

NOVEMBER 2025



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

## Saint Andrew Family News

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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE - Friday, November 21

OXI DAY CELEBRATION (HAS PROGRAM IN GYM - Friday, November 21

SAINT ANDREW VESPERS – Saturday, November 29

SAINT ANDREW ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY - Sunday, November 30

# Saint Andrew Family News

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

On Sundays we celebrate

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

For other services please check our website or call the office

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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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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*Deadline for the **DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE** is November 15<sup>th</sup>*

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# DIVINE SERVICES

## NOVEMBER

Saturday	1	SS. COSMAS & DAMIAN
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b>   <i>Oxi Day CELEBRATION (HAS PROGRAM IN GYM)</i>
Saturday	8	SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b>   ST. NEKTARIOS
Thursday	13	ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
Friday	14	PHILIP THE APOSTLE   <i>ADVENT LENT BEGINS ON 11/15</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</b>
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>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b>
Tuesday	25	ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR
Wednesday	26	THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE +ST. STYLIANOS +Orthros & Divine Liturgy @5:00PM
Saturday	29	<b>SAINT ANDREW</b>   Great Vespers Service @6PM
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>ST. ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED APOSTLE</b>

## DECEMBER 2025

Thursday	4	+ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR * <i>Relics</i>
Saturday	6	+ST. NICHOLAS ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
Tuesday	9	THE CONCEPTION OF +ST. ANNA
Friday	12	+ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TRYMITHOUS
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b> ; +ST. ELEUTHERIOS THE HOLY MARTYR   <b>CHRISTMAS PAGEANT</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Sunday before the Nativity</b>
Monday	22	+ST. ANASTASIA THE GREAT MARTYR
Wednesday	24	+EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST, +EUGENIA THE RIGHTEOUS   Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespers Liturgy of St Basil the Great @8am
Wednesday	24	+HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD   Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom @8PM
Saturday	27	+SAINT STEPHEN, Archdeacon and First Martyr
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Sunday after Nativity; Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ</b>
Wednesday	31	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION ST. BASIL   Great Vespers @7:00pm

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

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

*October 4<sup>th</sup> 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, then proceed to their class.*

*Saint Andrew Family News November 2025*

# Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

## Ν Ο Ε Μ Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ 2 0 2 5

Σάββατο	1	Θαυματοργῶν Ἀναργύρων Κοσμᾶ καί Δαμιανοῦ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>ΣΤ΄ Λουκά / Πρόγραμμα 28<sup>ης</sup> Οκτωβρίου</b> Απογευματινὸ Ἑλληνικὸ Σχολεῖο
Σάββατο	8	+Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΙΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΩΝ ΜΙΧΑΗΛ ΚΑΙ ΓΑΒΡΙΗΛ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Ζ΄ Λουκά</b>   +ΝΕΚΤΑΡΙΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΠΕΝΤΑΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Πέμπτη	13	Ἰωάννης Χρυσόστομος, Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
Παρασκευή	14	+ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ   <b>ΣΑΡΑΝΤΑΗΜΕΡΟ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑΣ 15/11</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>16</b>	+ἈΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕὐΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤῆΣ ΜΑΤΘΑΪΟΣ
Παρασκευή	21	ΤΑ ΕΙΣΟΔΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
<i>Πέμπτη</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Μέγας Αρχιερατικός Εσπερινός – Θα ανακοινωθεί</i>
<i>Παρασκευή</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Αγίου Ιακώβου Ευβοίας Αρχιερατικής Θείας Λειτουργίας - Θα ανακοινωθεί</i>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Θ΄ Λουκά</b>
<b>Τρίτη</b>	<b>25</b>	ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ
<b>Τετάρτη</b>	<b>26</b>	᾽Όσιος Στυλιανός ὁ Παφλαγῶν
<b>Τετάρτη</b>	<b>26</b>	ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΩΝ ᾽Όσιος Στυλιανός ὁ Παφλαγῶν Ὁρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 5:00μμ
Σάββατο	29	Μέγας Εσπερινός του <b>ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ</b> <u>ώρα</u> Θα ανακοινωθεί
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Α ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ ΝΔΡΕΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΩΤΟΚΛΗΤΟΥ</b>

## Δ Ε Κ Ε Μ Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ 2 0 2 5

<b>Πέμπτη</b>	<b>4</b>	+ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ *ΛΕΙΨΑΝΑ
Σάββατο	6	+ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΜΥΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΛΥΚΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Ι΄ Λουκά</b>
Πέμπτη	9	Η ΣΥΛΛΗΨΗΣ ΤΗΣ +ΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΠΡΟΜΗΤΟΡΟΣ ἌΝΝΗΣ
Παρασκευή	12	+ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΤΡΙΜΥΘΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>ΙΑ΄ Λουκά</b> +ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ   <b>ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Κυριακή προ της Γέννησης</b>
Δευτέρα	22	+ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΡΙΑΣ
Τετάρτη	24	+ΠΡΟ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, +ΕΥΓΕΝΙΑΣ   ὉΡΘΡΟΣ, ΜΕΓΑΛΑΪ ὉΡΑΙ, ΜΕΓΑ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ, ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΩΡΑ 8:00ΠΜ
Τετάρτη	24	+Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ   ὉΡΘΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΗ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΥ <u>ΩΡΑ</u> 8:00ΜΜ
Σάββατο	27	+ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ ΠΡΩΤΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΧΙΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΥ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Κυριακή μετά την Χριστοῦ Γέννησην</b>
Τετάρτη	31	Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ 7:00ΜΜ

**Την Κυριακή – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ**  
**Τις καθημερινές – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.πμ**  
*ΕΟΡΤΑΖΕΤΕ σης 4<sup>ης</sup> Οκτωβρίου ΙΕΡΟΘΕΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ \*Λείψανα*  
*(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας) \**

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 10πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία θα συνεχίσουν στις τάξεις τους.

## Saint Iakovos of Evia: A Saint for Our Times

(Feast Day: November 22)

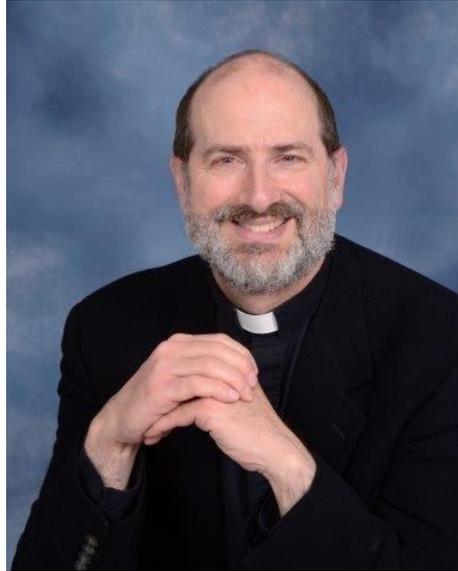
Since the Feastday of our holy Metropolis is coming up in the month of November I am sharing with you the life story of Saint Iakovos Tsalikis of Evia.

In every generation, God raises up witnesses of His love—holy men and women whose lives remind us that the Gospel is not an ideal from the past but a living power that transforms hearts today. One such witness, shining brightly in our own time, is Saint Iakovos (Tsalikis) of Evia, a gentle and humble shepherd who lived and reposed only a few decades ago, yet whose sanctity has already filled the Orthodox world with light.

Saint Iakovos was born in 1920 in Livisi, Asia Minor, to deeply faithful parents who instilled in him from infancy the love of God and His Church. His early years were marked by suffering. His family fled the violence of the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, eventually settling in Greece in poverty. Yet even amid hardship, the young Iakovos grew in piety and humility. His mother would bless him daily, teaching him to pray before every task, to cross himself before every step, and to thank God for every gift.

From his youth, Iakovos was captivated by the lives of the saints. He would later recall, “When I read about the saints, I wanted to be like them—not to be seen by people, but to please God.” This childlike sincerity became the foundation of his lifelong relationship.

In time, Iakovos was drawn to the monastic life and found his spiritual home at the Monastery



of Saint David the Elder in northern Evia. When he arrived, the monastery was nearly deserted and in disrepair. There was no electricity, no running water—only the silence of the forest and the relics of Saint David, whose unseen presence filled the place with grace.

Through Saint Iakovos’s prayers, humility, and tireless labor, the monastery began to live again. Pilgrims slowly returned, the church was restored, and the

surrounding wilderness became a garden of prayer. As one visitor later said, “You could feel the saints walking beside you.

Saint Iakovos was ordained a priest and eventually became abbot of the monastery, though he never saw himself as a leader. “I am not worthy to be called a spiritual father,” he would say, “but God uses even a sinner to bring comfort.”

Indeed, comfort was what he brought to thousands. People from every corner of Greece came to confess, to seek advice, or simply to rest in his presence. He listened with gentleness, never condemning, always pointing hearts toward Christ. His hospitality was legendary—he would meet each pilgrim with the words, “Sit, my child, and rest. You are Christ’s guest here.”

Many witnessed miracles through his prayers: the sick were healed, the sorrowful consoled, and the doubtful brought to repentance. But Saint Iakovos always deflected attention away from himself, reminding everyone, “When you see a miracle, glorify God—not the person through it took place.

Like all true disciples, Saint Iakovos bore the Cross with patience and joy. He endured illness, misunderstandings, and false accusations without complaint. When others marveled at his endurance, he would smile and say, “When you love Christ, pain becomes sweet—it becomes prayer.”

This was his secret: a heart completely surrendered to God. His joy was not of this world but of the Kingdom. Even in suffering, he radiated peace. Those who met him spoke of the warmth and light that seemed to emanate from his very presence—a living testimony that “the Kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21)

Saint Iakovos reposed in the Lord on November 21, 1991, after receiving Holy Communion. His last words were a prayer of thanksgiving. Soon after his repose, reports of his intercession and miracles multiplied. In 2017, the Ecumenical Patriarchate formally canonized him as Saint Iakovos of Evia, confirming what the faithful already knew—that this simple monk had become a friend of God.

