

JUNE JULY AUGUST 2026



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

## Saint Andrew Family News

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

SAINT PARASKEVI – JULY 26

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

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

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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](http://www.njgoarch.org) G.O. Archdiocese Web: [www.goarch.org](http://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](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

*Deadline for the **SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE** is August 10<sup>th</sup>*

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# DIVINE SERVICES

## JUNE

- Monday 1 MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
**Sunday 7 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**  
*Holy Apostles FAST begins on Monday June 8-28 (21 days)*  
**Sunday 14 2ND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
**Sunday 21 3RD SUNDAY OF MATTHEW FATHER'S DAY**  
**Sunday 28 4TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
Monday 29 +SS. PETER AND PAUL

## JULY

- Sunday 5 5TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
**Sunday 12 6TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
**Sunday 19 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS**  
Monday 20 +PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH) SERVICE TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Wednesday 22 +MARY MAGDALENE, the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles /Relics  
SERVICE TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Saturday 25 DORMITION OF ST. ANNA, MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS  
**Sunday 26 8TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW - ST PARASKEVI /Relics**  
Monday 27 +ST PANTELEIMON THE GREAT MARTYR & HEALER /Relics

## AUGUST

- Sunday 2 9TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
Mon-Tue 3-4 PARAKLISIS SERVICE @6:30PM  
Wednesday 5 GREAT VESPERS  
**Thursday 6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**  
Friday 7 PARAKLISIS SERVICE @6:30PM  
**Sunday 9 10TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
Mon-Thu 10-13 PARAKLISIS SERVICE @6:30PM  
Friday 14 GREAT VESPERS (LOCATION TBA)  
**Saturday 15 THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS**  
**Sunday 16 11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
**Sunday 23 12TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**  
Saturday 29 BEHEADING ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (Strict fast Day) SERVICE TO BE DETERMINED  
**Sunday 30 13TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**Sundays:** Orthros @8:15AM & Divine Liturgy @9:30AM  
**Weekdays:** Orthros @8:00AM & Divine Liturgy @9:00 AM

*(We have this saint's Relics at our Saint Andrew Reliquary) \**  
*Sunday School will resume on September 13<sup>th</sup>*

# Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

## ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ

Δευτέρα	1	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Κυριακή Α' τῶν Ἁγίων Πάντων</b> <i>ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑ των Ἀγίων Αποστόλων (21 ημέρες) 8–29 Ιούνιος</i>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Γ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b> <i>ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ</i>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Δ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
Tuesday	29	ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΙ ΠΕΤΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΥΛΟΣ

## ΙΟΥΛΙΟΣ

<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Ε' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>ΣΤ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ Δ' ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ</b>
Δευτέρα	20	+ ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Ε' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>   +ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ / <i>Λείψανα</i>
Δευτέρα	27	+ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ ΠΑΝΤΕΛΕΗΜΩΝ / <i>Λείψανα</i>

## ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ

<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Θ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
Δευτ.-Τρίτη	4	Ακολουθία Παράκλησις - <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
Τετάρτη	5	Εσπερινός <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
<b>Πέμπτη</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΥΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ</b>
Παρασκευή	7	Ακολουθία Παράκλησις - <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Γ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
Δευτ.-Πέμπτη	10-13	Ακολουθία Παράκλησις - <u>ώρα</u> 6:30μμ
Παρασκευή	14	Εσπερινός <i>Θα ανακοινωθεί σε πια εκκλησία</i>
<b>Σάββατο</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>ΚΟΙΜΗΣΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>ΙΑ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>ΙΒ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>
Θα ανακοινωθεί	29	ΑΠΟΤΟΜΗ ΚΕΦΑΛΗΣ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ ( <i>Αυστηρή Νηστεία</i> )
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>ΙΓ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ</b>

Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ  
Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:00πμ

Την Κυριακή 13 Σεπτεμβρίου αρχίζει το Κατηχητικό Σχολείο  
(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)\*

## DRIVING WITHOUT HEADLIGHTS

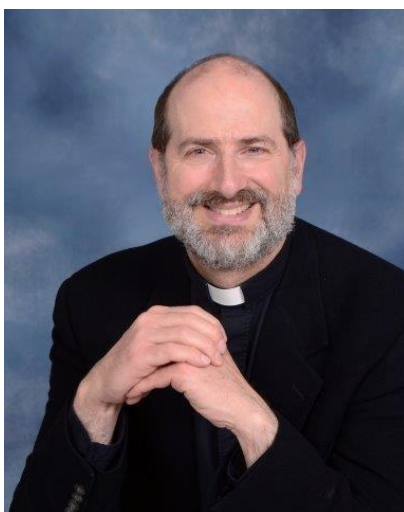
*Rev Fr John Theodosion*

As we welcome the summer this year, we glorify God and thank Him for all those who have pledged their support for our beautiful community of Saint Andrew. We have currently received 206 pledge cards totaling \$118,685 annually calculated pledges. We have nearly 700 families on our mailing list who are participating in the life of our community. If your pledge has not been submitted, please do so as soon as possible. It is imperative that we receive everyone's pledge at the beginning of the year so that the parish council may properly budget for all of the parish's needs during the year.

Pledging may not seem important, but our 2026 incoming budget is \$852,496. Imagine if you were driving down a pitch black road without headlights, it would be nearly impossible. That is what we are asking the parish council to do when we as parishioners neglect or refuse to submit a stewardship pledge card. How will they know if there will be adequate funding to organize our programs and activities let alone pay our bills?

During the month of December our parish checking account dropped to the dangerously low balance. Just as you have noticed in your own homes the cost of living in New Jersey continues to increase. The church is no different. However, there has been no increase in the contributions of many of our parishioners over the past 5 to 7 years, and this is the direct cause of the low checking account balance.

We are also aware that many of our families are struggling with their own economic burdens, and it is difficult to write one big check for stewardship. We recommend that you consider making your contribution as a monthly offering. Many people



pay their bills online and it is easy to send an automated E-check each month to fulfill your stewardship pledge or make your offering by credit card monthly by taking part in our y program. For those who can afford it, \$200 a month won't even be missed, especially if it comes out automatically from your checking account. For those who cannot afford that much we ask that you consider increasing your existing pledge by 1% a year. That's \$5 a week.

There are so many here whose lives have positively affected by their participation in the worship of our Church, the teaching ministries of our church, our charitable outreach, our HOPE Play Group, Mazi, HAS, Sunday school, GOYA, choir, knitting group, baking group, agape, Philoptochos, AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, camping ministry, and so much more! Isn't all this worth more than \$50 a month? You pay more than that to watch TV!

Our goal is to always grow and improve the quality of our ministries and activities here at Saint Andrew. Your stewardship of Saint Andrew will help us to achieve this goal. You are always welcome to approach Father John, or the members of the Stewardship Committee and Parish Council if you have questions or comments about our church, its ministries, and its financial situation.

If you have not done so already, please submit your stewardship pledge card to ensure the proper functioning and maintenance of the church. As always, we thank God for our many faithful parishioners at Saint Andrew and we thank you for your continued support. And we pray that we always glorify God who blesses us always.

# SAINT ANDREW SWOT SURVEY RESULTS

Beloved Parishioners of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church,

On behalf of the Parish Council,

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the St. Andrew Voice SWOT Survey. Your feedback, encouragement, and thoughtful suggestions reflect the deep love and commitment that our parish family continues to have for St. Andrew and its future.

The survey highlighted many of the blessings that define our community including our Orthodox faith, Greek heritage and culture, dedicated volunteers, ministries, fellowship, and commitment to future generations. Parishioners also shared constructive ideas regarding communication, ministry coordination, parish engagement, and future planning as we continue working together to strengthen and grow our parish family.

As part of this initiative, parish leadership also reviewed the overall sentiment and themes expressed throughout the parish's feedback in order to better understand the experiences, concerns, hopes, and priorities of our community. We encourage all parishioners to review the Voice Survey results, which provides a summary of the survey themes, observations, and key insights gathered through this important parish-wide effort. The results are displayed on the large monitors downstairs in the community center along with hard copies. Separately, the results will be shared via email electronically.

As we move forward together, let us continue honoring the sacrifices of those who built our parish while preserving our Orthodox faith and Greek traditions for future generations.

With Faith and Gratitude, Michael Sergio, Parish Council President

## ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ, ΈΡΕΥΝΑ ΦΩΝΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΑ

Αγαπητά μέλη της ενορίας της St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church,

Εκ μέρους του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου, θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω θερμά όλους όσους συμμετείχαν στην Έρευνα SWOT της πρωτοβουλίας «Η Φωνή του Αγίου Ανδρέα». Οι απόψεις, οι προτάσεις και η συμμετοχή σας αντικατοπτρίζουν την αγάπη και το ενδιαφέρον που όλοι έχουμε για το μέλλον της ενορίας μας.

Η έρευνα ανέδειξε πολλές από τις ευλογίες που χαρακτηρίζουν την κοινότητά μας, την Ορθόδοξη πίστη μας, την ελληνική μας κληρονομιά και παράδοση, τους αφοσιωμένους εθελοντές, τις διακονίες της ενορίας, τη συναδελφικότητα και τη φροντίδα για τις επόμενες γενιές. Παράλληλα, οι ενορίτες μοιράστηκαν εποικοδομητικές προτάσεις σχετικά με την επικοινωνία, τον συντονισμό των διακονιών, τη συμμετοχή των μελών και τον μελλοντικό σχεδιασμό της ενορίας μας.

