NOVEMBER 2026



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

OXI DAY CELEBRATION (*HAS* PROGRAM IN GYM) – NOV 1
THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE – NOV 21
SAINT KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR – NOV 25
SAINT ANDREW VESPERS – NOV 29
SAINT ANDREW ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY – NOV 30

On Sundays we celebrate

Orthros 8:15 am & ***Divine Liturgy*** 9:30 am.

For other services, please check our website or call the office

OFFICE HOURS Mon. – Fri., 10 am - 4 pm

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Please submit your articles and information on time to

info@standrewgonj.org

Deadline for the ***DECEMBER 2026 ISSUE*** *is* ***November 11th***

Please find magazine issues on our web site https://www.standrewgonj.org

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DIVINE SERVICES

SUBJECT TO CHANGE; CONSULT WEEKLY/E-BULLETINS

NOVEMBER

Sunday	**1**	**5TH SUNDAY OF LUKE | STS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN**
		Hellenic Afternoon School 28th of October Program
Sunday	**8**	**7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE | SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS**
Monday	9	SAINT NEKTARIOS THE WONDERWORKER
Friday	13	ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
Saturday	14	ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
Sunday	**15**	**8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**
Monday	16	ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
Saturday	21	ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
Sunday	**22**	**9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**
Wednesday	25	ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR/LITURGY FOR THANKSGIVING DAY 5:00PM
Sunday	**29**	**13TH SUNDAY OF LUKE**
Sunday	**29**	**GREAT VESPERS SAINT ANDREW**
Monday	**30**	**SAINT ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE**

DECEMBER

Friday	4	ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR*	**WE HAVE THIS SAINT'S **RELICS***
Sunday	**6**	**10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE | ST. NICHOLAS**	
Wednesday	9	THE CONCEPTION BY ST. ANNA OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS *(TBD)*	
Saturday	12	ST. SPYRIDON	
Sunday	**13**	**11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE | RELIGIOUS ED. CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 11:30AM**	
Sunday	**20**	**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**	
Tuesday	22	ST. ANASTASIA THE GREAT MARTYR	
Thursday	24	EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST	
Friday	**25**	**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST**	
Sunday	**27**	**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY | ST. STEPHEN**	

Sundays: Orthros @ 8:15AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:30AM
Weekdays: Orthros @ 8:00AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:00AM
Sunday School students attend Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, receive Holy Communion, and then proceed to their classes – Graduation is on May 23rd

Ιερες Ακολουθιες

Το προγραμμα μπορει να αλλαξει. Συμβουλευτειτε το εβδομαδιαιο δελτιο.

Νοεμβριος

Κυριακή	**1**	**ΣΤ΄ Λουκα / Θαυματουργων Ἀναργυρων Κοσμα και Δαμιανου** Πρόγραμμα 28ης Οκτωβρίου Απογευματινού Ελληνικού Σχολείου
Κυριακή	**8**	**Ζ΄ Λουκα |+Η Συναξις των αρχιστρατηγων Μιχαηλ και Γαβριηλ**
Δευτέρα	9	Νεκταριου Επισκοπου Πενταπολεως Του Θαυματουργου
Παρασκευή	13	Ἰωαννης Χρυσοστομος, Ἀρχιεπισκοπος Κωνσταντινουπολεως
Σάββατο	14	Φιλιππου του Αποστολου
Κυριακή	**15**	**Η' Λουκα**
Δευτέρα	16	Ἀποστολος και Ευαγγελιστης Ματθαιος
Σάββατο	21	Τα Εισοδια της Θεοτοκου
Κυριακή	**22**	**Θ' Λουκα**
Τετάρτη	25	Αικατερινη Μεγαλομαρτυς/Κατα την ημεραν των Ευχαριστων **ωρα 5:00μμ**
Κυριακή	**29**	**ΙΓ΄ Λουκα**
Κυριακή	**29**	**Μεγας Εσπερινος Του Αγιου Ανδρεου**
Δευτέρα	30	Ανδρεου Αποστολου Του Πρωτοκλητου

Δεκεμβριος

Παρασκευή	4	Βαρβαρας Μεγαλομαρτυρος* **Λειψανα*
Κυριακή	**6**	**Ι΄ Λουκα** | Νικολαου Επισκοπου Μυρων της Λυκιας του Θαυματουργου
Τετάρτη	9	Συλληψις Αγιας Ἀννης *(υπο καθορισμο)*
Σάββατο	12	Σπυριδωνος, Επισκοπου Τριμυθουντος Του Θαυματουργου
Κυριακή	**13**	**ΙΑ΄ Λουκα | Χριστουγεννιατικο Προγραμμα ωρα 11:30πμ**
Κυριακή	**20**	**Κυριακη προ της Χριστου Γεννησεως**
Τρίτη	22	Ανασταςιας Μεγαλομαρτυρος της Φαρμακευτριας
Πέμπτη	24	Παραμονη της Εορτης των Χριστουγεννων
Παρασκευή	**25**	**Η Γεννησις του Σωτηρος ημων Ιησου Χριστου**
Κυριακή	**27**	**Κυριακη μετα την Χριστου Γεννησιν | Στεφανου Πρωτομαρτυρος και Αρχιδιακονου**

Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος - ώρα 8:15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ

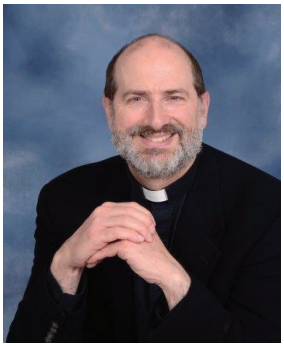
Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος - ώρα 8:00πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:00πμ

*Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα **9:30πμ**, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία θα συνεχίσουνε στις τάξης τους. -Αποφοίτηση Κατηχητικού σχολείου 23η Μαΐου*

Planting Seeds of Faith: Religious Education Is a Community Ministry

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." — 1 Corinthians 3:6

Rev Fr John Theodosion



There is a familiar American story about Johnny Appleseed, whose real name was John Chapman. He traveled throughout the American frontier planting apple seeds and establishing orchards in places where he believed communities would eventually grow. He often planted without knowing who would one day enjoy the fruit of his labor. He trusted that, in time, the seeds would grow into trees that would nourish and benefit others.

Johnny Appleseed understood something important: the person who plants a seed does not always live to see the harvest, but the harvest may never come without someone willing to plant.

This image offers a beautiful reflection on religious education in the Greek Orthodox Church. Every time we teach a child to pray, share a story from the Holy Scriptures, explain the meaning of a feast day, or demonstrate the love of Christ through our actions, we are planting a seed of faith. Yet the responsibility for nurturing these seeds belongs to more than our Sunday School teachers. **Religious education is a ministry of the entire parish community.**

Planting the Seeds of Faith

In the Parable of the Sower, our Lord Jesus Christ describes a sower scattering seeds across different kinds of soil. Some seeds fall on unproductive ground, while others fall on good soil and produce an abundant harvest (Luke 8:5–15). Jesus explains that the seed represents the Word of God.

Our Sunday School teachers play an essential role in this sacred work. Through their dedication, they introduce our children to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the wisdom of the saints, the beauty of our Orthodox worship, and the traditions that have sustained our faith for centuries.

They teach children to make the sign of the Cross, to pray, to forgive, and to love their neighbors. They help them understand the Nativity, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection of Christ. They introduce them to the Divine Liturgy and help them discover that the Church is not simply a building, but the living Body of Christ.

These lessons may seem small at times, but their influence can last a lifetime. A child may forget the details of a particular lesson but remember a prayer learned in the classroom. A story about a saint may inspire a young person years later. A teacher's kindness may help a child understand, perhaps for the first time, what it means to be loved and valued by Christ.

We should never underestimate the importance of this work. At the same time, we must recognize that the seeds planted in the classroom need an environment in which they can grow.

That is where the entire parish community comes in.

Beyond the Sunday School Classroom

Religious education does not begin when a child enters the classroom on Sunday morning, nor does it end when the lesson is finished. The formation of a Christian life takes place through the experiences, relationships, and examples that surround us every day.

Parents nurture faith when they pray with their children, speak about God at home, attend church together, and demonstrate forgiveness and compassion in family life. Clergy nurture faith through preaching, pastoral guidance, and the celebration of the Church's sacramental life. Sunday School teachers nurture faith through instruction

and encouragement. Parishioners of every age contribute when they welcome children, show interest in their lives, and demonstrate what it means to live as faithful Orthodox Christians.

Every member of the community has something to offer.

A grandparent who shares a cherished family prayer is participating in religious education. A parishioner who explains the meaning of an icon to a curious child is sharing the faith. A young adult who serves in a parish ministry demonstrates that the Church is a living community in which every generation has a place. A parishioner who welcomes a new family helps children understand that they belong to something larger than themselves.

These everyday encounters may not look like formal lessons, but they are powerful expressions of Christian formation.

Children learn about the faith through what we teach them, but they also learn what it means to be Christian by watching how we live.

If we teach forgiveness, they should see us forgive. If we teach generosity, they should see us give. If we teach the importance of worship, they should see us participating faithfully in the life of the Church. And if we teach that every person is created in the image of God, they should see us treating others with dignity, patience, and love.

Our example can either reinforce the lessons taught in the classroom or undermine them. Religious education, therefore, is not simply a program offered to children. It is a shared commitment to making the Gospel visible in the life of our parish.

A Tradition We Must Live and Share

St. John Chrysostom emphasized the importance of forming children in virtue and guiding them toward God from their earliest years. His teaching reminds us that Christian education involves much more than memorizing facts or learning the names of biblical figures. It is about forming hearts and minds to recognize God's presence and respond to His love.

This understanding is deeply rooted in Orthodox Christianity. Our faith is not merely information to be acquired; it is a life to be lived in communion with God and with one another.

Through the process of *theosis*, we grow in holiness and become more like Christ through His grace. Religious education helps introduce us to this lifelong journey. It teaches us to pray, repent, forgive, serve, and participate in the sacramental life of the Church.

