

DECEMBER 2021



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

AMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF MORRIS COUNTY

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – December 12
Snow Date – December 19

Saint Andrew Family News

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

On Sundays we celebrate

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

For other services please check our website or call the office

OFFICE HOURS

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Pending availability of space and permission from Editor-in-chief, submissions will be in next month's issue.

*Please submit your articles and information on time to
Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos info@standrewgonj.org*

*Deadline for the **JANUARY 2022 ISSUE** is December 13th*

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DIVINE SERVICES

DECEMBER 2021

Saturday	4	+ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR * / <i>Relics</i>
Sunday	5	10th Sunday of Luke +SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED
Monday	6	+ST. NICHOLAS ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA
Sunday	12	11th Sunday of Luke +ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TRYMITHOUS
Wednesday	15	+ST. ELEUTHERIOS THE HOLY MARTYR
Sunday	19	Sunday before the Nativity
Wednesday	22	+ST. ANASTASIA THE GREAT MARTYR
Friday	24	+EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST, +EUGENIA THE RIGHTEOUS Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great @8am
Friday	24	+HOLY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Orthros & Divine Liturgy of SJC @7:00 PM
Sunday	26	Sunday After Nativity
Friday	31	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION ST. BASIL Great Vespers @3:30pm

JANUARY 2022

Saturday	1	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION OF ST. BASIL @8:15AM
Sunday	2	SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY
Wednesday	5	EVE OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST: + Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespers, & Divine Liturgy Of St. Basil The Great, Great Agiasmos (<i>Fasting Day</i>)
Thursday	6	HOLY THEOPHANY, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & The Great Agiasmos
Friday	7	THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET +ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Sunday	9	Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday	16	12th Sunday of Luke
Monday	17	+ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
Tuesday	18	+ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT & CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA
Thursday	20	+ ST. EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT
Sunday	23	14th Sunday of Luke
Sunday	30	+SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: +BASIL THE GREAT, +GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, & +JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

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

Weekdays: Orthros begins @ 8AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:00AM

*(We have this saint's Relics at our Saint Andrew Reliquary)**

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2021

Σαββάτο	4	+ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ* <i>Λείψανα</i>
Κυριακή	5	Ι΄ Λουκά ΣΑΒΑΣ ὁ ἉΓΙΑΣΜΕΝΟΣ
Δευτέρα	6	+ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΜΥΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΛΥΚΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Κυριακή	12	ΙΑ΄ Λουκά +ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΤΡΙΜΥΘΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Τετάρτη	15	+ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ
Κυριακή	19	Κυριακή πρό τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως
Τετάρτη	22	+ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΡΙΑΣ
Παρασκευή	24	+ΠΡΟ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, +ΕΥΓΕΝΙΑΣ Ὁρθρος, Μεγάλοι Ὁραι, Μέγα Εσπερινός, και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου <u>ώρα 8:00πμ</u>
Παρασκευή	24	+Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ Ὁρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσοστόμου <u>ώρα 7:00μμ</u>
Κυριακή	26	Κυριακή μετά την Χριστοῦ Γέννησιν
Παρασκευή	31	Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ 3:30ΜΜ

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2022

Σαββάτο	1	Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ <u>ώρα 8.15πμ</u>
Κυριακή	2	ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ
Τετάρτη	5	ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ; ΘΕΟΠΕΜΠΤΟΥ & ΘΕΩΝΑ ΤΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩΝ (Νηστεία) – Ὁρθρος, Μέγα Εσπερινό, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου & Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού
Πέμπτη	6	ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ; Μέγας Αγιασμός
Παρασκευή	7	Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ
Κυριακή	9	Απόδοσις τών Αγίων Θεοφανείων
Κυριακή	16	ΙΒ΄ Του Λουκά
Δευτέρα	17	+ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Τρίτη	18	+ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ
Πέμπτη	20	+ ΕΥΘΥΜΙΟΥ ΟΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Κυριακή	23	ΙΔ΄ Του Λουκά
Κυριακή	30	ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ +ΜΕΓΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ, +ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ, + ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ

