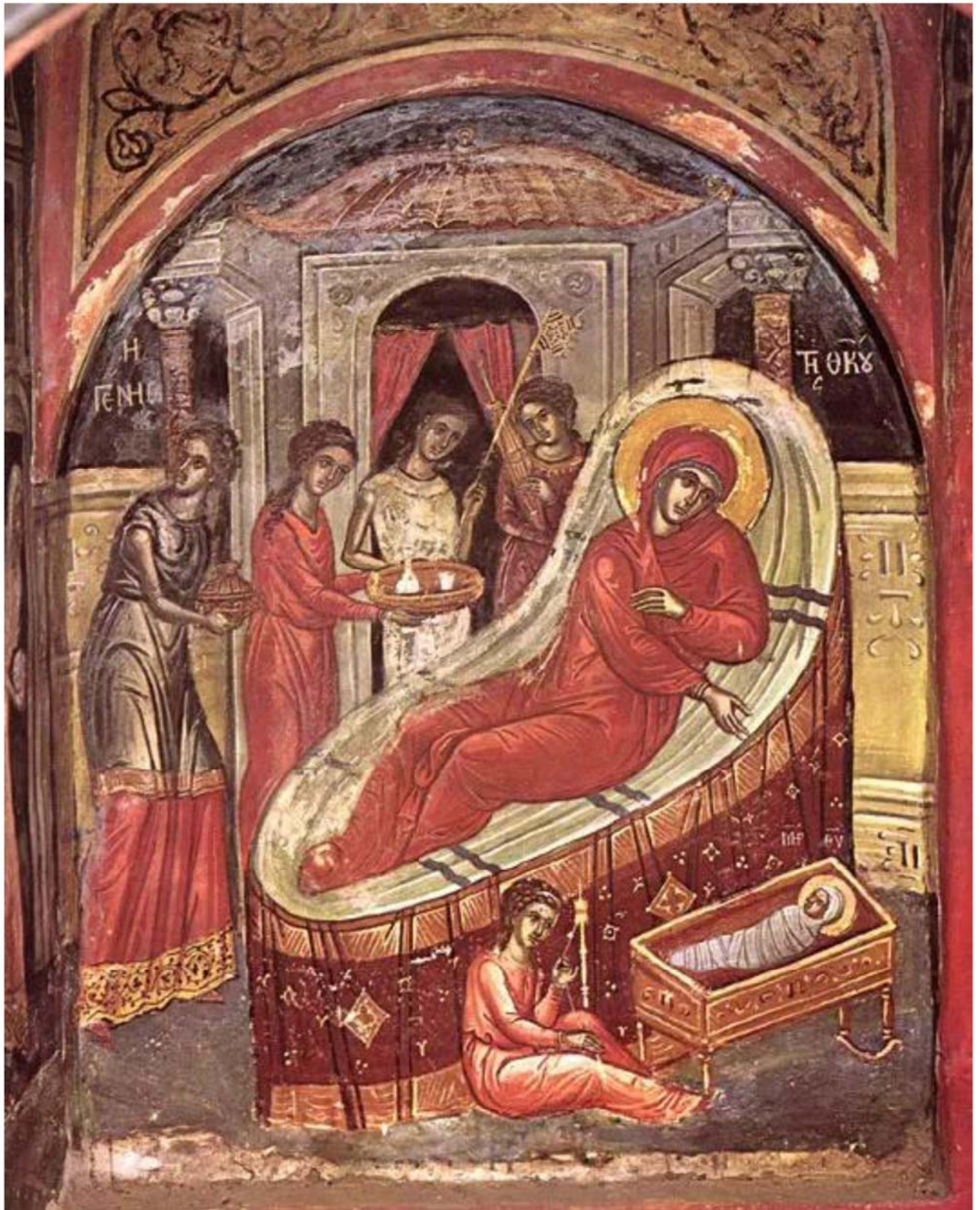


SEPTEMBER 2026



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

ICON OF: THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS – SEPT 8

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL – SEPT 10

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 1ST DAY OF CLASS – SEPT 13

GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST- SEPT 26

MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY SEPT 27

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

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Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

☎: 973-584-0388

Fax: 973-584-3573

E-mail info@standrewgonj.org

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

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

Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

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

*Deadline for the **OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE** is September 13th*

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DIVINE SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	1	ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR
Sunday	6	14TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
Tuesday	8	THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
Sunday	13	SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY CROSS
Monday	14	+EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Sunday	20	SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS
Tuesday	22	PHOCAS THE MARTYR BISIO OF SINOPE * RELICS
Wednesday	23	CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
Saturday	26	FALLING ASLEEP OF JOHN, THE THEOLOGIAN AND EVANGELIST
Sunday	27	1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE

OCTOBER

Sunday	4	2 ND SUNDAY OF LUKE
Tuesday	6	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
Sunday	11	SUNDAY THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
Sunday	18	ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Friday	23	SAINT JAMES (IAKOVOS) THE APOSTLE
Sunday	25	6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE
Monday	26	6 TH SUNDAY OF LUKE ST DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH BEARER
Wednesday	28	HOLY PROTECTION OF THEOTOKOS

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

*Sunday School students attend Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, receive Holy Communion,
and then proceed to their class – Graduation is on May 23rd*

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ

Τρίτη	1	ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣΤΙΚΟΝ ΝΕΟΝ ΕΤΟΣ
Κυριακή	6	ΙΔ' Κυριακή του Ματθαίου
Τρίτη	8	ΤΟ ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Κυριακή	13	Κυριακή προ της Υψώσεως του Τιμίου Σταυρού
Δευτέρα	14	+ΥΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ
Κυριακή	20	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΎΨΩΣΙΝ
Τρίτη	22	ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΩΚΑ ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΣΙΝΩΠΗΣ * λείψανα
Τετάρτη	23	ΣΥΛΛΗΨΙΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΗ
Σάββατο	26	ΚΟΙΜΗΣΙΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗ
Κυριακή	27	Α' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ

ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΣ

Κυριακή	4	Β' ΛΟΥΚΑ
Τρίτη	6	ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ
Κυριακή	11	ΤΩΝ ἉΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ τῆς Ζ' Οἰκ. ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ
Κυριακή	18	ΑΓΙΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗ
Παρασκευή	23	ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ
Κυριακή	25	ΣΤ' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ
Δευτέρα	26	ΣΤ' ΛΟΥΚΑ, ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΜΥΡΟΒΛΗΤΟΥ
Τετάρτη	28	ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΚΕΠΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

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

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 9:30πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία θα συνεχίσουν στις τάξεις τους. -
αποφοίτηση Κατηχητικού σχολείου 23^η Μαΐου

A New Ecclesiastical Year: Come and Be Part of the Life of Saint Andrew

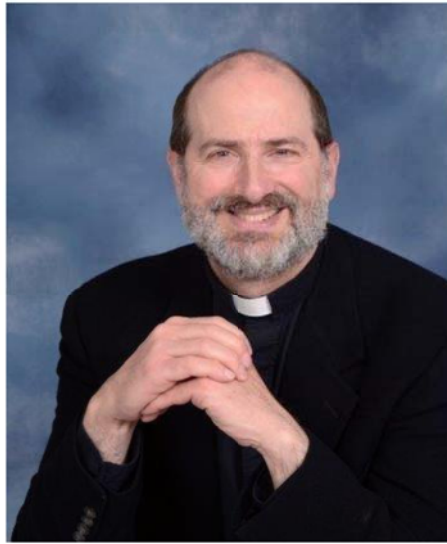
Rev Fr John Theodosion

"Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)."

Friends, as we begin a new Ecclesiastical Year, the Church once again invites us to see our lives not simply as a succession of days and months, but as a journey with Christ. The Church gives us a sacred rhythm through which we encounter the Lord in the great feasts, the lives of the saints, the Divine Liturgy, the sacraments, fasting, prayer, service, and fellowship.

The beginning of a new Ecclesiastical Year is therefore an opportunity for a new beginning—not because God has been distant from us, but because we are being invited to draw closer to Him. Our parish of **Saint Andrew** is more than a beautiful church building or a place where we attend services on Sunday. It is a spiritual family. It is a community in which we worship together, learn together, serve together, rejoice together, and carry one another through the difficult moments of life. This coming year, I would like to extend a special invitation to every member of our parish: **Come and be more deeply involved in the life of our Church. There Is a Place for You at Saint Andrew.**

Saint Paul reminds us that the Church is one Body with many members: "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ (Romans 12:4-5)." Not everyone has the same gifts. Not everyone has the same amount of time. Not everyone can participate in the same ministries. But **every person has something to offer.**



Perhaps you have been attending Saint Andrew for many years. Perhaps you are relatively new to our parish. Perhaps you have been very active in the past but, because of work, family responsibilities, or other circumstances, you have become less involved. Wherever you are in your journey, this new Ecclesiastical Year is an opportunity to take one more step. You might volunteer with one of our ministries. You might

participate in a Bible study or educational program. You might help with our youth. You might become involved in our charitable outreach. You might assist with parish events. You might join a fellowship group. You might simply make the commitment to attend Divine Liturgy more regularly and remain afterward to get to know your fellow parishioners. And perhaps your ministry will be something as simple—and as important—as noticing someone who is standing alone and introducing yourself.

There is a place for you at Saint Andrew. Christianity Is Not a Spectator Sport.

One of the great dangers in parish life is that we can unintentionally become spectators.

We come to church. We sit in our familiar place. We listen to the hymns and prayers. We receive the blessing. And then we go home. But the Christian life calls us to something much deeper. Christ did not say, "Come and watch." He said: "Come, follow Me (Matthew 4:19)."

The Christian life is participation. We participate in the worship of the Church. We participate in the life of Christ. We participate in the needs of our brothers and sisters. We participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel. The Apostle Peter writes: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10)."

Notice the words: “**as each one has received a gift.**” God has given every one of us something that can become a blessing to someone else.

Perhaps you have a gift for teaching. Perhaps you are organized. Perhaps you enjoy working with children. Perhaps you are good with technology. Perhaps you love music. Perhaps you are compassionate toward those who are struggling. Perhaps you enjoy cooking or hospitality. Perhaps you are good at welcoming people. Perhaps you have professional skills that could benefit the parish. Whatever your gift may be, God can use it for His glory.

Ministry Is Not About Filling Positions—It Is About Loving People.

Sometimes the word *ministry* can sound intimidating. We may think that ministry is something reserved for clergy, teachers, parish council members, or people who have been involved in the Church for many years.

But ministry simply means **serving**. And Christian service is ultimately an expression of love. Our Lord tells us: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).”

When we teach a child about Christ, we are loving. When we prepare food for a parish gathering we are loving. When we visit someone who is sick or lonely, we are loving.