Today, his relics rest at Saint David’s Monastery, which has become a beacon of pilgrimage and prayer. Countless faithful continue to find healing, peace, and renewal through his intercessions.

Saint Iakovos is often called “a saint of simplicity”—a man who lived holiness not in grand gestures but in quiet faithfulness. In an age of distraction and anxiety, he shows us that true peace is found only in Christ.

He teaches us that:

- Simplicity is greater than sophistication.
- Humility is stronger than pride.
- Prayer is more powerful than anxiety.
- Love for Christ can transform even suffering into joy.



He would often say to his visitors, “May we all go to Paradise, my children—may we all be together there!” These simple words carry the whole hope of the Gospel: that we are made for communion with God and with one another, forever in His love.

Saint Iakovos of Evia stands as a living bridge between the early saints of the Church and the modern world. His life reminds us that holiness is not beyond our reach—it is the natural fruit of a heart that loves God sincerely and serves others humbly.

May his example inspire us to cultivate that same simplicity of heart, to make prayer the center of our lives, and to greet each person as Christ Himself. And may his gentle intercessions guide us all on the path to Paradise.

“Through the prayers of our holy father among the saints, Iakovos of Evia, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.”



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

Fr. John Theodosion together with the parish council of Saint Andrew invite you and your family to celebrate in the FEAST DAY festivities of our PATRON SAINT, ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED APOSTLE.

**Saturday, November 29, 2025**

**GREAT VESPERS**

**with Artoclasia at 6:00 pm**

*Reception following services hosted by our Ladies of Philoptochos.*

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

**ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY**

**with Artoclasia at 9:00 am**

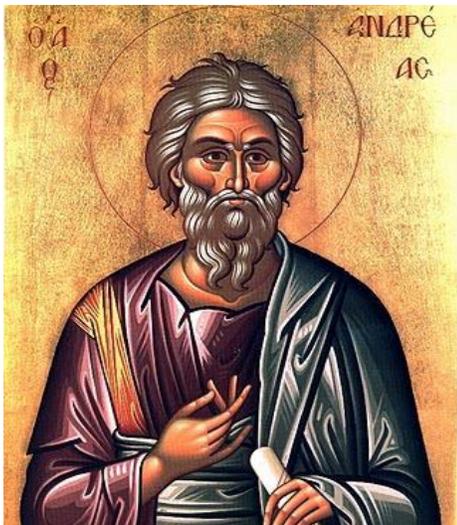
*Luncheon Following Services hosted by our Ladies of Philoptochos.*

### 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

Ὡς τῶν Ἀποστόλων πρωτόκλητος, καὶ τοῦ κορυφαίου ἀγαθέλφου, τὸν Δεσπότην τῶν ὅλων Ἀνδρέα ἱκέτευε, εἰρήνην τῇ ἐκουμένην δωρήσασθαι, καὶ ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.



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[standrewgonj.org/livestream/](http://standrewgonj.org/livestream/)

If you would like to sponsor an **Artoclasia** on **November 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>** please contact the Office

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GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

# SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of the Parish Council, we cordially invite you to attend in person the Saint Andrew GENERAL ASSEMBLY meeting on **Sunday, November 9<sup>TH</sup> at 11:30pm.**

According to the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese, all parishioners present, and wishing to participate in the discussions and voting, must be active stewards for 2025.

There will be many important topics discussed.

### Γ Ε Ν Ι Κ Η Σ Υ Ν Ε Λ Ε Υ Σ Η

Εκ μέρους του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου ευρισκόμαστε στην ευχάριστη θέση να σε **προσκαλέσουμε** στην Εικονική ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ της Κοινότητας που θα γίνει την **Κυριακή, 9 Νοεμβρίου, 2025 στις 11:30πμ.**

Σύμφωνα με το ομοίομορφο καταστατικό των Κοινοτήτων της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής όλοι οι παρόντες οικονόμοι (*stewards*) για να έχουν δικαίωμα συζητήσεων και ψήφου πρέπει να είναι ενεργά μέλη για το 2025. Θα συζητήσουμε πολλά σημαντικά θέματα.

#### The AGENDA is as follows:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Nomination and election of Chairperson and appointment of Recording Secretary by the Chairperson for the General Assembly Meeting
3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting
4. Treasurer's report
5. 2026 Budget
6. Stewardship update
7. Buildings and Grounds
8. The Festival
9. Nominations for Parish Council (*Elections will be held on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025*)
10. Nominations for Election Committee
11. Nominations for Auditing Committee
12. Comments & Questions
13. Closing Prayer

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. John Theodosion, *Protopresbyter*  
Nicholas Monokandilos, *Parish Council President*

#### Τα ΘΕΜΑΤΑ είναι τα εξής:

1. Προσευχή
2. Διορισμός και εκλογής προέδρου και διορισμός Γραμματέως Πρακτικών για την Γενική Συνέλευση.
3. Έγκριση των πρακτικών της τελευταίας Γενικής Συνελεύσεως
4. Έκθεση Ταμείου
5. Προϋπολογισμός για το 2026
6. Ενημέρωση Stewardship
7. Κτίρια και Χώροι
8. Το Φεστιβάλ
9. Προτάσεις για την ανάδειξη νέων μελών προς πλήρωση των κενών θέσεων του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου (*οι εκλογές θα γίνουν την Κυριακή, στις 7 Δεκεμβρίου 2025*)
10. Προτάσεις για την Εξελεγκτική Επιτροπή
11. Προτάσεις για την Εφορευτική Επιτροπή
12. Ερωτήσεις & Παρατηρήσεις
13. Προσευχή

Με αγάπη Χριστού,  
π. Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου, *Αιδ. πρωτοπρεσβύτερο Νικόλαος Μονοκάντιλος, Πρόεδρος Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου*

# THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE, celebrated on November 21,

*commemorates the presentation of the Virgin Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem  
as a child, marking her dedication to God.*

## Historical Background

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is a significant event in the Orthodox Christian liturgical calendar. According to tradition, when Mary was three years old, her parents, Saints Joachim and Anna, fulfilled their vow to dedicate her to the Lord by bringing her to the Temple in Jerusalem. This event is not explicitly detailed in the canonical Gospels but is derived from the apocryphal text known as the **Protoevangelium of James**.

## The Event

Upon her arrival at the Temple, Mary was joyfully received by the High Priest Zacharias, who recognized her as a special vessel chosen by God. She was led into the Holy of Holies, a place where only the High Priest could enter, symbolizing her unique role in salvation history as the future mother of Christ. The event signifies Mary's purity and her preparation to become the dwelling place of the Divine.



## Theological Significance

The feast emphasizes the theme of Mary as the "living temple" of God, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies that God would dwell among His people. The liturgical texts often reference Psalm 45, which speaks of the beauty and glory of the king's daughter, paralleling Mary's role as the Mother of God. The Entrance of the Theotokos is seen as a precursor to the New Covenant, where God dwells within humanity through Christ.

## Liturgical Observance

The feast is celebrated with a Divine Liturgy, preceded by a Vespers service on the evening before. The readings for the feast include passages from Exodus, I Kings, and Ezekiel, which highlight the significance of the Temple and God's presence among His people. The Gospel reading from Luke includes Mary's Magnificat, where she praises God for His mercy and grace.

## Conclusion

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is a profound celebration that highlights the Virgin Mary's unique role in the Christian faith. It serves as a reminder of God's plan for salvation and the importance of dedicating oneself to divine service. The feast invites the faithful to reflect on the virtues of humility, obedience, and devotion exemplified by Mary throughout her life.

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[entrance of theotokos in the temple - Search](#)



Geek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PHILOPTOCHOS



Dear Saint Andrew Parishioners,

This is a very busy time to the year for the Saint Andrew Philoptochos. We have ended our coat drive and delivered all the coats, scarves, hats, and gloves to the Market Street Mission. Thank you for your donations! Additionally, as the season of giving is upon us, the Philoptochos is collecting for the Intertfaith Food Pantry. (see below the items you can donate).

### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Please make your donations no later than Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Items to Donate:

- Instant mashed potatoes, brownie mix, cake mix
  - Canned sweet potatoes, icing, mini marshmallows
  - Muffin mix, pickles, turkey gravy (no glass jars)
  - Canned vegetables, canned yams, hot cocoa mix
  - Canned fruit, coffee, tea -Apple juice, salad dressing, stuffing
  - Cranberry juice, roll mix, hearty soups -Pudding mix, Jell-O, grape juice
- PERISHABLES: frozen turkey, ham, fresh potatoes, apples, oranges and onions.



It is Philoptochos' tradition to mail a **CHRISTMAS CARD** to the entire church family. The card features drawings from the children in our parish and includes names of all who donate. If you would like your name to be printed in the Philoptochos Christmas Card, please make a donation...

By Check : All checks made payable to Saint Andrew Philoptochos

- Please write "Christmas Card" in the memo of the check
- Provide **how you would like your family name to appear** in the card
- Checks should be mailed or given to the Church office

OR • SCAN THE QR code below / Make sure to add in the comment of the payment how you would like **your family name** to appear in card

**The donations you make will be set aside and will only be used to assist our Saint Andrew families in need.**

\*Suggested donation: \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, all contributions are welcome!\*

The deadline for donating is **Sunday, December 7, 2025.**

Thank you for helping those less fortunate this holiday season!