Την Κυριακή – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ

Τις καθημερινές – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.00πμ

*(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)**



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST PROGRAM

December 19, **Sunday @ 8:15 am: Sunday before the Nativity**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

December 22, **Wednesday @ 8:00 am: +St. Anastasia the Great Martyr**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

December 24, **Friday @ 8:00 am: Eve of the Nativity of Christ,**

+Eugenia the Righteous - Great Hours & Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

December 24, **Friday @ 7:00 pm: Holy Nativity of our Lord**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

December 26, **Sunday @ 8:15 am: Sunday After Nativity** - Orthros & Divine Liturgy

December 31, **Friday @ 3:30 pm: Circumcision of Our Lord & Commemoration St. Basil the Great** - Great Vespers

NEW YEAR 2022

January 1, **Saturday @ 8:15 am: Circumcision of Our Lord and Commemoration of St. Basil the Great** - Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

January 2, **Sunday @ 8:15 am: Sunday before Theophany**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

January 5, **Wednesday @ 8:00am: Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Theopemptos Bishop of Nicomedeia: (Fasting Day)** - Orthros, The Great Hours, The Great Vespers, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil & Blessing of the Waters

January 6, **Thursday @ 8:00 am: Holy Theophany Baptism of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ** - Orthros, Divine Liturgy & The Great Blessing of the Waters

January 7, **Friday @ 8:00 am: The Synaxis of the Holy Prophet St. John the Baptist** - Orthros & Divine Liturgy

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GREEK ORTHODOX
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ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΕΟΡΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

- 19 Δεκεμβρίου, **Κυριακή ώρα 8:15 πμ: Κυριακή προ γης Χριστού Γεννήσεως**
- Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία
- 22 Δεκεμβρίου, **Τετάρτη ώρα 8:00 πμ: +Αναστασίας Μεγαλομάρτυρος της Φαρμακεύτριας** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία
- 24 Δεκεμβρίου, **Παρασκευή ώρα 8:00 πμ: Η προ σάρκα Γέννησις Του Χριστού, +Ευγενίας οσιομάρτυρος** – Μέγα Ώρες, Μέγα Εσπερινός, Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου
- 24 Δεκεμβρίου: **Παρασκευή ώρα 7:00 μμ: Η κατά σάρκα Γέννησις Του Χριστού**
- Όρθρος και Λειτουργία Αγίου Ιωάννη Χρυσοστόμου
- 27 Δεκεμβρίου, **Κυριακή ώρα 8:15 πμ: Κυριακή μετά Χριστού Γέννησιν**
- Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία .
- 31 Δεκεμβρίου, **Παρασκευή ώρα 3:30 μμ: Η κατά σάρκα περιτομή του Χριστού, Βασιλείου αρχιεπισκόπου Καισαρείας** - Μέγα Εσπερινός

ΝΕΟΝ ΈΤΟΣ 2022

- 1 Ιανουαρίου, **Σαββάτο ώρα 8:15 πμ: Η κατά σάρκα περιτομή του Χριστού, Βασιλείου αρχιεπισκόπου Καισαρείας** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου
- 2 Ιανουαρίου, **Κυριακή ώρα 8:15 πμ: Κυριακή προ των Φώτων**
- Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία
- 5 Ιανουαρίου, **Τετάρτη ώρα 8:00πμ: Προεόρτια τών Φώτων, θεοπέμπτου και Θεωνά των μαρτύρων (Νηστεία)** – Όρθρος, Μέγα Εσπερινό, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου και Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού
- 6 Ιανουαρίου, **Πέμπτη ώρα 8:00 πμ: Τα άγια Θεοφάνεια του Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού** - Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία και Μέγα Αγιασμός
- 7 Ιανουαρίου, **Παρασκευή ώρα 8:00 πμ: Η Σύναξις του Προδρόμου και Βαπτιστού Ιωάννου** - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

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GIVING GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS

Each year as we approach the feast of our Lord's birth we begin to think about all the gifts we will give to our relatives and friends. This custom brings to mind the three wise men or magi who brought gifts to our Lord after His birth. "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to



Jerusalem,... *and they followed the star which* went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2). They knew that this child was special, but we can only imagine what they must have been feeling as they presented their gifts to Him.