Our Orthodox tradition offers children a rich spiritual inheritance: the Holy Scriptures, the Divine Liturgy, the lives of the saints, the sacred hymns and icons, the rhythm of the feasts and fasts, and the wisdom of the Church Fathers. But this inheritance must be more than something we preserve in books or pass along in a classroom. It must become a living reality within our families and our parish community.

When children see the faith practiced by people of different ages and backgrounds, they begin to understand that Christianity is not something they will eventually outgrow. It is a lifelong journey in which they are invited to participate now.

Our goal is not simply to prepare children to attend church when they are young. It is to help them develop a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ and a meaningful connection to His Church, so that they may continue to grow in faith throughout their lives.

Patience, Encouragement, and Shared Responsibility

The story of Johnny Appleseed also reminds us that growth takes time. No one plants an apple seed and expects a mature tree the next morning. Trees need nourishment, care, and patience.

The same is true of spiritual growth.

Some children will embrace the lessons they learn immediately. Others may struggle to understand

their significance. Some young people may remain closely connected to the Church as they grow older, while others may face questions, distractions, or periods of distance from their faith.

We cannot control every outcome, but we can continue to plant and nurture the seeds.

The Apostle Paul encourages us, "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

These words apply to everyone involved in religious education. They encourage our teachers to persevere, our parents to remain faithful in their example, our clergy to continue guiding the community, and every parishioner to recognize the value of sharing the faith with the next generation.

Sometimes, the fruit of our efforts will not become visible for many years. A child who seems inattentive today may one day recall a prayer during a difficult moment. A teenager who struggles with questions about faith may later discover a deeper appreciation for the Church. A young adult may return to the parish because someone took the time to make that person feel welcomed and loved.

We may never fully know how God uses our words, our actions, or our example to touch another person's heart. That uncertainty should not discourage us. Instead, it should inspire us to continue serving faithfully, trusting that God will bring forth growth in His time.

Together, We Cultivate the Garden

As we reflect on the importance of religious education, let us express our sincere gratitude to our Sunday School teachers for their dedication, preparation, and love. Their ministry is an indispensable part of the life of our parish.

But let us also recognize that they cannot do this work alone. Our children need the support of parents and grandparents, the guidance of clergy, the encouragement of parish leaders, and the example of the entire congregation. They need a community in which the Orthodox Christian faith is taught, practiced, celebrated, and shared.

Perhaps the most important question we can ask ourselves is this: **What kind of spiritual garden are we cultivating together?**

Are we creating a parish where children feel welcomed and valued? Are we encouraging young people to ask questions and grow in their understanding of the faith? Are we making opportunities for families and people of all ages to learn, pray, worship, and serve together? Are we sharing our faith through our actions as well as our words?

Each of us can contribute to the answer.

Like Johnny Appleseed, we may not live to see every tree mature or enjoy every harvest. But we can plant seeds today through our teaching, our service, our generosity, our prayers, and our love for one another.

Ultimately, the harvest belongs to God. Our responsibility is to remain faithful sowers, helping to create a community in which the Word of God can take root and flourish.

May the Lord bless our Sunday School teachers, strengthen our families, guide our clergy, and inspire every member of our parish to participate in the sacred ministry of sharing the Orthodox Christian faith. And may the seeds planted in our children today bear fruit not only in their own lives, but in the lives of generations yet to come.

Religious education is more than a Sunday morning activity. It is the shared work of building a community in which the faith is received, lived, and passed on—with love, from one generation to the next.

President's Message — November 2026

From Progress to Participation: Building Our Future Together

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
—1 Peter 4:10

Dear St. Andrew Parish Family,

As we approach the end of 2026, the words of the Apostle Peter remind us that each of us has been blessed with gifts meant to be shared in service with others. This message reflects the journey of our parish this year and the responsibility we share for its future.

This has been a year of meaningful progress. Through the generosity of our parishioners, the dedication of our volunteers, and the efforts of our Parish Council and ministry leaders, we completed several essential improvements, including replacing our fire alarm system, repairing our parking lot and sidewalks, installing new exterior lighting, and restoring our church ceiling.

These were necessary investments in the safety, functionality, and preservation of our parish home. I sincerely thank everyone whose contributions and efforts made these improvements possible.

From Listening to Action

Earlier this year, we invited parishioners to share their perspectives through the St. Andrew Voice Survey. Your feedback, together with our strategic planning workshops, helped us establish a shared vision for our future.

That vision is captured in our St. Andrew Strategy Wheel, centered on Orthodox Christian Faith and Worship and supported by priorities that include spiritual growth, youth and family engagement, community fellowship, stewardship, our Greek Orthodox heritage, responsible governance, and facility improvements.

The Strategy Wheel is our roadmap for aligning our ministries, resources, and decisions with the needs of our parish.

We listened, planned, and delivered. Now we need broader participation to build on that progress.

Stewardship: Our Shared Responsibility

As we prepare for 2027, we must recognize an important financial reality: stewardship contributions currently cover only approximately 43% of our annual operating expenses.

The remainder depends on fundraising, facility rentals, other income, and special donations. While these contributions are deeply appreciated, such heavy reliance on variable revenue creates uncertainty and limits our ability to plan confidently.

Our long-term objective is to increase stewardship participation and strengthen its contribution toward recurring expenses. We are considering 60–70% stewardship coverage as an aspirational planning benchmark, subject to further evaluation of our parish's financial circumstances.

A critical part of this effort is encouraging every parish family to make an annual stewardship pledge.

Pledges submitted early in the year, supported by consistent monthly contributions, help us develop realistic budgets, manage expenses, and maintain reliable cash flow. This is especially important during the summer, when contributions and fundraising activities often decline while our financial obligations continue.

Every pledge helps us plan. Every contribution helps us deliver.

I encourage each family to participate according to their ability. Stewardship is not measured solely in dollars; it also includes the time, talents, and service we offer to Christ and His Church.

Make Your Giving Go Further Through Employer Matching

Many employers offer matching-gift programs that can double the impact of an employee's charitable donation. If you or a family member works for a

company that offers this benefit, please check with your Human Resources department or employer's giving portal to see whether donations to St. Andrew qualify. Employer matching is a simple opportunity to increase the impact of your generosity at no additional personal cost.

Our future depends on broader participation in all forms of stewardship.

November General Assembly: Shaping Our Future

I strongly encourage every parishioner to attend our November General Assembly. This meeting is particularly important because the decisions and initiatives presented will directly affect our financial stability, infrastructure, ministries, and plans for 2027.

Six key matters will be addressed:

1. Approval of the 2027 Operating Budget

We will present the proposed budget for approval, including opportunities to strengthen recurring income, manage expenses, and improve our long-term financial sustainability.

2. Approval of the 2027 Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Plan

Several critical repairs to our aging infrastructure require attention and dedicated funding. We will present our capital priorities for approval, focusing on safety, facility preservation, and responsible financial planning.

3. Communication of the Metropolis-Endorsed Parish By-Laws

The updated By-Laws, reviewed and endorsed by the Metropolis and its legal staff, will be shared with parishioners ahead of the General Assembly for their information. We will provide an overview of the governance framework and its implementation.

4. Approval of the St. Andrew Endowment Program

We will seek approval to establish an Endowment Program, with partial funding support from Metropolis, to help create lasting financial resources for our church and future generations.

5. Launch of "Follow, Share, Build — Saint Andrew Giving Week"

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and the Feast Day of St. Andrew, we will launch a parish-wide campaign encouraging families to follow the example of Saint Andrew, share their blessings, and help build a stronger parish through generosity and renewed stewardship.

6. Reaffirming Our St. Andrew Strategy Wheel

We will demonstrate how our 2027 priorities, investments, and ministry plans align with the shared vision developed through parishioner feedback and strategic planning.

These are important steps toward turning our vision into action. Your attendance and support are essential.

Our Future Depends on All of Us

For generations, St. Andrew has been a spiritual home where families have worshipped, celebrated, served, and preserved our Orthodox faith and traditions.

But its future cannot depend on the dedication or financial support of only a few individuals.

We need more families engaged in parish life, more volunteers supporting our ministries, and broader participation in stewardship to ensure that St. Andrew continues to thrive.

Please make the November General Assembly a priority. Come informed, understand the challenges and opportunities before us, and take an active role in shaping our future.

Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Your participation matters.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and prepare for the Feast Day of our patron saint, St. Andrew, let us express our gratitude through our actions and commitment to one another.

With God's guidance and our collective efforts, we can build a stronger, more vibrant, and financially sustainable parish for generations to come.

You spoke. We listened. We planned. We delivered. Now, together, we must participate.

With gratitude and faith,

Michael Serghiou

Parish Council President

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

Μήνυμα Προέδρου – Νοέμβριος 2026
Από την Πρόοδο στη Συμμετοχή: Χτίζουμε Μαζί το Μέλλον μας

«Ο καθένας σας ας χρησιμοποιεί το χάρισμα που έχει λάβει για να προσφέρει στους άλλους, σαν καλός διαχειριστής της πολύμορφης χάρης του Θεού». — Α΄ Πέτρου 4:10

Αγαπητά μέλη της ενοριακής μας οικογένειας του Αγίου Ανδρέα,

Καθώς πλησιάζουμε στο τέλος του 2026, τα λόγια του Αποστόλου Πέτρου μάς θυμίζουν ότι ο καθένας μας έχει λάβει χαρίσματα που καλείται να μοιραστεί με τους άλλους. Αυτό το μήνυμα εκφράζει όσα ζήσαμε φέτος ως ενορία, αλλά και την κοινή μας ευθύνη για το μέλλον της.
Η φετινή χρονιά ήταν μια χρονιά σημαντικής προόδου. Χάρη στη γενναιοδωρία των ενοριτών μας, την προσφορά των εθελοντών και τη δουλειά του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου και των υπευθύνων των διακονιών, ολοκληρώσαμε αρκετά απαραίτητα έργα. Ανάμεσά τους ήταν η αντικατάσταση του συστήματος πυρανίχνευσης, οι επισκευές στον χώρο στάθμευσης και στα πεζοδρόμια, ο νέος εξωτερικός φωτισμός και η αποκατάσταση της οροφής του ναού.
Τα έργα αυτά ήταν απαραίτητα για την ασφάλεια, τη σωστή λειτουργία και τη συντήρηση των εγκαταστάσεών μας. Ευχαριστώ θερμά όλους όσοι βοήθησαν με τις δωρεές και την προσωπική τους προσφορά.

