says: "there is no true person except where there are at least two persons in a reciprocal relationship" (*Pemptousia*, October 2016). Neo is no longer a

no one (Nemo). He is now a person within a community of other unique persons.

The matrix misleads the humans into believing life is good and fulfilling and more is better. The matrix parallels our own world: more is better and it's about me! We succumb to earthly temptations. We focus on the physical instead of our hearts. We prefer cliques to community.

The Matrix is showing us a path to personhood through community. As individuals we limit interactions with others. We see a path to what needs to be done but are too apathetic to become involved. Morpheus tells Neo, "...there's a

difference between knowing the path and walking the path." We can take Morpheus' statement further. If we follow the path of our hearts rather than our minds, we can walk the right path. Our heart is the tool we need ("For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matt 6:21).

So swallow the red pill and be a unique person within a community, because we, like "the Christian God [are] not a unit but a union, not just unity but community." (*The Orthodox Way*, by K. Ware)

Lia Lewis, M.Div, a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, Brookline, MA, lives, works and writes in New Jersey..

Η αλήθεια μπορεί να αποκαλυφθεί ακόμη και σε ένα κόσμο γεμάτο ψέματα.

Όταν ο περίφημος βασιλιάς Σολομών επισκέφθηκε την βασίλισσα του Σάββα. Εκείνη του έδωσε να λύσει ένα γρίφο (trick). Τον πήγε λοιπόν σε μια περιοχή.

Στο παλάτι της όπου κάποιοι εξαιρετικά ταλαντούχοι καλλιτέχνες είχαν δημιουργήσει ένα πανέμορφο τεχνητό ανθόκηπο με τεχνητά άνθη. Υπήρχε μια θάλασσα από πολύτιμα λουλούδια που κυμάτιζαν απαλά από το αεράκι που είχε δημιουργηθεί επίσης με τεχνητό τρόπο. Τα χρώματα, οι μυρωδιές και ο αέρας δεν διακρίνονταν από τα αληθινά.

Τότε η βασίλισσα του λέει "Βασιλιά Σολομώντα ένα από όλα αυτά τα λουλούδια είναι αληθινό, μπορείς να βρεις ποιο " Ο Σολομώντας κοίταξε γύρω του προσεκτικά. Χρησιμοποίησε όλες τις αισθήσεις του και συγκεντρώθηκε όσο περισσότερο μπορούσε

αλλά δεν κατάφερε τίποτα για να ξεχωρίσει το αληθινό λουλούδι.

Άρχισε να νοιώθει αμήχανα και ιδρώνει και ζήτησε από την βασίλισσα να ανοίξει ένα παράθυρο γιατί είχε πολύ ζεστή εκεί μέσα, έτσι η βασίλισσα έδωσε εντολή να ανοίξουν ένα παράθυρο.

Λίγο αργότερα ο Σολομώντας λέει "Αυτό εδώ είναι το αληθινό λουλούδι "

Πράγματι δεν είχε κάνει λάθος. Μια μικρή μέλισσα είχε πετάξει μέσα από το παράθυρο και είχε καθίσει επάνω στο μοναδικό αληθινό λουλούδι. Αν και είναι δύσκολο να διαθέτει κάποιος την σοφία του Σολομώντος η ιστορία αυτή μας δείχνει ότι είναι πολύ δύσκολο να είσαι μέλισσα. Το πιο δύσκολο από όλα όμως είναι να είσαι ένα αληθινό λουλούδι.

respectfully submitted by Voula Katsigiannis

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

October 2025 – Fall – Halloween Safety – Media Photo Safety!

Yia sas! Happy October and Fall! Welcome again to the quick ending of summer. Fall is upon us now; your children should be settled in schools, and all is going forward. Before I write about Halloween safety, I want to write about "photo safety." In our church, I take photos of events, and I send them to those responsible for our magazine if they wish to use them, but we also have a St. Andrew's Facebook Group page and a St. Andrew's Instagram. Sunday School and Greek School Teachers take photos as well and may post on their pages. Hopefully, they will have release letters from parents if their photos can be used. The St. Andrew's Facebook and Instagram will not post photos of children whose parents do not want them on social media. Many parents, however, take personal group photos of their children. Parents, before posting a group photo on your personal pages, please check with the parents first if their children are allowed to have their photo taken. Respect the wishes of the parents. Parents, if you do not want your children photographed, let them know ahead of time to remove themselves so they are not embarrassed. It is difficult not to include friends of your children, but some parents may not want photos of their children on social media. Yes, I cheated with AI, and here is a quote on photo safety...