When we welcome a newcomer, we are loving. When we give our time to help our parish, we are loving. When we encourage a young person who is struggling with his or her faith, we are loving. When we help a family in need, we are loving. The ministries of Saint Andrew are therefore not simply programs on a calendar.

They are opportunities to love Christ by loving His people.

Our Lord tells us in the Gospel:

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me (Matthew 25:40).”

Let This Be a Year of Growth

Perhaps we can each make one spiritual commitment as we begin this new Ecclesiastical Year.

Maybe it is to come to Divine Liturgy more faithfully.

Maybe it is to spend a few minutes each morning in prayer.

Maybe it is to read the Gospel every day.

Maybe it is to come to Confession more regularly.

Maybe it is to attend one educational program each month.

Maybe it is to bring our children more consistently into the life of the Church.

Maybe it is to volunteer for a ministry.

Maybe it is simply to become more intentional about getting to know the people who worship beside us every Sunday.

We should not underestimate the spiritual significance of small commitments.

The Lord says:

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.”

— Luke 16:10

A small step taken faithfully can become a great spiritual transformation.

Our Parish Needs You

Saint Andrew has been blessed by generations of faithful people who have given their prayers, their time, their talents, and their resources to build and sustain this community. Now it is our turn. The future of our parish will not be determined only by our buildings, our finances, or our programs. The future of Saint Andrew will be determined by **the spiritual commitment of its people.**

What kind of parish will Saint Andrew be five, ten, or twenty years from now?

That depends, in part, upon what we do today. Will we be a parish where children grow up knowing that the Church is their spiritual home?

Will we be a parish where young adults find friendship, faith, and purpose?

Will we be a parish where families find support?

Will we be a parish where those who are lonely discover community? Will we be a parish where those who are searching for God encounter Christ? Will we be a parish where those who are struggling find compassion? Will we be a parish where the Gospel is not simply preached but **lived**? I believe that we can be all of these things. But we need **all of us**.

A Personal Invitation

As your priest, I invite you not simply to “do more” this year. I invite you to **draw closer to Christ**. And I invite you to discover that one of the ways we draw closer to Christ is by becoming more deeply connected to His Body, the Church. Find a ministry that speaks to your heart. Join a group. Attend a class. Help with our children. Support our young adults. Participate in our charitable outreach. Invite someone to church. Stay for fellowship.

Introduce yourself to someone you do not know. Offer your talents. Give your time. And above all, **pray for our parish and for one another**.

You may discover that the ministry you thought you were joining to help someone else becomes a ministry through which **God changes you**.

St. John Chrysostom repeatedly reminds us that our faith must be expressed in the concrete realities of our lives. The Christian life cannot remain confined within the walls of the church. What we receive at the altar must become love in our homes, our workplaces, our friendships, and our community.

A New Year, A New Opportunity:

On September 1, as the Church begins the new Ecclesiastical Year, we hear the words of Christ: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed (Luke 4:18).” This is the mission of Christ. And because we are His Body, it is also our mission. Let us therefore begin this new

year with renewed enthusiasm, renewed faith, and renewed commitment.

Let us not ask only: “**What can the Church do for me?**”

Let us also ask: “**What can Christ do through me for His Church?**”

May this new Ecclesiastical Year be a year in which our parish grows—not merely in numbers, but in holiness; not merely in activities, but in love; not merely in programs, but in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

May Saint Andrew continue to be a place where Christ is worshipped, the Gospel is proclaimed, the Orthodox faith is treasured, children are nurtured, families are strengthened, young people are encouraged, the lonely are welcomed, and those in need are served.

And may every one of us discover anew that **we are not simply members of a parish—we are members of the Body of Christ**.

Let us begin this new year together.

Come. Pray with us. Learn with us. Serve with us. Fellowship with us. Grow with us.

Most of all, **let us walk together toward Christ**. May God bless you and your families, and may He bless the new Ecclesiastical Year and the entire community of Saint Andrew.

LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROUP



Join us for fun, play, and friendship!
We love to welcome new and returning families.

Little Angels is a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents and caregivers to connect with one another and their children.

For more info contact Iris Krassas
862-668-8183



PARISH COUNCIL

Announcement:

In order to increase awareness and communication within our St Andrew family we have established the below matrix that depicts the various ministries and groups and the associated Parish Council main contact and Ministry leaders.



<https://tinyurl.com/2t5yam2r>



BIG GREEK GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 • 11AM - 6PM

GYRO • SOUVLAKI • GREEK DESSERTS & MORE

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BigGreekFestival.com

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

President's Update

Building for Today - Preserving for Tomorrow.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." — Matthew 6:21

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As summer begins to wind down, I would like to share a brief update on where our parish stands and where we are heading.

First, thank you.

Our parish is generous. Our challenge is not generosity; it is consistency.

Over the past several months, many parishioners have stepped forward to support important improvements to our church. Through generous, designated donations, we have made significant progress toward funding projects including the parking lot, front entrance lighting, and ceiling painting restoration. We are carefully reviewing contractor proposals to ensure every dollar entrusted to the Church is spent wisely and responsibly. The Parish Council is making data-driven decisions. Over the past several months we:

- Conducted a comprehensive air quality assessment; No issues found because of the recent inclement weather and heavy rainfall that created leaks; however, if we do not repair the roof, we may run into mold issues in the future.
- Have received multiple competitive bids for capital projects and starting projects thoughtfully without rushing into decisions that will prove wasteful later.
- Shared financial transparency.
- Responded immediately to life-safety issues.

One event over the past month reminded me of something very important about our parish. When we shared the urgent need to replace our fire alarm system to comply with Fire Department requirements and keep our church open, our parish responded immediately. Within just five days, generous families contributed approximately **\$39,000** toward this critical need. That response demonstrated something beautiful. When our parish understands a need, believes it is important, and knows their gift will make a difference, our people respond with remarkable generosity.

At the same time, our day-to-day operating expenses continue every single day. Utilities, insurance, maintenance, ministries, payroll, and countless other obligations do not pause during the summer months. Like many churches, stewardship traditionally slows during vacation season while expenses continue uninterrupted. Bottom line, our overall stewardship is not keeping up with the ever-increasing monthly operating expenses.

Our Finance Committee continues working diligently to strengthen our financial reporting. We recognize that many parishioners have asked for quarterly stewardship statements to help them track their giving and plan for the remainder of the year. Because our current financial processes rely on multiple systems and require significant manual effort, these reports have taken much longer than expected. We understand their importance and remain committed to improving both our processes and the information we provide to every steward.

Transparency remains one of our commitments. Throughout the year we have openly shared our financial position, our operating challenges, our outstanding mortgage, and our capital needs. We believe our parish family deserves an honest picture of both our blessings and our challenges. One observation has become increasingly clear.

Our parish is incredibly generous when supporting visible projects that improve God's house. Whether restoring icons, improving our facilities, enhancing safety, or preserving our campus for future generations, people are inspired to give. Those same ministries, however, can only exist because the



everyday operations of the Church continue faithfully behind the scenes. Every Divine Liturgy, every baptism, every wedding, every memorial service, every youth program, every ministry meeting, every outreach effort, and every opportunity for fellowship depends upon the quiet work of operating our parish each day. That responsibility belongs to all of us.

No single family, donor, or committee can sustain St. Andrew alone. Our parish has always been strongest when every family participates according to the blessings God has given them. As we prepare for a busy fall season, I ask each of us to prayerfully reflect on one simple question:

What part will I personally play in strengthening the future of St. Andrew?

Together, through faithful stewardship, volunteer service, prayer, and love for Christ and His Church, we will continue building a parish that serves today's families while leaving an even stronger foundation for future generations. As we enter the fall season, our Parish Council remains optimistic. We have wonderful ministries, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and a clear vision for the future of St. Andrew. Together, with faith in Christ and a shared commitment to His Church, we will continue strengthening our parish for today's families and for generations yet to come.

Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and commitment to our parish family.

May God continue to bless each of you and your families.

In Christ,

Michael Serghiou

Parish Council President

Ενημέρωση του Προέδρου

Χτίζουμε για το Σήμερα — Διαφυλάσσουμε για το Αύριο

«Ὅπου γὰρ ἔστιν ὁ θησαυρός ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδιά ὑμῶν.»

— Ματθαίος 6:21

Αγαπητοί Αδελφοί και Αδελφές εν Χριστώ,

Καθώς το καλοκαίρι πλησιάζει προς το τέλος του, θα ήθελα να μοιραστώ μαζί σας μια σύντομη ενημέρωση για το πού βρίσκεται σήμερα η ενορία μας και προς ποια κατεύθυνση πορευόμαστε.

Πρώτα απ' όλα, σας ευχαριστώ.

Η ενορία μας είναι γενναιόδωρη. Η πρόκλησή μας δεν είναι η γενναιοδωρία, αλλά η συνέπεια.

Κατά τους τελευταίους μήνες, πολλοί ενορίτες ανταποκρίθηκαν και στήριξαν σημαντικά έργα βελτίωσης της εκκλησίας μας. Μέσα από γενναιόδωρες, ειδικά προορισμένες δωρεές, έχουμε σημειώσει σημαντική πρόοδο στη χρηματοδότηση έργων όπως η ασφαλίστευση του χώρου στάθμευσης, ο φωτισμός της κεντρικής εισόδου και η αποκατάσταση της βαφής της οροφής. Εξετάζουμε προσεκτικά τις προσφορές των εργολάβων, ώστε κάθε δολάριο που εμπιστεύεται η κοινότητά μας στην Εκκλησία να αξιοποιείται με σύνεση και υπευθυνότητα.

Το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο λαμβάνει αποφάσεις βασισμένες σε στοιχεία και δεδομένα. Κατά τους τελευταίους μήνες:

- Πραγματοποιήσαμε ολοκληρωμένο έλεγχο της ποιότητας του αέρα. Δεν διαπιστώθηκαν προβλήματα από την πρόσφατη κακοκαιρία και τις έντονες βροχοπτώσεις που προκάλεσαν

διαρροές. Ωστόσο, εάν δεν επισκευάσουμε τη στέγη, ενδέχεται να αντιμετωπίσουμε προβλήματα μούχλας στο μέλλον.

- Προχωρήσαμε σε ανταγωνιστικές προσφορές για πολλά κεφαλαιουχικά

έργα και ξεκινάμε τα έργα με προσοχή, χωρίς βιαστικές αποφάσεις που θα μπορούσαν να αποδειχθούν δαπανηρές αργότερα.

- Μοιραστήκαμε με διαφάνεια την οικονομική κατάσταση της ενορίας.
- Ανταποκριθήκαμε άμεσα σε ζητήματα ασφάλειας ζωής.