Από το να Ακούμε, στο να Κάνουμε Πράξη

Νωρίτερα φέτος, ζητήσαμε από τους ενορίτες μας να μοιραστούν τις απόψεις τους μέσα από την έρευνα «Η Φωνή του Αγίου Ανδρέα». Οι απαντήσεις σας, μαζί με τις συναντήσεις στρατηγικού σχεδιασμού, μας βοήθησαν να διαμορφώσουμε ένα κοινό όραμα για το μέλλον.
Το όραμα αυτό αποτυπώνεται στον Στρατηγικό Τροχό του Αγίου Ανδρέα, με επίκεντρο την Ορθόδοξη Χριστιανική Πίστη και τη Λατρεία. Οι βασικές μας προτεραιότητες περιλαμβάνουν την πνευματική ανάπτυξη, τη νεολαία και τις οικογένειες, την ενοριακή ζωή, την οικονομική στήριξη, την ελληνική ορθόδοξη παράδοσή μας, τη σωστή διοίκηση και τη φροντίδα των εγκαταστάσεών μας.
Ο Στρατηγικός Τροχός είναι ο οδηγός μας για να οργανώνουμε καλύτερα τις διακονίες, τους πόρους και τις αποφάσεις μας.
Ακούσαμε τις απόψεις σας, σχεδιάσαμε και κάναμε σημαντικά βήματα. Τώρα χρειαζόμαστε μεγαλύτερη συμμετοχή από όλους.

Η Οικονομική Στήριξη Είναι Ευθύνη Όλων Μας

Καθώς προετοιμαζόμαστε για το 2027, πρέπει να αναγνωρίσουμε μια σημαντική οικονομική πραγματικότητα: οι ετήσιες εισφορές των ενοριτών καλύπτουν σήμερα μόλις το 43% περίπου των λειτουργικών εξόδων της ενορίας μας.
Τα υπόλοιπα καλύπτονται από εκδηλώσεις, ενοικιάσεις χώρων, άλλες πηγές εσόδων και ειδικές δωρεές. Παρόλο που εκτιμούμε ιδιαίτερα αυτή τη στήριξη, η μεγάλη εξάρτηση από έσοδα που δεν είναι σταθερά δημιουργεί αβεβαιότητα και δυσκολεύει τον οικονομικό προγραμματισμό μας.
Μακροπρόθεσμα, στόχος μας είναι να αυξήσουμε τη συμμετοχή των ενοριτών, ώστε οι τακτικές εισφορές να καλύπτουν μεγαλύτερο μέρος των λειτουργικών εξόδων. Εξετάζουμε ως ενδεικτικό στόχο το 60–70%, λαμβάνοντας πάντα υπόψη τις οικονομικές δυνατότητες και ανάγκες της ενορίας μας.
Ένα σημαντικό βήμα είναι κάθε οικογένεια να κάνει την ετήσια δήλωση οικονομικής προσφοράς της.
Όταν γνωρίζουμε από την αρχή της χρονιάς τι σκοπεύει να προσφέρει κάθε οικογένεια και οι εισφορές καταβάλλονται τακτικά, μπορούμε να ετοιμάζουμε πιο ρεαλιστικούς προϋπολογισμούς και να διαχειριζόμαστε καλύτερα τα οικονομικά μας.
Αυτό είναι ιδιαίτερα σημαντικό το καλοκαίρι, όταν οι εισφορές και οι εκδηλώσεις μειώνονται, αλλά τα έξοδα της εκκλησίας συνεχίζονται κανονικά.
Κάθε ετήσια δέσμευση μάς βοηθά να προγραμματίζουμε. Κάθε εισφορά μάς βοηθά να κάνουμε πράξη όσα σχεδιάζουμε.

Παροτρύνω κάθε οικογένεια να συμμετέχει ανάλογα με τις δυνατότητές της. Η προσφορά προς την εκκλησία δεν είναι μόνο οικονομική. Είναι και ο χρόνος, οι ικανότητες και η προσωπική μας υπηρεσία προς τον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία Του.

Αξιοποιήστε τα Προγράμματα Διπλασιασμού Δωρεών από τον Εργοδότη σας

Πολλές εταιρείες προσφέρουν προγράμματα μέσω των οποίων μπορούν να διπλασιάσουν τη δωρεά ενός εργαζομένου προς έναν φιλανθρωπικό οργανισμό. Αν εσείς ή κάποιο μέλος της οικογένειάς σας εργάζεται σε μια τέτοια εταιρεία, ρωτήστε το τμήμα Ανθρώπινου Δυναμικού ή ελέγξτε το πρόγραμμα δωρεών της εταιρείας σας για να δείτε αν οι εισφορές προς τον Άγιο Ανδρέα μπορούν να ενισχυθούν με αυτόν τον τρόπο. Είναι μια ευκαιρία να αυξήσουμε την οικονομική στήριξη της ενορίας μας χωρίς επιπλέον προσωπικό κόστος.
Το μέλλον μας εξαρτάται από τη μεγαλύτερη συμμετοχή όλων μας, με κάθε μορφή προσφοράς.

Γενική Συνέλευση Νοεμβρίου: Αποφάσεις για το Μέλλον μας

Σας καλώ όλους να παρευρεθείτε στη Γενική Συνέλευση του Νοεμβρίου. Η συνάντηση αυτή είναι ιδιαίτερα σημαντική, καθώς οι αποφάσεις και οι πρωτοβουλίες που θα παρουσιαστούν θα επηρεάσουν την οικονομική σταθερότητα, τις εγκαταστάσεις, τις διακονίες και τα σχέδιά μας για το 2027.
Θα εξετάσουμε έξι βασικά θέματα:
1. Έγκριση του Λειτουργικού Προϋπολογισμού για το 2027
Θα παρουσιάσουμε τον προτεινόμενο προϋπολογισμό για έγκριση, μαζί με τις ενέργειες που χρειάζονται για την αύξηση των σταθερών εσόδων, τον έλεγχο των εξόδων και την οικονομική βιωσιμότητα της ενορίας μας.
2. Έγκριση του Προγράμματος Κεφαλαιουχικών Δαπανών (CAPEX) για το 2027
Ορισμένες σημαντικές επισκευές στις παλαιότερες εγκαταστάσεις μας χρειάζονται άμεση προσοχή και ξεχωριστή χρηματοδότηση. Θα παρουσιάσουμε τις προτεραιότητές μας για έγκριση, με έμφαση στην ασφάλεια, τη συντήρηση και τον υπεύθυνο οικονομικό προγραμματισμό.
3. Ενημέρωση για τον Εσωτερικό Κανονισμό της Ενορίας
Ο ανανεωμένος Εσωτερικός Κανονισμός, που έχει εξεταστεί και εγκριθεί από την Ιερά Μητρόπολη και τους νομικούς της συμβούλους, θα σταλεί στους ενορίτες πριν από τη Γενική Συνέλευση για ενημέρωση. Θα παρουσιάσουμε το πλαίσιο διοίκησης και τον τρόπο εφαρμογής του.
4. Έγκριση του Προγράμματος Μακροπρόθεσμου Αποθεματικού Κεφαλαίου (Endowment Program)
Θα ζητήσουμε την έγκριση για τη δημιουργία ενός μακροπρόθεσμου κεφαλαίου, με μερική οικονομική στήριξη από την Ιερά Μητρόπολη, που θα βοηθήσει στη διασφάλιση του μέλλοντος της εκκλησίας και των επόμενων γενεών.
5. Έναρξη της Εβδομάδας Προσφοράς «Follow, Share, Build — Saint Andrew Giving Week»
Με αφορμή την Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών και τη γιορτή του Αγίου Ανδρέα, ξεκινάμε μια κοινή προσπάθεια προσφοράς. Καλούμε κάθε οικογένεια να ακολουθήσει το παράδειγμα του Χριστού, να μοιραστεί τις ευλογίες της και να βοηθήσει να χτίσουμε μια πιο δυνατή ενορία.
6. Επιβεβαίωση του Στρατηγικού Τροχού του Αγίου Ανδρέα
Θα παρουσιάσουμε πώς οι προτεραιότητες, τα έργα και τα προγράμματα του 2027 συνδέονται με το κοινό όραμα που διαμορφώσαμε μέσα από τις απόψεις των ενοριτών και τον στρατηγικό μας σχεδιασμό.
Τα έξι αυτά θέματα είναι σημαντικά βήματα για να μετατρέψουμε το όραμά μας σε πράξη. Η παρουσία και η στήριξή σας είναι απαραίτητες.