"To ensure photo safety for children on Facebook, always check and set your profile and post privacy to 'Friends,' turn off location tags on photos, and avoid sharing images that could reveal personal information like home locations, school uniforms, or school times. Involve your child in the decision-making process by asking for their consent, which teaches them about privacy and respect, and consider whether it's appropriate to post any photos at all, as images can be altered and used by others."

NOW ON TO HALLOWEEN! Not especially my favorite holiday, but I did dress my children during

Halloween, and I do give out candy sometimes with a friendly mask or weird appearance.

Many parents do not let their children participate in Halloween activities, but before you deprive them of many fun activities during this holiday, research the reasons. I will just quote one paragraph from Allan Rudnick below that I agree with, and for me, it's not really an anti-Christian holiday. (However, do not dress your children in costumes that may look evil.)

"The key to understanding the origins of the term Halloween comes from the sense of what is 'hallowed' or 'holy'. In the Lord's Prayer, Christians pray, 'Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name...' In the fourth century, John Chrysostom tells us that the Eastern Church celebrated a festival in honor of all saints who died. In the seventh and eighth centuries, Christians celebrated 'All Saints' Day' formally."

Halloween is a fun time for our children, and carving pumpkins, going to Halloween parties with friends at church or school, dressing up in costumes, gives them a feeling of belonging, and they have good, clean fun. Let them enjoy Halloween. If something scares them, tell them to say a prayer, and this will take their fears away. October is a great time for many activities for our children. Put those light jackets on those kids and let them be outdoors while they can still enjoy the fresh air. Many schools have Halloween celebrations, and there are plenty of safe Trunk or Treat activities in many towns, as young children should not be trick-or-treating alone.

What about those teenagers who want to go out on Halloween? If they can do that, don't let them tell you they have too much homework, and they can't go outside to rake leaves either! No leaves to rake? They can take the younger children apple picking, for a walk to observe the changing colors, and watch the birds fly south.

We should encourage prayer with our children, young & old, as well as continue to enjoy the outdoors before it gets too cold. I know when I am in a stressful situation, I pray, and this power of prayer gives me strength to overcome my stress, fears, or shortcomings. The fall season is beautiful! Do we tell our children to pray often other than in church? If not, we should. Our home is a school as well!

Parents, let the children celebrate Halloween and the most beautiful fall season with the changing of the leaves. Take photos, but when taking photos

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

with their friends, be sure to ask the parents if they want their photos on social media before posting. Make your personal digital albums and share them with friends. Not everything has to be on social media.

I want to wish everyone a blessed month of October and reach out to me with any suggestions of topics.

With that in mind, my prayer this month from my book ***“A Table Prayer Guide”*** is from ***“The Church of the Home”*** by Rev. Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris, *“Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home”*.



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).



MARKET STREET MISSION'S ANNUAL COAT DRIVE:

Please drop off by **THURSDAY OCTOBER 23RD**

We are collecting **gently used** coats, hats, and scarves.

Please put donated items in marked bins located in the Social Hall. Winter Coats for MEN, WOMEN, MEN/WOMEN 2X-4X, CHILDREN & HATS/SCARVES

NO light jackets, raincoats, or sweaters etc.

COAT GIVEAWAY will be on Saturday November 1st at
The Morristown Green from 10am-1pm



Knitting, Crochet & Pillow Ministry

Looking for a meaningful and creative way to give back? Come be part of a warm and welcoming ministry where you can:

MEETING LOCATION: Saint Andrew Social Hall on Wednesdays

DAYTIME: 11 AM – 2 PM | 1st & 3rd Wednesday: Oct 1 & 15, Nov 5 & 19, Dec 3 & 17

EVENING: 6 PM – 8 PM | 2nd & 4th Wednesday : Oct 8 & 22, Nov 12, Dec 10

This is a non-denominational ministry. All are welcome!

Bring a friend and join us in crafting for a cause!