Ένα γεγονός του περασμένου μήνα μού υπενθύμισε κάτι πολύ σημαντικό για την ενορία μας.

Όταν κοινοποιήσαμε την επείγουσα ανάγκη αντικατάστασης του συστήματος πυρανίχνευσης, προκειμένου να συμμορφωθούμε με τις απαιτήσεις της Πυροσβεστικής Υπηρεσίας και να διατηρήσουμε την εκκλησία μας ανοικτή, η ενορία ανταποκριθήκε αμέσως. Μέσα σε μόλις πέντε ημέρες, γενναιόδωρες οικογένειες προσέφεραν περίπου **\$39.000** για αυτή την κρίσιμη ανάγκη.

Η ανταπόκριση αυτή ανέδειξε κάτι πραγματικά όμορφο.

Όταν η ενορία μας κατανοεί μια ανάγκη, πιστεύει στη σημασία της και γνωρίζει ότι η προσφορά της θα κάνει πραγματική διαφορά, οι άνθρωποί μας ανταποκρίνονται με αξιοθαύμαστη γενναιοδωρία.

Την ίδια στιγμή, τα καθημερινά λειτουργικά έξοδα συνεχίζονται χωρίς διακοπή. Οι λογαριασμοί κοινής ωφέλειας, οι ασφαλίσεις, η συντήρηση, οι διακονίες, η μισθοδοσία και αμέτρητες άλλες υποχρεώσεις δεν σταματούν κατά τους θερινούς μήνες. Όπως συμβαίνει σε πολλές εκκλησίες, η τακτική οικονομική προσφορά συνήθως μειώνεται κατά την περίοδο των διακοπών, ενώ τα έξοδα συνεχίζονται κανονικά.

Η ουσία είναι ότι η συνολική μας προσφορά δεν συμβαδίζει με τα συνεχώς αυξανόμενα μηνιαία λειτουργικά έξοδα.

Η Οικονομική Επιτροπή συνεχίζει να εργάζεται με επιμέλεια για την ενίσχυση της οικονομικής μας πληροφόρησης. Αναγνωρίζουμε ότι πολλοί ενορίτες έχουν ζητήσει τριμηνιαίες καταστάσεις προσφορών, ώστε να μπορούν να παρακολουθούν τις συνεισφορές τους και να προγραμματίζουν το υπόλοιπο του έτους.

Επειδή οι σημερινές οικονομικές μας διαδικασίες βασίζονται σε πολλαπλά συστήματα και απαιτούν σημαντική χειροκίνητη εργασία, οι καταστάσεις αυτές έχουν καθυστερήσει πολύ περισσότερο απ' όσο αναμενόταν. Κατανοούμε τη σημασία τους και παραμένουμε δεσμευμένοι στη βελτίωση τόσο των διαδικασιών μας όσο και της πληροφόρησης που παρέχουμε σε κάθε μέλος της ενορίας.

Η διαφάνεια παραμένει μία από τις βασικές μας δεσμεύσεις. Καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια του έτους, μοιραστήκαμε ανοικτά την οικονομική μας θέση, τις λειτουργικές μας προκλήσεις, το ανεξόφλητο στεγαστικό δάνειο και τις ανάγκες μας για κεφαλαιουχικά έργα. Πιστεύουμε ότι η ενοριακή μας οικογένεια δικαιούται να έχει μια ειλικρινή εικόνα τόσο των ευλογιών όσο και των δυσκολιών μας.

Μία διαπίστωση γίνεται ολοένα και πιο ξεκάθαρη.

Η ενορία μας είναι εξαιρετικά γενναιόδωρη όταν στηρίζει ορατά έργα που βελτιώνουν τον Οίκο του Θεού. Είτε πρόκειται για την αποκατάσταση εικόνων, τη βελτίωση των εγκαταστάσεών μας, την ενίσχυση της ασφάλειας ή τη διατήρηση του εκκλησιαστικού μας συγκροτήματος για τις μελλοντικές γενιές, οι άνθρωποι εμπνέονται να προσφέρουν.

Όλες αυτές οι διακονίες και πρωτοβουλίες, όμως, μπορούν να υπάρχουν μόνο επειδή οι καθημερινές λειτουργίες της Εκκλησίας συνεχίζονται πιστά και αθόρυβα στο παρασκήνιο.

Κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία, κάθε βάπτισμα, κάθε γάμος, κάθε μνημόσυνο, κάθε πρόγραμμα νεολαίας, κάθε συνάντηση διακονίας, κάθε φιλανθρωπική δράση και κάθε ευκαιρία αδελφικής συναναστροφής εξαρτάται από τη συνεχή και καθημερινή λειτουργία της ενορίας μας. Η ευθύνη αυτή ανήκει σε όλους μας.

Καμία οικογένεια, κανένας δωρητής και καμία επιτροπή δεν μπορούν από μόνοι τους να στηρίξουν τον Άγιο Ανδρέα. Η ενορία μας ήταν πάντοτε πιο δυνατή όταν κάθε οικογένεια συμμετείχε σύμφωνα με τις ευλογίες που της έχει χαρίσει ο Θεός.

Καθώς προετοιμαζόμαστε για μια δραστήρια φθινοπωρινή περίοδο, καλώ τον καθένα μας να αναλογιστεί με προσευχή μία απλή ερώτηση:

Ποιον προσωπικό ρόλο θα αναλάβω εγώ στην ενίσχυση του μέλλοντος του Αγίου Ανδρέα;

Μαζί, μέσα από τη συνεπή προσφορά, την εθελοντική διακονία, την προσευχή και την αγάπη μας για τον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία Του, θα συνεχίσουμε να χτίζουμε μια ενορία που υπηρετεί τις οικογένειες του σήμερα και ταυτόχρονα αφήνει ακόμη ισχυρότερα θεμέλια για τις μελλοντικές γενιές.

Καθώς εισερχόμαστε στη φθινοπωρινή περίοδο, το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο παραμένει αισιόδοξο. Έχουμε αξιόλογες διακονίες, αφοσιωμένους εθελοντές, γενναιοδωρους δωρητές και ένα ξεκάθαρο όραμα για το μέλλον του Αγίου Ανδρέα.

Μαζί, με πίστη στον Χριστό και κοινή αφοσίωση στην Εκκλησία Του, θα συνεχίσουμε να ενισχύουμε την ενορία μας για τις οικογένειες του σήμερα και για τις γενιές που θα ακολουθήσουν.

Σας ευχαριστώ για τις συνεχείς προσευχές, τη γενναιοδωρία και την αφοσίωσή σας στην ενοριακή μας οικογένεια.

Είθε ο Θεός να συνεχίσει να ευλογεί εσάς και τις οικογένειές σας.

Με αγάπη εν Χριστώ,

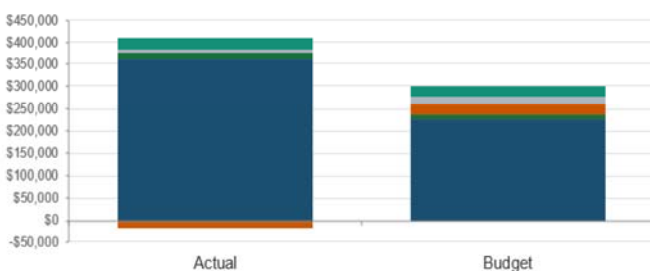
Μιχαήλ Σεργίου

Πρόεδρος Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου

Thank you to everyone who generously donated toward our new fire alarm system. We are truly grateful for your kindness and support. A summary of the final expenses and remaining funds will be shared with our parishioners after the completion of the upcoming projects. Any remaining donations will go toward an **Emergency Building Fund** to help our church with future unexpected needs. God bless everyone for your continued generosity and support of our church!

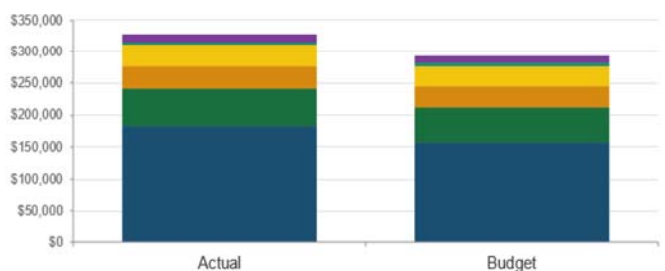
- **Michael Sergio**, Parish Council President

Income



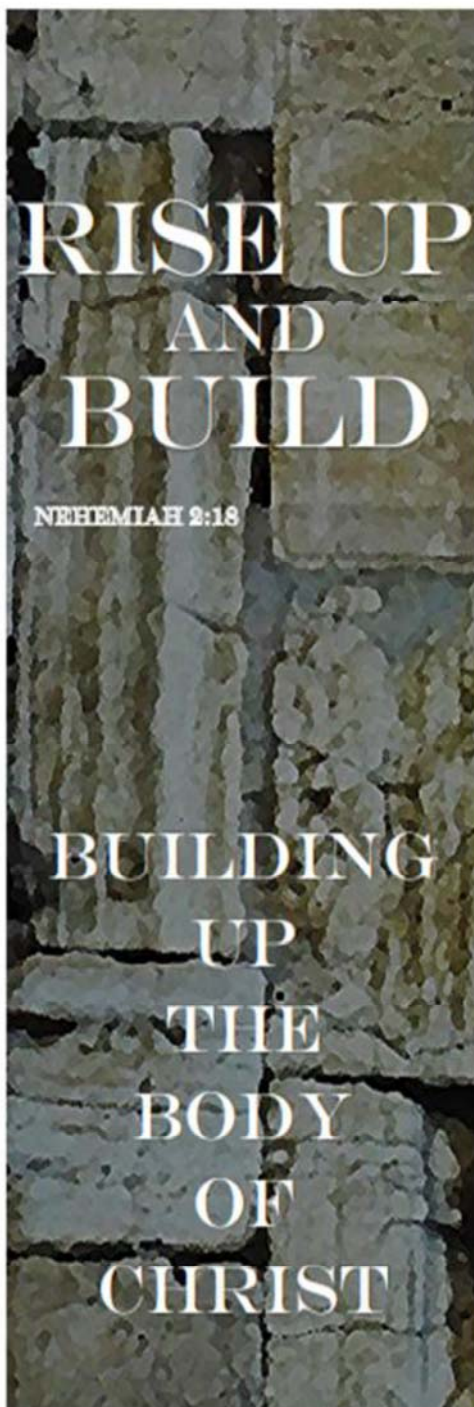
Category		Actual	Budget
Contribution Income		359,285	227,792
Education/Dance Net Income		12,875	8,979
Summer Camp Net Income		0	208
Fundraising Events Net Income		(16,478)	23,625
Interest Income		77	0
Other Income		12,555	16,667
Little Village Rent		25,596	21,623
Subtotal		393,910	298,894

Expense



Category		Actual	Budget
Staff Expense		182,871	156,884
Mortgage Payment		58,907	55,741
Insurance		34,132	33,185
Utilities		35,437	30,833
Car Expense		3,650	5,000
Other (Bank/Equip/Prof/Tel/Misc)		12,520	11,706
Total		327,517	293,350

Other = Bank Charges, Equipment, Professional, Telephones, Advertising, Permits, RE Taxes, Liturgical. Not shown — no figures given in source: Buildings & Grounds, Supplies & Printing, Postage, Ministry Expense, Evangelism/Outreach, Conventions & Seminars. Transportation. Misc.. Total Expense.