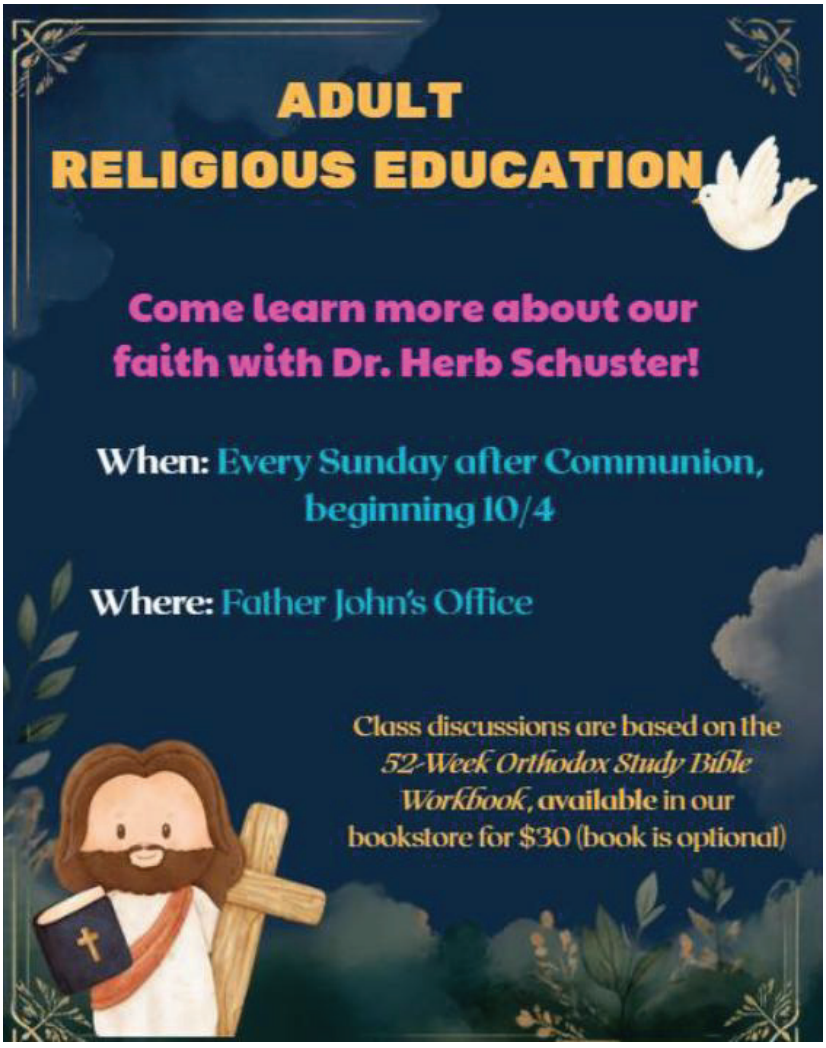
Το Μέλλον του Αγίου Ανδρέα Εξαρτάται από Όλους Μας

Για πολλές γενιές, ο Άγιος Ανδρέας υπήρξε το πνευματικό σπίτι όπου οι οικογένειές μας προσεύχονται, γιορτάζουν, προσφέρουν και διατηρούν ζωντανή την Ορθόδοξη πίστη και την παράδοσή μας.

Όμως, το μέλλον της ενορίας μας δεν μπορεί να στηρίζεται μόνο στις προσπάθειες ή στην οικονομική βοήθεια λίγων ανθρώπων.
Χρειαζόμαστε περισσότερες οικογένειες να συμμετέχουν στην ενοριακή ζωή, περισσότερους εθελοντές στις διακονίες και μεγαλύτερη συμμετοχή στην οικονομική στήριξη της εκκλησίας μας.
Σας παρακαλώ να δώσετε προτεραιότητα στη Γενική Συνέλευση του Νοεμβρίου. Ελάτε ενημερωμένοι, ακούστε τις προκλήσεις και τις ευκαιρίες που έχουμε μπροστά μας και συμμετέχετε ενεργά στη διαμόρφωση του μέλλοντός μας.
Η παρουσία σας μετράει. Η γνώμη σας μετράει. Η συμμετοχή σας μετράει.
Καθώς γιορτάζουμε την Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών και ετοιμαζόμαστε για τη γιορτή του προστάτη μας, Αγίου Ανδρέα, ας δείξουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη μας με τις πράξεις και τη δέσμευσή μας προς την ενοριακή μας οικογένεια.
Με τη βοήθεια του Θεού και την κοινή μας προσπάθεια, μπορούμε να χτίσουμε έναν πιο δυνατό, ζωντανό και οικονομικά βιώσιμο Άγιο Ανδρέα για τις επόμενες γενιές.
Μας μιλήσατε. Σας ακούσαμε. Σχεδιάσαμε. Κάναμε πράξη όσα υποσχεθήκαμε. Τώρα είναι η ώρα να συμμετέχουμε όλοι μαζί.



Με ευγνωμοσύνη και πίστη,
Μιχάλης Σεργίου
Πρόεδρος Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου
Ελληνορθόδοξη Εκκλησία Αγίου Ανδρέα



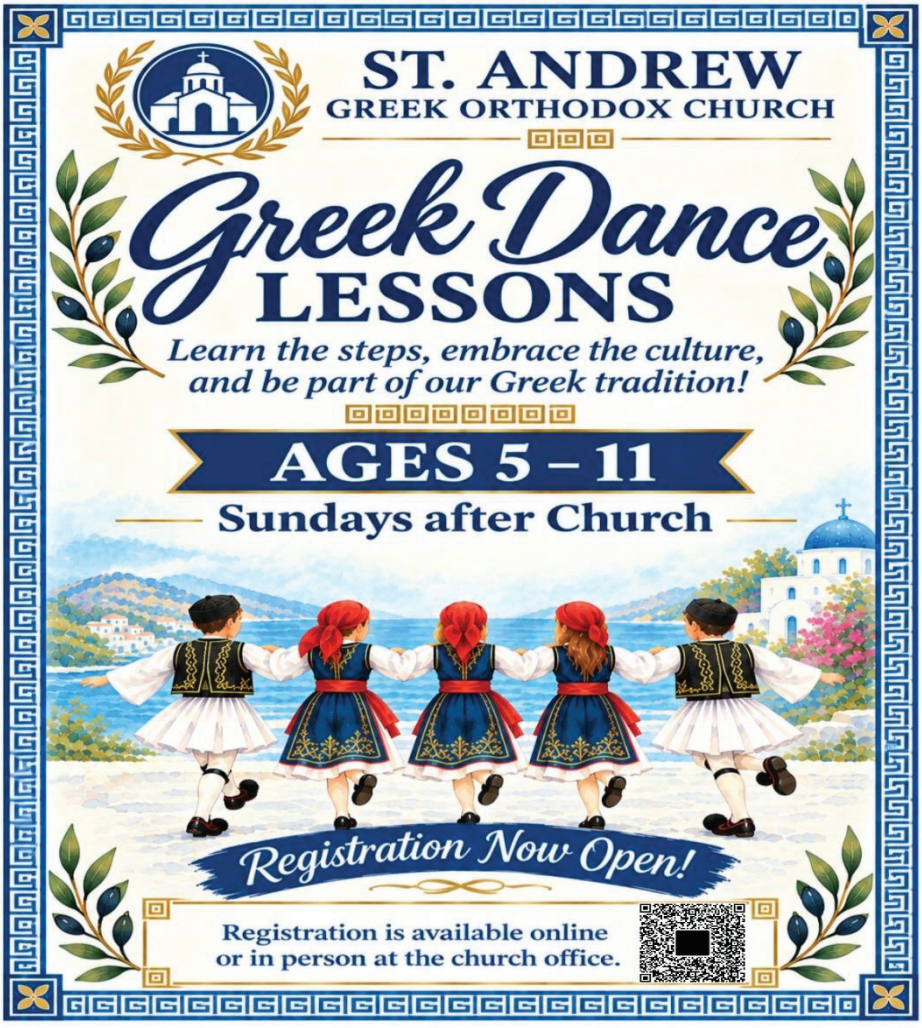
Saint Andrew GOYA News: November 2026

Hello, Saint Andrew community!

We hope you've been having a great year so far, and that you're excited for the activities to come. GOYA has been very active this year. This past October marked the start of Greek dance with our new coach, Stella Maroules. She is a great addition to our GOYA family. This year, we are learning dances from Pontos. Additionally, we kicked off our sports with a win against Clifton for all teams who played them. In November, we hope to continue this success with our games against Paramus, Roseland, and Wyckoff. The Harvest Dance in Asbury Park/Ocean had amazing attendance, and we are looking forward to more fall festivities, including the Bowling Tournament in Fairview, NJ.

All interested and new members are encouraged to join the youth group. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to attend any meeting to ask questions about GOYA! We welcome all new members.

We are so happy that the GOYA season is off to a great start. We can't wait to continue the year with fun, faith, and fellowship!



Thank you to everyone who supported us and to all who helped with our **Big Greek Gyro & Souvlaki Fest**.

We couldn't have done it without you!









A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR MERCEDES RAFFLE WINNER...

Dear Saint Andrew Family,

I cannot fully express my gratitude for this tremendous blessing. I am in awe of God's glory and feel truly blessed to have been surrounded by my church family as we received such a wonderful gift.

Saint Andrew has been a family to us since the day we walked through its doors in 2013. From the very beginning, the parish welcomed us with open arms and stood by us through life's most turbulent times. It was the faith, love, and reassurance of this community that gave me strength as I settled into a new town, far from my own family, as a widow raising my young children on my own.

Saint Andrew helped make God's teachings a natural part of our everyday lives. Both of my children grew up experiencing the joy of worship through Sunday services, Sunday School, GOYA, and the many activities that nurtured our bonds of family and faith. These experiences made our church not just a place of worship, but a true home where our faith grew and our family found love, strength, and belonging.

In Saint Andrew, I found an extended family that has supported us in ways words can never fully express.

Thank you, once again, for your love and generosity. I am forever grateful to God for blessing us with the gift of our Saint Andrew family.

With greatest gratitude,
Eleni Koukoularis



FILOTIMO
STEWARDSHIP

SAINT ANDREW GIVING WEEK

November 22–30, 2026

As we approach November 30th, the Feast Day of Saint Andrew the Apostle, we are reminded of the spirit of generosity, sacrifice, and *filotimo* that has sustained our parish community throughout the years. This beautiful occasion invites us to come together as a parish family and celebrate that spirit by giving back and building upon the strong foundation we have created together. From **November 22nd through November 30th**, Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church will celebrate **Giving Week,** centered on three simple principles:

Follow. Share. Build.

Follow The Example of Saint Andrew

Saint Andrew, the son of Jonas and the brother of Simon Peter, was a disciple of John the Baptist. On hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus — "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) — Andrew followed Christ and became His first disciple. According to the Gospel of John, after meeting Christ, Andrew went to find his brother Simon Peter, told him that they had found the Messiah and brought Simon to Jesus (John 1:40-42).

He continued to **follow** Christ throughout His earthly ministry and became one of the Twelve Apostles. After the Ascension of our Savior, he preached in various lands, including Asia Minor, the Black Sea region, Greece and Cyprus. He ultimately gave his life in martyrdom at Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X", the first letter of "Christ" in Greek.

Saint Andrew as the First-Called Apostle —*Protokletos* — reminds us that following Christ is not merely about where we go on Sunday. It is about how we live, how we serve, what we are willing to sacrifice, and what we are willing to give to something greater than ourselves.