We too will approach Jesus this year as we enter into the Christmas season. We will encounter Him in so many ways. We will see Him in the frustrated faces of the bustling shoppers and frustrated cashiers as we make our way through the malls trying to obtain gifts for our loved ones. We will encounter Him as we walk through city streets and we see the poor and homeless. We will also see him in the faces of those who are lonely because they

don't have friends or relatives. We will encounter Him in the faces of children and the elderly who sing beautiful Christmas carols. We will encounter Him in the gospel readings which describe our Lord's loving descent to earth for our salvation. Finally, we will encounter Him personally as we receive His precious body and blood during Christmas Liturgy.

What will our attitude be as we experience these encounters with Christ. Will we approach Him with impatience as we approach our fellow shoppers at the mall? Will we ignore Him as we ignore the homeless and the lonely while we attend to our busy schedules? I hope not. I hope our attitude will be one of joy, peace and love of neighbor as we take care of all our responsibilities during the Christmas season.

As we admire those who sing Christmas carols and we are brought joy as we hear their voices, we should pray that the Lord will soften our hearts, which have been hardened by the frantic pace of life we are returning to as things become more normal again. A Our lives become more busy and that we have difficulty making time to say prayers, read the Bible or engage in charitable works. It seems down deep we remember that there is something very special about this time of year, but we are having trouble appreciating it. We might even

blame society for continually secularizing and commercializing the Christmas season, but we cannot blame anyone else. We must realize that all of the so-called obligations (expensive presents, holiday parties, extravagant decorations, etc), are self imposed. Certainly, they are a part of this season, but they are not really so important. We carry on as though they are important. In fact, many of these things seem to be more of a distraction than anything else. Its not that any of these things are bad, but our over emphasis on them at the expense of the spiritual experience of this holy season is the problem.

I turn your attention once again to the three wise magi. Who not only brought gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh as an offering to our Lord, but they offered their lives, hearts

and souls to Him. Their example of love is a wonderful example for us to follow as we contend with secular challenges that confront us this holy season. When we encounter the homeless, the lonely, the sick, other frustrated shoppers, and carolers, will we love them as the three magi loved and honored the baby Jesus? Or will we let our stress and frustration get the best of us. I pray that when we encounter Christ in each of these situations we will come with bended hearts and knees and offer Him our lives our hearts and our souls.

Friends, remember that this holy season is about the birth of our Lord, and the best way to experience the spirit of Christmas is to participate in the services of the church and be patient, kind and loving to all those we encounter this holiday season.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

from the Orthodox Tradition For the Feast of Christmas:

Before Thy, birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with trembling on this mystery and were struck with wonder: for Thou who hast adorned the vault of heaven with stars hast been well pleased to be born as a babe; and Thou who holdest all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Thy hand art laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation has Thy compassion been made known, O Christ, and Thy great mercy: glory to Thee.

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem. Today He who knows no beginning now begins to be, and the Word is made flesh. The powers of heaven greatly rejoice, and the earth with mankind makes glad. The Magi offer gifts, the shepherd proclaim the marvel, and we cry aloud without ceasing: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

(From the Festal Menaion of the Orthodox Church; hymns from the Third Hour and Matins.)



On **Sunday May 21st** Saint Andrew was honored with a visit from His **Eminence Archbishop +Elpidophoros of America** who celebrated the Divine Liturgy of the **PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS TO THE TEMPLE.**



His Eminence spoke to us and complimented our priest and our leaders on the health of our parish which is made up of all the generations, emphasizing on our youth presence. He later joined the parishioners for Lenten Luncheon hosted by our many ministries.