May God guide us to continue doing His work. Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Thanksgiving In Faith and Fellowship,

Marina Venizelos, Saint Andrew Philoptochos President

Philoptochos SaintAndrew

@StAndrewPhiloptochos



**venmo**

**Executive Board:** President, Marina Venizelos; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Maro Schuster; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Panayiota Louca ; Treasurer, Irene Laoudis; Assistant Treasurer, Athena Theodosion; Recording Secretary, Maria Galvin; Corresponding Secretary, Melissa Dobias  
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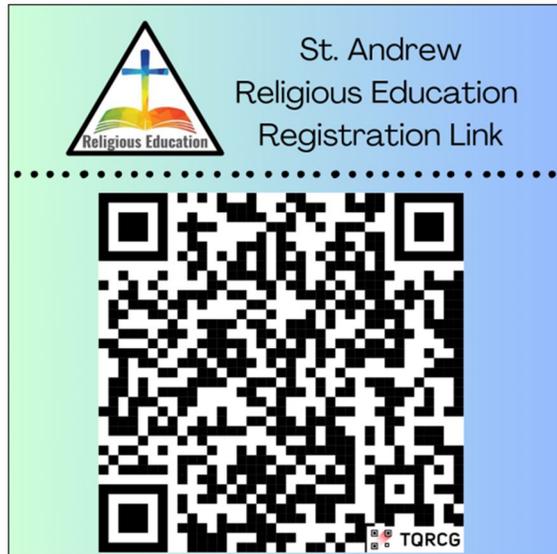
Saint Andrew Family News November 2025

## The Importance of Religious Education

Religious education is a “family” event. As a child begins to grow in their comprehension of our beautiful Orthodox faith, parents also grow through their sharing of this faith both within the Church on Sundays and at home each day.

We need each family to enter the life of our faith and this is renewed each Sunday by being present to the Divine Liturgy and then regular attendance of the religious education classes. There cannot be a successful religious education program without the full participation of YOU, the parents.

It is urgent that each family recognizes how critical it is in these challenging times to equip our children and the whole family with the “armor of God”! Being in the Church and fully participating in the programs that strive to strengthen our spiritual living is



urgently needed. Our historical faith witnesses to an actual event in which God has entered our reality and like a seed, has begun growth of a new creation. This is why we need to come before Jesus as the “Bread of life” who is the very substance for our life before God who loves us so much.

As a reminder for all families, we have created two new programs to provide opportunities for families to deepen their Orthodox faith.

The first is “**Bringing the Church into our homes**” in which religious education becomes a family learning and second, **Orthodoxy 101**, where everyone can come and openly discuss questions of faith and Orthodox living.

Maro Nicolaou Schuster

We can always be reached at [religioueducationstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:religioueducationstandrews@gmail.com)

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FOR ALL SAINT. ANDREW YOUTH (6-18 YEARS)

### **SAINT ANDREW FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD**

Each Child is asked to submit One DRAWING:

1. DRAWING MUST be in COLOR on white computer paper 8 ½ x11.
2. **Original** drawings **only** will be judged
3. No tracing, or computer drawings
4. It must also be drawn with the religious theme of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ
5. Include on the **back** of drawing: Date of Birth, Grade, First & Last Name and Telephone number of participant



*The selected drawings will be published in our Saint Andrew  
DEADLINE IS SUNDAY **December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025***



October was a wonderful month for our ministry! We had a great time decorating "Fall for Jesus" craft pumpkins and welcoming new members to our community. We're also thrilled to welcome Tanya DeBoer to our leadership team!

At the end of the month, we partnered with the PTA to host a fun-filled Harvest Party, bringing families together in celebration of the season.

Looking ahead, please join us on November 16 at the church for our next event, where we'll reflect on gratitude and love in honor of Thanksgiving.

Stay tuned for more upcoming gatherings!

Email us at [hopejoystandrews@gmail.com](mailto:hopejoystandrews@gmail.com)

To join our ministry, fill out this form <https://tinyurl.com/3wshxvp9>



or scan this QR code

-Jenny, Stala, Pam, and Tanya



# GOYA November Newsletter 2025

This past October, our GOYA had many events, and a big highlight was our Harvest Dance. The Harvest Dance was a big success, and we appreciate all the work and support that came from our fellow GOYAns, GOYA advisors, and GOYA parents. We were able to accommodate over 300 GOYAns, which was excellent, especially since our planning was last-minute. Along with the Harvest Dance, some of our GOYAns traveled to Dover for Faith Kitchen. Only some GOYAns



served, however, everyone participated in making the sandwiches the Thursday before. Also, we had four GOYAns represent our church and dive for the cross. All four participants worked hard to retrieve the cross but were unsuccessful. In addition to our busy month, GOYA games started on Sunday, October 12th. Our junior and senior volleyball and basketball teams

traveled to Roseland church. Our junior and senior volleyball teams beat Roseland in two sets, and every player demonstrated good execution and sportsmanship. Our junior and senior basketball team started their season with a loss with a close, hard game, but we know that we will see wins in their future. Our St. Andrew's GOYA is excited about Friendsgiving, which will take place in November at the Church. Everyone is having a great year so far and we are looking forward to more great events together.

A BIG THANK YOU to Ava Papageorge and Demetry Gergatsoulis, who represented Saint Andrew at the Mr & Miss GOYA Pageant on October 19 at the Hanover Manor!

Maria Kalavrouziotis | Co-Vice President





**SUNDAY, October 12**

*Saint Andrew parishioners and guests celebrated our Ministry Fair for a chance to learn more about our groups, charities and ways to get involved... see our church ... as it could be*



**Thanks to everyone for your participation!**

## SAINT ANDREW HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL (HAS)

The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) established a Hellenic Afternoon School lending library. This library also carries religious education books. We provide books in both Greek and in English for all ages. During school, the HAS teachers help students select books for reading at home to provide a rich, interactive context for learning new vocabulary and sentence structures. This is just one way to help the students feel comfortable and gain confidence in reading and speaking the Greek language.

We emphasize the importance of reading to support learning a second language. According to research, there are many positives of using books in early childhood second language acquisition. Since children's literature makes use of natural language patterns in familiar contexts that the students can relate to, it helps students to make connections and recollect those language structures at a faster pace. Books do not only contain vocabulary, the images provided also help the child understand the meaning without language skills. Reading or read to supports the brain to remember these language structures as the learner will connect an image to the word it represents. Therefore, we would like to promote a strong support network with the students and their families. It is imperative parents encourage reading by



either reading to their child, playing an audiobook, or participate in read-aloud on YouTube at home or at HAS school events. Additionally, one of our HAS learning platforms, Staellinika provides engaging visual stories students may also listen and learn the Greek language. We strive to make learning the Greek language more accessible, engaging and effective through a variety of methods and resources, making Greek fun and approachable.

Log in Staellinika.com with your child's student e-mail and explore. Come see a plethora of Greek books at the Saint Andrew lending library and sign out any book(s) of your choice. Let us help Greek language learners develop a love for reading!

***"Where do we go when we just don't know? How do we relight the flame when it's cold?"***  
(Serenity by Godsmack)

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matt 5:14-16)

We live during a time when our inner light flickers precariously. Our light flickers because the world around us presents us with many choices: good and bad. These choices determine our path in life. If we choose to hurt our neighbor or even our enemy then the choice is a dark one. Many of us choose this path deliberately because of circumstances. It may not be out of violence or vengeance done upon us, it may just be because we feel we have the choice and this choice is our concern and not the world's.

It's when we feel this way that our flame gets blown out. We've allowed our hearts to blacken a little like the wick of a candle when its flame goes out. It sputters and oozes smoke and then the wick blackens. The light is no longer a pure burning one like a brand new unlit candle. The Panagia [Virgin Mary] is a candle whose flame will never go out. Her purity of soul was imprinted from the moment of conception. She, as any mortal, was born with original sin but the path she chose melted all of that away which led to that day the Archangel Gabriel visited her and asked her to be the God-Bearer. She burns so brightly that her flame will never extinguish even after the end times.

We, on the other hand, struggle and make the wrong choice every day. It could be as simple as repeating our negative behaviors: overeating, rudeness, drugs, and whatever else we fall back on that we think warms us in the cold light of our reality. How can we "relight the flame" of our souls during these difficult cold days of our lives? One way is to see the



destructive path we are following—like the Prodigal Son's path from his father's house to his eventual job as a cleaner of pig sties. This realization of how bad his life had fallen made him "relight the flame" in his heart. This "flame" led him to home to his Father's house. He remembered how much his Father loved him and the warmth and comfort that the flame in his heart provided. He remembered that love also replaced his addiction for the world.

It's not hard to blow out a candle but when you need to relight it, there may not be a match around or worse, it could be really windy making it hard to light the candle. But a spark happens when two objects are struck together like two stones. One stone is us and the other is Jesus Christ. Once He enters our heart, the flame is relit with such ferocity that the "door" to our heart is reduced to ashes and His flame engulfs us in such love that it can never be snuffed out.

Through this entrance, we realize that we are the "light of the world." God created us in His image and wants us to burn brightly because He loves us unconditionally. And through this love, He wants us to do His will and glorify Him.

So the answer to the question that is quoted above, "how do we relight the flame when it's cold," by striking our hearts on God's Love and sparking a bonfire to let our "...light shine before others, that they may see [y]our good deeds and glorify [y]our Father in heaven."