Share What We Have Received

One of the most powerful things about Saint Andrew is what he did after his encounter with Christ. He brought his brother Simon Peter along with him, sharing what he received. We have each received something from our Church: our Orthodox faith, the Divine Liturgy, our traditions, our friendships, the opportunity to raise our children in the faith, and a spiritual home where generations of families have gathered. What we have received is not meant to end with us.

We are called to **share**. Share your blessings. Share your faith with a friend. Bring a family member, a young person, or someone who has been away, into the life of the Church. Give your time and talents. And during Giving Week, give with a generous heart.

Saint Andrew demonstrated this spirit through his life of service and sacrifice. He answered Christ's call, brought others to Him, preached the Gospel, and ultimately gave his life for his faith. As we celebrate his feast, we can honor his example by asking ourselves: What can I give?
What can I do? How can I help build the Church for those who come after me?

Build Our Parish's Future

Our Giving Week has a very specific and important purpose: **to help close the gap between our parish's stewardship offerings and the expenses necessary to sustain our church and its ministries.** This is an opportunity for our entire parish family to come together in support of a shared responsibility. Every contribution helps. Every gift is an expression of faith and a commitment to our parish. And every dollar we collect this week brings us closer to meeting our financial needs and maintaining a strong foundation for the future.

Supporting our parish's financial needs is more than balancing a budget. It is about **building**. It is about building a parish that can continue to serve its members and carry out its ministries. It is about building opportunities for our children and young adults. It is about sustaining a Church that future generations will inherit and, God willing, continue to strengthen.

You may also be able to multiply the impact of your gift through your employer's charitable matching program. Many companies match eligible employee donations to nonprofit organizations, potentially increasing the support our parish receives at no additional cost to you. We encourage you to check with your employer to see whether your contribution qualifies for a matching gift.

From **November 22 through November 30**, let us come together as one Saint Andrew family. Let us honor our patron saint by celebrating his feast and by embracing the example he left us.

May Saint Andrew intercede on behalf of our parish and guide us as we build a stronger future together.

With sincere gratitude and prayers,
The Stewardship Committee

SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL MODEL

STEWARDSHIP

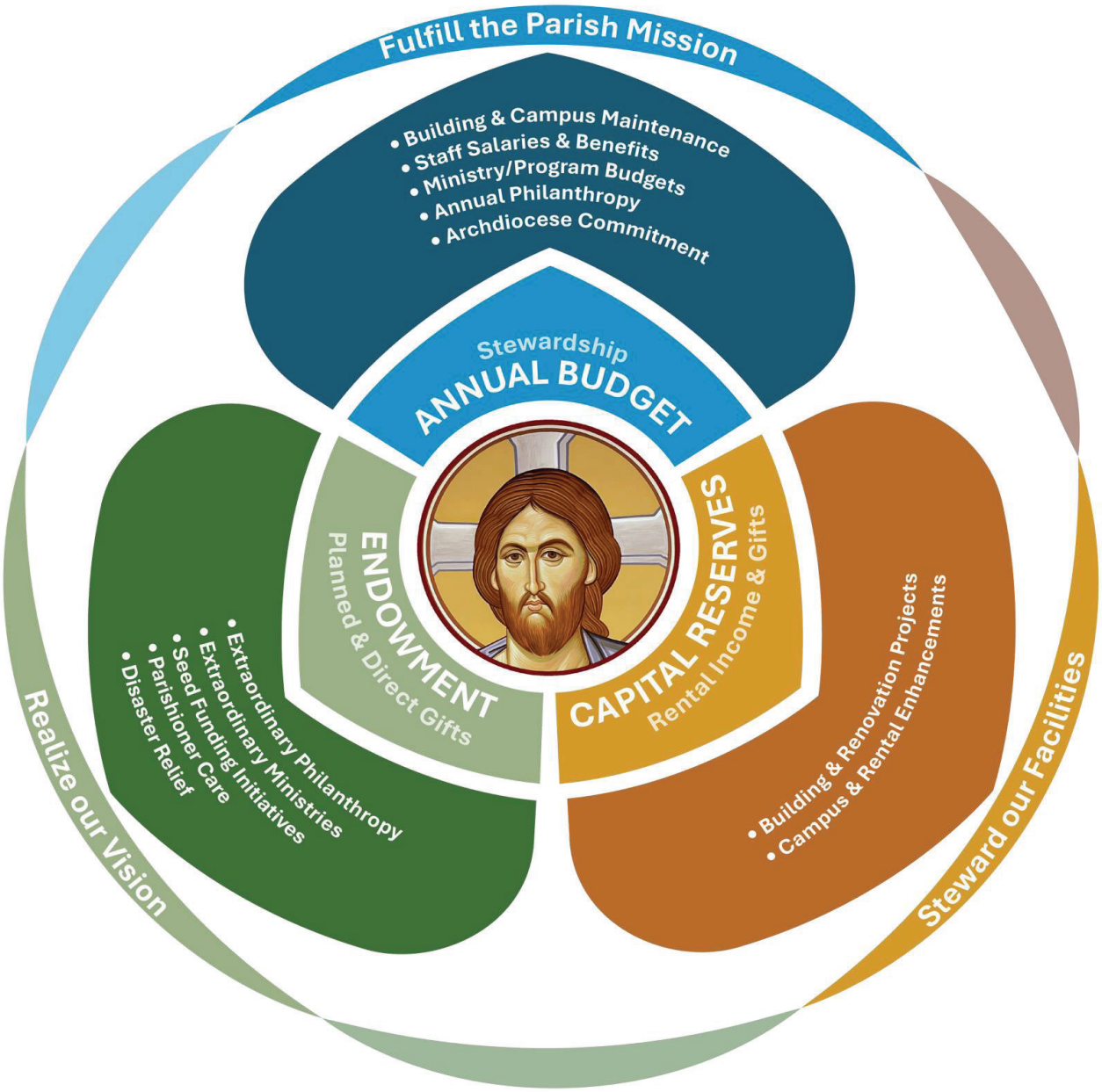
We are called to exercise our Orthodox Christian Stewardship three ways – Annual Giving/Tithing, Capital & Special Giving, and Planned Giving/Endowment. Through these three channels, we can bring the mission and vision of our work as the Church to fruition.

- Annual Giving - funds the annual budget through tithing of our first fruits, supporting the operation of the Church.

- Major Gifts - offerings to sustain specific needs. Capital contributions fund facilities and improvements.

- Planned Giving/Endowment - a one-time offering of the first fruits of our wealth or gain. Provides for the long-term security of the parish while giving back to the community.

Continued on next page


Fulfill the Parish Mission
• Building & Campus Maintenance
• Staff Salaries & Benefits
• Ministry/Program Budgets
• Annual Philanthropy
• Archdiocese Commitment
Stewardship
ANNUAL BUDGET
ENDOWMENT
Planned & Direct Gifts
CAPITAL RESERVES
Rental Income & Gifts
• Extraordinary Philanthropy
• Extraordinary Ministries
• Seed Funding Initiatives
• Parishioner Care
• Disaster Relief
• Building & Renovation Projects
• Campus & Rental Enhancements
Realize our Vision
Steward our Facilities

A.H.E.P.A. News: November 2026

As mentioned last month, the proceeds of the Semi-quincentennial Raffle will be used to obtain a service dog for a deserving veteran. This has been an ongoing project for a few years and it's good to see that our goal has been reached. Our chapter will be supporting the Cancer Research Project, which the New Jersey A.H.E.P.A. family has adopted as its charitable cause.

Our Brew Night was the next chapter activity. It was a quiet, relaxing event at the Diamond Springs Brewery in downtown Denville held on October 28th. The sole fundraising aspect was a 50-50 raffle.

We will be having two other combined events with Roseland. Our Cigar Night will take place at The Knolls in Boonton on May 6, 2027. It is an open event, and friends and wives are encouraged to attend. There will be plenty of good food and music. Smoking will occur outside so the indoor environment will be smoke-free. Please support us since this is our primary fund-raising event!

Our Bourbon Night has been rescheduled as well. It will be on December 17th. This event is open to all! It will be held at the Jersey Spirits Distilling Co. in Fairfield.

In closing, we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and look forward to having you support our events.



Religious Education
St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
religioused@standrewgonj.org

Sunday School News: Fall 2026

As we continue to grow in our Faith, so does our enrollment. It has been a great start to the Sunday School year! Nothing would be possible, however, without our devoted teachers who continue to lead their classes with love, enthusiasm, and a commitment to facilitating growth in our Orthodox Faith. **This month, we would like to highlight our kindergarten/first grade teachers**, who create lessons that include readings, hymns, crafts, and creative fun!

Maria Galvin



Maria is a lifelong member of Saint Andrew and has been teaching Religious Education for more than twenty years! Her favorite part about teaching her students is when they are upstairs in church and are able to participate in the Lord's Prayer and the hymns they learned in class. She still has the Nativity ornament from her childhood Sunday School teacher as well as fond memories of attending (and assisting!) classes as a child. In addition to teaching, Maria is also the recording secretary of the Philoptochos, a member of the Education Committee, and a board member of the Daughters of Penelope. Outside of Saint Andrew, she is a retired teacher of 27 years and enjoys golfing, volunteer work, and watching her two boys' sporting events.



Presvytera Athena Theodosion

Presvytera Athena has been a part of the Saint Andrew parish for 22 years! She previously taught Sunday School at Saint George in Clifton for six years, and she has been a teacher with us for eight years. Her favorite thing about being a Religious Education teacher is seeing the children, especially the young ones, really understand in their hearts what she is trying to teach them. Besides teaching, Presvytera volunteers at the festival and is a member of the Philoptochos. Outside of the church, she works at Fernbrook Elementary School as a paraprofessional. She loves being a member of Saint Andrew and feels truly blessed to be here with her family!