Agape – Αγάπη Luncheons on Thursday at 11:30am **October 30, November 20** **December 11**

For more information contact: **Julie** Ioannou 201-602-1359,
Joanne Diamantidis 973-432-1950 or **Irene** Laoudis 973-479-5221

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

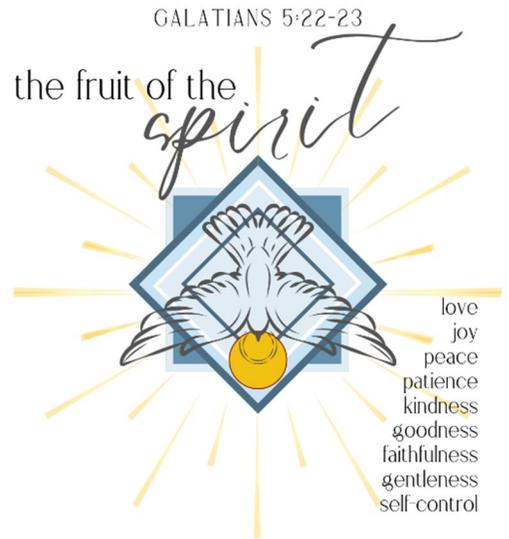
Galatians 5: 22-23

Wednesday, August 20

Peace Be with You

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20: 19-20



Good morning Prayer Team!

In a previous reflection, I mentioned that in the Divine Liturgy (and in many other services in the Orthodox Church), the priest will bless the congregation with the words "*Peace be with you all.*" In doing this, he is offering both a blessing and a prayer for the people in attendance that they *will have the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding*, (Philippians 4:7) and that they will be freed of stress. The people are supposed to offer a response to the priest, which is "*And with your spirit.*" This means that the people are wishing the same peace the priest is blessing them with, they wish for the priest to have that same peace. (As an aside, it always confounds me as a priest, how many people do not respond to this blessing. Instead of wishing the priest to have peace, their non-response is saying essentially, "we'll take your gift of peace but don't wish for you to have the same gift.)

Now not every person is a priest, and not every action is liturgical in nature. But this exchange of "*peace be with you all*" and "*and with your spirit,*" is an exchange we should offer ideally with every person we come in contact with. No, we don't have to say the words, but we should imply them in our actions. I should want to have a peaceful

contact with everyone I meet. They should want a peaceful contact with me. I should hope for them to have peace and they should hope for me to have peace. Most importantly, I should go out of my way to create a peaceful environment around me to put others at ease around me. And others should afford me the same courtesy.

"Honesty" and "safety" are not listed as fruit of the Spirit. However, honesty is a precursor to trust and trust is a precursor to love. And safety is the by-product of peace. In our relationships with one another, we should strive to create environments where it is safe to be honest, and where the safety of the other person is a primary goal. In relationships where there is an honest and safe exchange of ideas, even of disagreements, then there can be peace. There can even be peace in times of disagreement because all parties are concerned with honesty and safety, and these will aid in resolving conflict which then leads back again to peace.

Hebrews 12:14 tells us to "*strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*" So, not only is peace with one another something we should strive for, but the holiness which is required if one wants to

see the Lord, cannot come to the person who has no peace.

In John 14: 27, Jesus tells His Disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." The ideal is to have peace with everyone we encounter. Jesus tells us that this is the ideal. But He also warns them that His peace is not the kind of peace that the world gives. The world doesn't give complete peace, and certainly not all the time. Rather as we read in Hebrews above, it is a fruit for which we are to continually strive. Again, peace promotes safety and honest. And safety and honesty foster peace. This is the ideal we are supposed to work for in every relationship, including our relationship with the Lord. But peace doesn't just happen. As with the other Fruit, peace is a choice, and it is a challenge. It is a choice we

have to make daily and a challenge to remain peaceful and promote peace in a world that seems to very much work against peace.

Lord, thank You for the gift of peace, the possibility of being at ease and not experiencing constant strife and conflict. Help me to be a person who promotes peace. Surround me with people who want the same kind of peace that I do. Help me, and them, to foster relationships that are honest, where it is okay to be vulnerable. Help all of my relationships to be anchored not only in love, but in peace as well. Amen.

Work on building safe environments in your relationships, where it is okay to be honest and vulnerable and you will see not only will love deepen, but a lasting peace will come over the relationship as well.