Thank you for your Volunteerism

Dear Steward of Saint Andrew,

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and our entire Saint Andrew family, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the countless ways you have shared your time and talents in service to Christ and His Church.

Whether you have taught our children, sung in the choir, served on the Parish Council or a committee, guided our youth, prepared meals, welcomed visitors, cared for our church grounds, organized events, assisted behind the scenes, visited the elderly, provided comfort for those in need, or quietly volunteered wherever there was a need, your faithful service has helped make Saint Andrew the vibrant parish it is today.

The Apostle Peter reminds us, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). You have answered that call with generosity and humility. Your willingness to serve is a witness to your faith and an inspiration to our entire parish family. Your dedication has blessed our parish in ways that cannot be measured.

As you know, Christian stewardship encompasses our treasure but, just as importantly, our time and our talents. You have already demonstrated a remarkable commitment in these two areas. For that, we offer our sincere thanks. Please let the Stewardship Committee know if there are any areas where more volunteers may be needed.

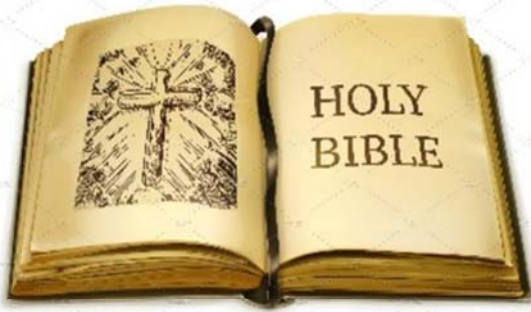
Please know how deeply grateful we are for everything you do. Many of your acts of service are seen only by God, yet they have strengthened our parish, touched countless lives, and advanced the mission of Saint Andrew in immeasurable ways.

May God continue to bless you and your family abundantly. We thank you for your faithful example and for all that you do to build up the Body of Christ.

With sincere gratitude and prayers,

The Stewardship Committee

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church



Bible Study

Thursdays at 7:30pm

During the School Year

Begins September 10th



Introducing the St. Andrew Young Adult League

will meet every first Monday of the month at 7pm, (except September will be Tuesday, September 1st @7:30pm for a discussion in Fr. John's office and every second Sunday of the month or TBD for a wild card activity, For more information, contact our office, **973-584-0388**.



Agape – Αγάπη

Monthly Luncheons on these select Thursdays

Sept 24, Oct 29th, Nov 19th, Dec 10th

at 11:30am

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

KNITTING, CROCHET & PILLOW MINISTRY WE WILL TEACH YOU!

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2ND

MORNING GROUP: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 11:am-2pm

Antonia Clapsis Antonioclapsis@gmail.com

EVENING GROUP: 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays 6:30pm-9pm

Harriet Karkanisas harriet.karkanias@gmail.com



It's all Greek



The basic purpose of the Greek School is to systematically and methodically teach the Greek language so that our children are able to read, write, understand, speak Greek, and express their thoughts in writing with precision. The successful operation of the Greek School is based upon the determination, organization and teaching methods of experienced and enthusiastic teachers.

In conjunction with these goals, the teaching of the Greek language is closely linked with the cultural and religious teachings of our ethnic group. The teaching of our history, our traditions, our folksongs and dances, our customs and our religion serve as a means of strengthening our children's awareness of, and respect for, their religious and ethnic heritage. Moreover, their esteem for the moral and ethnic values of their ancestors will help them form a strong Hellenic Christian character.

The ultimate goal is to motivate our children to maintain and promote the values they have received from their parents and ancestors, and to keep them close to their fellow Greeks, to Hellenism and to our Greek Orthodox Faith.



Director: Vasilia Anton Christodoulou is an educator with over 20 years of teaching experience in both English and Greek language instruction. For the past six years, she has proudly served as the Director of Education and a teacher at Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School, where she is dedicated to promoting the Greek language, culture, Orthodox faith, and the value of lifelong learning within the community. Born and raised in New York City as the middle child among four brothers and two sisters, Vasilia developed a deep appreciation for education at an early age. Her parents instilled in her the values of academic achievement, perseverance, faith, and continuous personal growth—principles that continue to guide her educational philosophy and leadership today. Throughout her career, Vasilia has taught in New York City public schools, Pittsburgh private schools, and both public and private schools in New Jersey at the elementary and secondary levels. Her diverse teaching background has allowed her to work with students of various ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. She is especially passionate about integrating technology into the

classroom in innovative and meaningful ways to enhance student engagement and learning. Her knowledge of technology and its implementation in education allows her to create interactive and engaging learning experiences that support student achievement while preparing students with the skills needed in an ever-evolving world.

As Director of Education, Vasilia has worked diligently to modernize and enrich the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School program. She established a bilingual library for both children and adults that supports the Greek language, culture, and Orthodox faith while encouraging a lifelong love of reading and learning within the community. She also implemented engaging educational initiatives such as Read-Alouds, Meet the Author events, and a variety of interactive school-wide activities, which include baking activities using student dialogue in Greek, held during and after school hours. These experiences were designed to strengthen student learning, encourage creativity, and foster greater community involvement. In addition, Vasilia modernized the school's instructional practices by implementing Google Classroom and introducing technological educational platforms to support student learning, organization, communication, and collaboration. Her creativity, leadership, and forward-thinking approach continue to inspire new ideas and innovative strategies that support teacher instruction and promote effective student learning outcomes. She is dedicated to creating meaningful educational experiences that inspire students to become confident, motivated, and lifelong learners. Vasilia believes that teaching is both a challenging and deeply rewarding profession. She is committed to fostering a supportive and encouraging learning environment where every child feels valued,

respected, and capable of success. Recognizing that all students learn differently, she strives to identify each child's strengths and areas for growth, inspiring confidence, curiosity, independence, and a love of learning. An avid reader and lifelong learner herself, Vasilia strongly believes in the importance of self-education and continuous growth. She values the power of strong relationships among teachers, students, and parents, understanding that communication, collaboration, and mutual support are essential components of student achievement and success. Through her passion, dedication, and commitment to education, Vasilia continues to positively impact the lives of her students, families, and the greater school community.



Junior Pre-K (JPK) Stamatina has been a part of the St. Andrew church community since she was a baby and is grateful for the opportunity to give back to a community that has played such an important role in her life. She has completed all levels of Greek School and continues to participate in Sunday School. She is also an active member of GOYA and has served as Vice President, an experience that has strengthened her leadership, faith, and commitment to service. Outside of church, Stamatina, currently a junior in high school, serves as president of Rox-THON, a fundraiser supporting children with cancer, and plays both high school and club volleyball.

Stamatina is especially excited to teach the preschool Greek class this year. Having grown up learning Greek herself, she believes that language is deeply rooted in culture and tells the story of who we are and where we come from.

She hopes to create a fun and welcoming environment where her students are excited to learn and begin developing a love and appreciation for the Greek language and culture from an early age.

She is thankful for the opportunity to give back to her church community and looks forward to sharing a language and culture that have been such an important part of her own life with the next generation.



Pre-K: Yiota Louca. I was born on the beautiful island of Cyprus. I have been a dedicated member of the St. Andrew community since 1978. After initially living in Morristown, I attended Morristown High School for my junior and senior years. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. I am the proud mother of five children: Katerina, Andreas, Demetrios, Nicole, and Alexia and currently reside in Randolph with my husband, Antony.

I worked for AT&T/Lucent International for 18 years, where I held the position of Account Support Manager overseeing operations in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. For the past 24 years, I have been employed by the Randolph Board of Education, where I have worked in a kindergarten classroom and currently support special needs children between the ages of 3 and 5.

Within the St. Andrew community, I have served on the PTO Board, taught Sunday School, and worked as an advisor for the St. Andrew Youth Group (GOYA). I am currently a member of the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos, where I serve as Second Vice President. For the past 10 years, I have had the privilege of teaching the Pre-K class. I am passionate about sharing our native language and Greek heritage. I look forward to continuing to teach through engaging hands-on lessons that inspire and enrich the youth of our church community.



Level 1A Nicole Pazvanti Canticas: I am honored to serve as a teacher at the **Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS)**. As a dedicated member of the Saint Andrew congregation and community, I have been actively involved in supporting our parish and educating students. My educational background includes a **Degree in Computer Programming** from the **4th Business HS in Athens, Greece**. While my academic training is in technology, my passion has always been centered on working with children and helping them develop a meaningful connection to the Greek language, culture, and Orthodox faith. As an educator, I strive to create a welcoming, engaging, and supportive learning environment where students feel encouraged to participate, explore, and grow. Through interactive teaching methods—including immersive conversations, contextual reading activities,

hands-on learning experiences, games, and cultural enrichment projects—I help students develop confidence in their language skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for their Greek heritage. I firmly believe that learning Greek extends beyond vocabulary and grammar; it is a journey into a rich cultural and historical tradition that has shaped generations. My goal is to inspire students to embrace their identity, strengthen their communication skills, and cultivate a lifelong love for the Greek language and culture. With faith, dedication, and a commitment to academic excellence, I am honored to guide each student on their educational journey. Together, we embark on an exciting adventure of discovery, learning, and cultural appreciation, rooted in the timeless values of our Greek Orthodox heritage.



Level 1B Efstratia (Effie) Kritharis was born and raised on the beautiful island of Limnos, Greece. She pursued higher education in Athens, earning a diploma in Computer Programming from Doxiadis College, and also studied Economics and English at the Hellenic American Institute. Efstratia began her professional career in Athens, working for four years as a secretary in an import/export company. During this time, she discovered her passion for education, tutoring elementary school students and teaching Sunday School. After marrying her husband, Kosta, she moved to the United States and has proudly called Morris County, NJ home for over 30 years. She is a devoted mother to her daughters, Athina and Amalia, and grandmother to Kassandra. She cherishes time spent with her family, including her sons-in-law, Panayiotis and Chase. In the U.S., Efstratia continued her dedication to education. She served as a teacher's assistant at Apple Montessori School, taught 2nd grade at Saint George Hellenic Afternoon School in Piscataway, NJ, and worked as a teacher's aide at Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School. For the past 13 years, she has been a

committed Greek School teacher at Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School teaching first grade and supporting students across multiple grade levels. Her focus is on creating engaging lessons, fostering a supportive classroom environment, and helping each child thrive. Fluent in Greek and English, Efstratia brings warmth, patience, and enthusiasm to her teaching. She is deeply committed to sharing her love of the Greek language, culture, and traditions with her students. Efstratia is grateful to be part of the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School community and looks forward to inspiring the next generation through her love of learning and faith.