Religious Education

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

religioused@standrewgonj.org

Student Highlights from September & October…

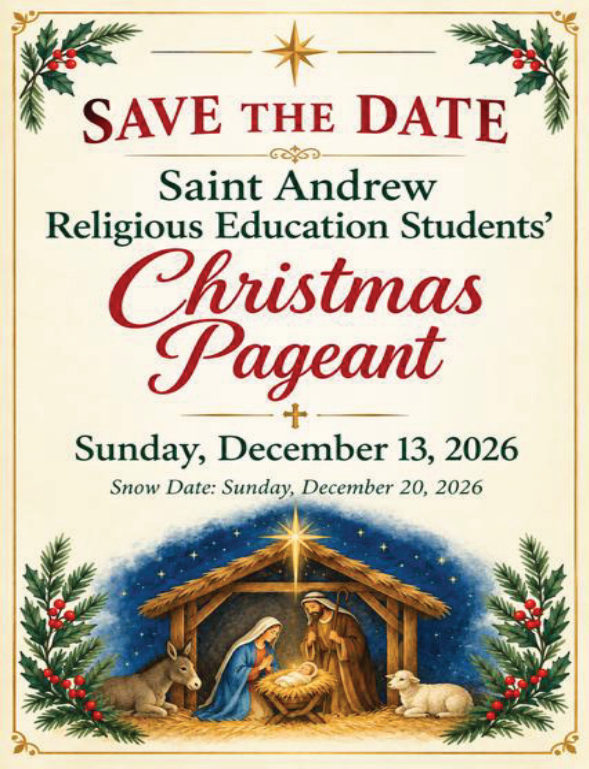
- Congratulations to the below **9th – 12th grade** students who have achieved perfect attendance for the month of **September:**

  Yanni Aspromatis, Andreas Hambos, Despina Kontogiannis, Stamatina Mousis, Andrew Theodosion, Joseph Theodosion

- Congratulations to John Bakker, who was the winner of the candy corn guessing game during Ministry Sunday!

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events…

- November 29th & 30th: Students will be involved with celebrating Saint Andrew Day
- December 13th (Snow Date Dec. 20th): Our annual **Christmas Pageant** is not so far away! Rehearsal will be held on December 6th after church. All students will participate!



If Christ Came to Earth Today…

If Christ came to earth today, perhaps we would not treat Him the way we would like to believe we would.

Because we have learned to judge a person by their appearance, their clothes, their money, their position, their mistakes, their past.

Perhaps we would pass Him by because He would not seem important enough to us.

Perhaps we would comment about Him without knowing Him.

Perhaps we would question Him because He would not fit our own expectations.

And the most painful part?

Perhaps we would talk to Him about love, while just a little farther away we would ignore a person who was hurting.



Because many times, Christ does not need to come to earth again for us to encounter Him.

He comes before us every day.

In the person who asks for a conversation.

In the elderly person who waits for a smile.

In the wounded person who needs understanding.

In the one whom everyone else has rejected.

And then our faith is not judged by how beautifully we speak about Christ.

It is judged by how we treat His people.

Because we may worship Christ inside the church and hurt Him outside it, every time we hurt another person.

Perhaps, then, if Christ came today, His first question would not be:

“How much have you learned about Me?”

But:

“How much love did you give to the person I placed in your path today?”

Αν ο Χριστός ερχόταν σήμερα στην γη…

Αν ο Χριστός ερχόταν σήμερα στην γη, ίσως δεν θα Τον αντιμετωπίζαμε όπως θα θέλαμε να πιστεύουμε.

Γιατί έχουμε μάθει να κρίνουμε τον άνθρωπο από την εμφάνιση, τα ρούχα, τα χρήματα, την θέση του, τα λάθη του, το παρελθόν του.

Ίσως θα Τον προσπερνούσαμε επειδή δεν θα μας φαινόταν αρκετά σημαντικός.

Ίσως θα Τον σχολιάζαμε χωρίς να Τον γνωρίζουμε.

Ίσως θα Τον αμφισβητούσαμε επειδή δεν θα ταίριαζε στις δικές μας προσδοκίες.

Και το πιο οδυνηρό;

Ίσως θα Του μιλούσαμε για αγάπη, ενώ λίγο πιο πέρα θα αδιαφορούσαμε για έναν άνθρωπο που πονούσε.

Γιατί πολλές φορές δεν χρειάζεται να έρθει ο Χριστός ξανά στην γη για να Τον συναντήσουμε.

Έρχεται καθημερινά μπροστά μας.

Στον άνθρωπο που ζητά μια κουβέντα.

Στον ηλικιωμένο που περιμένει ένα χαμόγελο.

Στον πληγωμένο που χρειάζεται κατανόηση.

Σε εκείνον που όλοι έχουν απορρίψει.

Και τότε η πίστη μας δεν κρίνεται από το πόσο όμορφα μιλάμε για τον Χριστό.

Κρίνεται από το πώς φερόμαστε στους ανθρώπους Του.

Γιατί μπορεί να προσκυνούμε τον Χριστό μέσα στον ναό και να Τον πληγώνουμε έξω από αυτόν, κάθε φορά που πληγώνουμε έναν άνθρωπο.

Ίσως λοιπόν, αν ερχόταν σήμερα ο Χριστός, η πρώτη Του ερώτηση να μην ήταν:

«Πόσα έμαθες για Εμένα;»

Αλλά:

«Πόση αγάπη έδωσες στον άνθρωπο που έβαλα σήμερα στον δρόμο σου;»

Agape News: November 2026

Agape started the year with a fun and active gathering! The morning commenced with chair exercises led by energetic **Faye Paskas**, followed by a delicious luncheon an informative and engaging presentation from **TJ Borzeka**, CPA, on the NJ Anchor Benefit Program, "…New Jersey's property tax relief program. This program sends a yearly payment to residents who own or rent their main home, whether they're seniors or not…" It was a wonderful time of fellowship, laughter, learning and good food.

This Fall, our plans are to have **Jack Kelly** speak to us about **"Scams and the Elderly."** This is an educational and important meeting as we learn how to recognize and protect ourselves from common scams. Additionally, and by popular demand, **Faye Paskas will once again guide us in chair exercises!** At our meetings, you can expect to move and learn and *always* laugh, as well as enjoy some wonderful fellowship with your Agape friends.

Please don't forget to **save these dates:**

- **Thursday, November 19th** – Agape **Thanksgiving** Luncheon
- **Thursday, December 10th** – Agape **Christmas** Luncheon

We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing more wonderful times of fellowship, friendship, food and fun!




I AM Hope NJ
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 2026
6PM - 11PM
Masquerade
TRICKY TRAY
TICKET PRICE
$100 BEFORE 10/1/2026
$125 AFTER 10/1/2026
SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS
OPEN BAR
DINNER
DANCING
TRICKY TRAYS
PRIZES
50/50
MEADOW WOOD 461 NJ 10 RANDOLPH, NJ
CONTACT: IAMHOPENJ.ORG
973-865-4852
I AM Hope NJ is betting on you to support our mission to break the cycle of poverty
in the lives of women and children throughout NJ through our campassionate programs.
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REMEMBERING YOUR TASK

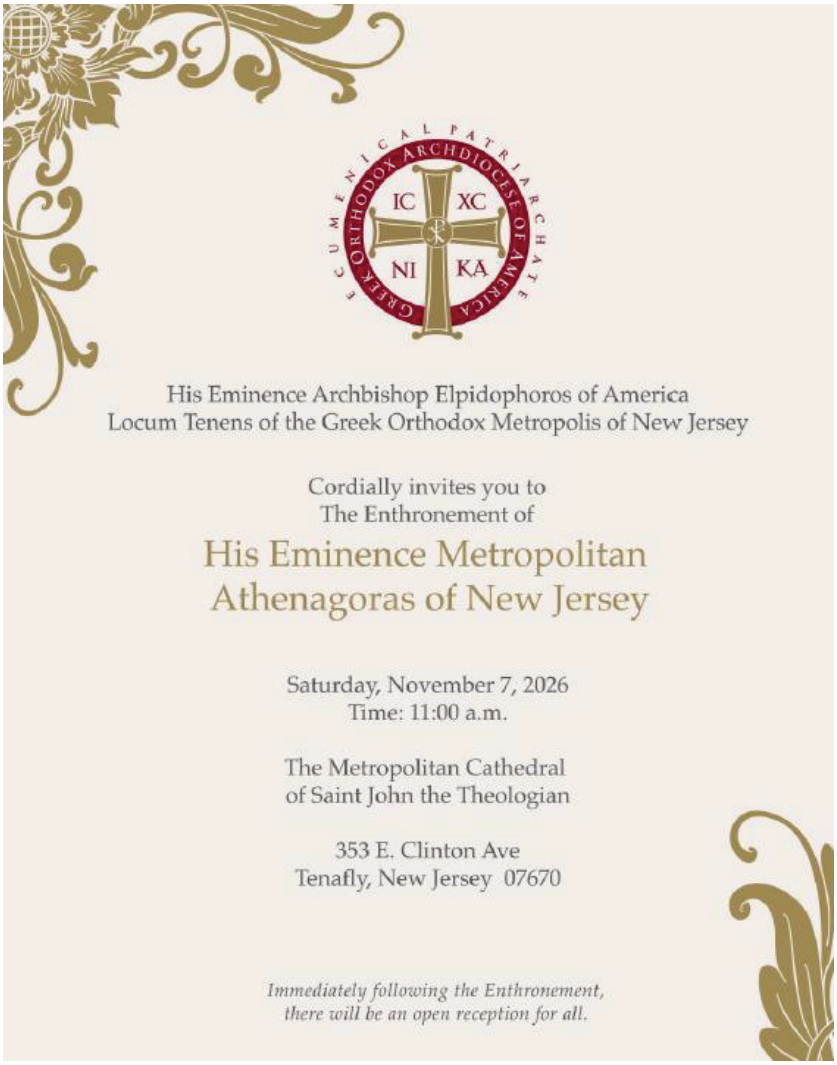


On a recent rainy morning, when the weather dissuaded me from my usual run, I stayed indoors and did a strength session instead. After a particularly strenuous set, I found myself resting on the floor, arms at ninety degrees and legs straight out. As I slowly listened to the sound of my breathing, I suddenly realized that my position was exactly the same as Christ's on the cross.