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

# DOP FASHION SHOW



**A BIG THANK  
YOU to our  
chapter Sisters  
& our beautiful  
models who  
made this a  
successful  
event!**



**Join  
the  
DOP  
today!**



# Prophet Nehemiah

Nehemiah was the leader of the third and last patch of the Jewish captives who returned to Jerusalem (About the year 445 or 444 BC– after about a century from the return of the first batc). Caring to rebuild the destroyed wall of the city, and its gates burnt by fire, he calls us to an important fact that touches the life of every believer. Nehemiah perceived that his true mission in life was greater than being the 'cup-bearer' of the greatest king at that time, and his personal counselor with great daring with him. Through his fiery heart, he perceived that he had a greater mission by God; namely to consummate a certain job, beyond all his capabilities, talents, and possibilities. . He was called to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and to rebuild the society itself; he was called to fulfill things that may seem utterly impossible. The book of Nehemiah presents to us the truth of "God of the impossible"; who works in all eras, (in the last watch of the night); when all human arms are completely helpless. Everyone of us is attacked every now and then by some kind of depression. But Nehemiah reveals to us that our God is the Hope for whoever loses hope; who replaces despair with the spirit of hope, joy, and conquest..... Whenever we enter into the whirlpool of feeling complete helplessness, and count the circumstances



surrounding us as utterly impossible, God presents to us the message saying: "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God everything is possible" (Mark 10: 27). He works for the sake of all mankind, particularly for the sake of His church; and He cares for everyone, as though there is no one else in the world but him

The name 'Nehemiah' reveals the essence of the whole book. For the word 'Nehemiah' means (Jehoah is comfort). The whole book goes around the role of God in the life of the church, as well as in that of the believer. Whoever wishes to have true comfort, resorts to God, the Grantor of comfort, and trusts in His promises; for then, the divine comforts will fill him, and will even cover everyone around him; according to the words of the apostle Paul: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1: 3-5)

**As seen on [myorthodoxybooks.org](http://myorthodoxybooks.org)  
By Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty**

# "RISE UP AND BUILD"

*Nehemiah 2:18*

## ***Building Up the Body of Christ***

In the Old Testament we read about Nehemiah. After seeing the crumbling walls of Jerusalem, he called the people to "Rise up and build." Nehemiah doesn't do it alone. He inspires the people, sharing his vision. And the response of the people? "Let us rise up and build."

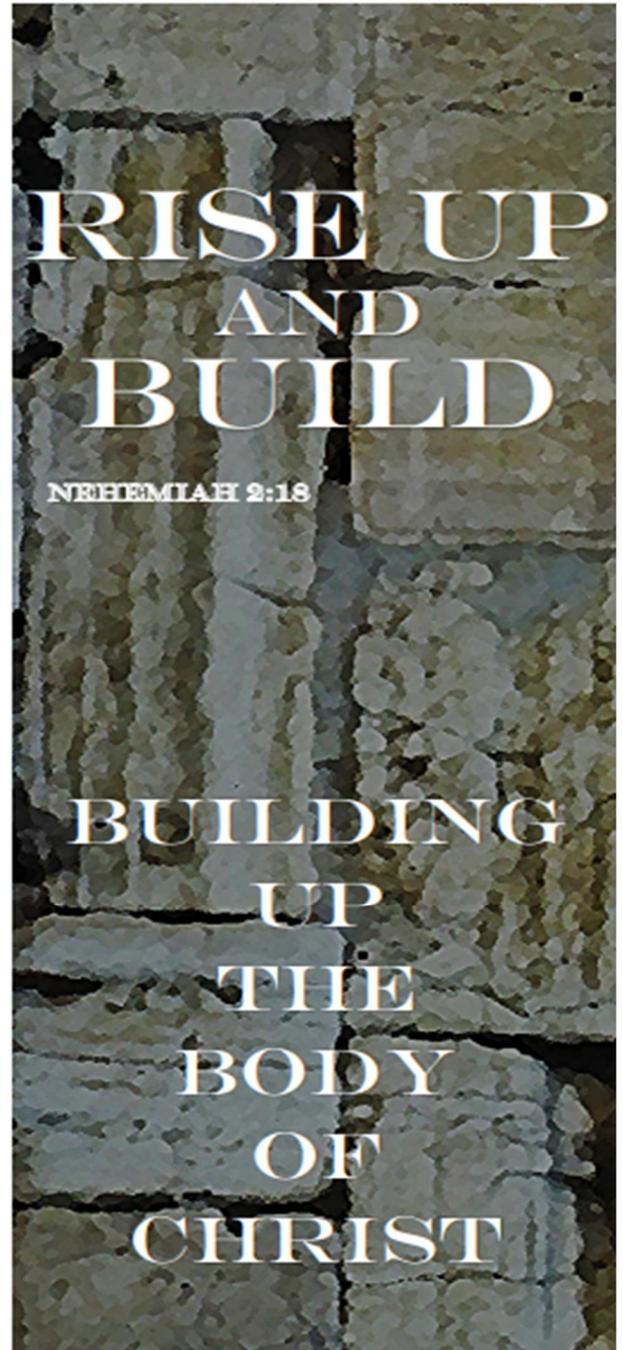
This story and the words of Nehemiah (2:19) call us today, not just to building and rebuilding with bricks and mortar, but also to a deeper, spiritual building – the rebuilding and renewal of our faith. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to respond to God's gifts with faithful stewardship. Like Nehemiah, we are called to "rise up and build," carrying on God's work in our parish our community and in the world.

This call of Nehemiah to "rise up and build" invites us to become active members of the Church, the Body of Christ, to join in ministry and contribute according to our abilities. As Orthodox Christians, we understand that stewardship is a joint effort of all the members of the community. Every member has a role to play.

### **how much is it?**

Stewardship is not a matter of "how much is it?" or "how much is needed?" Stewardship and generosity are aspects of spiritual discipline and an indication of our spiritual maturity. In stewardship we acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and we are to use His gifts in ways that honor Him. This transforms our understanding of the blessings in our life. It prompts us to use our blessings for the good of others and for the glory of God.

Just as the walls of Jerusalem were broken through neglect or indifference, a neglected spiritual life can also become dilapidated and broken. The words of Nehemiah call us to renew and rebuild our commitment to our faith, and our dedication and support for our Church and her ministries



## **compassion and faith**

Nehemiah's response is a great example for us. He was moved by compassion and faith. He saw the need, and his heart was stirred. He didn't ignore the problem; he embraced it as his own. This is the first step in true stewardship: seeing the needs of God's Church and responding with love and sacrifice.

Nehemiah prayed. Before any action, Nehemiah turned to God. He understood that true rebuilding, both physical or spiritual, begins and ends with God. Stewardship is not about our own strength, but about God working through us.

## **practical and intentional**

Nehemiah planned and acted. Prayer without action is just empty words. Nehemiah meticulously planned, secured resources, and then courageously led the work. Stewardship is practical; it is intentional, requiring wise planning, and diligent use of our God-given abilities and resources.

Nehemiah inspired others. He didn't just command. He shared his vision. He ignited a spark in the hearts of the people, reminding them of their importance in this process. This is crucial for our parish stewardship ministry. We lead by example, inspiring one another to participate, to offer their unique gifts for the good of our Church.

This is our call today. We are called to be like Nehemiah in our own lives and in our parish.

**We can** rise up and build the walls of prayer by dedicating time each day to personal

prayer, Scripture reading, and participation in the liturgical life of the Church.

## **receive the presence of Jesus**

*We can rise up and build the walls of worship by being present in Divine Liturgy, offering our time, our worship and our gratitude for His blessings. We offer our whole being to God in worship, and we receive the presence of Jesus Christ within us.*

*We can rise up and build the wall of generosity. Stewardship is not just about money, though it is vital for our Church's mission. Stewardship is offering our time, serving in ministries, being ready to help, wherever we are needed. It is about offering our talents and our unique skills – whether in music, administration, hospitality, or technology – for the glory of God. It is about offering our treasures, giving a proportional and sacrificial portion of our income, recognizing that all we have comes from God.*

*We can rise up and build the wall of Christian love, seeing Christ in all people, forgiving with patience, and compassion. In Christian love, we serve those in need, both within and outside our parish family, in our neighborhood and around the world.*

*To rise up requires effort, dedication, and perseverance. Building and rebuilding is not easy. But when we commit ourselves fully and sacrificially, God will bless our efforts.*

*The story of Nehemiah reminds us that stewardship is not only a financial obligation; it is a response of gratitude and love to God for His blessings. It is about actively participating in the ongoing work of building up the Kingdom of God, starting with the walls of our own souls and extending to the life of our parish and the world around us.*

# Εγέρθητε και Κτίστε

Νεεμία 2:18

## Χτίζοντας το Σώμα του Χριστού

Στην Παλαιά Διαθήκη διαβάζουμε για τον Νεεμία. Όταν είδε τα καταρρέοντα τείχη της Ιερουσαλήμ, φώναξε στον κόσμο «Εγέρθητε και κτίστε». Ο Νεεμίας δεν το κάνει μόνος του. Εμπνέει τον κόσμο και μοιράζετε μαζί τους το όραμά του. Και η ανταπόκριση του κόσμου; «Ας εγερθούμε και να κτίσουμε».

Η ιστορία και τα λόγια του Νεεμία (2:19) μας καλούν σήμερα, όχι μόνο να χτίσουμε και να ξαναχτίσουμε με τούβλα και λάσπη, αλλά να κάνουμε και μία βαθύτερη, πνευματική αναδόμηση – την αναδόμηση και ανανέωση της πίστης μας. Ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, καλούμαστε να ανταποκριθούμε στα δώρα του Θεού με την πιστή συνδρομή μας. Όπως ο Νεεμίας, καλούμαστε να «εγερθούμε και να οικοδομήσουμε», συνεχίζοντας την εργασία του Θεού στην ενορία μας, την κοινότητά μας και στον κόσμο μας

Αυτό το κάλεσμα του Νεεμία «εγέρθητι και χτίστε» μας προσκαλεί να γίνουμε ενεργά μέλη της Εκκλησίας, το Σώμα του Χριστού, να ενωθούμε στις διακονίες και να συνεισφέρουμε ανάλογα με τις ικανότητές μας. Ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, καταλαβαίνουμε πως η συνδρομή είναι μία κοινή προσπάθεια όλων των μελών της κοινότητας. Κάθε μέλος έχει και ένα ρόλο να παίξει.