Level 1C: My name is Alexandra (Alexia) Dionysiou. I am a 50-year-old wife and mother of two daughters, ages 10 and 14. I was born and raised in Greece, a country that shaped my identity, values, and deep sense of belonging. Twelve years ago, my life took a new direction when I moved to the United States to join my husband, embracing both the opportunities and challenges of a new beginning.

In Greece, I studied Statistics and Insurance Science at the University of Piraeus, building a strong academic foundation that led to a successful professional career. I worked for 15 years in subsidiary companies of the former Emporiki Bank specializing in Mutual Fund and Asset Management as an accountant and for the last 8 of those years,



I held the position of Head of the Accounting Department. My career was both demanding and rewarding, offering growth, responsibility, and fulfillment.

However, when I became a mother, my priorities shifted. I made the conscious and heartfelt decision to step away from my career and homeland to support my family and follow my husband to the United States. This transition, while challenging, became a turning point in my life.

Living abroad strengthened my connection to my Greek heritage, deepening my love for my homeland, language, traditions, and Orthodox faith. I dedicated myself to raising my children with strong Greek and Orthodox values, teaching them daily the Greek language, our history, cultural traditions, and religious beliefs.

For the past four years, I have been teaching at a Greek school, a role that brings me immense joy and emotional fulfillment. For me, Greek education is not just important—it is essential. Watching children strive to learn the Greek language and

connect with their roots fills me with pride, hope, and inspiration.

My journey reflects dedication to family, faith, and heritage, and a lifelong commitment to preserving and sharing the Greek language and culture with the next generation.

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YAL

Conference

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

NEW YORK CITY

OCTOBER 9-12, 2026

YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-35

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 13, 2026

YAL

Orthodox Young Adults Retreat

OCTOBER 9-11, 2026

**Following Christ Offline:
Encountering Orthodoxy in Community**

with Fr. Symeon Williams

Join us for our 2nd annual retreat where
young Orthodox adults connect in fellowship!

Hosted by St. Anthony's Young Adult Group

Contact Amanda Elsabee
for more info at:
aelsabee@gmail.com

Scan for
more
details:



RSVP by Friday, Oct. 3rd

Reserve hotel room by Tuesday, Sept. 9th

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Orthodox Church
Bergenfield, NJ

385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield, NJ 07621
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The St. Andrew Parish Strategy Wheel A Christ-Centered Vision for Our Future

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." — Psalm 127:1

Earlier this summer, we shared the **Parish Council Ministry & Committee Point of Contact Matrix**, identifying the Parish Council member assigned to each ministry, committee, program, and service within our parish. This was an important first step in strengthening communication, improving collaboration, and ensuring that every ministry has a dedicated liaison and advocate within the Parish Council.

At the same time, the Parish Council has spent many hours praying, listening, discussing, and reflecting on where God is calling St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. We have taken the Voice Survey feedback that our parishioners shared with us a few months back and built all these elements into our Mission and Vision that resulted in our new St. Andrew Parish Strategy Wheel

This is not simply a colorful diagram or a business plan. It is a visual reminder that everything we do must begin with the Light and Love of Christ radiating outward into every aspect of parish life. It will help us focus better and invest our time and money on what matters most without constant firefighting.

Just as the spokes of a wheel work together, every ministry, volunteer, committee, and parishioner plays an important role in moving our parish toward a common vision.

A vision only becomes meaningful when it is put into action.

At the center of any wheel is a hub and is our foundation and for us...

Christ is the Center

Every decision we make begins and ends with Jesus Christ.

Our worship, our ministries, our stewardship, our outreach, and our relationships all flow from our relationship with Christ and His Church. Buildings, finances, committees, and events are important, but only because they help us fulfill Christ's mission. Without Christ at the center, everything else eventually loses its meaning and purpose.

Orthodox Christian Heritage & Identity

Our parish has been blessed with a rich Greek Orthodox Christian Faith tradition passed down through generations. We are called to live our liturgical life, our sacraments, our traditions, our language, our music, and the teachings of Christ and the Holy Fathers while also welcoming everyone who seeks Christ. **Tradition is not preserving the past. It is passing the Faith to the next generation.**

Every person baptized,

Every family that attends Liturgy,

Every feast day celebrated,

Every lesson taught in Sunday School or Greek School helps strengthen who we are as Orthodox Christians.

Faith & Spiritual Growth

The Church exists first and foremost to help people grow closer to God. That growth happens through prayer, worship, Holy Communion, Confession, Bible study, fasting, charitable works, and living the Gospel each day.

When our faith as members of the body of Christ grows stronger, then every other part of parish life naturally becomes stronger. Healthy stewardship begins with spiritual stewardship. Generosity begins with grateful hearts. Volunteerism begins with love for Christ. Everything starts with spiritual growth.

Community & Fellowship

The early Church gathered not only for worship but also for fellowship. They knew one another.

They cared for one another. They celebrated together.

They mourned together.

Our parish should feel like an extended family where everyone is welcomed, known, and loved. Whether someone has attended St. Andrew for forty years or walks through our doors for the very first time, they should immediately experience Christian hospitality. Relationships build strong communities. Strong communities build strong churches.

Stewardship & Sustainability

Another word for steward is caretaker. Everything we have has been given to us by God to care for while we are on this

earth. Ultimately it belongs to God and everything we have should be taken care of as though it belongs to someone else, because it's on loan to us. Eventually everything we have will become someone else's with time. So, while these things are in our care we should use them to glorify God and support His Church.

Our time. Our talents. Our treasures. Stewardship is not fundraising. It is caretaking of all of God's blessings with gratitude.

Financial sustainability allows the Church to maintain its ministries, care for its facilities, educate our children, support outreach efforts, and serve future generations. Every contribution, large or small, helps preserve St. Andrew for those who will worship here long after us. Our goal is not simply balancing a budget. Our goal is to ensure that this parish remains vibrant for decades to come.

Youth, Family & Future Generations

Children are not simply the future of the Church. They are the Church of today.

Investing in our youth means investing in Sunday School, GOYA, Greek School, young adult ministries, family programs, and creating opportunities for lifelong faith formation. When young families grow spiritually, the entire parish grows stronger. The greatest gift we can leave behind is not a building. It is a thriving Orthodox community that our children will proudly inherit.

Governance, Communication & Accountability

Healthy churches require faithful leadership. The Parish Council, ministry leaders, clergy, volunteers, and staff all share the responsibility of serving with humility, transparency, honesty, and accountability. Good governance means making thoughtful decisions, communicating openly, planning responsibly, and being transparent with parish finances and major initiatives. Trust grows when people understand both our successes and our challenges.

As Scripture reminds us: *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Facilities, Hospitality & Parish Experience

Our church building is much more than bricks and mortar. It is God's house.

Every visitor forms an impression the moment they enter our parking lot, walk through the doors, worship in the sanctuary, or attend a parish event. Safe buildings, clean facilities, welcoming volunteers, accessible spaces, and well-maintained grounds communicate something very important: "You matter."

Maintaining our facilities is an act of stewardship because it honors both God and those He sends to us.

Witness, Outreach & Philanthropy

Christ's final command was simple: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."*

The Church cannot remain focused only inward.

We are called to serve those in need, welcome visitors, support missions, help our local community, and share the love of Christ through our words and actions. Whether through Philoptochos, food drives, charitable giving, community events, or simply inviting someone to church, each of us participates in Christ's mission. Our faith becomes visible through love in action.

One Wheel. One Mission.

Every ministry at St. Andrew fits somewhere within this Strategy Wheel.

No area is more important than another. Each supports the others, and together they help move our parish forward with unity and purpose. Our next step is to work closely with each ministry leader to develop a simple annual action plan that supports the goals of the Strategy Wheel. Together, we will identify meaningful objectives, key initiatives, and measures of success that reflect the unique mission of each ministry while advancing the overall vision of St. Andrew.

These action plans are not intended to create unnecessary administration or bureaucracy. Rather, they provide a roadmap that helps us remain focused, celebrate accomplishments, identify opportunities for improvement, and ensure we are faithfully stewarding the gifts, talents, and resources God has entrusted to us as a parish.

As we move forward, the Parish Council will periodically review progress with ministry leaders, celebrate successes together, and offer support whenever challenges arise. In this way, every ministry, committee, program, and service

becomes an active participant in our shared mission of strengthening the spiritual life of our parish and preparing St. Andrew for future generations.

As your Parish Council, we will use this Strategy Wheel to guide our planning, priorities, budgeting, capital improvements, ministry development, and future decisions. Most importantly, it reminds us that every decision must honor Christ and strengthen His Church.

May God continue to bless St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church as we journey together in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ,

Michael Serghiou
Parish Council President



Mission

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 our **Hellenic Culture**, for the benefit of those whose lives we touch.

Vision

To be a spiritually vibrant, welcoming, and sustainable Greek Orthodox parish that honors our traditions, strengthens ministries, engages future generations, and serves as a beacon of Christ in our community.

FAITH, LOVE & SERVICE

ST. ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH **STRATEGY WHEEL**



ST. ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2026 CAR RAFFLE



PRIZE DETAILS

- Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 W4
- MSRP: \$54,585
- Exterior: Polar White
- Interior: Macchiato Beige
- All-Wheel Drive (AWD)
- All-Wheel Drive (AWD)
- PARKTRONIC with Active Parking Assist
- Panorama Sunroof
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TICKET INFORMATION

TICKETS: \$25 EACH

Drawing: SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, 12:30PM

All ticket sales benefit Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church.
Winner need not be present to win.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

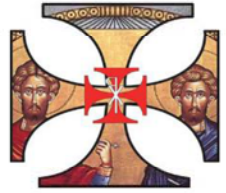
Note: Image is for advertising purposes only. Actual car may vary.

1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869



SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS



Dear Saint Andrew Parishioners,

With great joy and gratitude to God, we welcome you to a new ecclesiastical year! As we begin another year of fellowship, service, and ministry, we are reminded of the beautiful mission entrusted to Philoptochos: to serve those in need, to support our parish and community, and to share the love and compassion of Christ with others. Each act of kindness, no matter how small becomes a reflection of our faith and a blessing to those around us.