The recovery period became meditative. Being a Christian and perhaps especially an Orthodox Christian can be a daunting task. And yet, my body's positioning reminded me of how simple it really is. Just try to be like Christ. That's it. The Gospels are chock full of His loving instruction. Love your neighbor. Take care of each other. Take care of the least of you.

And then, still prone, I imagined the suffering Christ endured on the cross. Excruciating pain. Torment. And despite his divinity, he experienced this unbearable onslaught as a man. For us. For our salvation. So that we wouldn't have to. The Redeemer.

-Anthony A. Boyadjis



PARENTS' CORNER

-Alexandra Protopapas

NOVEMBER 2026: GRATITUDE, CULTURE, and SAINT ANDREW DAY

There is so much to think about in November and many things to do! Let's begin with GRATITUDE and ideas for our **Hellenic Afternoon School** students. Make a «ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ» / "THANK YOU" board! Each student can write what they are thankful for in Greek and English and place vocabulary words on the board! After eating so much food on Thanksgiving, how about a list of Lenten foods since the Nativity Fast begins on November 15th? Parents, realistically, I know you will not be able to keep the fast until Christmas, but if the teachers give you a list of foods, maybe every Friday the whole family can fast! Ready, teachers? Search for those Lenten cookies, *fasolada*, etc.! It is also a good time to begin practicing Christmas Carols and activities for your Christmas Program. Who did we forget in November? Saint Andrew!!! The Patron Saint of our church! Vocabulary of who he was? A fisherman - *"Psaras,"* a disciple - *"Mathitis,"* Cross - *"Stavros"* - and why is his cross in the shape of an X? Saint Andrew felt he was unworthy to die on the same cross as Christ. Students can also search a map to show Saint Andrew traveled to Greece, Russia and Scotland.

What about activities for our **Religious Education** students? Besides the ideas above, the Entrance of the Theotokos on November 21st is a good topic to bring up with students. Read the story. Our biggest day at the end of the month is Saint Andrew Day, so making this day the theme for November may be a good idea. Also talk about the Entrance of the Theotokos and read the story with them. Since we are also into Thanksgiving, help our church with its food drive! Since on November 15th, we move into preparing for Christmas; talk and read about the journey to Bethlehem and prepare small acts of kindness, prayer, and almsgiving leading up to Christmas.

GOYA can do all the above, but they can especially do more! Plan a Thanksgiving outreach as volunteers at a local pantry. Collect non-perishable items for a food drive and share them with whichever ministry is doing a food drive. Help distribute Thanksgiving baskets for parish families in need and volunteer to help.
Begin planning Christmas events and encourage advisors to delegate roles so December isn't rushed. Phew!!!!
That is a lot for our Hellenic Afternoon and Religious Education Schools, as well as for our GOYA! Let's support each other!

Parents, you have enough to do in November. Do it with enthusiasm, love, laughter and prayer! Have a blessed month of November, and a blessed Thanksgiving. Remember to focus on GRATITUDE, CULTURE, and SAINT ANDREW DAY!

With Thanksgiving in November, this month's **Table Prayer Guide is from "Prayers for Special Occasions" – Thanksgiving - Psalm 92: 1-2, 4-5, 12-15:** *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High: To declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night. For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."*



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 Science
Retired, part-time at Educational Services Commission of Morris County, New Jersey (ESC)


SAVE THE DATE
NEW YEAR'S EVE
2027
Join us for a fun evening!
ST ANDREW
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

SAINT ANDREW GREEK SCHOOL & SUNDAY SCHOOL

PTA NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2026

SUPPORT • CONNECT • CELEBRATE • ENRICH

As we move into November, we're grateful for the wonderful families, volunteers, and parish community who help make our school year so meaningful. Thank you for continuing to support our students and PTA.

LOOKING BACK: THANK YOU!

Dear Saint Andrew Families,

What a wonderful month it has been for our school and parish community! We would like to take a moment to thank everyone who helped make our recent events such a success.

Our **Trunk-or-Treat** was a spooktacular time for our children and families. Thank you to the PTA and HOPE & JOY for hosting, to all the volunteers who generously gave their time, and to everyone who donated food, candy, and treats. Your kindness helped make the event festive, fun, and welcoming for everyone.

We also enjoyed a lovely **Meet the Author** event, where students were delighted to be read to and share in a special story-time experience. Thank you to everyone who helped bring this engaging opportunity to our students.

We are pleased that our **Christmas Photo Shoot Fundraiser** was a success, especially after registration opened to the public. Thank you to the families who signed up and to everyone who helped spread the word and support the PTA.

Finally, thank you to all who have supported our **FunPasta fundraiser**. There is still time to participate, with the final day to sell FunPasta being **Friday, November 6th**.

We are so grateful for the generosity, time, and enthusiasm our community continues to show. These events are possible because of you, and we look forward to making more wonderful memories together in the months ahead.

With gratitude,

The Saint Andrew PTA

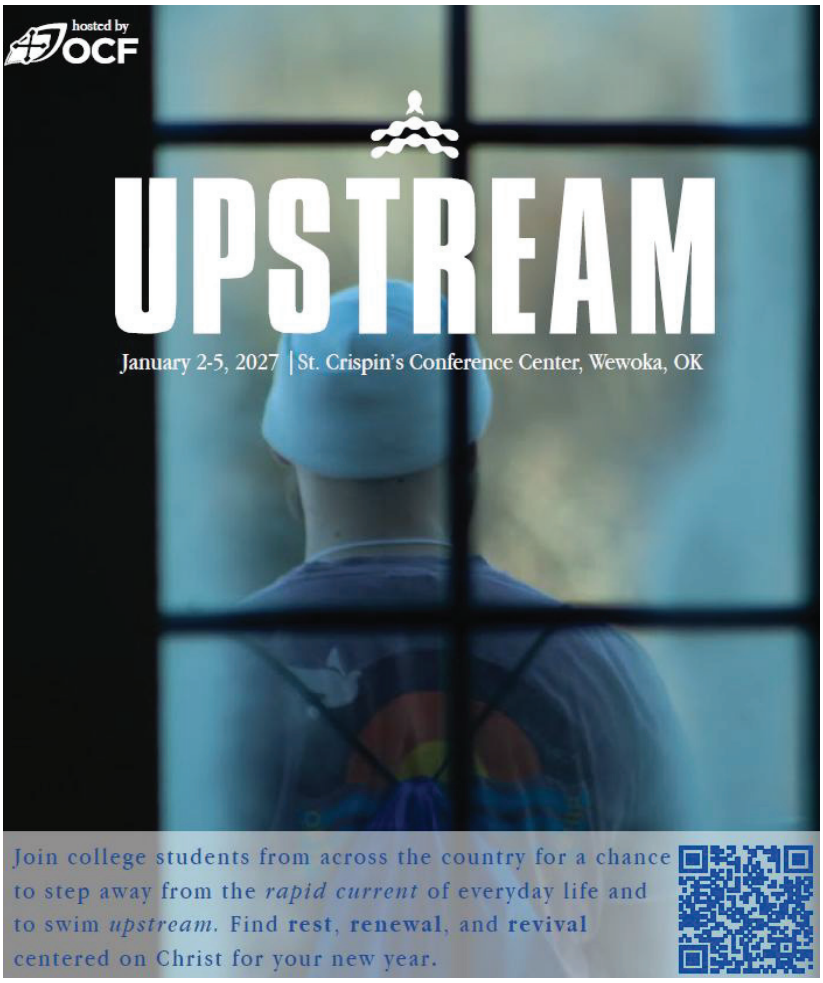
NOVEMBER: SAVE THE DATES

NOV 1 • OXI DAY CELEBRATION	Join us as we celebrate Oxi Day. All of our students will have the opportunity to recite their poems in honor of this important day.
NOV 5 • MONTHLY PTA MEETING	Our monthly PTA meeting will take place during Greek School, beginning at 5:00 PM. We welcome parent participation and ideas.
NOV 6 • FUNPASTA DEADLINE	Friday, November 6 is the last day to sell FunPasta for our fundraiser.
NOV 21 • CHURCH CLEANING & RELIGIOUS LESSON	Join us at 10:30 AM to help clean our parish and learn more about church functions and ecclesiastical items from Fr. John. A sign-up sheet will be shared soon. All are welcome!

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR PTA COMMUNITY!

Your time, generosity, and involvement help support our students, celebrate our Greek heritage, and strengthen our parish family. We look forward to seeing you at our November events.

SAINT ANDREW GREEK SCHOOL & SUNDAY SCHOOL • PTA



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Saint Andrew Parishioners,

Just like you, the Saint Andrew Philoptochos is getting ready for this busy time of year! We have ended our coat drive and delivered all the coats, scarves, hats, and gloves to the Market Street Mission. Thank you all for your generous donations!

Additionally, as the season of giving is upon us, we once again ask for your support with our **Thanksgiving Food Drive.** Help us to collect food items for the **Interfaith Food Pantry**. ***Donations must be brought to the church no later than November 19th.*** Below is a list of items you can donate:



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

Some Upcoming Philoptochos Dates to Keep in Mind:



Get your 2027 Vasilopita! – Vasilopites will be ordered from Agia Skepi (Holy Protection) Monastery, and they'll be available for purchase at church in **early December** for $20 each. **More details to follow.**

Saint Andrew Christmas Card – It is the Philoptochos' tradition to mail a CHRISTMAS CARD to the entire church family. The card features drawings from the children in our parish and includes names of all who donate. If you would like your name to be printed in the Philoptochos Christmas Card, we ask that you please make a donation. (***Suggested donations are $25, $50, $75, $100, but all contributions are welcome!)***

Executive Board: *President,* Marina Venizelos; *1st Vice President,* Maro Schuster; *2nd Vice President,* Panayiota Louca; *Treasurer,* Irene Laoudis; *Assistant Treasurer,* Presvytera Athena Theodosion; *Recording Secretary,* Maria Galvin; *Corresponding Secretary,* Melissa Dobias
Board Members: Maria Baker, Antonia Clapsis, Rachel Lopardo, Salomi Massaras, Faye Paskas, Kia Paskas, Irene Petrou, Alexandra Protopapas.
Past President: Mary Michailidis | *Spiritual Advisor*: Fr. John Theodosion

By check: Please make payable to *Saint Andrew Philoptochos.*

- Write "Christmas Card" in the memo of the check.
- Provide **how you would like your family name to appear** in the card.
- Checks should be mailed or brought to the church office.