As we approach the holidays, the **Hellenic Afternoon School** is working hard and preparing for a beautiful Christmas pageant program with the Saint Andrew Religious education students. In addition, the HAS students participated in the ANT1 Christmas Children's Drawing Contest with the theme "CHILDREN DRAW CHRISTMAS" to bring in the Christmas season. The competition is open to children aged 3-14 living outside Greek borders, and its goal is to unite all the Greek children in the world, with a common goal: to bring the happiest Christmas and fill everyone's hearts with love and optimism! All students' drawings will be presented in a show tribute to our school's participation. All children's work will be presented on the ANT1 channels in the USA, Canada, Australia, Europe, and at www.antennaxmas.com.



Good luck to our students!

The Hellenic Afternoon school book fair was successful as teachers, parents, and students joined us to support our HAS lending library. We want to thank all who participated, including the Hellenic Book Club of New York City, for providing us with a wonderful collection of books.

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Καλή Πρωτοχρονιά



The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School continues to celebrate OXI Day!

On Sunday October 31st the Students of our Hellenic Afternoon School presented a patriotic program in the church after liturgy commemorating OXI DAY –

All the parishioner present stayed to support the Students of the Greek School program as they demonstrated their pride in our culture and commitment to our Faith
Μπράβο παιδιά και του Χρόνου !

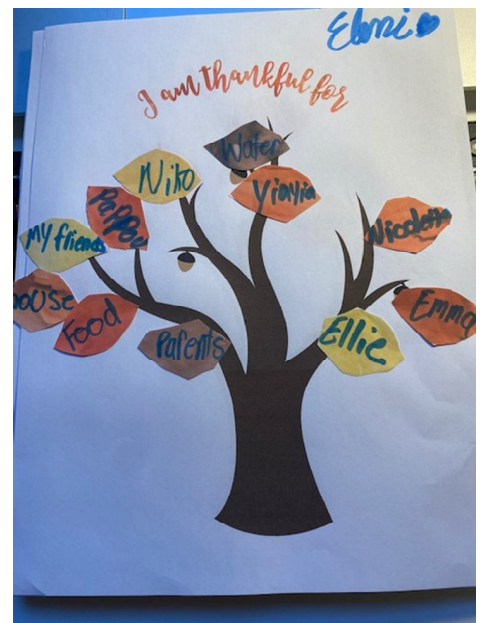


SAVE THE DATE
FEB 20, 2022
SUNDAY
MEADOWOOD
RANDOLPH
ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΕΝΤΙ



Our first **Hope/Joy** meeting was so much fun! It was wonderful to see all children back after a year of not being able to have any events. The children had a great time creating projects full of everything they are thankful for just in time for Thanksgiving! Check out the Joy/Hope bulletin board in the Social Hall to see some of the activities the children have been working on!

Our next event will be on **November 26th Friday** at Color Me Mine in Denville from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. The children will be painting a Christmas pottery piece. A great way to start of the holiday season!



We will be sending out emails and posting on the St. Andrew Facebook page details to our monthly meetings and events! If you are not registered and would like to get on our distribution list, please contact the office or email us at hopejoystandrews@gmail.com

We look forward to another fun year ahead!

GOYA NEWS DECEMBER 2021



We had a great GOYA month of November! So far, we had our annual Bowling Dance on November 6th in Fairview. Which is a great place to meet new people from other churches. All our GOYAns had a great time bowling and at the dance. We are very proud of our GOYAns Angeliki Manis, Barbara Karkanias, Loukas Karkanias, Evangelos Kalavrouziotis, Jonathan Crysler, Themelis Monokandilos, Evangelos Clapsis, and Antoni Bulko for placing over all in the bowling tournament. Our GOYA basketball and volleyball have been doing very well. The Senior Girls record is 3-1, Junior Boys 1-2, and Senior Boys 2-1. Very proud of all our GOYA athletes! We are always looking for more players so if you are interested in playing or know someone who is, please contact one of our advisors or board members for more information.