There are so many ways to participate in Philoptochos, and you do not need to make a huge commitment to make a difference. Even an hour of your time, a helping hand, or a new idea can have an impact. Your time, talents, prayers, and support make it possible to continue our important work. We invite every woman in our parish to join us! There is a place for everyone, and together we can accomplish so much more. Friendships and fellowship are built along the way!

Here are just a few ways you can help:

~ Help prepare and serve food for
Faith Kitchen

~ Visit our homebound
parishioners and let them know
they are remembered and loved

~ Help with baking for church and
Philoptochos events

~ Host a coffee hour with a friend
or two

~ Help with the membership drive
~ Organize a fun social or
fundraising event

~ Come to meetings when you are
able - your ideas and input are
always welcome
~ Volunteer at our Tricky Tray
~ Help with the food and coat
drives
~ Share your talents, ideas, or skills
in whatever way you can!

Proceeds from our Tricky Tray have benefited the following:

- ~ Ronald McDonald House/Greek Division which provides support services for families from Greece and Cyprus, as well as for Greek Americans staying in New York.
- ~ Project Self Sufficiency, a non profit charity located in Newton, NJ. Which helps low income families achieve economic independence.
- ~ Improvements in the Saint Andrew Social Hall. These enhancements have helped create a more beautiful, comfortable, and inviting space for our parish community to gather for fellowship, celebrations, meetings, and special events.

We are truly grateful to everyone who donated baskets, purchased tickets, volunteered their time, and supported this important fundraiser!

We look forward to another wonderful year together and to all that we will accomplish through faith, love, and service. Please join our Army of Agape! Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd.

In Faith and Fellowship,

Marina Venizelos, President, Saint Andrew Philoptochos

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

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

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Past President: Mary Michailidis | Spiritual Advisor: Fr. John Theodosion

GOYA

September Newsletter 2026

Welcome back GOYAns! We hope everyone had an amazing and restful summer and we hope you're ready to begin a new year with lots of fun and enriching GOYA activities. To kick off the new GOYA year, we will be hosting our annual kick-off barbeque at the church. Our first GOYA event will be the Diving for the Holy Cross Celebration on September 20, with our divers Bobby and Irene Gergatsoulis, Emma Kostis and Themis Sifonios representing our church for this event. We are also hosting the faith kitchen on September 26, where we will help prepare food for the homeless.

As always, we encourage any new members to join our youth group. You are welcome to come and attend any meetings we have and ask any questions about GOYA. We conduct all of our communication through the app Spond, which can be accessed with the provided QR code.

We can't wait to begin the 2026-2027 GOYA season and make this another fun year with unforgettable memories!

SPOND



Saint Andrew GOYA

To join the group you need to download the Spond app, create an account and enter the group code.

Group code

REUZU



*Save
-THE-
Date!*

11/14/2026

TAVLI TOURNAMENT

Prizes for
1st 2nd & 3rd
place



Tavli lessons
for non-
players!

\$50 - Player Entrance Fee

\$25 - Non-Player Entrance Fee

Food & Refreshments Included!

BE THE FIRST IN THE GAME

Official registration opens September 14th and spots are limited!

Join our mailing list today to get early access to the registration link, tournament details, and rules before the general public.

Contact Athena Borzeka at aborzeka@gmail.com or click [HERE](#) to join our mailing list



Testimonial Celebration Honoring Athena Borzeka District #5 Governor

The Daughters of Penelope Alexander #250 cordially invites you.

October 4th, 2026, 1:30pm-
4:30pm

Primavera Regency, 1080 Valley
Road, Stirling, New Jersey 07980

RSVP BY 9/27/26 \$65 | See

Dimitra Pallis for details:

201-874-9084

DimitraP164@gmail.com



Religious Education

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

religiously@standrewgonj.org

Dear St. Andrew Family,

Greetings from the Religious Education Ministry! We hope you enjoyed the summer and are once again ready to register your child for Sunday School.

We would like to introduce ourselves to you as the new Directors of Religious Education. We are both anxious to get started on an exciting year.

Rachel Lopardo is returning as a Co-Director as well as continuing to teach the Pre-K class. Faye Paskas will join her this year as Co-Director and continues to teach the 9th-12th grade classes.

This year is looking to be a new adventure as the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has released a long-awaited curriculum for all levels. It is engaging, interactive, and promises to be a new experience for students, teachers, and families. Much time, planning, and effort has gone into this new program that will educate your children and help them to better understand our Greek Orthodox Faith.

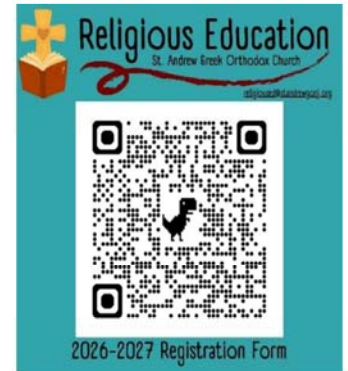
We are hopeful that you will join us as we embark on this new journey. Our partnership with the St. Andrew Family will help shape the next generation and foster a life-long connection to our faith.

The first day of Sunday School is **Sunday, September 13th**. On the first day of classes, children will *return to the front-left pews* after Holy Communion to be present for an Agiasmos Service. After the service, all children and parents will head to their classrooms to meet their teachers and begin classes for the year.

To register your child(ren) for Sunday School, please scan the QR code below. Our classes serve children as young as 2.5 years old and all children are welcome.

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 13th for the first day of classes, as well as September 27th for the Backpack Blessing and Ministry Fair Sunday!

Yours in Christ, Rachel Lopardo and Faye Paskas



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT — FAITH KITCHEN

On the fourth Saturday of each month, the different ministries of

our church (GOYA, Philoptochos, Daughters of Penelope, AHEPA and Parish Council) help to feed the hungry in our community. Each group takes turns serving a hot meal to between 70 and 100 people

For example, in March our GOYA took on the responsibility for Faith Kitchen. They prepared 120 meals to serve. By preparing and serving this food, our youth not only met a physical need, but also learned compassion, humility, and the importance of serving others. Stewardship is what makes this ministry possible. Have you turned in your 2026 Stewardship Pledge Form? If you have not and are a returning Steward, we ask that you consider "rounding up" to tithing, by incrementally increasing your annual pledge year to year until you reach the Biblical goal of 10%. If you are a new Steward, we ask that you give as much as you are able starting at 1% of your yearly income and working to increase your contributions towards the Biblical goal.

Dear Families and Parish Community,

Καλό ξεκίνημα και καλώς ήρθατε σε μια νέα σχολική χρονιά!

As we begin another wonderful year of Greek School and Sunday School, the PTA would like to warmly welcome all of our returning families and extend a special welcome to those joining our community for the first time.

Our Greek School and Sunday School are such an important part of keeping our faith, language, culture, and traditions alive for our children. Together, we have the beautiful opportunity to help the next generation grow in their connection to our Orthodox faith and Greek heritage while creating friendships and cherished memories along the way.

We look forward to another year filled with learning, fellowship, celebration, and opportunities for our children to participate in the life of our parish. We are grateful for the dedication of Fr. John, the teachers, staff, and volunteers, and especially for the continued support and involvement of our families.

As we begin this new school year, we encourage every family to become involved in any way they can. Whether volunteering at an event, participating in a church celebration, supporting our children's activities, or simply being present, your involvement helps make our community stronger.

May God bless our children with wisdom, joy, and a love for their faith and heritage. May He bless our teachers and clergy with strength and inspiration, and may He bless all of our families with a wonderful and meaningful school year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in our classrooms, in church, and at the many special events we have planned throughout the year!

We will be hosting our first meeting with parents on the first day of classes immediately after drop off on Sept. 10, 2026.

Με αγάπη και τις καλύτερες ευχές μας για μια ευλογημένη σχολική χρονιά!

Warmly,

The PTA

2026–2027 School Year



Tips on How Students Can Be Successful in College

Dr. John Paitakes has been teaching undergraduate and graduate students for 35 years. He has taught at Raritan Valley Community College, Kean University, Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, and Rider University. In addition, Dr. Paitakes has worked for a significant number of years in the fields of probation and parole. He is a certified police academy instructor and is a member of numerous criminal justice and professional organizations and associations. Dr. Paitakes has published and presented on a state and national level. He has also been a contributing Criminal Justice expert for EBRU TV and FOX News.

During his teaching tenure, he has interacted with over 6,000 college students. He has observed, taught, evaluated, and graded a diverse number of students from numerous cultural and religious backgrounds. As a result of his teaching experience, a number of common themes, traits, behaviors and characteristics of students have emerged. There appears to be a methodology that leads students to excel. Dr. Paitakes would like to share both the positive and not so positive attributes of students, based upon his qualitative analysis of his teaching experience.

The following are some of the behaviors, traits and characteristics exhibited by students who are most successful:

1. *Classroom Seating* – Students who sit toward the front or middle of the classroom seem to do better scholastically than those who sit in the back or corners.
2. *Preparation* – Students who are prepared from the initial class seem to do better. This includes having the text, review of syllabus and taking of notes.
3. *Rested* – Students who come to class well rested are more alert and receptive to information.
4. *Class Participation* – Students who participate on a regular basis usually do well in class. This includes volunteering to respond to the professor's inquiries and posing relevant questions regarding the subject matter.
5. *Assignments* – Completion and remittance of assignments when due according to the professor's format is critical in placing students in the "upper range" of the class.
6. *Attendance* – Students who attend classes on a regular basis usually do better than students who do not. Generally, students should try not to miss more than 3 classes during a semester.
7. *Professor Interaction* – Students who "get to know" their professor by discussing relevant issues with him/her even after class or during his/her office hours usually will enhance their chances of doing better during the course.
8. *Student Networking* – Students who network and get to know a number of other students in the class through study groups or informally, usually perform at a higher level than those that do not.

9. *Join Professional Clubs or Associations*
10. *Outside Reading* – Seek out related readings outside of required text.

Conversely, the following behaviors, traits and characteristics are usually found in students that do not do so well in a course academically.

1. *Unprepared* – Students who come to class, without pen/pencil, notepad or laptop, are at risk of not doing well in that class. Recent research indicates that students who take handwritten notes retain the information more completely.
2. *Attendance* – Students who miss more than three classes or who regularly come late to class, may not do as well as those who do not miss classes.
3. *Tired & Non Rested* – Students who appear to be tired or had little sleep are at risk of not performing well.
4. *Attention Span* – Students who do not pay full attention to what the professor is saying, or doing, will probably not do as well as more successful students (i.e., doing other class work, using laptop for other than related class activities, talking to other students during the professor's lecture, are examples of some of the distractive behaviors). Text messaging is a current means of communication causing class distraction that is disruptive to both the professor and other students.
5. *Late Reports and/or Assignments* – Students who submit reports later than the due date are usually penalized in the grade assigned. In addition, submitting reports and not adhering to the format described in the syllabus will also usually be reflected in a lower grade for the assignment.
6. *Plagiarism* – Failure to appropriately document the researcher or author of a source will certainly result in a lower grade for the assignment.
7. *Cheating* – A student found to be cheating or copying the work of another student, risks not only possibly failing the course but expulsion from the college or university.
8. *Loner or Isolated Student* - Students who do not interact at all with other students regarding assignments, projects, etc., may be at a higher risk of not doing as well as more interactive students.