By Venmo: You can scan the QR code seen on the right. Be sure to add in the comment of the payment **how you would like your family name to appear** in the card.

Philoptochos SaintAndrew
@StAndrewPhiloptochos

venmo

The **deadline** for the annual Christmas Card donation is **Sunday, December 6, 2026. The donations you make will be set aside and used *only* to assist Saint Andrew families in need.**



*** Keep an eye out for upcoming information about the **Philoptochos Christmas Dinner** in **December**, as well as the **Philoptochos Membership Tea** in **January**! ***

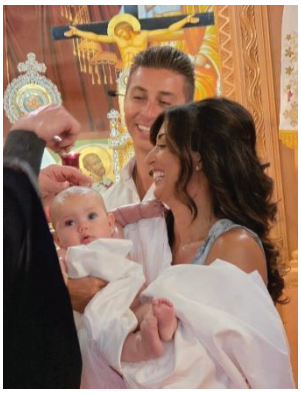
We sincerely thank you for helping those who are less fortunate this holiday season! May God continue to guide us to do His work. The Saint Andrew Philoptochos wishes you a happy, healthy and blessed Thanksgiving.

In Faith and Fellowship,

Marina Venizelos
President

Executive Board: *President,* Marina Venizelos; *1st Vice President,* Maro Schuster; *2nd Vice President,* Panayiota Louca; *Treasurer,* Irene Laoudis; *Assistant Treasurer,* Presvytera Athena Theodosion; *Recording Secretary,* Maria Galvin; *Corresponding Secretary,* Melissa Dobias
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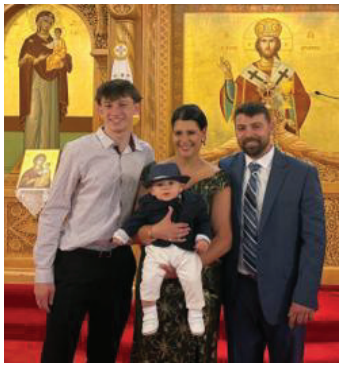
Baptism – Βαπτιση



VIENNA ANGELIKI SPIROPOULOS, daughter of Dimitri Spiropoulos and Kayla (Mills) Spiropoulos, was baptized and chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 11:30am and given the name **ΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΗ – ANGELIKI**. The godparents were Demetri and Angelica Demopoulos.



DIEGO AKCAY, son of Sahin Akcay and Gabriela (Grioli) Akcay, was baptized and chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 2:00pm and given the name **ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ – NIKOLAOS**. The sponsor was James Ferrone.



ANTONY GREENLEE, son of Sergei Greenlee and Katia (Louca) Greenlee, was baptized and chrismated according to the rights of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 2:00pm and given the name **ΑΝΤΟΝΙΟΣ - ANTONY**. The godfather was Demetrios Louca.

Wedding – Γαμος



On August 23, 2026, at 2:00pm, John Tsamutalis and Styliani Petrou of Garwood, NJ were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The sponsor was Maximos Eleftherakis. *Celebrant priest was Rev Protopresbyter John Theodosion.*
Wishing them all the Lord's blessings!

On Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 1:00pm, Anthony Stavrakis and Cristina LoBrace of New York, NY were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The sponsor was James Stavrakis. *Celebrant priest was Rev Protopresbyter John Theodosion.*
Wishing them all the Lord's blessings!



Obits & Funeral Service – Νεκρολογιες & Κηδειες

Stamatiki P. Demalis of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 12, 2026, at Myrtle Beach Grove, Myrtle Beach. She was 98 years of age.

Born in Greece to the late Panagiotis Nichol Demalis and the late Marigo (Andresaki) Demalis, Stamatiki lived in New Brunswick, NJ before moving to South Carolina over three years ago. Prior to her retirement, she worked as a seamstress in New Brunswick and supervised a large factory.

A prolific Bingo player, she also enjoyed Greek cooking (known for her amazing 'pita') and was happy keeping busy taking care of her home and garden.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, Peter Demalis, her stepdaughter and son-in-law, Lois and Nicholas Marin, and her stepson and daughter-in-law, Ted and Sally Demelis.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Keith and Holly Marin and Charles and Eileen Marin, and was "Yia Yia Mato" (great-grandmother) to Sara Marin Rosengarth and Christian Marin. She also was able to meet both her great-great grandchildren, Nicoletta and Eliana Rosengarth. May her memory be eternal.

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+John Milonas
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+Abanda Ayissi Daniel
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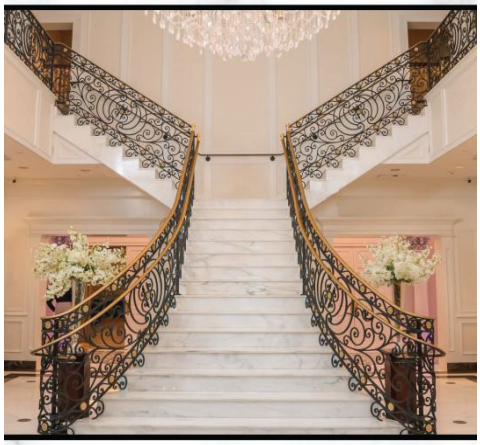
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SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR

*UPDATES IN WEEKLY E-BULLETIN OR ON WEBSITE: **Parish Calendar – St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Religious Education Sundays after Holy Communion

Baking Group Tuesdays @**9:00am**

GOYA Volleyball Tuesdays @**7:00-8:30pm**

GOYA Basketball Wednesdays @**6:30-8:00pm**

Knitting & Pillow 1st & 2nd Wednesday @**11:00am**
2nd & 3rd Wednesday @**6:30pm**

Hellenic Afternoon School Thursdays **@4:30pm**

Youth Greek Dancing Sundays **after Religious Ed.**

GOYA Greek Dancing Thursdays **@7:30 pm**

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 (TBD)

11/7 @11:00am *Enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of NJ (St. John the Theologian, Tenafly)*

11/9 @7:30pm Parish Council meeting

11/11 @6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

11/14 @12:00pm DOP Tavli Tournament

11/15 @12:00pm **General Assembly**

11/18 @11am Morning Knitting Group
@6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

11/19 @11:30am Agape Luncheon
@7:00pm Bible Study

11/20 @6:00pm *I Am Hope NJ Masquerade Ball (Meadow Wood in Randolph)*

11/24 @7:00pm Philoptochos Meeting

11/26 No HAS Class-Happy Thanksgiving!

11/28 @9:00am Faith Kitchen GOYA

11/29 Great Vespers Saint Andrew

11/30 Saint Andrew Day

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN DECEMBER: 12/6 PTA, 12/13 PHILOPTOCHOS, 12/20 DOP, 12/27 GOYA

12/2 @11am Morning Knitting Group

12/3 @7:00pm Bible Study

12/6 -*after church*-Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
@12:00pm Parish Council Elections

12/9 @6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

12/10 @7:00pm Bible Study

12/13 Sunday Christmas Pageant (Rel Ed)

12/14 @7:30pm Parish Council meeting

12/16 @11am Morning Knitting Group
@6:30pm Evening Knitting Group

12/17 @7:00pm Bible Study (TBD)

12/20 Snow Date for Christmas Pageant

12/26 @9:00am Faith Kitchen DOP/AHEPA

12/31 New Year's Eve Party

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 |**Rel Ed**-Religious Education

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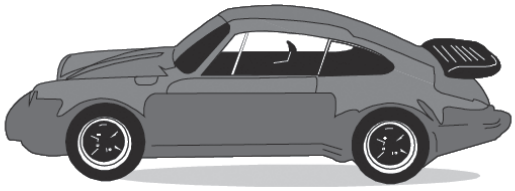
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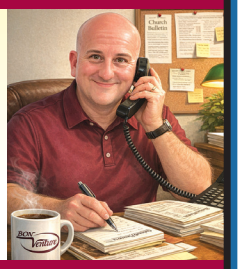
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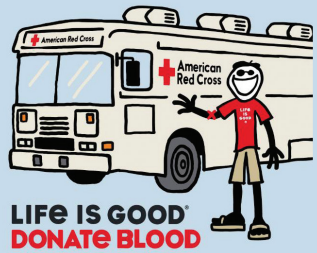
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TEACHING STAFF: Dr. Herbert Schuster, Faye Paskas, Giorgio Seretis, Kia Paskas, Kayla Hunsicker, Stacey Gatoulis, Marina Venizelos, Vickie Geannakakes, Stacey Papanikolaw, Maria Galvin, Presvytera Athena Theodosion, Eleni Koukoularis, Photeine Lopardo, Rachel Lopardo
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Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

DIRECTOR: Vasilia Christodoulou
TEACHERS: Haroula Christodoulou, Eleni Zeris, Stacey Papanikolaw, Alexandra Kontogiannis, Effie Kritharis, Vasilia Christodoulou, Yiota Louca, Nicole Pazvanti, Stamatina Mousis

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Ladies Philoptochos Society: Marina Venizelos, *President*

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Bakaliko: Despina Gribas

Agape Group: Betty & Jack Kelly, Julie Ioannou, Irene Laoudis, Joanne Varratos Diamantidis

AHEPA: Peter Tsilios, *President*

Daughters of Penelope: Dimitra Pallis, *President*

PTA: Stacey Gatoulis, *President*

Little Angels Playgroup (LAP): Iris Krassas

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

GOYA

GOYA President: Nikos Sifonios | *GOYA Advisors:* Pavlos Giannikopoulos, Anna Sifonios, Irene Baroulakis, George Baroulakis, Sotiria Hambos

Hellenic Dance

GOYA AND JUNIOR GROUP (AGES 5-11): Stella Maroules

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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, ειρήνην τη οικουμένη δωρήσασθαι, και ταις ψυχαίς ημών το μέγα έλεο.



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