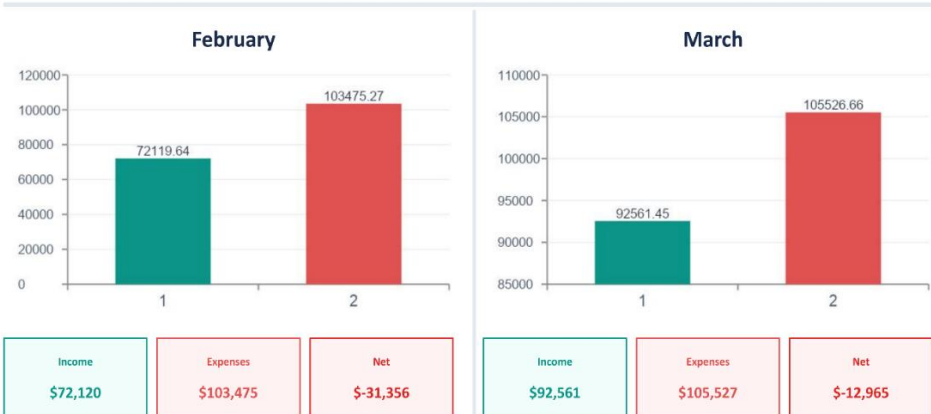
Στο πλαίσιο αυτής της προσπάθειας, η ηγεσία της ενορίας εξέτασε επίσης το γενικό κλίμα και τα βασικά θέματα που εκφράστηκαν μέσα από τα σχόλια και τις απαντήσεις των ενοριτών, με στόχο την καλύτερη κατανόηση των εμπειριών, των ανησυχιών, των ελπίδων και των προτεραιοτήτων της κοινότητάς μας. Προτρέπουμε όλους τους ενορίτες να διαβάσουν τη συνημμένη παρουσίαση PowerPoint, η οποία παρουσιάζει συνοπτικά τα βασικά θέματα, τις παρατηρήσεις και τα σημαντικά συμπεράσματα που προέκυψαν από αυτή τη σημαντική προσπάθεια της ενορίας μας.

Καθώς προχωρούμε μαζί μπροστά, ας συνεχίσουμε να τιμούμε τις θυσίες εκείνων που έχτισαν την ενορία μας, διατηρώντας ζωντανή την Ορθόδοξη πίστη και τις ελληνικές μας παραδόσεις για τις μελλοντικές γενιές.

Με Πίστη και Ευγνωμοσύνη, Μιχαήλ Σεργίου, Πρόεδρος Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου

## Income vs. Expenses

February & March 2025



TO VIEW FULL SURVEY RESULTS WITH VISUALS SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT <https://tinyurl.com/4ccpmva2>



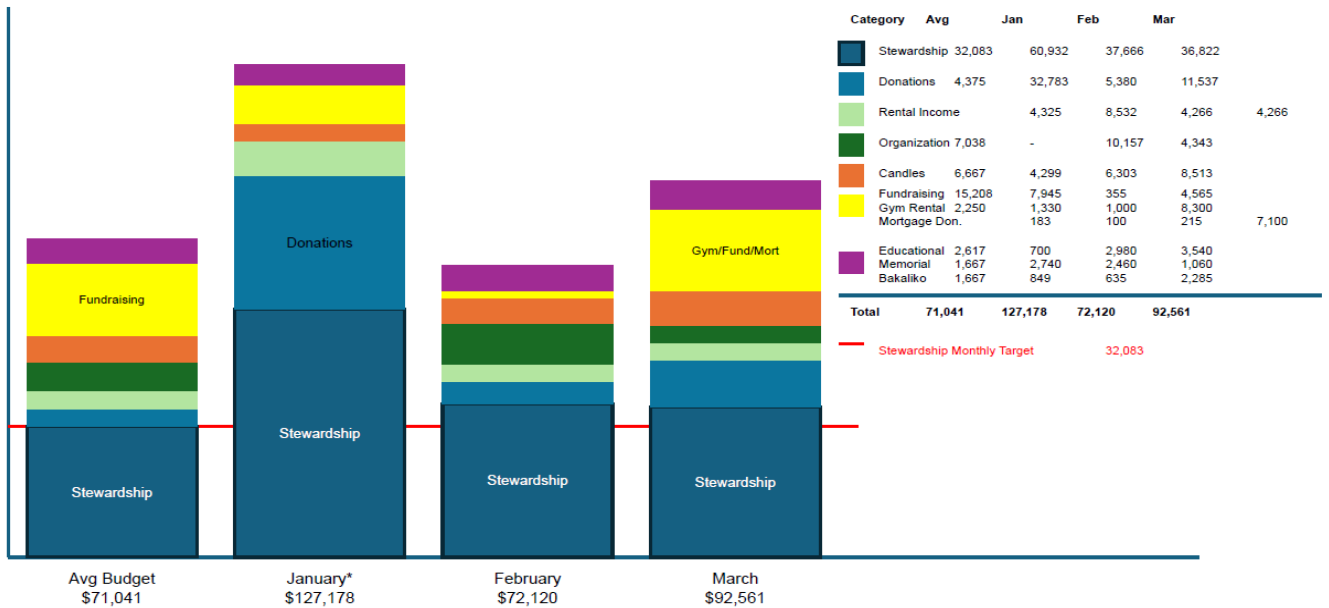
## St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church Mortgage Details

- Total Loan Amount: \$2,028,972.38
- Amount Paid Off: \$1,440,640.11
- **Remaining Balance: \$588,332.27**

## MORTGAGE PAYOFF

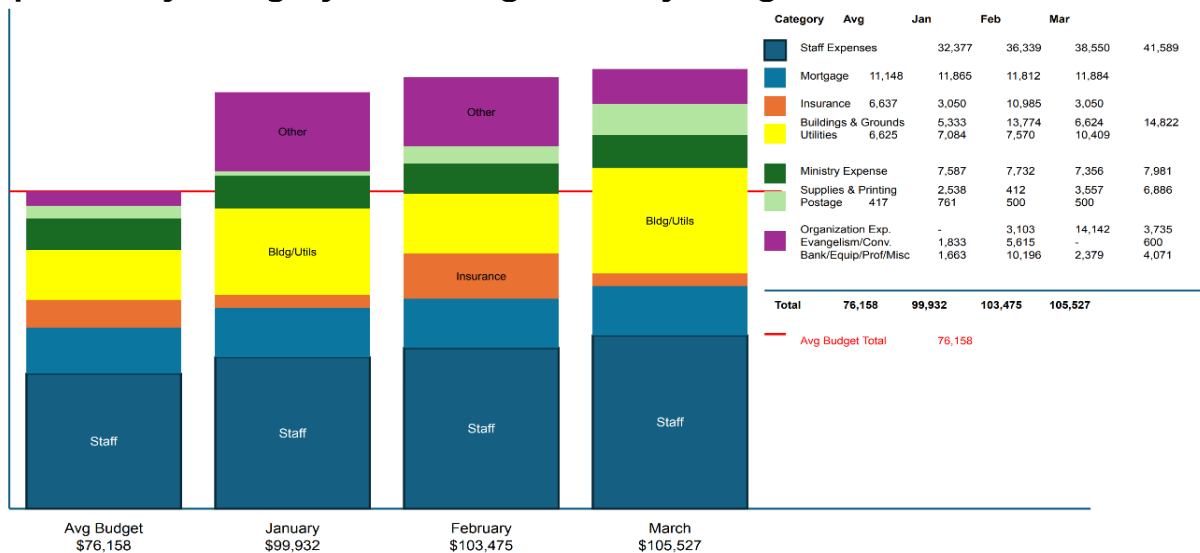


## Q1 Income by Category vs. Average Monthly Budget



Footnotes: \*January includes heavy snow removal, higher energy prices, and higher salaries. Source: June Magazine Financial Charts Q1 Report.

## Q1 Expenses by Category vs. Average Monthly Budget



## President's Message – June, Michael Serghiou Parish Council President



Beloved Parishioners and Friends of St. Andrew!

Our St. Andrew parish family continues building upon the spirit of stewardship highlighted in the May Magazine. The image above beautifully reflects more than three generations of faithful Orthodox Christians worshipping, serving, and growing together in Christ. We honor the original builders of our parish while continuing to support today's ministry leaders, volunteers, and faithful stewards who sustain the spiritual life of our church each day.

The Parish Council and ministry leaders also wish to express sincere gratitude to all of our faithful stewards who generously support St. Andrew through their stewardship, volunteerism, ministries, and countless acts of service throughout the year. Your dedication of time, talent, and treasure truly helps sustain the spiritual life and daily operations of our parish community.

As we prepare for our upcoming Greek Festival, we humbly ask our parish family to continue supporting this important ministry and fundraiser. For example, this year, we have 10,000 raffle tickets available, and if all are sold, the parish could net approximately \$200,000 to support the ministries and future needs of St. Andrew. Every ticket shared with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers becomes an opportunity to support the future of our church.

It is also important to understand the operational needs of our parish. On average, it costs approximately \$2,200 per day to operate and maintain St. Andrew, including utilities, staffing, ministries, maintenance, insurance, liturgical needs, and parish operations.

In addition, several capital improvement projects are also being evaluated, including parking lot repairs, roof repairs, lighting upgrades, fire alarm improvements, and other facility needs intended to preserve the safety, beauty, and functionality of our church home for future generations.

Below is a high-level summary of several capital improvement projects currently being evaluated to preserve the safety, beauty, and long-term sustainability of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Replace Parking Lot Lights around the circle	\$30,000-\$35,000 (Partially Funded by Generous Donor. Thank you!)
Replace/repair sidewalk	\$15,000 (Partially Funded by Generous Donor)
Re-pave Parking Lot	\$80,000-\$120,000 (Partially Funded by Generous Donor. Thank you!)
Replace & Repair Entire Roof	~\$150,000
Refinish Church Front Doors and add Crosses	\$10,000
Paint/Replace Church ceiling tiles and Clear HVAC Ducts	\$10,000 (Partially Funded by Generous Donor. Thank you!)
Change Lighting to LED	\$5,000
Scrape and paint surface near office entrance	\$2,000
Upgrade Fire Alarm system	\$20,000

All projects will continue to be competitively bid to ensure transparency, stewardship accountability, and responsible use of parish resources. The above projects are not part of the 2026 budget but whatever projects we are not able to complete in 2026 we will include them in the 2027 budget that needs to be approved by the General Assembly in the fall of 2026. The funded projects will begin shortly after the St. Andrew Annual Festival.