### Πόσο κάνει;

Η οικονομική συνδρομή σας δεν είναι ζήτημα του «πόσο κάνει;» ή «πόσα χρειάζονται;» Η οικονομία και η

γενναιοδωρία είναι μορφές πνευματικής πειθαρχίας και ένδειξη της πνευματικής ωριμότητός μας. Με την οικονομική συνδρομή μας αναγνωρίζουμε πως ό,τι έχουμε είναι δώρο Θεού και εμείς πρέπει να χρησιμοποιούμε τα δώρα Του με τρόπους που Τον τιμούν. Αυτό μεταμορφώνει την κατανόηση των ευλογιών μας στη ζωή μας. Μας προτρέπει να χρησιμοποιούμε τις ευλογίες μας για το καλό των άλλων και προς δόξαν Κυρίου.

Όπως ακριβώς τα τείχη της Ιερουσαλήμ γκρεμίστηκαν από την παραμέληση και την αδιαφορία, έτσι και μία παραμελημένη πνευματική ζωή μπορεί να ερημώσει και να ρημάξει. Τα λόγια του Νεεμία μας καλούν να ανανεώσουμε και να ξαναχτίσουμε τη δέσμευσή μας στην πίστη μας, και την αφοσίωσή μας και υποστήριξη στην Εκκλησία και τις διακονίες της.

### συμπόνια και πίστη

Η απάντηση του Νεεμία είναι για εμάς ένα σπουδαίο παράδειγμα. Έδρασε από συμπόνια και πίστη. Είδε την ανάγκη και η καρδιά του ανασκίρτησε. Δεν αγνόησε το πρόβλημα, το αγκάλιασε σαν να ήταν δικό του. Αυτό είναι το πρώτο βήμα για τη σωστή οικονομία: να βλέπεις τις ανάγκες της Εκκλησίας του Θεού και να ανταποκρίνεσαι με αγάπη και θυσία.

Ο Νεεμίας προσευχήθηκε. Πριν από οποιαδήποτε πράξη, ο Νεεμίας στρεφόταν στον Θεό. Είχε καταλάβει πως η αληθινή ανακατασκευή, φυσική ή πνευματική, αρχίζει και τελειώνει με τον Θεό. Η οικονομία δεν έχει να κάνει με τη δύναμή

μας αλλά με τον Θεό που εργάζεται μέσα από εμάς.

### **πρακτικός και σκόπιμος**

Ο Νεεμίας σχεδίαζε και έπραττε. Η προσευχή χωρίς πράξη είναι απλά κενά λόγια. Ο Νεεμίας σχολαστικά σχεδίαζε, εξασφάλιζε πηγές και μετά με θάρρος ηγείτο της δουλειάς. Η οικονομία είναι πρακτική, είναι σκόπιμη, απαιτεί σοφό σχεδιασμό και επιμελή χρήση των χαρισμάτων και πηγών που μας δώρησε ο Θεός.

Ο Νεεμίας ενέπνεε τους άλλους. Δεν έδινε μόνο διαταγές. Μοιραζόταν το όραμά του. Άναβε την σπίθα στις καρδιές των ανθρώπων, υπενθυμίζοντάς τους τη σημασία τους σε αυτή τη διαδικασία. Αυτό είναι κρίσιμο για την οικονομική διακονία της ενορίας μας. Δίνουμε το παράδειγμα, εμπνέοντας ο ένας τον άλλο να συμμετέχει, να προσφέρει τα μοναδικά του δώρα για το καλό της Εκκλησίας μας.

Αυτό είναι το κάλεσμά μας σήμερα. Καλούμαστε να είμαστε σαν τον Νεεμία και στη δική μας ζωή και την ενορία μας.

Μπορούμε να εγερθούμε και να χτίσουμε τα τείχη της προσευχής αφιερώνοντας χρόνο κάθε μέρα στην προσωπική προσευχή μας, το διάβασμα των Γραφών και τη συμμετοχή μας στη λειτουργική ζωή της Εκκλησίας.

### **λάβετε την παρουσία του Ιησού**

Μπορούμε να εγερθούμε και να χτίσουμε τα τείχη της λατρείας με την παρουσία μας στην Θεία Λειτουργία, να προσφέρουμε τον χρόνο μας, τη λατρεία μας και την ευγνωμοσύνη μας για τις ευλογίες Του. Προσφέρουμε ολόκληρη την ύπαρξή μας στον Θεό με λατρεία, και λαμβάνουμε την παρουσία του Ιησού Χριστού μέσα μας.

Μπορούμε να εγερθούμε και να χτίσουμε τον τοίχο της γενναιοδωρίας. Η οικονομία στην Εκκλησία δεν είναι μόνο χρήματα, αν και είναι σημαντικά για την αποστολή της Εκκλησίας. Οικονομία είναι να προσφέρουμε τον χρόνο μας, να υπηρετούμε στις διακονίες της, έτοιμοι να βοηθήσουμε, οπουδήποτε χρειαζόμαστε. Περιλαμβάνει και την προσφορά των ταλέντων μας και των μοναδικών μας ικανοτήτων – είτε στη μουσική, στα γραμματειακά, τη φιλοξενία ή την τεχνολογία -προς δόξαν Θεού. Την προσφορά των θησαυρών μας, δίνοντας ένα μέρος και τμήμα του εισοδήματός μας, αναγνωρίζοντας πως ό,τι έχουμε έρχεται από τον Θεό.

Μπορούμε να εγερθούμε και να χτίσουμε τον τοίχο της Χριστιανικής αγάπης, να βλέπουμε τον Χριστό σε όλους τους ανθρώπους, να συγχωρούμε με υπομονή και συμπόνια. Στην Χριστιανική αγάπη υπηρετούμε όσους έχουν ανάγκη, και μέσα και έξω από την οικογένεια της ενορίας μας, στη γειτονιά μας και σε όλο τον κόσμο.

Χρειάζεται προσπάθεια να εγερθείτε, αφοσίωση και επιμονή. Η οικοδόμηση και η ανοικοδόμηση δεν είναι εύκολη. Αλλά όταν δεσμευτούμε ολοκληρωτικά και θυσιαστικά, ο Θεός θα ευλογήσει τις προσπάθειές μας.

Η ιστορία του Νεεμία μας υπενθυμίζει ότι η οικονομία δεν είναι μόνο οικονομική υποχρέωση, είναι ανταπόκριση της ευγνωμοσύνης και αγάπης στον Θεό για τις ευλογίες Του. Είναι η ενεργή συμμετοχή μας στη συνεχιζόμενη εργασία της οικοδόμησης της ασιλείας του Θεού, ξεκινώντας με τα τείχη των δικών μας ψυχών και επεκτείνοντας στη ζωή της ενορίας και του κόσμου γύρω μας.

*Adaptation by: Maria Kiritsis, Athens, GR*

## THE INCARNATION

On November 15, the Orthodox Church begins its Advent Lent. It is a period of fasting but most Christians simply confuse fasting with an abstinence from meats and dairy so that the usual cloud of “giving up” something we enjoy settles over this period.

To make this Lent even more difficult to observe, we have Thanksgiving followed by Christmas and all the many festive, social events that accompany this season of “joy”! Once again the Church is seen as a “party-pooper”. Notice carefully how subtle the world is in providing you access to the joy of a truly spiritual life, one that doesn’t “give up” on things but takes on the deepest, most treasured of things. But do you see that? Or do you really find any Lenten period an uncomfortable burden?

What is happening is the Incarnation! We must guard ourselves from any tendency to get this wrong. Without the Incarnation, there is no Orthodoxy. It’s never as simple as the “baby Jesus” born in Bethlehem. Let’s look more closely at the Incarnation.

The Incarnation is “God assuming human nature and making it a participant in God’s own divine nature by actualizing (hypostasizing) the common personal mode of existence of the two natures in a single existence, in one person. This one person is the incarnate Word, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity “in flesh” the only Son of the Father “become flesh”. He is Jesus, the Christ of God” (***Faith as an Ecclesial Experience***, Christos Yannaras, 2020, pg 114).

The Incarnation is “God’s ultimate act of love and God’s plan for the salvation of humanity. In the Incarnation God Himself entered into human history, uniting His divine nature with human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was fully God and fully human - two natures united without confusion.

This union of divine and human nature allows Christ to transform humanity and lead them to salvation.

Through the Incarnation God demonstrated what it means to live as God intended, showing us the way to live in communion with God and fulfilling the Image in which God created humanity” (***Orthodox Way: a Catechism for Seekers***, Deacon Charles Joiner, 2025, pg 112).



I’d like to begin by asking you to take a moment to reflect - As an Orthodox Christian, what for you is the most important day in your faith?

I hope you said the Incarnation! Sadly, the enormity of this event is often lost to a routine recital of the Creed or worse, to a nativity story of a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth in a manger. Maybe for this Advent Lent, instead of reluctantly giving up on some material thing, you make the decision to “take up”, to work towards understand this event so easily lost to “Christmas”.

Once again, without the Incarnation, we have no Orthodoxy! Despite all the effort we may make to make “Pascha” relevant, it often fails because of a lack of understanding of Incarnation. So, let’s talk about this event that challenges us to the limits of our ability to comprehend it. Heresies abound concerning this mystery. Let me be honest - many of us embrace some of these heresies without even being aware of it. This is why “Lent” is NOT about “giving up” but accepting an urgency to something new.