Fr. Stavros

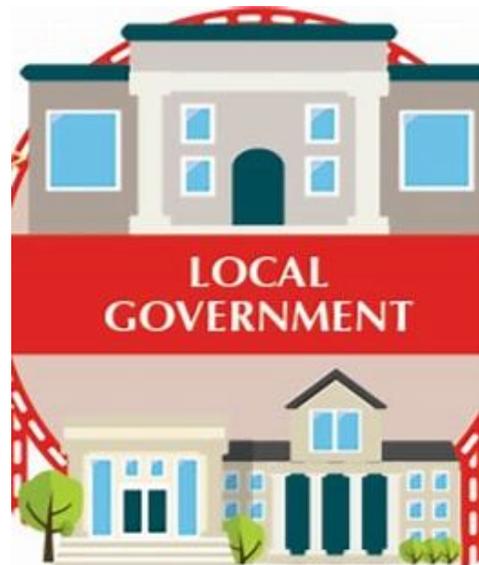
Sunday, October 19 after Liturgy

join us in Room 101 for a presentation on how to secure a government job

The means to secure a government position will be presented in a 30 min. discussion. This can be beneficial to those seeking a government position or those seeking a career change.

Ways to Secure a Government Position

1. Civil Service Test
2. Chiefs Test
3. Temporary Position
4. Positive Interview
5. Special Skills
6. Appointed Position
7. Elected Position
8. Internships
9. Volunteer
10. Network-Network-Network



NB: *Dr. John Paitakes worked as a Somerset County Probation Officer for over 25 yrs; A Seton Hall University Professor in Criminal Justice for 20 years and a member of the New Jersey State Parole Board for 10 years. He was the Internship Coordinator for Criminal Justice students while at the University.*

AHEPA CHAPTER 300 & AHEPA CHAPTER 375



CIGAR NIGHT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 | 6:30PM

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As seen on Goarch.org...

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew and spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. Since ascending the Ecumenical Throne on November 2nd, 1991, he has tirelessly pursued the vision of his enthronement message spiritual revival, Orthodox unity, Christian reconciliation, interfaith tolerance and coexistence, protection of the environment and a world united in peace, justice, solidarity and love.



As Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew has helped the Church to expand on many fronts. Through dialogue and visitations, he has greatly advanced Orthodox relations with the Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists and others. His All Holiness has taken a highly active role in post communist Eastern Europe by strengthening contacts and relations with various Orthodox national churches and through direct visits to several Orthodox nations, including Russia.

Known in Europe as the "Green Patriarch," Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has taken the lead among all religious leaders in his concern for the environment. His All Holiness has initiated seminars and dialogues to discuss the need for the mobilization of moral and spiritual forces to achieve harmony between humanity and nature.

As the leader of the Orthodox Christian Church, His All Holiness represents the voice and concerns of a long-suffering, but fast growing faith. Orthodox Churches are gaining adherents across the globe, but particularly in the developed world, where individuals are turning to Orthodoxy in record numbers because they are finding in it the simple peace, love, and salvation they have been seeking.

Orthodox Christianity is also resurgent in newly freed countries where some of the worst religious persecution in history occurred in recent times. In the first decades of this century, whole Orthodox populations were extinguished from native lands they had known for centuries. Soon after his enthronement in 1991, the Ecumenical Patriarch journeyed throughout the Orthodox world bringing a message of restoration

and renewed hope. He is a living witness to the world of Orthodoxy's painful and redemptive struggle for religious freedom and the innate dignity of mankind.

As a citizen of Turkey, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's personal experience provides him a unique perspective on the continuing dialogue between the Christian and Islamic worlds. He has made a valuable contribution to global conflict resolution and peace building, as in the case of the former Yugoslavia. The Ecumenical Patriarch has worked persistently to advance reconciliation among Catholic, Muslim, Jewish and Orthodox communities in the region and around the world.

His All Holiness is profoundly committed to expressing the religious importance of protecting and preserving the environment. He has received Prince Philip, and with him sponsored a conference on the Environment at the Theological School of Halki. He has established the first day of September as an occasion of an annual Message on the protection of creation, as well as establishing that same day as a day of prayer in the Ecumenical Patriarchate and throughout the Orthodox world.

Continuing his Apostolic Visit to the U.S. in Washington, D.C., this evening His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew attended a dinner hosted in his honor by the Honorable Michael J. Rigas, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

His All-Holiness issued a pointed warning about the dangers of nationalism in religion, urging instead a renewed global commitment to dialogue, coexistence, and the dignity of every human being.