The Parish Council reviewed the St. Andrew Voice SWOT and Sentiment initiative. Many insights have been revealed and high-level recommendations are shared. I encourage everyone to review the related article in this month’s magazine, as the feedback provided by parishioners will help shape the future strategy of St. Andrew. Our goal is to finalize the parish strategy during June and share it with the St. Andrew Parish family during the August/September timeframe.

Over the past several weeks, I have also begun meeting more closely with many of our ministries and organizations, including Stewardship and Philoptochos leadership. A ministry matrix covering approximately 34 ministries and parish programs has now been developed so that each ministry can align more closely with a Parish Council representative. The matrix will be shared in June with all the heads of the various ministries/programs.

Top priority for the Parish Council is to release the 2026 first quarter stewardship statements. These will be in the mail in early June, and we will also find a way to publish them online with a secure login for easier access. Financial transparency is one of the major asks from the SWOT Voice Survey and we want to ensure that we are following up. In addition, please see the financial monthly tracking in the monthly magazine that shows pictorially our mortgage status, the operational income/expense by month (first 3 months of 2026) and the 2026 budget allocation. Our treasury team will be happy to answer any questions.

To improve communication, planning, and stewardship accountability, the parish is also introducing stronger operational processes and templates for Event Planning Requests, Maintenance Requests, and Capital Improvement Requests. All such requests will now be reviewed through the Buildings & Grounds Team led by John Paxos and Nick Monokandilos in collaboration with the Parish Council and ministry leaders.

Finally, I would like to thank our Executive Committee, Parish Council, ministry leaders, and faithful volunteers for their tremendous commitment and countless hours of service. Please remember that we are all volunteers working together with good intentions, prayerfully striving to strengthen and preserve St. Andrew for future generations.

I am always available to answer any questions in a transparent manner, so please reach out to me.

With faith and gratitude, Michael Serghiou  
Parish Council President



## Μήνυμα Προέδρου – Ιούνιος Michael Serghiou Πρόεδρος Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου



Αγαπητοί Ενοριίτες και Φίλοι του Αγίου Ανδρέα!

Η ενοριακή μας οικογένεια του Αγίου Ανδρέα συνεχίζει να οικοδομεί πάνω στο πνεύμα της διαχείρισης που αναδείχθηκε στο περιοδικό του Μαΐου. Η παραπάνω εικόνα αντικατοπτρίζει όμορφα περισσότερες από τρεις γενιές πιστών Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανών που λατρεύουν, διακονούν και αναπτύσσονται μαζί εν Χριστώ. Τιμούμε τους αρχικούς οικοδόμους της ενορίας μας, συνεχίζοντας παράλληλα να στηρίζουμε τους σημερινούς υπεύθυνους διακονιών, εθελοντές και πιστούς επιτρόπους που συντηρούν την

πνευματική ζωή της εκκλησίας μας κάθε μέρα.

Το Εκκλησιαστικό Συμβούλιο και οι υπεύθυνοι διακονιών επιθυμούν επίσης να εκφράσουν ειλικρινή ευγνωμοσύνη σε όλους τους πιστούς επιτρόπους μας που υποστηρίζουν γενναιόδωρα τον Άγιο Ανδρέα μέσω της επιτροπείας τους, του εθελοντισμού, των διακονιών και αμέτρητων πράξεων προσφοράς καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του έτους. Η αφοσίωσή σας στον χρόνο, το ταλέντο και τους πόρους σας συμβάλλει πραγματικά στη διατήρηση της πνευματικής ζωής και της καθημερινής λειτουργίας της ενοριακής μας κοινότητας.

Καθώς ετοιμαζόμαστε για το επερχόμενο Ελληνικό Φεστιβάλ μας, παρακαλούμε ταπεινά την ενοριακή μας οικογένεια να συνεχίσει να στηρίζει αυτή τη σημαντική διακονία και τη δράση συγκέντρωσης πόρων. Για παράδειγμα, φέτος διαθέτουμε 10.000 εισιτήρια λαχειοφόρου αγοράς, και εάν πωληθούν όλα, η ενορία θα μπορούσε να εισπράξει καθαρά περίπου 200.000 δολάρια για την υποστήριξη των διακονιών και των μελλοντικών αναγκών του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Κάθε εισιτήριο που μοιράζεται με οικογένεια, φίλους, γείτονες και συναδέλφους γίνεται μια ευκαιρία να υποστηρίξουμε το μέλλον της εκκλησίας μας.

Είναι επίσης σημαντικό να κατανοήσουμε τις επιχειρησιακές ανάγκες της ενορίας μας. Κατά μέσο όρο, κοστίζει περίπου 2.200 δολάρια την ημέρα για τη λειτουργία και τη συντήρηση του Αγίου Ανδρέα, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των κοινόχρηστων παροχών, του προσωπικού, των διακονιών, της συντήρησης, της ασφάλισης, των λειτουργικών αναγκών και των ενοριακών λειτουργιών.

Επιπλέον, αξιολογούνται επίσης αρκετά έργα κεφαλαιακών βελτιώσεων, όπως επισκευές χώρων στάθμευσης, επισκευές στέγης, αναβαθμίσεις φωτισμού, βελτιώσεις συναγερμού πυρκαγιάς και άλλες ανάγκες εγκαταστάσεων που αποσκοπούν στη διαφύλαξη της ασφάλειας, της ομορφιάς και της λειτουργικότητας του εκκλησιαστικού μας οίκου για τις μελλοντικές γενιές.

Παρακάτω παρατίθεται μια συνοπτική επισκόπηση αρκετών έργων κεφαλαιακών βελτιώσεων που αξιολογούνται αυτή τη στιγμή για τη διαφύλαξη της ασφάλειας, της ομορφιάς και της μακροπρόθεσμης βιωσιμότητας της Ελληνορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας του Αγίου Ανδρέα.

Όλα τα έργα θα συνεχίσουν να υποβάλλονται σε ανταγωνιστικές προσφορές για να διασφαλιστεί η διαφάνεια, η λογοδοσία στη διαχείριση και η υπεύθυνη χρήση των ενοριακών πόρων. Τα παραπάνω έργα δεν αποτελούν μέρος του προϋπολογισμού του 2026, αλλά όσα έργα δεν καταφέρουμε να ολοκληρώσουμε εντός του 2026 θα τα συμπεριλάβουμε στον προϋπολογισμό του 2027, ο οποίος πρέπει να εγκριθεί από τη Γενική Συνέλευση το φθινόπωρο του 2026. Τα χρηματοδοτημένα έργα θα ξεκινήσουν λίγο μετά το Ετήσιο Φεστιβάλ του Αγίου Ανδρέα.

Το Εκκλησιαστικό Συμβούλιο εξέτασε την πρωτοβουλία SWOT και Αισθήματος της Φωνής του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Έχουν αποκαλυφθεί πολλές γνώσεις και μοιράζονται συστάσεις υψηλού επιπέδου. Ενθαρρύνω όλους να διαβάσουν το σχετικό άρθρο στο περιοδικό αυτού του μήνα, καθώς τα σχόλια που παρείχαν οι ενορίτες θα συμβάλουν στη διαμόρφωση της μελλοντικής στρατηγικής του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Στόχος μας είναι να οριστικοποιήσουμε την ενοριακή στρατηγική κατά τον Ιούνιο και να την μοιραστούμε με την ενοριακή οικογένεια του Αγίου Ανδρέα κατά το διάστημα Αυγούστου/Σεπτεμβρίου.

Τις τελευταίες εβδομάδες, έχω επίσης αρχίσει να συναντώμαι πιο τακτικά με πολλές από τις διακονίες και οργανώσεις μας, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της ηγεσίας της Επιτροπείας και της Φιλοπτώχου. Ένας πίνακας διακονιών που καλύπτει περίπου 34 διακονίες και ενοριακά προγράμματα έχει πλέον αναπτυχθεί, ώστε κάθε διακονία να μπορεί να συνδέεται πιο στενά με έναν εκπρόσωπο του Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου. Ο πίνακας θα κοινοποιηθεί τον Ιούνιο σε όλους τους επικεφαλής των διαφόρων διακονιών/προγραμμάτων.

Κορυφαία προτεραιότητα για το Εκκλησιαστικό Συμβούλιο είναι η έκδοση των καταστάσεων επιτροπείας του πρώτου τριμήνου του 2026. Αυτές θα αποσταλούν ταχυδρομικώς στις αρχές Ιουνίου, και θα βρούμε επίσης τρόπο να τις δημοσιεύσουμε διαδικτυακά με ασφαλή σύνδεση για ευκολότερη πρόσβαση. Η οικονομική διαφάνεια είναι ένα από τα κύρια αιτήματα από την Έρευνα Φωνής SWOT και θέλουμε να διασφαλίσουμε ότι παρακολουθούμε τα αποτελέσματα. Επιπλέον, παρακαλούμε να δείτε τη μηνιαία οικονομική παρακολούθηση στο μηνιαίο περιοδικό, η οποία απεικονίζει εικαστικά την κατάσταση της υποθήκης μας, τα λειτουργικά έσοδα/έξοδα ανά μήνα (πρώτοι 3 μήνες του 2026) και την κατανομή του προϋπολογισμού του 2026. Η ομάδα ταμείου μας θα χαρεί να απαντήσει σε οποιαδήποτε ερωτήσεις.