Our Creed says this about Jesus - “in one Lord, Jesus Christ, who for us men and women and our salvation came down from heaven”. Can you explain the meaning of this? How real is this for you? Let’s work through it together. Do you know what “Lord” means and why this is added to Jesus? In Scripture, “Lord” connects Yahweh (God) with Jesus which

acknowledges Jesus with supreme authority that is God's. Jesus IS God! Here there is a new revelation of God. It is Jesus who now shows us who God is. To find out what this is, reading the Gospels could be a great Lenten action! Sadly, many attempts to "define" God from our thinking has and is leading to enormous errors. As orthodox Christians, how much effort do you make to discover the God Jesus is revealing? Has it ever occurred to you that the way each of us decides to understand God determines how we worship and how we live our lives? It's subtle and without realizing it, you may be worshipping something less. Is it any wonder so many of us wonder "where is God" when it seems we most need God? Who are you calling out to hear your requests?

Perhaps the biggest stumbling block for many Christians is how is "divine-human nature" real without mixing, without confusion, in the single person Jesus. It is our human tendency to "make sense" of things but reason here cannot penetrate to provide an explanation that will satisfy us. Why is that? You might not like this answer but Sin is our separation from our purpose. What really is Sin? It is our human nature acting in freedom to exclude God from our being. It means that our attempt to assume the divine on our terms is a colossal failure. God's purpose for us comes from love and this requires an active freedom. God risks our humanity in order to fulfill God's purpose. Each of us is called into God's love but this love must also come from us. The purpose of creation is to be Christ-like but to do so we must respond in our freedom to God with love. Many of us think that being "Christ-like" is behaving in certain ways that make us ethically

good. But Incarnation is never about ethics - it's about who you are, your very being. Being Christ-like means that your human nature is completed by allowing the divine to unite and transform you into the new creation, the "being born again" Jesus reveals in the Gospels. "The Word's taking flesh initiates a comprehensive transformation of creation, reaching through humankind to bring the whole world to glory - a renewed existence before God that is no longer subject to the futility of decay and alienation (*The Word Made Flesh*, Ian A. McFarland, 2019, pg 9). Then we are realized as the new creation ready for God's kingdom. Our humanity is not lost but fulfilled, transformed into who Jesus reveals to us. That is why you are urged to read the Gospels, to enter Christ. This is Paul's realization and the center of his epistles.

So, Incarnation is everything. Lent should never just be a 40 day "giving up" on something you aren't really giving up because it occupies your way of doing things. Instead try to approach Lent as the path God is calling you to walk to the manger and once there, pause and look long and hard at the child you are to become in order to walk in God's love!

You are about to begin a journey into the greatest mystery of your Orthodox faith - God's love for you. You only worship what you love. Be present to God. Allow this Lent to call you before the event of God breaking through to your humanity in order to transform you into God's eternal plan. It is truly the season "to be Holy"!

Herbert Schuster



## Agape – Αγάπη

Luncheons on Thursday at 11:30am  
November 20 & December 11

For more information contact: **Julie** | 201-602-1359,  
**Joanne** D 973-432-1950 or **Irene** L 973-479-5221

# PARENTS' CORNER

*By Alexandra Protopapas*

## NOVEMBER 2025 - CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Our global world is changing for the better, and November has always been a month that we celebrate diversity, as demonstrated by the Thanksgiving holiday. Our schools, our neighborhoods, our St. Andrew Community is a place where we can celebrate and appreciate our many similarities and differences. We encompass culture, religion, race, language, exceptional talents, size, shape, disabilities, and socio-economic status. We are working towards an attitude of love and acceptance of everyone we meet, and we are being successful in reaching out to others to benefit and bless their lives. What do we need to teach our children about what diversity is? Even celebrating Thanksgiving has its politics, as does acceptance of other holidays. What is the definition? "The presence of variety, encompassing differences among people or things such as religion, culture, race, age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and life experiences. It's the condition of having many different types, forms, or elements, and it applies to more than just demographics, including diverse ideas, opinions, and talents". PHEW! We cannot explain all of these things to our children, so let's just focus for now on how we deal with the simple things in life that we deal with daily in our homes and church community. Parents, we have our opinions, our prejudices, and our way of dealing with children's questions.

Here is just one example...

It is that time of year when, as Greek Orthodox Christians, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Have we thought about how we treat those who do not celebrate Christmas? In my neighborhood in Parsippany, we have many

Asian Indian families. I was invited to one of their celebrations, and I asked about their holidays. One holiday I asked about was DIWALI, which is their Festival of Lights. It is all about light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. See? Even at my age, I learn new things! Do we teach our children that, although not everyone celebrates Christmas, we can celebrate and learn about other holidays, cultures, and religions without judgment? How should we teach our children to celebrate diversity instead of shunning it and developing prejudices that may last into their adult years? In many public schools, this is the month when you may hear something about a "Mix It Up Day," where students are being taught lessons in tolerance. How can we begin? What can we do at home, at church, in our community? Let's begin by listening to our children. Use simple language. Teach them how to show respect. Research the religions and cultures of their diverse friends, and this is a way that we understand and learn not only about our Greek culture and Greek Orthodox religion, but also about what our friends believe and celebrate.

- *Teach our children that we are Greek Orthodox Christians, but we should not discriminate or have bias against those who are not.*
- *As parents, we take responsibility in raising tolerant children and we influence them in what we teach and don't teach.*
- *Teach our children love and not to have negative attitudes towards other groups of people. Yes—let's not be racist, as our own beliefs about others affect our children on a subconscious level. Knowingly or*

unknowingly, we can pass along many of these unspoken beliefs to our own children.

- Invite children from other cultures and/or religions to a church activity and visit one of their activities.
- Parents, pass on lessons that emphasize acceptance and tolerance, and we have to be

willing to live those values. We must reflect upon and address our own personal biases.

- Celebrate Christmas this year by reading more about the true meaning of Christmas, and when we do that, we will see that Christmas teaches us about celebrating diversity.

With Thanksgiving in November, this month's **Table Prayer Guide** is from **"Prayers for Special Occasions – Thanksgiving - Psalm 92: 1-2, 4-5, 12-15"**

*"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to our name, O Most High: To declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night. For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*



A Blessed November to Family and Friends as we approach the Christmas season! Let's pray for all and peace on earth every day, not just on holidays.

Feel free to email me or call with your comments and suggestions for our "Parents' Corner" at: [alexandraproto@gmail.com](mailto:alexandraproto@gmail.com)

(973) 214-2583 (You can also find me on FACEBOOK under my name, Alexandra Alex Protopapas)

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



## **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: Nov 5 & 19, Dec 3 & 17

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

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

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

for more information contact Julie ioannou or Antonia Clapsis

## Prayer Team Fruit of the Spirit

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* Galatians 5:22-23

### When In Doubt, Do One of These

*Against such there is no law.*

Have you ever had the experience of driving on a road where you didn't know what the speed limit is? I got on a freeway in rural California and didn't know if the limit was 55 or 65 or 70. So I wondered how fast I should drive. I reached my conclusion (until I saw the next sign) based on two things. First, is it safe? If I were to drive at the same speed as the other cars on the freeway, that would seem to be safe. Driving faster or slower than the rest of the cars would not be safe. Second, was it logical/smart? I know there is no state (save maybe Montana) where the posted speed limit is over 70. And there is no place where the posted speed limit on a freeway is less than 55. So, safety and logic dictated what I should do when I honestly didn't know what to do.

There are other experiences in life where we will also not know what exactly the right thing to do is. How aggressive is too aggressive on the athletic field or in the office or in a contentious situation? Is it worth the fight (and collateral damage) to argue about something or do I just let it go? How do I balance work responsibilities and still have a family life? How much do I praise and encourage versus how much do I scold and correct the behaviors of my child?

The answer to these questions and many others can be found by using the Fruit of the Spirit as a guide. In my speed limit example above, I used two questions - is it safe, and is it smart - as guides for help in making a decision. Add the nine fruit of the Spirit as your guides when making decisions. You don't have to use all nine of them. Using even one will be effective.

Is what I am doing showing love to God and to my neighbor?

Will this decision bring joy or sadness to others? How can joy figure into this decision?

Will this decision promote peace?

Am I making a rash decision? Am I showing patience in thinking this through? Have I shown patience to my neighbor in making this decision?

Am I being kind? Am I correcting with kindness or consternation? Can I be encouraging while still correcting?

Does this decision reflect goodness? Does it reflect the goodness of God, or the goodness He has put in me? Does it help the general good of others?

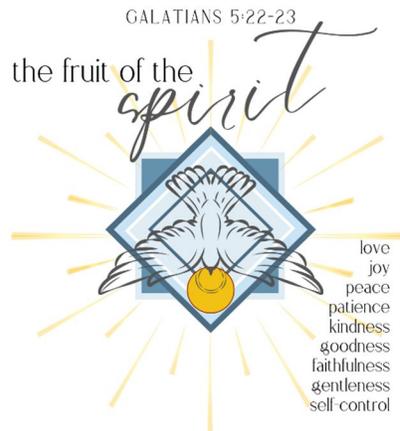
Can I make this decision and be a faithful Christian at the same time?

Does what I am doing reflect a gentle spirit or a heavy hand?

Does my decision keep me in control of my emotions as well as my Christian values? Have I left room for God's input in this decision or is it all me?

Saint Paul was very purposeful in the words that follow the "Fruit of the Spirit," when he wrote "against such there is no law." And that is true. When you make your decisions factoring in the Fruit of the Spirit, not only will you be safe and smart but you are going to be making decisions that are holy, pleasing to God and helpful to your neighbor. Are all of our decisions easy? Absolutely not. Can using the Fruit of the Spirit to help guide them make them easier and more Godly? Absolutely yes. Again, you don't have to consider all nine in making a decision. Using even one on a consistent basis will make a difference.

I read somewhere that we make about 75 decisions each day, and about 40 of them are important. Deciding whether to eat chicken or



steak on your taco is not an important decision. We make 35 unimportant decisions each day. But we make about 40 important ones. Stopping for a moment to pray and to evaluate an important decision based on even ONE of the Fruit of the Spirit can be a game-changer for your life and the decisions you make.