"As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to pursue the kingdom of God, not any kingdom of man, no matter how inviting," the Ecumenical Patriarch told an audience of ambassadors, diplomats, clergy, and U.S. officials. His remarks positioned the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a transnational, spiritual institution standing above political boundaries and national rivalries.

His All-Holiness acknowledged that many Orthodox churches are structured around national identities, shaped by culture and history. But he was emphatic that the role of the church is not to reinforce nationalism. "Religion was used to consolidate peoples around specific governments, giving coherence to earthly empires, kingdoms and nation-states," he said. "But has not the human family arrived at a point when such rigid forms of conformity no longer serve the interest of the people?"

His All-Holiness reflected on the persistent entanglements between church and state, warning that while these ties once gave cohesion to empires and nations, they now risk constraining the universal mission of faith.

He tied this warning to the very setting of his remarks, the State Department, saying that

diplomacy requires the capacity "to place oneself in another's condition, to be empathetic and not only sympathetic." True religion, he argued, should do no less.

"The Orthodox Church does not embrace ethnophilism as a policy, even when some of our sister churches have done so, out of political and even financial expediency," the Ecumenical Patriarch said. "As Orthodox Christians with a continuous history and memory ... we understand the complexity of the relationship between the city of God and the city of man."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew emphasized that the task of religious leaders today is to open space for mutual respect, interfaith dialogue, and reconciliation. "The significant contribution of the great religious traditions should be to create fields of mutual respect and understanding," he said. "All the religions of the world teach the value of every human person. We have been confronted by the need to practice acceptance over rejection."

Marking the 1700th anniversary of Nicaea, His All-Holiness recalled the creed's affirmation that Christ is "of the same essence" with the Father, adding that this truth applies to all humanity, whose dignity is equally shared.

His All-Holiness closed by speaking directly to Deputy Secretary of State Rigas, who hosted the event. Noting Rigas's Greek Orthodox upbringing and his father's graduation from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, His All-Holiness underscored their shared heritage. "You share our awareness

that the human family is bound together in a deeper relationship than we might have imagined," he said. "And in this spirit, we have the key to unlock a happy and fulfilling life for every human being."

He ended with a blessing: "May God bless you richly, and may God bless America."



Saint Andrew Family News October 2025

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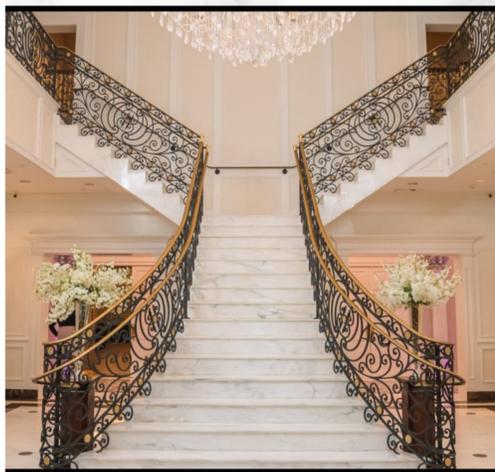


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There are various levels and opportunities that you and your business can participate in

BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

THEO REYES, son of Bret Reyes Ferrone and Elena Melekos, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Sunday, September 14th, 2025, at 1:00pm and given the name **ΘΕΟΦΙΛΟΣ - THEOPHILOS**, Godfather was Lukas Anastassakis.



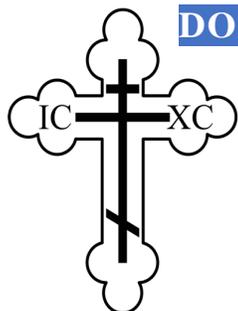
BROOKE JEAN STONE was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Sunday, August 31st, 2025, at 1:00pm and given the name **ΒΕΡΟΝΙΚΑ - VERONICA**. Godfather was Chris Tsamutalis.



LEVI THOMAS STONE, son of Brooke Jean Stone, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, August 31st, 2025, at 1:00 pm and given the name **ΜΟΔΕΣΤΟΣ - MODESTOS**. Godparents were Andrew and Iris Krassas.

MASON THOMAS STONE, son of Brooke Jean Stone, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, August 31st, 2025, at 1:00 pm and given the name **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ - VASILIOS**. Godparents were Andrew and Iris Krassas.