Για τη βελτίωση της επικοινωνίας, του προγραμματισμού και της λογοδοσίας στη διαχείριση, η ενορία εισάγει επίσης ισχυρότερες επιχειρησιακές διαδικασίες και πρότυπα για Αιτήματα Σχεδιασμού Εκδηλώσεων, Αιτήματα Συντήρησης και Αιτήματα Κεφαλαιακών Βελτιώσεων. Όλα αυτά τα αιτήματα θα εξετάζονται πλέον από την Ομάδα Κτιρίων και Χώρων υπό την ηγεσία του Ιωάννη Πάξου και του Νίκου Μονοκανδήλου σε συνεργασία με το Εκκλησιαστικό Συμβούλιο και τους υπεύθυνους διακονιών.

Τέλος, θα ήθελα να ευχαριστήσω την Εκτελεστική Επιτροπή, το Εκκλησιαστικό Συμβούλιο, τους υπεύθυνους διακονιών και τους πιστούς εθελοντές μας για την τεράστια αφοσίωσή τους και τις αμέτρητες ώρες προσφοράς τους. Να θυμάστε ότι είμαστε όλοι εθελοντές που εργαζόμαστε μαζί με καλές προθέσεις, αγωνιζόμενοι με προσευχή να ενισχύσουμε και να διαφυλάξουμε τον Άγιο Ανδρέα για τις μελλοντικές γενιές.

Είμαι πάντα διαθέσιμος να απαντήσω σε οποιαδήποτε ερωτήσεις με διαφανή τρόπο, οπότε παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε μαζί μου.

Με πίστη και ευγνωμοσύνη,

Μιχαήλ Σεργίου Πρόεδρος Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου

Έργο	Εκτιμώμενο Κόστος
Αντικατάσταση φωτιστικών χώρου στάθμευσης γύρω από τον κύκλο	\$30.000-\$35.000 (Μερικώς χρηματοδοτημένο από Γενναιόδωρο Δωρητή. Ευχαριστούμε!)
Αντικατάσταση/επισκευή πεζοδρομίου	\$15.000 (Μερικώς χρηματοδοτημένο από Γενναιόδωρο Δωρητή. Ευχαριστούμε!)
Επαναστάση χώρου στάθμευσης	\$80.000-\$120.000 (Μερικώς χρηματοδοτημένο από Γενναιόδωρο Δωρητή. Ευχαριστούμε!)
Αντικατάσταση και επισκευή ολόκληρης της στέγης	~\$150.000
Ανακαίνιση μπροστινών θυρών εκκλησίας και προσθήκη Σταυρών	\$10.000
Βάψιμο/αντικατάσταση ακουστικών πλακαδίων οροφής εκκλησίας και καθαρισμός αγωγών HVAC	\$10.000 (Μερικώς χρηματοδοτημένο από Γενναιόδωρο Δωρητή. Ευχαριστούμε!)
Μετατροπή φωτισμού σε LED	\$5.000
Εύσιμο και βάψιμο επιφάνειας κοντά στην είσοδο γραφείου	\$2.000
Βελτιστοποίηση συστήματος συναγερμού πυρασφάλειας	\$20.000

# BIG GREEK FESTIVAL.COM

## June 5 – June 6 – June 7



### Friday ♦ June 5 ♦ Lunch 11am – 2pm

Eat in or take out – pre-order at:  
[standrewgonj.square.site](http://standrewgonj.square.site)

### Dinner 5pm – 11pm

### Saturday ♦ June 6 ♦ 11am – 11pm

### Sunday ♦ June 7 ♦ 12pm – 7pm



- Authentic Greek Food and Drink
- Greek Bakery – Homemade Pastries
- Outdoor Taverna Grill and Bar
- Live Greek Music, DJ, and Dancing
- Traditional Greek Folk Dancers
- Church Tours and Bookstore
- Kiddie Corner – Fun and Games
- Raffles and more

### FREE ADMISSION

Free parking at County College of Morris with free round-trip shuttle service

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Tpk., Randolph, NJ  
Tel: 973 584-0388 • Fax: 973-584-3573 • [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

BigGreekFestival.com



## RISE UP AND BUILD: GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING SUMMARY

It was great speaking to all of you at our General Assembly Meeting held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had a nice turnout and were able to hear your concerns and, hopefully, address them to your satisfaction. If you missed the meeting, here is a summary of the Stewardship Report. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email us at [stewardship@standrewgonj.org](mailto:stewardship@standrewgonj.org).

Two years ago we started our Round Up to Tithing Campaign. We asked you to look at your annual pledge and round up your pledged amounts to the nearest one percent. We also asked that you increase your annual pledges by one percent each year until we reach the Biblical goal of tithing.

Why did we ask you to Round Up to Tithing? Because tithing is how Christ asked us to account for our blessings (1 Corinthians 16:2-3; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Luke 12:48; 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and even Deuteronomy 16:17) These passages show us that Stewardship is what you do with ALL the gifts God gave you. Stewardship is not dues or fees. It is not a transaction. Stewardship is the giving back to God that which he has given to us. Currently and in the past, Stewardship offerings here at Saint Andrew cover less than half of our annual expenses. The median pledge here is \$500. A \$500 median pledge forces us to heavily depend on the festival and other fundraising to close the gap. Relying on other people's money to care for God's church and to do God's work is not Stewardship.

We understand the current state of our economy is poor. Many families are experiencing the hardships associated with rising costs of living, limited wages, and unpredictable expenses. Even worse, many families are faced with unexpected illness or long-term health challenges. We recognize these realities and, if you find yourself in these circumstances, we encourage you to come and discuss matters with Father John. If you do not find yourself in these unfortunate circumstances, then think about why you aren't giving back according to your blessings.

### **Is it because there are too many places asking you for money?**

Humanitarian organizations, school fundraisers, charitable drives, online appeals, community initiatives all look to us for help. If this is the case, we ask that you remember that God should always take priority. **Is it misplaced priorities?** Are you spending more money on comfort, appearance, and status than



you are giving back to His church? If this is the case, we ask that you choose God first and allow your spending to reflect your faith.

### **Is it a lack of mindfulness about the church's needs?**

Sometimes the barrier to giving is not financial but simply a matter of awareness. Many parishioners forget that the church relies on the constant everyday support of its members to operate and to continue serving all. At Saint Andrew, most pledges do not arrive until the end of the calendar year as a single lump sum. This makes it extremely difficult to plan ministries, maintain programs, and respond to needs in the community during the year.

It is important that stewardship offerings come in continually throughout the year, ideally monthly.

And what's even worse than end of year lump sum donations?

Not sending in the pledge form at all.

When the office receives a donation without a pledge form, it is impossible to say whether that donation is intended to be a one and done or if it is one of many. It would be equivalent to receiving a check from your employer without having any idea of your annual salary. It is impossible to budget. I also want to mention that many employers match charitable contributions. Please ask your Human Resources departments if you are entitled to corporate matching. Finally, despite all our financial shortcomings, I would like to direct your attention to the graphic below. This graphic shows, in very colorful ways, what we accomplished in 2025.

Take a look. It's impressive. Now, imagine what we could do when we Round Up to Tithing!

Thank you and we hope that you can join us at the next General Assembly meeting.

# TOGETHER WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2025



**1,440**  
MEALS COOKED  
FOR FAITH KITCHEN



**2,000**  
FESTIVAL  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**16**  
PARTICIPANTS



CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT



**49**  
WEEKS OF  
COFFEE HOUR  
Hosted by five Groups  
and Many Families



**52**  
WEEKS OF  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
Time & Talent from  
Chanters, Acolytes,  
Readers, Ushers,  
Greeters, & Attendees



TRUNK OR TREAT  
HARVEST PARTY

**\$60,000**  
OF PHILOPTOCHOS  
PHILANTHROPY

**510**   
COZY BLANKETS,  
PILLOWS, SCARVES,  
HATS & MITTENS  
DONATED

**\$6000**  
OF DAUGHTERS  
OF PENELOPE  
PHILANTHROPY  
including \$1000  
for Cancer Research

**23**

WEEKS OF  
BIBLE STUDY



**6**

AGAPE LUNCHEONS  
FOR OUR SENIORS



**100s**  
OF ATTENDEES FOR  
THE FEAST DAY OF  
SAINT ANDREW

**400**  
TOYS COLLECTED FOR  
**TOYS FOR TOTS**

**1,300**  
POUNDS OF  
FOOD COLLECTED  
FOR INTERFAITH  
FOOD PANTRY



**5** PART SERIES ON  
ORTHODOXY 101



**75** CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY



**30** BACKPACKS BLESSED



**2**

SUCCESSFUL GYRO SALES



**5**

MOVIE NIGHTS

**200**

LIGHT FIXTURES REPLACED WITH LED BULBS



COMMUNITY HONOREES



**60**

MARCHERS IN GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM

NEW NARTHEX FLOOR TILES

**1**

O.C.M.F. MISSIONARY PRIEST SPONSORED



ONGOING BEAUTIFICATION OF NAVE, SANCTUARY, AND SOCIAL HALL



SESSIONS OF GREEK LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

NEW HVAC MOTOR



CHILDREN ENROLLED IN GREEK SCHOOL

**IMAGINE WHAT ELSE IS POSSIBLE WHEN WE ROUND UP TO TITHING!**

# HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL GRADUATION

ON MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2026 Families came together to celebrate our heritage with our children as they recited poems, sang songs and performed our traditional Greek folk dances.



My Dear Sixth Graders,

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

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

Speak Greek with pride and of course, DO NOT STOP learning our beautiful language. Greek school was just the beginning, the foundation of learning ELLINIKA. Continue to learn and you will not regret it; read a Greek book, a short story, write a message to your friends, or speak with your family. You will not lose, believe me, but rather the opposite; you will gain self-esteem, self-respect, pride, and the admiration of those around you.