*Lord, thank You for the blessings of this day. Help me to remember the Fruit of the Spirit in the decisions I make today. Help me to grow love, joy,*

*peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in my heart and soul and to use these tools to make decisions that will please You and show love for my neighbor. Give me the discipline to take that extra second to think of these Fruit when making decisions today. Amen.*

Use at least one of the Fruit of the Spirit as you evaluate your important decisions today!

+Fr. Stavros

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## WHERE ARE ALL THE MIRACLES-PART 3

My Dad and I were very close. We talked about everything and were kindred spirits in nearly every way. But as my father reached his mid-eighties, he lost the ability to speak. While he was still lucid and present, he just did not have the energy to communicate. Although it was sometimes frustrating and sad, I was so thankful to still be able to look into his eyes, make him laugh or just give him a hug. Still, it was a loss to be borne.

One morning, while reading the paper, I noticed an obituary for the mother of a high school classmate of mine. I had not seen Susan in 30 years but decided to go to the funeral anyway to show support. Unfortunately, a 3-foot snowfall the morning of the funeral made it impossible to attend, but I did leave a message on the family land line. She reached out and we got together. Now my Dad knew Susan's mother. And Susan mentioned that her mother had written a book titled *American Mosaic*, an oral history of the immigrant experience in America. I wondered if perhaps my Dad was interviewed for the book, which had been published in 1980, and if perhaps she knew where I could get a copy.



Susan laughed and told me there where cartons of the unsold book in the basement. Each chapter was

comprised of one person telling their story in their own words. I thanked her for the book, went to my car, and quickly scanned the table of contents right there in her driveway. No luck. My Dad's name wasn't there.

That night, I decided to read the book anyway, and to my surprise, the introduction explained that the names had been changed to protect the privacy of the subjects. My heart pounding, I again read the table of contents. Under a pseudonym, a chapter in my Dad's voice. I began to shake as I pawed through the book. And there it was.

Four wonderful pages of my Dad telling his story; speaking directly to me. I began to weep. For the first time in years, I heard his voice. And I learned many things about his past that he had never shared.

The next morning, a Saturday, I drove to my parents' home and told Dad I wanted to read him something. As I began, his eyes lit up. He smiled broadly. He knew exactly what I was reading. And for all those years, never once did he mention that he was in this book.

God gave me a precious gift that day, and surely and truly-a miracle.

Anthony Boyadjis

# A.H.E.P.A. News

The Morris Co. 300 chapter continues to be more active. It finished the year with the initiation of two new members. Martin Pinter and Tim Gizas joined the fold and are a welcomed addition. We will continue to recruit new members to strengthen our chapter.

Continuing with a long-standing tradition, the chapter awarded two scholarships to two of our graduating seniors. Marios Christodoulou and Charles Peterson. Marios will be attending the University of Tampa. Charles is attending the Florida Institute of Technology.

Our main fundraiser was held on October 9. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Cigar Night hosted over 70 attendees. It was an enjoyable evening that featured good Greek music and plentiful, tasty food. That is always a winning combination. It was a pleasant evening so the cigar smokers could step outside onto the patio to enjoy their complimentary cigars. To top the evening off, 27 prizes were raffled as participants were kept in suspense hoping that their number

would be called. This fundraiser is held with the main goal of providing a service dog to a needy veteran and the AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation also receive a portion of the profits. All worthy causes that should have the community's support regardless of whether or not one is a cigar smoker.

As this issue is being composed a district level event will be taking place. Challenging and fun it is District # 5's semi-annual Family Sporting Event. It will be held on Oct. 25 in Coldplay, Pennsylvania. This involves shooting at clay pigeons.

The Morris County chapter will be hosting another fundraiser in early December. This will be the Bourbon Night. This has been held previously and promises to be another enjoyable evening.

As always, we will look for the St. Andrew's community's support. These events are held to bolster our outreach to worthy charities. Both the Cigar Night and the Bourbon Night are combined events with the Roseland Eagle Rock # 375 A.H.E.P.A. Chapter.

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## TOYS FOR TOTS

is a program run by the **United States Marine Corps Reserve** which distributes toys to children, ages 1-12, whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks.



Drop off location at Saint Andrew Church up until December 12, 2025

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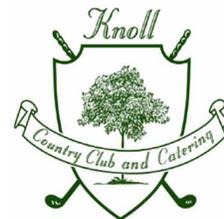


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*There are various levels and opportunities that you and your business can participate in*

## BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

ANDREW LUCAS VALACER, son of Jeffrey and Georgia (Papaloukas) Valacer, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:00pm and given the name **ΑΝΔΡΕΑΣ - ANDREW**, Godmother was Eugenia Panagiotakis.

CHRISTOS LENOIDAS MERKOS, son of Konstantinos N. Merkos and Rania (Dimitrakakis) Merkos, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:00 pm and given the name **ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΛΕΩΝΙΔΑΣ - CHRISTOS LEONIDAS**. Godparents were Savas Glavas, Elaine Papadopoulos and Anasophia Glavas.



## OBIT & FUNERAL SERVICE – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΑ & ΚΗΔΕΙΑ

### HELEN BALLOS OBIT

**Helen Ballos**, our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday September 24, 2025 in her home in Bridgewater NJ. She was 96 yo. Born on July 20, 1929 in NYC to Greek immigrants, Mary Ventouratou and John Cliadakis. Nitsa, as she was known through her childhood, was anchored by the Greek Orthodox Church, her family and the Greek community and culture. Helen was 5 years old when her father died and she, her mother and brother Nick, returned to Greece. As the threat of war in Europe grew, they returned to NYC. Soon afterwards, Mary married George Pyros, a widower with a 13 year old daughter, who became a loving father to Helen and Nick.

Helen was a young teenager when she first met Connie (Constantine) Ballos, a classmate of her older sister. Years later following his high school graduation, and WWII Navy deployment, Connie contacted Helen's sister again only to learn that she had married. Her mother "may" have asked if



he remembered Helen and soon he called her. He was immediately smitten by this blond, blue eyed young woman and she with the dashing sailor. Thus began a relationship that was celebrated in marriage in 1950 and continued for 75 years. During that time, they had four children, Corinne, Melissa, Dene (deceased) and Pam. Helen and Connie's life together took them to Wilmington DE, Decatur IL and Morristown NJ where they lived for almost 50 years before retiring to Lakewood Ranch FL full-time in 2010.

Wherever they lived, Helen created a warm home filled with laughter, love and cherished new friends who remained close through the decades. Helen was a good friend. Always available with a listening ear, encouragement and heartfelt smiles. She telephoned, she sent notes and always remembered birthdays, anniversaries and special events. Helen enjoyed games of all sorts but particularly backgammon where she was a fearsome competitor. She supported her children's myriad of activities and offered gentle but strong guidance. She contributed her time to

the PTA, Philoptochos and in the community through the Morristown Women's Club.

Once the children had grown, she became an athlete, learning tennis and then becoming an avid golfer, a sport she enjoyed with Connie. They traveled, exploring Europe and Hawaii with friends. She would tell you that she had a good life. A life well lived. We will miss her. Helen is survived by her husband Constantine (Connie) Ballos, and three of her four children, Corinne, Melissa and Pam and their husbands Terry Mackie, Fr. John Mamangakis and Rob Bugianesi, respectively. She is also survived by her

grandchildren Alex Mackie, Devin Mackie, Christina Mamangakis (Tom Evans), George Mamangakis (Maria Mamangakis), and Marina Mamangakis, Dene Bugianesi and Tori Bugianesi. Also great grand-children Wilder Mackie, Penelope Evans, Stefano Evans and John Mamangakis.

**Visitation** was at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, on Monday, September 29, at 10:00am **The Funeral Service** for the repose of her soul was also at Saint Andrew Greek at 11:00 am . **Internment** followed at Somerset Hills Memorial Park in Basking Ridge NJ

## Dino Polizois obit

**Dino Polizois**, 67, of Flanders, NJ, passed away peacefully on October 9, 2025, at Brandywine Assisted Living Facility in Shrewsbury, NJ.

Born on September 7, 1958, in Patra, Greece, Dino was the beloved son of the late Vasiliki (Bessie) Polizois. He later made New Jersey his home, where he built a life centered around family, hard work, and faith. He worked for many years as a Senior Sales Representative at Pitney Bowes in Cedar Knolls, NJ, dedicating himself to his profession for years with unwavering commitment and integrity.

A passionate sports fan, Dino was especially devoted to the New York Jets and the New York Mets. He cherished his role as a youth sports coach for his sons and proudly served as the announcer for the Mt. Olive Junior Marauders. He found great joy in cheering on his family and sharing his love of the game with others.

Dino was known for his deep love of Greek food - particularly when it was cooked by his beloved wife, Janet - and his enduring passion for rock music, especially the sounds of Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, White Tiger, and Rod Stewart. A man of



strong faith, Dino was a past member of St. Nicholas Church in Wyckoff, where he served on the parish council for 12 years and as council president for two. He later became a member of St. Andrew's Church in Randolph, NJ.

Above all, Dino was a devoted family man who lived with passion and purpose. He had a strong work ethic and a heart full of pride for his

loved ones.

Dino is survived by his beloved wife, Janet (Stewart) Polizois; his two devoted sons, Keith Polizois and his wife Stephanie, and Christopher Polizois and his wife Abigail; and his four cherished grandchildren: Camden, Luke, Logan, and Cooper. He is also survived by many loving family members and friends. He was predeceased by his brother, George Polizois.

A Life Celebration for Dino was held with visitation on Monday, October 13, at the William J. Leber Funeral Home, in Chester, NJ 07930. **The Funeral Service** for the repose of his soul was on Tuesday, October 14, at 10:30 AM at Saint Andrew Church in Randolph, interment followed at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Chester.

# BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS @7PM

IN FR. JOHN'S OFFICE

on Nov 6, 13

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

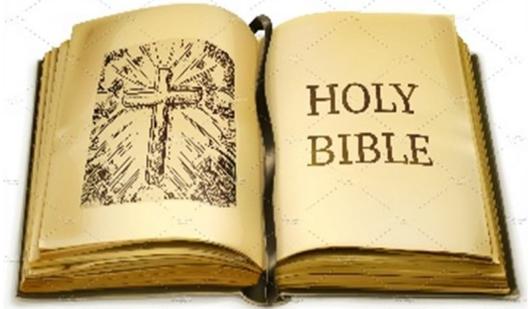
Fridays @10:30AM

Nov 14, 21 & Dec 5, 12

## ORTHODOXY 101

The following Tuesdays

Nov 4,11,18, Dec 2,9



### DONATIONS RECEIVED +IN MEMORY OF:

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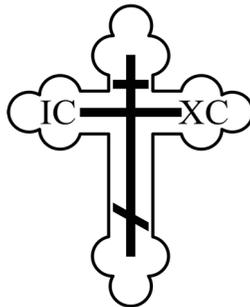
Dr. Roxanne Mendrinos

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Afrodite Kasolas

**+Jimmy Pexos**

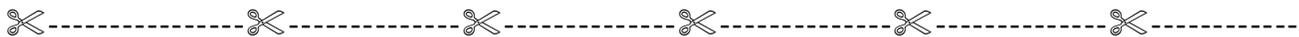
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### MEMORIAL GIFT

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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.

NAME & ADDRESS OF BEREAVED\* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## NEW OFFICE MANAGER OF SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH.

The parish council and with gratitude to God and great joy, are pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Christen Demnitz as the new Office Manager of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church.

Christen joins our community with a strong background in administration, love of Orthodox Christianity and a desire to serve. Her professionalism, organization, and warm spirit will be wonderful blessings to our parish life. In her role, she will oversee the daily operations of the parish office, assist with communications, and support the ministries and events that bring our faithful together.

We are confident that Christen's presence will help strengthen the bonds of our parish family as we continue to grow in faith and fellowship.

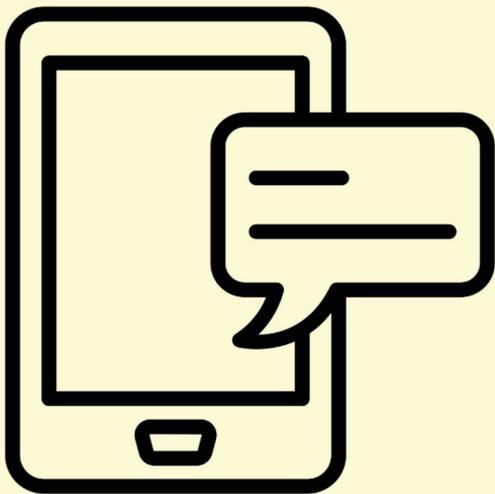


Please join us in welcoming her to Saint Andrew! We encourage everyone to stop by the office, introduce yourselves, and extend to her the warm hospitality that our community is known for.

We thank God for sending us dedicated and faithful stewards like Christen who help support the mission and ministry of our Church. We also thank God for Bessie Petrakos who has served our community for so many years. Bessie will still be around as needed to help Christen make the transition into her new role. May the Lord bless Christen abundantly in her new work and guide her in all that she does for the glory of God.

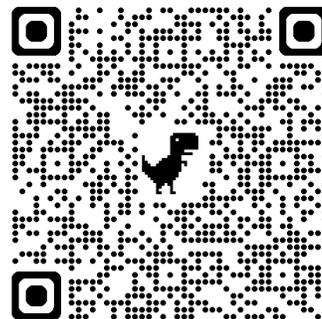
With love in Christ,

Rev. Father John Theodosion,  
Parish Priest  
Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church



### Stay Connected with **Saint Andrew Text Connect!**

to receive brief text messages with important parish news, weather-related notices, and upcoming events.  
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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** 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday @11am  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @6pm

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

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

**Greek Dancing GOYA** Thursdays @8:00 pm

**Adult Greek Language** Class Thursdays 7:00 pm

**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**

11/3 @6PM STEWARDSHIP MEETING

11/3 @7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NEXT ON 12/1

11/5 @11:00AM KNITTING CROCHETING NEXT ON 11/12 @6

11/6 @ 7:00PM BIBLE STUDY NEXT ON 11/13

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

11/9 @12PM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

11/11 @7:30PM ORTHODOXY 101 NEXT ON 11/18

11/12 @6:00 PM KNITTING CROCHETING NEXT ON 11/19@11

11/13 @7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY

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

11/18 @7:30 ORTHODOXY 101 NEXT ON DEC 2, 9

11/19 @11:00AM KNITTING CROCHETING NEXT ON 12/3

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:** 11/2 PHILOPTOCHOS, 12/14  
PTA, 12/21 DOP, 12/28 GOYA

12/1 @7:30 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NEXT ON 1/5

12/3 @11:00PM KNITTING CROCHETING NEXT ON 12:10 @6

12/5 @10:30AM ADVENT BIBLE STUDY NEXT ON

12/12@10:30

12/6 @8AM GOYA PLAYOFFS @9AM NNJYC TOURNAMENT

12/7 ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

12/7 HOPE & JOY GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

12/10 @6:00PM KNITTING CROCHETING NEXT ON  
12/17@11

12/13 GOYA CHRISTMAS CAROLING

12/13 @10AM-4PM HOLIDAY PARTY (EXTERNAL) /GYM

12/14 **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** RELED & HAS

12/16 **METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

12/17 @11:00AM KNITTING CROCHETING NEXT ON 1/7 @11

12/19 @6:30 GOYA CHRISTMAS PARTY

12/21 **SNOW DATE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

12/23 @7:00PM PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING

12/27 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP

12/28 @6:00PM GOYA CHRISTMAS DANCE

12/31 @7:30PM NYE PARTY AT SAINT ANDREW

## 2026

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN JANUARY:** 1/4 PHILOPTOCHOS, 1/11  
PTA, 1/18 DOP, 1/25 GOYA

1/4 **COMMUNITY VASILOPITA** IN CHURCH

1/24 Faith Kitchen PARISH COUNCIL

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN FEBRUARY:** 2/1 PHILOPTOCHOS, 2/8 PTA,  
2/15 DOP, 2/22 GOYA

2/1 **TRIODION BEGINS**

2/1 3 HIERARCHS HAS & RELED PROGRAM

2/7 **MARDI GRAS PTA**

2/14 **Saturday of Souls** also on 2/21 and 2/28

2/23 **Great Lent Begins**

2/28 Faith Kitchen PHILOPTOCHOS

Reservations for Saint Andrew Community Center Gym, Social Hall or Classrooms must be made with Church Office.  
DOP-Daughters of Penelope | HAS - Hellenic Afternoon School | PC -Parish Council | PH -Philoptochos | RelEd-Religious Education

# GATEWAY DENTAL

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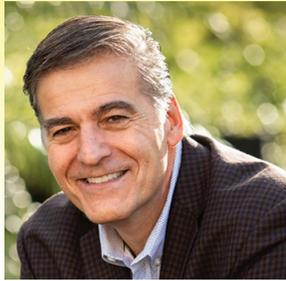
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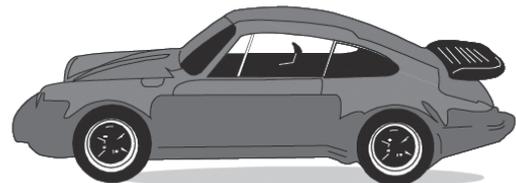
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## **PRIEST**

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

## **OFFICE STAFF**

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

**Office Admin**, Christen Demnitz [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

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

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Georgia Haglund, *Chairperson*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*DIRECTORS*: Maro Nicolaou Schuster & Rachel Lopardo

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

## **BYZANTINE CHANTERS/CHOIR**

Panagiotis Fotinis, *Chanter*

Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

## **HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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

## **HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

*DIRECTOR*: Vasilias Christodoulou

*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, Joanne Varratos

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

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

**PTA**: Katerina Corona, *President*

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

**HOPE – JOY** : Stala Jellis, Jenny Manis, Pam Kotsaftis

## **GOYA**

Zoe Sifonios, *GOYA President*

Pavlos Giannikopoulos, Christina Kalavrouziotis, Anna Sifonios, Irene Baroulakis, George Baroulakis, Sotiria Hambos *GOYA Advisors*

## **Hellenic Dance**

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

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



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Metropolis of  
New Jersey

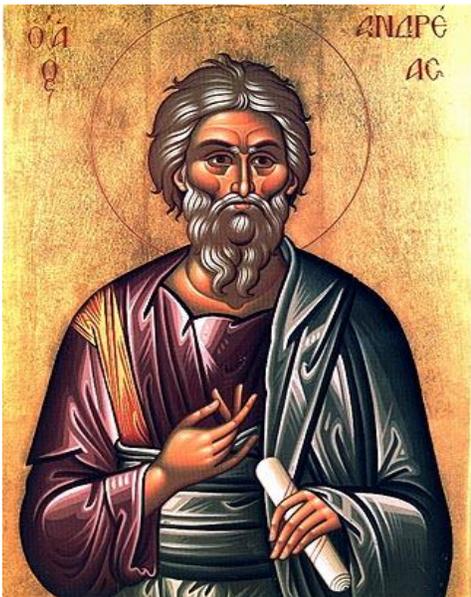
# SAINT ANDREW

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### HYMN OF THE APOSTLE SAINT ANDREW

As first called of the Apostles and brother of Peter the Preeminent, O Andrew, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the whole world, and great mercy to our souls.

### ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ

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### 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.