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SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR

* 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**

GOYA Volleyball Tuesday **@7:30-9pm**

GOYA Basketball Wednesday **@6:30-9pm**

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

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

Greek Dancing Thursdays **@6:30 pm**

Greek Dancing GOYA Thursdays **@7:15 pm**

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

10/1 @11AM KNITTING GROUP NEXT ON 10/15

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

10/2 @5PM PTA MEETING

10/3 @7PM BIBLE STUDY ALSO ON 10/9/-TBD , 10/16,
10/23, 10/30

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

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

10/13 @7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING *NEXT 11/3*

10/8 @6PM KNITTING GROUP NEXT ON 10/22

10/9 AHEPA CIGAR NIGHT *KNOLL COUNTRY CLUB*

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

10/12 MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY

10/12 **@3PM BAPTISM**

10/14 @7PM ORTHODOXY 101: 10/27, 11/4, 11/11,
11/18, 12/2, 12/9

10/18 @7PM TAVERNA NIGHT AT ST ANDREW

10/25 FAITH KITCHEN - PHILOPTOCHOS

10/19 @11:30 PRESENTATION on Government jobs

10/19 MR & MISS GOYA HANOVER MANOR @4PM

10/24 @6PM HARVEST PARTY – PTA

10/25 FAITH KITCHEN – PHILOPTOCHOS

10/30 @11:30 AGAPE LUNCHEON NEXT 11/20

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)

11/2 @1PM BAPTISM

11/8 @7:30 AM-2PM SPECIAL OLYMPICS EXTERNAL

11/9 @12PM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11/9 @2PM GOYA GAMES RANDOLPH VS WESTFIELD /SA

11/14 @10:30AM ADVENT BIBLE STUDY -ALSO ON 11/21,
12/5, 12/12

11/15 Nativity Fast Begins

11/16 HOPE & JOY THANKSGIVING CRAFT

11/16 @2PM GOYA GAMES RANDOLPH VS UNION AT SA

11/21 @4:30PM GIRL SCOUT / SOCIAL HALL

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

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



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Please remember the Late † _____ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.

Kindly accept the memorial gift as a token of Love and Respect in his/her memory.

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

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

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

DOP-Daughters of Penelope | GID -Greek Independence Day | HAS – Hellenic Afternoon School | PC -Parish Council | PH -Philoptochos | RelEd-Religious Education

GATEWAY DENTAL

Creating healthy smiles

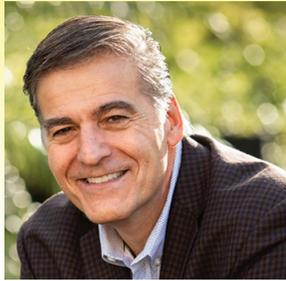
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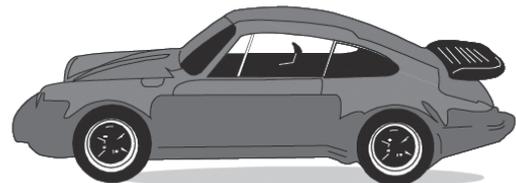
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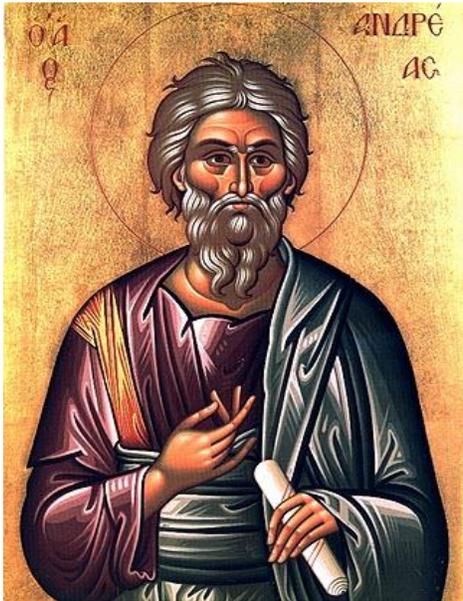
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Christian Stewardship is about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. God has given each of us special and unique gifts. And through Holy Scripture He teaches us all that we have is a loan. He lends everything to us and reminds us that one day He will ask us to give a detailed accounting of what we have done with the gifts He has given us. Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted that “we find ourselves by offering ourselves.” Have we learned the blessedness of 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 ικέτεue,
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.