The academic performance of students can be significantly enhanced by being aware of these findings. In addition to intellectual capacity, perseverance and good study habits are essential ingredients of good performance among college students. For further information or discussion on this matter, interested parties may contact Dr. Paitakes at Pait@optimum.net.



Spring 2026 Competitive Oratorical Speech

by James Andrews, Senior

Throughout history, Orthodox Christians have faced persecution for their faith, from ancient martyrs to modern confessors. How does the witness of martyrs, both ancient and contemporary, strengthen and guide the Church today?

According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the word martyr refers to “one who voluntarily suffers death rather than deny their religion by words or deeds”. This is quite a fair definition. When we look at the martyrs of the Church, we see that both our calendar and our history are filled with those who have bravely gone to their deaths in the service of Christ. But, even with this great meaning, the full picture of a martyr cannot be seen without examining the word’s etymology. Martyr originally comes from the ancient Greek word *martyrs* (μάρτυς), meaning witness, and this will be the key for our insight. What separates our faithful from those who died for other causes? What separates the martyrs of the Church from the many others who have died for other causes, like their nation, their political beliefs, or for another religion? The answer is that the martyrs of our Church are true martyrs in the linguistic sense. They died bearing witness to the eternal truth: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The witness of our Church begins at its founding, almost 2000 years ago. But to illustrate the uniqueness of our faith, I would like to tell a personal anecdote from about a month ago. My family and I decided to go to New York City for an outing, and while walking the blocks of the city, I saw a very peculiar sticker placed on a road sign. In bold yellow letters, its message read:

The Messiah Is Here! But when I looked up and saw a man pictured above the text, I was very confused. Instead of seeing an illustration of Jesus, I saw a very modern photo of a man who seemed to be an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi. So, deeply confused, I pulled out my phone and tried to figure out who this was. After some research, I found that the man depicted was Menachem Schneerson, a leader of a Hasidic group who died in New York City in 1994. After some quick reading, it became apparent that those who believe him to be the Messiah are clearly misguided. This Schneerson never actually claimed to be the Messiah, and either way did not fulfill any of the Messianic prophecies recorded by the Prophets. To provide an example, in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2, Verse 15, it is recorded that Christ fulfilled the prophecy “Out of Egypt I called My Son” as the Holy Family left Egypt once they were safe from Herod. As far as I can tell, New York City is quite far from Egypt. But what this experience in New York brought me to see was that there have actually been quite a lot of people who claimed to be the Messiah throughout history. Though dozens have made this claim, notably, Jesus was the first to do so. These other claimants are but poor copies of the original, as Jesus was the only one to be a martyr for his sincerity. To bring up one of the many forgotten Messiahs, in the 1600s, a man named Sabbatai Zevi found wide popularity amongst Ottoman Jews as a Messiah claimant. But, when the Ottoman government told him to convert to Islam or die, he chose to convert rather than bear final witness to his own beliefs, discrediting himself in front of the world. In this example, we see the value of Christ going to His death without recanting, as this only bolsters His honesty in His claims.

The Church has also known that all of the 12 Apostles, except John the Evangelist, died as martyrs. Extending from this, people like Paul and James were also known to have died for their belief in the Resurrection and Christ’s Divinity rather than recant. In the modern era, scholars have confirmed the authenticity of these martyrdom traditions. The fact that the Apostles died as martyrs shows the sincerity of the earliest followers of Christ, and strengthens the evidence for our religion.

But there are many other ideologies in the modern world, and how do we know that any sort of secular belief does not rise to the level of the Church? How do we know the same for other modern Christian churches like Pentecostals or Lutherans? Because after all, these other churches believe in Christ and His Apostles too. We can see the differences between our faith and the ideologies of others in how the Orthodox Church has had a steady stream of those willing to die for the unchanging faith, from Christ, to His Apostles, through the Church Fathers, to the time of the schism, and to those in our Greek Church under Turkish oppression, as well as those in the East who suffered under the Communist yoke. This steady splendor of saints, willing to show the beauty of the Church’s truth in such a cruel world, places the Orthodox Church above each and every one of the capricious ideologies that throughout all of history have so hastily arisen, and been just as quickly extinguished. Our Church is strengthened by its sincerity and is magnified by its martyrs, from Christ to the present day. Thank you.

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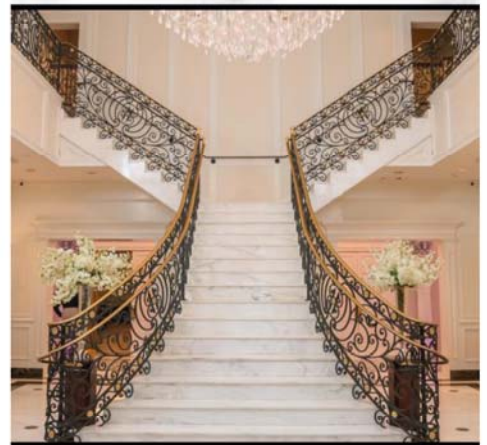
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Contact the church office if you would like information on becoming a Community Partner.

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

Welcome Back, September 2026

Yia sas! I hope you had a blessed summer with family and friends. I was blessed to spend time with my sister in Florida. Now we return to routines of school—both Sunday School and Greek School.

Each year I remind you: schedules matter. Stability and consistency help our children thrive. Whether your summer was spent traveling or at home, I hope you had safe, meaningful family time.

As school begins, let us help our children build both life skills and academic skills. Technology is expanding. Many young children will learn internet research, typing, and handwriting is returning to elementary classrooms.

Supporting academics does not mean becoming the teacher. Ask questions, attend parent-teacher meetings, and check homework without doing it for them. Encourage independence with a notepad for assignments and questions. Connect about school each evening without pressure. Promote reading or outdoor play over screens after homework. Even 20 minutes of daily reading helps.

Also reteach life skills: proper bathroom use, cleaning up, and manners like “please” and “thank you.” Summer habits fade, and children will meet new teachers and friends. Treating others kindly is essential.

For younger children, keep a home journal to practice writing. Coloring books build fine motor skills too. If they use a computer, encourage handwritten rough drafts first. Let us not lose old-fashioned writing! Have them write to Yiayia, Pappou, or you. Play word games like Boggle as a family.

Use technology for geography. They have seen GPS—now show them maps. Many know continents and states but not countries in the

news. Invite older kids to watch the news with you for 30 minutes. If they have time for social media, they have 10 minutes for the news.

Watch for teen mood changes. Check if they are struggling, facing bullying, or adjusting to transitions. Middle to high school is a big shift, and seniors face decisions about life after 12th grade.

Look forward to 2026–2027 with excitement. It will bring fun and new learning for your children.

My prayer this month is from “A Table Prayer Guide” “September 1st, the Beginning of the Church Year” (Matins Hymn):

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

Comments or suggestions for “Parents’ Corner”?
E-mail me: alexandraproto@gmail.com

Find me on Facebook:
Alexandra Alex Protopapas

**Alexandra Protopapas,
M.Ed. Certified Teacher of
the Handicapped –
Language Arts and Social
Sciences. Retired, part-
time at Educational
Services Commission of
Morris County, New Jersey
(ESC)**



Religious Education - A Perspective

What is the goal of Religious Education? Is it merely to provide “information” about our Orthodox faith or does it go deeper into the very character of an Orthodox spiritual life? How does it all center around Jesus and in what way are we called to respond to Him?

How can we live an authentic and active Orthodox life? Why is it so important to correctly understand the very foundation of our faith? Are we building our Orthodoxy on “sand” or “stone”? If our Orthodoxy isn’t an important part of how we daily live, then do we comprehend the deepest proclamation of “salvation”?

Too many of us get caught up in trying to fit our Orthodox faith into our busy lives. But Jesus warns us “you cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). Orthodox Christians are called to center their lives on God and God has revealed to us who God is in Jesus Christ. To then “know” God as an active reality present in each and every day, we need to see God in how Jesus lives God in His own life. This requires studying Scripture, entering a prayer routine, and attending the Divine Liturgy, not as a spectator but as an active participant.

It is the purpose of Religious Education to teach us how to do that. No one begins calculus without having taken algebra and geometry for without these the language of calculus will make no sense. This same kind of preparation is required for anyone wishing to enter a deeper spiritual life. You need to learn how to swim before entering the deeper waters where swimming is necessary.

Religious education is often just “lessons” we give to our children to help them establish a moral life as they grow in an ever more challenging world, a “mammon” calling us into bondage to it. But do you “understand” the words of our Creed as you routinely recite it? How comfortable are you discussing Trinity or the nature of Jesus? Do you know what “prayer” is, how to make it a real communication, a dialogue with God rather than just words repeated without any

sense of their content? How amazed are you that “YOU” can actually speak with GOD? If encountering God is simply an ordinary experience, can God really be amazing? Do you even know what you are saying when talking about or to God?

Anyone who has encountered the living God, has undergone profound transformation. Look at Paul and what meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus did to him. While these radical encounters rarely occur, they do occur in subtle ways within you as you begin to “learn” the deeper meaning of Scripture, of prayer. Just as you feed the body, you need to feed your soul. Jesus reveals to us our dual nature of body and soul not as separate areas within us but as the fullness of our nature as divine-human. Sin is the loss, the separation from our wholeness. This is why Orthodoxy is a place of healing, a “hospital” and to recover ourselves, to escape death, we desperately need to know an active faith. This demands knowing our faith and how it actually works in how we live.

We are all lulled into an “ordinary” Orthodoxy, a religion of complacency that requires minimal engagement. The world, mammon, has no difficulty distracting us from such a “religion”. So what is “religious” education? It is the urgent call to commune with a God who so desperately loves us that God suffered and died for us! What greater love is there? Shouldn’t each of us want to know who this God is? What better place than with fellow Orthodox Christians all eager to learn from how God is trying to teach us and bring us back? The father waits in the road for the prodigal son; how can there be any love greater than this?

So please, invest yourself and your children into religious education and begin a transforming journey that will make Orthodox worship deeply spiritual each and every day.