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

-Your teacher, Hariclea Christodoulou

Αγαπητά μου παιδιά της Στ' τάξης,

Ανδρομάχη **Κοντογιάννη**, Ελευθερία **Ασπρομάτη**, Ευσταθία **Bermudez-Πετρούκου**, Βιολέττα **A. Μπενά**, Γεώργι (Γιώργο) **Μπενά**, Παναγιώτη **Σιφωνιέ**,

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

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

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

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

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

Με την αγάπη μου, Η δασκάλα σας, Χαρίκλεια Χριστοδούλου



Hello! My name is **Eleftheria Aspromatis**. I am 12 years old and am in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Soon to be moving on to middle school. I love anything that has to do with the arts, drawing, dancing, singing, and performing in school plays. My favorite sports are cheerleading and volleyball. This year will mark my last year in Greek School. I started classes here when there was Mazi me tin mama classes and then moved on to Greek school and dance. I have many great memories and have made good friends throughout the years. A big thank you to all my teachers and my parents. Kalo Kalokairi everyone! ★

My name is **Violetta Benas** and I am a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student finishing my year in American school. I am proud of all the hard work I did this year and everything I have learned. I enjoy cheerleading and volleyball because they keep me active and teach me teamwork. I also love spending time with my family and friends because they always make me happy and support me.



For the last few years, I have also had a great experience in Greek school. I loved learning more about the Greek language, culture, and traditions. Greek school helped me stay connected to my Greek heritage, and I am thankful for that.

I would like to thank my teachers for all their guidance, patience, and help through the years. I also want to thank my parents for always supporting me, encouraging me, and helping me do my best. I am grateful for everything they have done for me. ★



**Panayiotis Sifonios** is a 13-year-old boy that attends Mount Olive middle school. He enjoys riding his bike and spending time with his friends. In his free time, every summer he looks forward to traveling to Karpathos, Greece to spend time on the beach with his family. He will continue to be involved with the Saint Andrew Goya and connect further to his culture and faith. ★

My name is **Andrea Kontogiannis**, I am 10 years old and a graduate of 5th grade. I was born and still live in USA with my family, my father, my mother and my 14-year-old sister. From a young age, my parents passed on to me a deep love for Greece and everything Greek. At home we speak Greek, which helps me practice every day and feel more connected to the language and our traditions. I really enjoy reading Greek history because it teaches me about the past and the people who shaped Greece. I also like watching Greek television, especially Greek movies. One of my favorite things to do is travel to Greece. I especially love going to my home in Skopelos, where my family and friends live. There, I spend wonderful time playing, swimming, and enjoying being in a place that feels like my second home. In my free time, I enjoy sports. I have been playing soccer and basketball for many years. Through sports, I have learned the importance of teamwork and effort, and I have made many friends. In addition, I play the violin, which helps me express myself and relax. My experience at Greek school has been very positive and meaningful. I have made friendships, and the holiday performances will always stay in my memory. My teachers have been wonderful and have supported me every step of the way.



My love for the Greek language inspired me to study more, and over the past two years I have earned two certificates of Greek language proficiency from the Centre for the Greek Language in Greece. I am very proud of this achievement, and I want to continue learning and improving.★

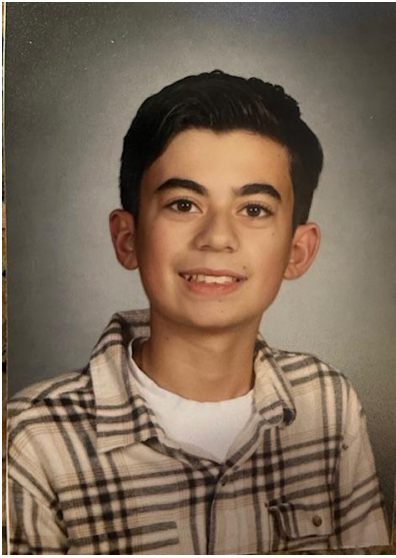


Γειά σας , My name is **Efstathia Christina Bermudez Petrakos**. In my free time I competitively ice skate and I enjoy going to the beach with my friends and family. Greek school gave me a new perspective on my heritage; Greece isn't just my DNA. It's my home, my heritage, my identity, and my roots that I will pass down. I'll be honest with you all my journey here wasn't always bright. There were Thursday nights where I'd rather be anywhere else.

I've definitely caused some gray hairs for my Yiayia when I couldn't understand the homework , and I'll admit, there were moments I even despised being here. I am Latina and Greek. At first, I was worried I wouldn't fit in, that I wasn't 'Greek enough' or that I'd be an outsider. But my teachers and classmates accepted me and treated me like any other student. I learned how to communicate a bit and I learned about

Greece's background and simple sentences that actually help me a lot.

I'm proud and thankful for my Hellenic heritage. I'm grateful for the elderlies that call me κούκλα and of course the great food. It seems like only yesterday I was singing *Μια Ωραία Πεταλούδα* (ΜΙΑ ΟΡΕΑ ΠΕΤΑΛΟΥΔΑ) which was my favorite Greek nursery song. I will forever remember all my amazing teachers. Ευχαριστώ πολύ!



My name is **Georgios Benas**, and I am a 13-year-old 7th grade student in the Mount Olive School District. I take pride in balancing my schoolwork with the activities I enjoy most.

Sports are a big part of my life, especially baseball and basketball. I have been playing baseball since I was 4 years old, and today I play travel baseball for Mount Olive as well as for my middle school team. Through sports, I've learned the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. I am also a proud member of St. Andrew GOYA, where I enjoy playing basketball, Greek dancing, and spending time with friends while staying connected to my faith and culture.

I love spending time with my family, especially when we travel to Greece. These trips help me connect with my roots and appreciate our traditions and heritage. I am very grateful to my teachers for helping me learn the Greek language and better understand our culture. I would especially like to thank my teacher, Kyria Xaroula, for making my last year of Greek school meaningful. Lastly, I want to thank my parents for their constant support and encouragement. I am thankful for everything they have done for me and all the opportunities they have given me.

Thanks ★

*Presenting...  
Rise and Build:*

# CLAIM YOUR CALLING

Join hundreds of young adults  
July 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> for a weekend  
full of faith & fellowship!

*Featuring:*  
Engaging speakers  
Interactive service project  
Themed evening events  
Free time in Cleveland

**YAL**  
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INTRODUCING  
THE  
ST. ANDREW  
Fellowship  
YOUNG  
ADULT  
LEAGUE

Faith  
service  
20's-30's  
Witness

Fr. John's  
Office  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
of the month  
7 pm

Wild  
Card  
Activity  
Every  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday  
(or TBD)

## *Congratulations to all our graduates!*

*The future is indeed bright and brimming with possibilities, and we encourage you to embrace it with confidence and courage. Remember, the Lord has a special plan for each one of you, and as you embark on this new chapter, know that His blessings will accompany you every step of the way.*

**Demetri Gergatsoulis:** Throughout my years in GOYA, I have gotten to experience the different fun and exciting things which have brought me closer to friends and God. From the dances, Sights and Sounds, and Olympics, these are the things I am going to remember for the rest of my life which have brought me closer to Church and community. It was through these events which brought me many new friends and closer to current friends. I am glad to have spent the past four years actively participating in GOYA. I am thankful to God that I was able to accomplish many things and to have fun doing it at the same time. I will definitely miss my friends and doing all the fun things GOYA had to offer when I am gone, but I will still be looking forward to coming to church and staying involved with our community.



After GOYA and high school, I plan to attend Seton Hall University while majoring in Biology for Pre-Med, as I have aspirations in becoming a doctor. Overall, the experiences I have had in GOYA are the ones that shaped me into who I am today, and I am very thankful to be a part of this community and happy to continue to be a part of it.



**Constantinos Mantinaos:** Currently, I am wrapping up my senior year at Mendham High School. Next year, I will be attending Stevens Institute of Technology, where I will be studying business and

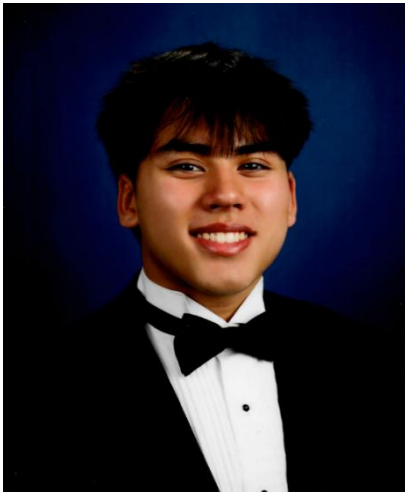
continuing fencing. Athletics were a major part of my high school experience. I began fencing competitively at the end of my junior year after joining my school's fencing team sophomore year and developing a passion for it. Also, I was on the school's basketball team freshman year. In all 4 years, I had fun playing on the GOYA basketball team. In terms of academics, I was part of the IB Diploma Programme, a rigorous academic and extracurricular program. I was also in the National Honor Society in my senior year. Alongside school, I played trumpet all four years, including two years in the audition-based Wind Ensemble. Outside of

school and sports, I kept in touch with my faith and stayed active in church and community service. I served as GOYA treasurer for two years, helping me give back to an important community. During my junior and senior years, I also participated

in the Chester Mendham Outreach soccer volunteer program, helping special needs

children through sports and mentorship. In addition, I worked at Kumon during my junior and senior years, teaching students of different ages reading and writing.

Looking back, I'm grateful for all the experiences, friendships, and lessons that shaped my high school years, and I'm excited for what comes next.



**Anthony Mitrakos:** Throughout my years in GOYA, I have had the opportunity to build meaningful relationships within my church community and connect with fellow Greek Orthodox youth from other parishes. These experiences helped me grow socially and spiritually, creating friendships that I know will last for years to come. Whether through meetings, retreats, or community events, GOYA gave me a strong sense of belonging and taught me the importance of supporting one another through faith.

My faith has also shaped the person I am today by teaching me the values of compassion, humility, and service. Being involved in the church encouraged me to stay grounded, appreciate my traditions, and look for ways to help others in my community. Through GOYA, I learned how faith can bring people together and provide guidance during both challenges and successes.

After graduation, I plan to attend Rutgers University–New Brunswick and major in economics. I hope to continue building strong relationships, staying active in my faith, and using the lessons I learned through GOYA to positively impact those around me.

Hi, my name is **Zoe Sifonios** and I have been President of our GOYA for two years now. I am a senior at Mount Olive High School and will be attending The College of New Jersey in the fall to major in nursing. I am considering to play volleyball on a club team while in college.

Being GOYA president for the past two years has meant so much to me and has helped me grow a lot as both a person and a leader. Through GOYA and the church, I have made friendships and memories that I know will stay with me for years to come. Even though I won't be around as much once I start college, I hope to come back often and stay involved in church events whenever I can.



**Dean Zervos:** I recently graduated from The Pingry School in Basking Ridge and will be attending the University of Notre Dame this fall. I will enter the College of Arts and Sciences and the Glynn Family Honors program as a Stamps Scholar, where I look forward to exploring Political Science on the Pre-Law track.

I have been an active member of our St. Andrew's GOYA community. I participated in the Mrs. and Mr. GOYA pageant, volunteered at the local churches and food pantries, and led my peers as Secretary in 2025. As part of my leadership, I helped plan several dances and events throughout the years.

In addition to my church involvement, I participated in several charitable efforts, including making sandwiches for people in need and running a nonprofit to help people with food insecurity. I also enjoyed many years of GOYA basketball with friends. My time with GOYA has blessed me with lifelong friendships, grounded in a shared belief in Christ.

Outside of church, I enjoy spending time with family, hanging out with friends, and playing waterpolo. I pray for God's continued guidance and blessings as I embark on this exciting next chapter at the University of Notre Dame.

# Feast of the Holy Righteous Martyr Saint Paraskevi

July 26

## Life of the Saint

Saint Paraskevi, who was from a certain village near Rome, was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskevi), she was given this name, which means "preparation" or "preparedness" (compare Matthew 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31, where 'Friday' is called "the day of the preparation"). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremias: "Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth" (Jeremiah 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.



## Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Holy Righteous Martyr Saint Paraskevi

The feast and commemoration of Saint Paraskevi is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast.

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At the Divine Liturgy: Galatians 3:23-4:5, Mark 5:24-34.

### Hymns of the Feast

#### Apolytikion: First Tone

Appropriate to your calling, O Champion Paraskevi, you worshipped with the readiness your name bears.  
For an abode you obtained faith, which is your namesake. Wherefore, you pour forth healing and intercede for our souls.

#### Kontakion: Plagal Fourth

O most majestic One, we have discovered your temple to be a spiritual clinic wherein all the faithful resoundingly honor you, O famed and venerable martyr Paraskevi.

*Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA*

*Apolytikion and Kontakion courtesy of Narthex Press, Northridge, CA*



## SAINT ANDREW PHILOPTOCHOS

1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869-1830



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

Dear Saint Andrew Parishioners,

With heartfelt gratitude, we would like to thank everyone who supported our recent Tricky Tray event on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Your generosity, enthusiasm, and presence helped make the evening a wonderful success and a joyful gathering for all who attended.

We are especially grateful to all who donated a basket, gave a monetary donation, or placed an ad in our Journal. Thank you to all of our volunteers who dedicated their time at the event by helping out wherever needed.

We could not do this without you, and we feel so blessed to have such a supportive and generous community.

The proceeds from the Tricky Tray will help further the charitable ministries and outreach efforts of our Philoptochos chapter. A large portion of the funds raised this year will benefit Ronald McDonald House/Greek Division, Project Self Sufficiency, and our Saint Andrew Church. (Last year we updated the social hall with the new floor and newly painted walls).

Events like these remind us of the strength of our parish family and the blessings that come from working together in faith, fellowship, and love.

We are deeply appreciative of the continued support shown by our parishioners and friends throughout the year.

We wish you a wonderful and Blessed summer!

In the Service of the Lord,

The Tricky Tray Committee, (as appears), Julie Ioannou, Irene Laoudis, Yiota Louca, Marina Venizelos, Antonia Clapsis, Kia Paskas, Maro Schuster and Melissa Dobias (not pictured).



## THE SPIRITUAL LIFE- A WORKING FAITH

We talk a lot about the “Holy Spirit” but what do you know about the Holy Spirit? Chances are the Holy Spirit is misunderstood. You shouldn’t be surprised by that. Since Jesus’s departure and the entrance of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost humanity has routinely misunderstood the Holy Spirit. But it’s not enough to state something informative about the Holy Spirit because the whole mystery of who He is must be included. How do you understand Trinity? What is the revelation of God in Jesus and how do you comprehend the mystery of His divine-human reality? What does this have to do with me, with YOU?

Maybe you thought going to Church now and then will be enough, but enough for whom? Why do you believe? Does God make a difference in how you live daily? Is there room for God in your busy life and all the various conflicts you have to resolve? Where are you fitting God into your life?

As summer nears, Church attendance diminishes. There are so many things in the way. Can you notice how the Holy Spirit is in your way? We often imagine the “bad” things that might send us to hell. But our Orthodox faith has nothing to do with such a reward-punishment system. Such a faith simply makes God the “boss” to whom we must answer for our actions. This is not the God Orthodoxy offers us. If you believe “in” God and not just “of” God, shouldn’t it be a strong urge to get to know God? Didn’t Jesus tell us that He would send a “teacher” to bring us into true



knowledge? But be careful, this is not simply informational knowledge.

It’s like learning the truth about something, but once

learned, changes everything. We are called to a transforming knowledge. This is the role of the Holy Spirit. We are called to an active participation of transformation brought about by the living presence of the Holy Spirit.

This is not easy. It isn’t studying in the usual ways of learning. This is an investment. The Holy Spirit is the

relationship of Father and Son because love is only real if it is relational. The reality of the Holy Spirit is the witness, the revelation of that love we are invited to participate. It is not just knowledge but an active process of learning how to love God. This kind of knowledge is an engagement with what we love. Rather than just “attending” Divine Liturgy, we engage with it in order to draw near to God. The Eucharist is an invitation into God through the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It is that spiritual embrace of the father with his prodigal son. The amount of love available at that moment is unimaginable.

Faith looks away from ourselves and looks to Jesus out of a genuine desire to be found in Him, “clothed with righteousness” (Phil. 3:7-11). Each of discovers a truly spiritual life whose goal is the fullness of our broken humanity in Christ. But this begins with a desire to draw near, to want to have God in our presence. As the Church brings us into communion, the Holy Spirit opens our inner eyes to see how in our fellowship we demonstrate a love that restores. Anyone who is lonely, struggling with personal issues, wrestling with physical and

psychological pains, will stand before God and the fellowship of the community when they enter the Church. Faith is trusting submission to God who transforms if we allow God to act. As you read and study Scripture notice how each time the Holy Spirit is present for bringing something “new” into existence.

This summer, make a special effort to come to Church and welcome the Holy Spirit into your life. For those of you who would like a challenging book to read, I am recommending

*Deification in Christ: The Nature of the Human Person*, Panayiotis Nellas, SVS Press, 1997.

I also suggest getting to know Jesus better by studying the Gospels and getting involved with a Bible Study group. Most of all, find time for centering prayer. Allow the Holy Spirit to transform your life and help you get through the toughest moments. Faith is the way of living your life in Christ and experiencing healing that restores each of us to our wholeness.

God be with you, Herbert Schuster

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## Regarding the Spirit of Orthodoxy and OCMC Benefit Concert....

A big thank-you on behalf of the Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir (and myself as just me) for the beautiful and good-spirited hosting that you and your community offered to us last Sunday, and for all your work in the months preceding it. The concert turned out beautifully, and everything supported the message of Paschal radiance that we wanted to project. I believe that together, we also achieved our objective of significantly supporting the OCMC. Sophia Kyrou will correct me if I am wrong, but I think they received about \$2700. God willing, that will make a difference for one of our mission countries. And it also is a meaningful way of remembering the wonderful man who formed the organization that makes it happen, +Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos.

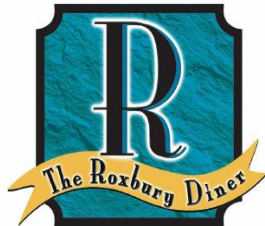
Salomi and Christen worked hard to ensure that the pieces of the puzzle would all be in place when we needed them. And Fr. John, in addition to your "yes," that started it all, you also continued to stay involved, offering support and ideas as needed. Along with that, we appreciated your words at the concert, setting the tone of joy, welcome, and informality. Also, please relay our thanks to Maro, the organizer of the great reception that had something for everyone, from those who wanted serious nourishment, to fruit-lovers, to people who appreciate some sweet celebration! The reception really turned into a bright and beautiful fellowship hour that everyone enjoyed. I know she worked hard, and there were others supporting her effort with delicious offerings. (My husband can't stop raving about the spanakopita). And to the Philoptochos for their generous contribution to the OCMC, and to Chris for making sure that everything would be working in the church as we needed it... Sending you my/our warmest wishes and appreciation for your heartfelt *filoxenia*, In Christ, Miriam Kotsonis



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Your hosts: Kypros Andreou & Demetri Rotsides

**SAINT ◆ ANDREW COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
◆ DIAMOND ◆ PARTICIPANTS**

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

# SAINT ANDREW HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

As the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) school year comes to a close, we proudly reflect on the many accomplishments, events, and meaningful learning experiences our students shared throughout the year. The administration and teachers are extremely proud of the students' progress in developing their Greek language skills, cultural understanding, and confidence in using the language.