-Maro Schuster and Herbert Schuster



BAPTISM – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΗ

CHLOE CASSANDRA ARAPS, daughter of Frank T. and Nicole D. (Montecer) Araps, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, August 9th, 2026, at 12:30pm and given the name **ΚΑΣΣΑΝΔΡΑ– KASSANDRA**. The Godmother was Cristina M. Araps.



ROMEO ANGELO ZIOU, son of Klaivert Ziou and Tina Konstas, was Baptized & Chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Sunday, August 9th, 2026, at 2:00pm and given the name **ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ– AGGELOS**. The Godmother was Alexandra Katsoudas.

OBITS & FUNERAL SERVICE – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ



Diane (Artemis) Gnardellis, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and cherished pillar of her community, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, faith, and family.

Born on the beautiful island of Lemnos, Greece, Diane took a courageous step in 1954 when she, along with her husband and infant son, emigrated to the United States. She built a vibrant, beautiful life in Cedar Knolls, a small town in Hanover Township, where she resided for many years and became a familiar, warm presence to all who knew her.

Family was the center of Diane's world. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Kostas, and her cherished son, Harry. Her legacy of love lives on through her devoted children: James and his wife Beth; Melba and her husband William Beisley; and Peter and his wife Patricia. She was the proud and adoring grandmother of Dean, Steven, Jaclyn, William, Derick, Alexander, and Nickolas. Diane was also blessed to be a great-grandmother to Lyndsay, Dylan, Dimitri, Lucia, Saylor, Hayden, Eli, and Ari, all of whom brought immense joy to her later years.

Diane was a woman of deep faith and took great pride in her Greek heritage. She was an active and dedicated member of her church community, devoting her time to the Philoptochos society and volunteering countless hours at local Greek festivals. A skilled crafter with a generous heart, she was also a long-standing and active member of the St. Andrew's knitting group, where she shared laughter, stories, and her talents with dear friends. To her family, Diane was the ultimate host. She loved nothing more than tending to her beautiful garden and gathering her large family together. Her kitchen was always filled with the comforting aromas of traditional Greek cooking, and her home was the heart of every holiday celebration.

Throughout her life, Diane was known for her strong work ethic and warm personality. She spent many years working in the food service industry, where her love for feeding others shone through, and she was a friendly, familiar face to many during her years working at Bradlees and TJ Maxx.

Diane's warmth, her delicious meals, the beauty of her garden, and her fierce love for her family will be deeply missed but never forgotten. May her memory be eternal.



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of **John Milonas** of Dover, NJ after a long illness.

Born in Milia, Nafpaktos, Greece, he was the beloved son of the late George and Maria Milonas. He proudly served in the Greek military before immigrating to the United States in 1976, where he settled in Dover, New Jersey. He began his career in the restaurant industry, later worked at McWilliams Forge, and then spent nearly 25 years at Grecco Automotive.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Vasiliki Milonas; his three sons, George Milonas, Spiro Milonas, and Hristos Milonas and his wife, Tamara; his cherished grandson, Theodoros Milonas; his sister, Savoula Tsamis and her husband, Christos; and many

loving nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Irene Angelopoulos and Vasiliki Georgatos, and his brothers-in-laws, Konstantinos Angelopoulos and John Georgatos.

He loved cars, cherished time with his family, and was always quick with a joke. One of his greatest joys was meeting up with his first cousins and friends in Dover for morning coffee, a tradition they shared for more than 40 years. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Christos Paxos on July 21, 2026 after a long illness at the age of 77. Born on July 20, 1949 in the village of Kambia, Chios Greece he was the beloved son of the late John and Irene Paxos. Christos immigrated to the United States at the age of sixteen.

Christos married his wife Lambrini of 53 years in 1974. He lived a life defined by generosity, love, kindness, and dedication to his children, grandchildren, family and friends. He was known for his resilience, sense of humor, strong work ethic, and compassion for others. He touched the lives of everyone who knew him.

Christos was an Entrepreneur in the restaurant industry for over fifty years with his brother and best friend James Paxos. Both took immense pride in establishing and succeeding in their business ventures together. Christos took pleasure in the finer things in life. He loved going to Greece with his family and living life to the fullest. He found joy spending time with those he loved. Above all, Christos was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

He is survived by his wife Lambrini Paxos; his three children: Irene Paxos, John Paxos, Mike and Deanna (Wife) Paxos; his six beautiful grandchildren: Christina, Gabriel, Christos, Lambrini, Michael and Christos; his Loving Brother Andrew Paxos and James and Evangelia (Wife) Paxos, his brother Michael Paxos, and many loving nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Christos is preceded by his sisters Kuriaki Evangelis and Paraskevi Livas. Christos loved making others feel good and was always quick with a joke. One of his greatest joys was going to the Roxbury Diner for coffee every morning with his brothers James and Andrew. This strong, resilient, hardworking man will truly be missed, but never forgotten. May his memory be eternal.

SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays 9am

GOYA Volleyball Tuesday @7:30-9pm

GOYA Basketball Wednesday @6:30-9pm

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

Hellenic Afternoon School Thursday 4:30pm

TBA Youth Greek Dancing Thursdays @6:30 pm

TBA GOYA Greek Dancing Thursdays @7:15 pm

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

9/1 @7:30 Young Adult League Meeting-changed from 9/7

9/2 @11:00am Morning Knitting Group-first since Summer

9/8 @5:30pm Farewell Banquet for Archbishop Apostolos

9/9 @6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

9/10 @4:30 Water Blessing (Agiasmos) in Church then First Hellenic Afternoon School Classes of the year
@7:00pm Bible Study- First since Summer

9/13 @11:00am Religious Education Classes begin
@12:00pm HOPE&JOY Craft
Young Adult League Activity or TBD

9/14 @7:30pm Parish Council meeting

9/16 @11:00am Morning Knitting Group
@6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

9/17 TBA @6:30pm Greek/GOYA Dance Begins
@7:00pm Bible Study

9/19 @9:00am Planned Giving Event

9/20 @12:00 Daughter of Penelope Meeting

9/22 @7:00pm Philoptochos meeting

9/23 @6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

9/24 @11:30am Agape Luncheon-First since Summer
TBA@7:00pm Bible Study

9/26 @9:00am Faith Kitchen GOYA
@11:30am Baptism: Vienna Spiropoulos

9/27 @11:00am **Sunday** Backpack Blessing for all college, high school, Greek School & Religious Education Students
@11:00am Ministry Fair Sunday

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

10/1 Adult Greek Language Class Begins
@7:00pm Bible Study

10/3 @2:30pm Baptism: Antoni Greenlee

10/4 @1:30pm Testimonial Celebration: Athena Borzeka

10/5 @7:00pm Young Adult League Meeting

10/7 @11am Morning Knitting Group

10/8 @7:00pm Bible Study

10/11 @TBD Wedding
@4:00pm Mr. & Mrs. GOYA
Young Adult League Activity or TBD

10/12 @7:30pm Parish Council meeting

10/14 @6:30PM EVENING KNITTING GROUP

10/15 @7:00pm Bible Study

10/17 @11:00am Baptism
@2:30pm Baptism: Luke Plotzker

10/21 @11AM MORNING KNITTING GROUP
@6:30PM EVENING KNITTING GROUP

10/22 @7:00PM BIBLE STUDY

10/23 @6:00PM PTA TRUNK OR TREAT

10/24 @9:00am Faith Kitchen PHILOPTOCHOS
@10:30am Baptism: Sophia Ibrahim

10/27 @7:00pm Philoptochos meeting

10/29 @11:30am Agape Luncheon
@7:00pm Bible Study

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN NOVEMBER: 11/1 PHILOPTOCHOS, 11/8 PTA, 11/15 DOP, 11/22 GOYA 11/29 PARISH COUNCIL

11/1 @10:30am Memorial: +Philoptochos Members
@11:30 HAS OXI Day (Oct 28th) Celebration

11/2 @7:00pm Young Adult League Meeting

11/4 @11:00am morning Knitting Group

11/5 @7:00pm Bible Study

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

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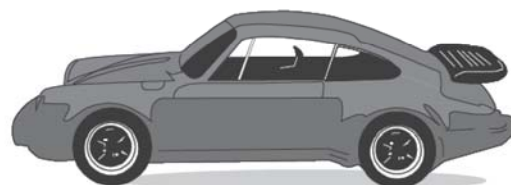
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Georgia Haglund, *Chairperson*

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TEACHING STAFF: Dr. Herbert Schuster, Faye Paskas, Giorgio Seretis Kia Paskas, Kayla Hunsicker, Maro Schuster, Marina Venizelos, Vickie Geannakakes, Stacey Papanikolaw, Maria Galvin, Presbyteria Athena Theodosion, Eleni Koukoularis, Photeine Lopardo, Rachel Lopardo

Substitutes: Dina Aspromatis, Athina Vella

BYZANTINE CHANTERS/CHOIR

Panagiotis Fotinis, *Chanter*

Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fr. John Theodosion, Athena Borzeka, Vasilisa Christodoulou, Maria Galvin, Elizabeth Maloupis

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

DIRECTOR: Vasilisa Christodoulou

TEACHERS: Haroula Christodoulou, Eleni Zeris, Stacey Papanikolaw, Alexandra Kontogiannis, Effie Kritharis, Vasilisa Christodoulou, Yiota Louca, Nicole Pazvanti

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Philoptochos Society: Marina Venizelos, *President*

Knitting, Crocheting & Pillow Ministries: Antonia Clapsis & Harriet Karkanias

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: Anastasia Gatoulis, *President*

Little Angels Playgroup (LAP) Iris Krassas

HOPE – JOY : Stala Jellis, Pam Kotsaftis, Tanya DeBoer

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 Instructor TBD



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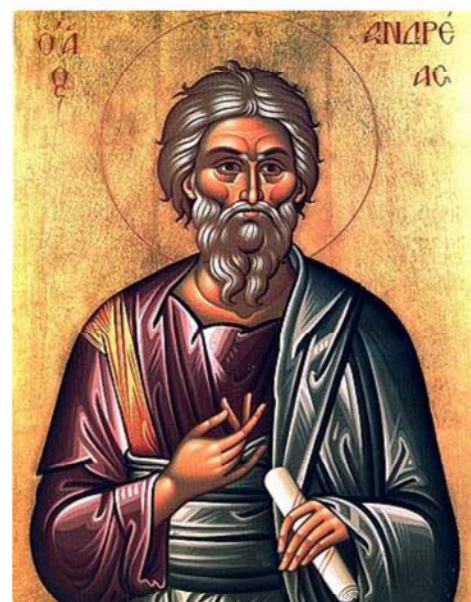
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HYMN OF THE APOSTLE SAINT ANDREW

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.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ

Ως των Αποστόλων πρωτόκλητος, και του κορυφαίου
αυτάδελφος, τον Δεσπότην των όλων Ανδρέα ικέτευε,
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