During the summer months, we strongly encourage all students to continue practicing Greek at home with their families. Consistent exposure to the language through conversation, reading, writing, listening to music, and reviewing vocabulary will help students retain and strengthen the skills they learned throughout the school year. Even a few minutes of Greek practice each day can make a significant difference in maintaining fluency and building confidence for the upcoming school year.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available through Saint Andrew HAS. The Saint Andrew Bilingual Library will remain available during the week, and students may continue accessing the educational platforms and classroom materials using their student email accounts. These resources provide excellent opportunities for continued learning, review, and enrichment throughout the summer.

The administration and teachers will also be working throughout the summer to enhance and strengthen the curriculum in order to provide engaging, meaningful, and effective learning experiences for all

students. We are excited to introduce new lessons, activities, and educational opportunities that will continue to inspire a love for the Greek language and culture.

We thank all of our students and families for their continued support, dedication, and commitment to Greek education. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful and exciting school year!

To help us prepare for the upcoming school year, we kindly encourage all parents to enroll their child as early as possible by contacting the Saint Andrew main office.

SAINT ANDREW  
HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

Καλό Καλοκαίρι!

WISHING EVERYONE A  
Happy Summer!

ENROLLMENT IS  
NOW OPEN

FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

CONTACT THE SAINT ANDREW MAIN OFFICE  
FOR ENROLLMENT:  
info@standrewgonj.org

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ  
GREEK LANGUAGE

ΠΟΝΤΙΣΜΟΣ & ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΗ  
CULTURE & TRADITION

ΠΙΣΤΗ & ΑΞΙΕΣ  
FAITH & VALUES

ΦΙΛΙΑ & ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ  
FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY

Nurturing Greek language, culture, and faith -  
today's lessons, tomorrow's leaders. ❤️

# SAINT ANDREW PTA

## A YEAR OF GROWTH, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

The success of the Saint Andrew PTA depends greatly on the willingness of parents and parish families to volunteer their time and talents. Everyone leads busy lives, but the strength of our church and the enrichment of our children's experiences rely on each of us making the effort

to participate and stay involved throughout the year. Whether volunteering at a coffee hour, supporting a fundraiser, or simply offering a helping hand for an event, prioritizing your service to the PTA makes a meaningful difference.

As we reflect on another successful year for the St. Andrew PTA, we are incredibly grateful for the continued growth of our organization and the strong sense of community that has made so many events and initiatives possible. Through the dedication of our families, volunteers, and supporters, as well as the generous donations and sponsors, we were able to successfully plan and execute numerous fundraisers, family events, and school activities throughout the year.

Over the winter, we had tremendous success with our Mardi Gras fundraiser. Thanks to the incredible support of our parish and school families, the PTA raised enough funds to help make many of our additional programs and activities possible throughout the year. The evening was especially memorable with the addition of a live band, bringing energy, celebration, and community spirit to a truly special night.

Our end-of-the-year trip to Medieval Times was a wonderful celebration of a successful school year, bringing together approximately 80 adults



and children for an evening filled with laughter, fellowship, and lasting memories. Events like these strengthen the connections within our school and church community while creating meaningful experiences for our families and children.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of this year, we also want to extend our deepest gratitude to our outgoing PTA President, Katerina Corona, for her tireless dedication, leadership, and countless volunteer hours. Her commitment and hard work helped guide the PTA through a successful and productive year, finishing the school year stronger than ever. We are thankful that Katerina will continue supporting the PTA and assisting with future endeavors, and we deeply appreciate all she has done for our school and church community.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome our incoming PTA President, Stacey Gatoulis. We look forward to building upon the strong foundation that has been created and continuing to expand opportunities for parents and families to become involved in our community.

Thank you to all who helped make this year such a success through your time, generosity, and support. As we look ahead to another wonderful year of service, fellowship, and community at Saint Andrew, we warmly invite more parents and families to join us in helping our PTA continue to grow and thrive for the benefit of our children and parish community.

Yours in Service, Saint Andrew PTA



# SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

Christ is Risen!

We would like to address several important matters that have recently arisen within our parish community regarding the daycare school, safety protocols, and questions about prior approvals.

## **1. Daycare Safety & Recent Incident**

Recently, there was an incident involving a child attempting to access a restroom in the daycare-designated area during school hours. While no harm occurred, this highlights the importance of maintaining clear boundaries between parish use and school operations.

During weekdays when the school is in session, designated school areas—including restrooms—are not accessible to parishioners. These measures are in place to uphold youth safety standards and ensure a secure environment for the children in the daycare.

To support this, we are implementing simple safeguards such as keeping fire doors closed during school hours and posting signage indicating: *“School in Session – No Access.”* We kindly ask for everyone’s understanding and cooperation.

## **2. General Assembly Approval & Historical Context**

We have heard questions regarding whether the daycare lease was formally approved by the General Assembly. We want to clarify that the day school lease has, in fact, been discussed and approved at previous General Assembly meetings.

Additionally, the vision of utilizing our community center for educational purposes has existed since its opening approximately 20 years ago, and the Parish Council acted within this long-standing vision in entering into the lease. For the sake of transparency and completeness, we will continue reviewing past General Assembly minutes and documentation and will make this information available to the parish as needed.

## **3. Stewardship & Financial Responsibility**

The daycare currently provides approximately \$45,000 annually in revenue, which supports the ongoing needs and ministries of our parish. As we consider any concerns or future decisions, it is important to recognize the financial impact.

If there is a desire within the parish to discontinue the daycare, we must also be prepared, as a community, to prayerfully and responsibly consider how to replace this income through increased stewardship. We cannot separate decisions from their practical consequences, and faithful stewardship calls us to approach both with care and responsibility.

## **Moving Forward Together**

As First Epistle to the Corinthians reminds us: *“Let all things be done decently and in order”* (14:40). Let us move forward with clarity, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to the well-being of our parish.

We thank you for your attention, understanding, and continued love for our Church. If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to reach out.

With love in Christ,

Michael Serghiou

Parish Council President

## Our Mother of the 2026 Year, FAYE PASKAS. ❤️👏

Faye's involvement at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church began in the 1970s, when she moved to Sparta, NJ from Bergen County during her early high school years. She was president of GOYA and active in the Greek Orthodox community, which was a vital component of her upbringing in our faith. Faye participated in the 1977 Junior GOYA Pageant, where she represented St. Andrew and won the title of "Miss Junior GOYA." This was a proud moment for her that allowed her to further embrace her spirituality and become an integral part of her church community.



granddaughters to become more involved at church. Faye can always be counted on to help out, whether it's serving food at the Faith Kitchen, assisting Religious Education students with their Oratorical speeches, or face painting children of the St. Andrew community on Palm Sunday. She attends Father John's Bible Study, where she can be found trying to enrich her understanding of scripture in order to better educate her Sunday School students. Faye's involvement in various

Faye raised both of her daughters, Kia and Kayla, in the Greek Orthodox Church. Despite being a single mother for most of their childhood years, she succeeded in instilling strong, Greek Orthodox values in both of them. Kia and Kayla credit their mother as their primary source of guidance and encouragement, teaching them to have unwavering faith in God above all things. She continues to lead by example as she plays a key part in educating her granddaughters, Sunny (Fotini) and Lyra (Glykeria) in the Orthodox faith. Faye cherishes the time she is able to spend with her family each Sunday as they come together to worship God.

In recent years, following her retirement from 32 years as a high school Spanish and French teacher, Faye has become increasingly active at St. Andrew, regularly volunteering in its ministries. She is currently a board member of the St. Andrew chapter of the Philoptochos, in addition to serving as a dedicated Religious Education teacher alongside Dr. Herbert Schuster to grades 7 through 12. Through her steady volunteerism and eagerness to help, she has also inspired her daughters and

church events, such as the Christmas pageant, is a true testament to her dedication to our parish. She finds joy and fulfillment in nurturing the next generation of Greek Orthodox Christians, which is essential to the future of our Church.

In the words of her daughters, Faye "selflessly donates her time and prioritizes others." She serves God and her church community with abandon, in the same way that she continues to act as a mother to Kia and Kayla. Everything that she does for others is done with enthusiasm, and in faith and love--even if it means sacrificing her own needs to help someone. And although her daughters try (to no avail) to get her to take time out for herself, the words, "no" and, "I can't help you," are simply not in her vocabulary. It is due to these qualities that Faye's impact on the St. Andrew community has been truly powerful. Through her service, teaching, and love for God and her family, she has touched countless lives and continues to be an inspiration to everyone who knows her.

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## Is Rehabilitation possible for the incarcerated population?

*John M. Paitakes, Ph.D.*

As a criminal justice consultant with over 50 years working in the positions of probation, parole and education, I can convincingly say YES!

During over 25 years working as a Probation Officer, I counseled juvenile and adult offenders. As a Parole Board member for the State of New Jersey for 10 years, I interviewed over 7000 inmates deciding who should be released early. Those individuals that participated actively to programs in psychology, sociology, and behavior modification made more favorable adjustments after incarceration. I have found unfortunately, that less than half of that population has taken advantage of these services offered and were not motivated to change their problem related issues. To address a problem one must really want to change their "negative behavior"; you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make them drink". This phrase also pertains to one who is addicted to drugs, smoking, alcohol or criminal behavior.

I would like to present the following cases which indicate true success stories that rehabilitation can take place:

Inmate # 2201 was a gang member who robbed numerous people and places of business. He also had assaulted several victims during his criminal behavior. He attended and completed numerous counseling and behavior modification sessions while being incarcerated. Upon being paroled, he began taking college courses and ultimately received his degree in social work. As a result, he got a job as a social worker in the Department of Corrections.

Inmate# 2328 served 12 years in prison on an armed robbery and burglary charge. After completing his sentence, he went on to college and completed his Bachelor, Masters, and



Doctorate degrees. He is now a Professor at a University.

Inmate # 2761 served 22 years on a burglary and murder charge. Upon completing his sentence, he went on to get an undergraduate degree and went on to law school to secure his law

degree. He returned to Newark, New Jersey where he was living prior to his arrest. He helped and counseled many gang related youth away from a life of crime. He was known as "The Street Doctor".

There were numerous others who made positive adjustments after incarceration. My thought was, if these individuals could accomplish this, why cannot others? I believe it is all about personal motivation to address a problem.

In the New Jersey Department of Corrections, there are resources provided to address this population if they are sincere about turning their lives around. There are sociological, psychological parole counselors and visiting clergy from various denominations. Another outstanding program available is a factory setting within the walls of the prison. This factory setting produces a wide variety of products. They make license plates, street signs, prison uniforms, sneakers, furniture, desks, podiums, winter jackets, hats, and many other products. The vast majority of the work is done by inmates who have earned their way into the program due to their positive behavior. They work Monday through Friday from 9-5. They get paid more than the average inmate. (All inmates receive a small amount of money monthly placed in their accounts). Inmates participating in this program receive a higher rate of pay. Even more important than the money is the fact they are learning a trade such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical work and additional skills which will help them secure employment when

released. If while working in this program the inmate violates prison rules, he is dropped from the program as there is a waiting list of the population that seek to take part in this program. Research shows that inmates involved in this program are normally well behaved as they do not want to lose the advantages gained by the program.

Another outstanding program is the “Mates Inn” restaurant. This is a restaurant located on the grounds of the Department of Corrections grounds located in Trenton, New Jersey. The program is operated by trained inmates in food preparation, cooking and hospitality. It is not only for personnel working on the grounds to utilize for lunch but also personnel traveling to the area for correctional meetings. The inmates

are supervised by correctional personnel. This program is beneficial to those incarcerated as they are learning and planning to pursue employment in the food industry. The participants must always display positive behavior to remain in this valuable program.

It should be noted that the programs discussed in this presentation pertain to the New Jersey Department of Corrections only. However, other states may have similar programs. The programs offered in prisons vary depending on budgets and sometimes politics. Fortunately, New Jersey has a fairly good cross section of programs to provide for our incarcerated population: the rest is up to the individual to take advantage of.

**NB:** Dr. Paitakes is presently a Criminal Justice Consultant and is a guest presenter at various Colleges, Universities, Libraries and social service agencies. His goal is to present and clarify criminal justice issues to interested groups. He can be contacted at: [pait@optimum.net](mailto:pait@optimum.net).

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## Dear HOPE and JOY Families,

What a beautiful, blessing-filled day we shared! On May 17th, Hope & Joy headed out to **The Valley Creamery** in Long Valley for our highly anticipated spring outing—and it absolutely lived up to our expectations!

The weather was perfect, and everyone got a firsthand look at the step-by-step process of **how cheese is made**. We even got to sample some delicious, fresh cheese.

Afterwards, we headed out to the pastures to meet **the sheep and their adorable baby lambs!**

The pure joy on the kids' faces as they interacted with the lambs was truly unforgettable. It was a beautiful reminder of the wonder of God's creation and the simple joy of fellowship.

**Wishing you all a wonderful summer! We'll see you in September!**

### The HOPE and JOY Ministry Team:

Stala Jelis., Jenny Manis, Pamela Kotsaftis, Tanya De Boer

\*\*Please note that the HOPE/JOY email has changed to: [hopejoy@standrewgonj.org](mailto:hopejoy@standrewgonj.org)



## BAPTISM – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΗ

OLIVIA ROSE KETONIS, daughter of Andrew Philip Ketonis and Eleni N. (Constantinou), was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, at 2:30pm and given the name **ΟΛΙΒΙΑ – OLIVIA**. The Godmother was Nicole Louca.



ELLIANA MAE PROTOGEROPOULOS, daughter of Konstantinos N. Protogeropoulos and Brittany M. (Marioano), was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on, Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 2:00pm and given the name **ΕΛΛΙΑΝΑ – ELLIANA**. The Godmother was Stavroula Protogeropoulos

## OBITS & FUNERAL SERVICE – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ



With profound sadness, we say goodbye to **Christos Rabidis** (Randolph, New Jersey), whose vibrant spirit touched the lives of many. Christos left this world on May 7, 2026 at the age of **89**, leaving a void in the lives of so many people. Family and friends can [send flowers](#) and/or light a candle as a loving gesture for their loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Christos Rabidis to show support.

In the soft embrace of remembrance, we recall the profound impact Christos had on those they encountered along their journey. Though Christos may have slipped beyond the veil of mortality, their essence lingers like a faint fragrance in the air, a lingering reminder of the beauty and complexity of the human experience.

A funeral service for the repose of his soul will be prayed on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 10:00 AM at the St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church (1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869).



# SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR

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

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**BAKING GROUP** Tuesdays 9am

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN JUNE:** 6/7 Festival, 6/14 Philoptochos, 6/21 DOP, 6/28 Summer schedule

6/4 @7:00pm Bible Study

6/4 @7:15 Goya Dance Practice

6/5 @11:00am-11:00pm Saint Andrew BigGreekFestival

6/6 @11:00am-11:00pm Saint Andrew BigGreekFestival

6/7 @8am Orthros/@9:00am Liturgy ALL SAINTS DAY  
@12:00pm-7:00pm Saint Andrew BigGreekFestival

6/8 HOLY APOSTLES FAST Begins ends 6/21  
@7:30pm Parish Council Meeting meeting

6/11 @11:00am Agape Lunch (Last before Summer)  
@TBD End of Year Philoptochos & DOP Dinner  
@7:00pm Bible Study

6/14 @11:30 Community Honoree Plaque Representation

6/18 @7:00pm Bible Study

6/25 @7:00pm Bible Study

6/27 Faith Kitchen PHILOPTOCHOS

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS - SUMMER SCHEDULE**

7/12-18 CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

7/13 @7:30 Parish Council Meeting meeting

7/20 Commemoration of the Fallen Cypriots of July 20th

7/25 Faith Kitchen PARISH COUNCIL

8/10 @7:30 Parish Council meeting

**8/15 Saturday The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady**

8/22 Faith Kitchen DOP/AHEPA

8/23 @2:00pm Wedding

8/28 @5:00pm External Gym Rental

8/29 @8:00pm External Gym Rental

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN SEPTEMBER:** 9/6 PHILOPTOCHOS, 9/13 PTA, 9/20 DOP 9/27 GOYA

9/5 @1:00pm Wedding

9/10 @4:30 AGIASMOS in Church followed by  
Hellenic Afternoon School Classes

9/13 Religious Education Classes begin

9/14 @7:30 Parish Council meeting

9/17 @7:15 Greek/GOYA Dance Begins

9/19 @9:00am Planned Giving Event

9/22 @7:00pm Philoptochos meeting

9/26 Faith Kitchen GOYA

9/26 @2:00pm Baptism

9/27 **Sunday** Backpack Blessing for all college, high school, Greek School & Religious Education Students

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN OCTOBER:** 10/4 PHILOPTOCHOS, 10/11 PTA, 10/18 DOP, 10/25 GOYA

10/3 @2:30 Baptism

10/10 Mr. & Mrs. GOYA

10/11 Ministry Fair Sunday in auditorium

10/12 @7:30 Parish Council meeting

10/24 Faith Kitchen PHILOPTOCHOS

10/27 @7:00 Philoptochos meeting

11/1 **Sunday HAS OXI Day (Oct 28<sup>th</sup>) Celebration**

11/9 @7:30pm Parish Council meeting

11/26 No Classes-Happy Thanksgiving!

11/28 Faith Kitchen GOYA

**12/13 Sunday Christmas Pageant (HAS & Religious Education)**

12/14 @7:30pm Parish Council meeting

12/26 Faith Kitchen DOP/AHEPA

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

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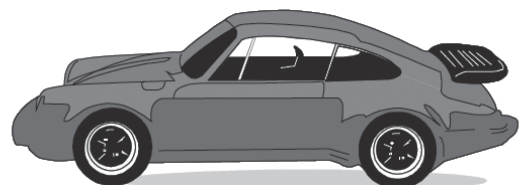
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**Financial Administrator**, Despina Gribas [fin@standrewgonj.org](mailto:fin@standrewgonj.org)  
**Facilities Administrator**, Chris Hawthorne [fac@standrewgonj.org](mailto:fac@standrewgonj.org)

## STEWARDSHIP

Georgia Haglund, *Chairperson*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*DIRECTORS*: Maro Nicolaou Schuster & Rachel Lopardo

*TEACHING STAFF*: Dr. Herbert Schuster, Faye Paskas, Kia Paskas, Kayla Hunsicker, Maro Schuster, Marina Venizelos, Vickie Geannakakes, Stacey Papanikolaw, Maria Galvin, Presbyteria Athena Theodosion, 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, Elizabeth Maloupis

## 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, Pam Kotsaftis, Tanya DeBoer

## GOYA

Zoe Sifonios, *GOYA President* Pavlos Giannikopoulos, Christina Kalavrouziotis, Anna Sifonios,  
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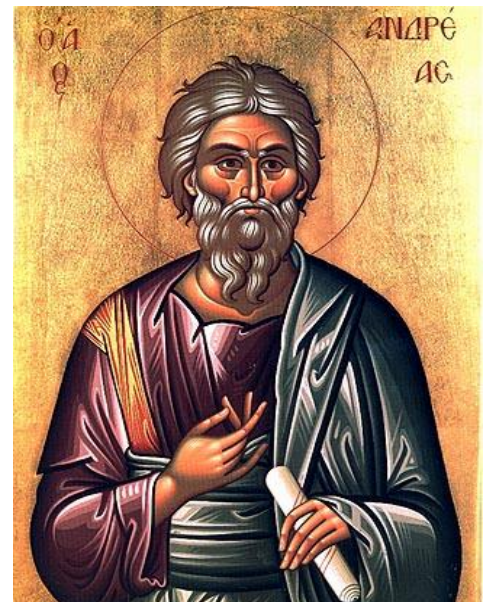
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### HYMN OF THE APOSTLE SAINT ANDREW

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

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