Coming up in December we have the Annual Christmas Dance in Toms River on December 28th! If you missed the bowling dance, please try and come to the Christmas Dance. The dances are a great place to get closer with GOYAns not only from other churches but to strengthen bonds with GOYAns from our church as well. We also have Christmas Caroling in December as of now we are unsure of a date but more information following this event and others will come out in emails. If you are not on the mailing list, again please reach

out to one of our GOYA advisors or board members. We hope to see all our GOYAns this upcoming December! Written by Despina Sedereas

UPCOMING IN DECEMBER

GOYA Volleyball
Tuesdays @7

GOYA Basketball (Juniors)
Wednesdays @6

GOYA Basketball (Seniors)
Wednesday @7:30

GOYA Greek Dance
Thursdays @7:30

GOYA Monthly Meeting TBD

GOYA Basketball/Volleyball
Tournament 12/4/21



GOYA Board 2021-2022

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GOYA Advisors:

Peter Sedereas, Polymnia Crysler, Marlena Karipidis, Diana Sedereas, Roslyn Monokandilos

Season's Greetings!

We want to thank everyone who has supported our annual autumn drives for food and warm coats for our neighbors in need. Once again, Philoptochos collected winter coats and accessories through the month of October for the Market Street Mission's annual Coat Giveaway. Your donations were collected in multiple jumbo-sized plastic bags containing dozens of winter coats for women, men and children, as well as cold-weather accessories, such as hats, gloves and scarves. The items were picked up by the Mission in time for their annual Coat Giveaway that was held on "The Green" in Morristown on November 7th.

Additionally, we have also completed our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains. In the year 2020, the Pantry distributed 1.5 million lbs of food. Thousands of Morris County families rely on the Interfaith Food Pantry Network to help them celebrate a holiday meal. In addition to turkeys and hams, food items to



prepare all the trimmings were collected. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, this year we donated 1,011 lbs of food on November 12th to help those of our neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

As is our tradition, Philoptochos will mail its Christmas and New Year's greeting card to all members of our parish. For a donation, your name and those of your family members can be included in the card. All donations this year will be earmarked to assist individuals and families within our St. Andrew community. To participate, please contact Mary Michailidis (203-249-9390) or Marina Venizelos (973-896-1591) no later than **December 15th**.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Philoptochos and Daughters of Penelope Christmas Dinner to be held at the Morristown Diner on Tuesday, **December 14th** at 6:30 (BYOB). All members of our St. Andrew community are invited. For tickets, please contact Mary Michailidis (203-249-9390) or Eleni Boyadjis (609-304-3714) before **December 10th**.



If you wish to order a New Year's Day Vasilopita, please contact Maro Schuster (973-570-4924) or Betty Kelly (973-704-0377), no later than **December 10th**. The vasilopites are lovingly baked by the sisters of Holy Protection Greek Orthodox Monastery ("Agia Skepi") in White Haven, Pennsylvania.

If you wish to place an order for holiday sweets from our Christmas Bake Sale, please do so by **December**

17th by contacting Mary Michailidis (203-249-9090) by **December 10th**. Additionally, we plan to sell the baked goods at coffee hour after liturgy.

On behalf of the entire St. Andrew Philoptochos, I want to wish you and yours a blessed, safe, and joyous Christmas season and all the best in the New Year 2022!

In the service of the Lord, Maria I. Daniskas

The Ladies of the Saint Andrew Philoptochos Society and Daughters of Penelope

Would like to invite everyone in our parish to our **Annual Christmas Dinner**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The Morristown Diner, 73 Morris St.,

\$35.00 per person & BYOB

| Includes Entrée (Fish, Pasta or Chicken) Soup, Salad & Dessert

More INFO & RSVP by Fri. Dec. 10th to :

Mary Michailidis, mmichailidis@yahoo.com, 203-249-9390 or Eleni Boyadjis eboyadjis@aol.com

Make checks payable to "Saint Andrew Philoptochos Society" and send to with information below

SAINT ANDREW PHILOPTOCHOS & DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm



Name (s) _____ Phone Number: _____

_____ Number of dinners at \$35.00 per person: Total \$ _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Rec'd by _____

Please Pick Entree Choice:

- _____ Broiled Filet of Flounder or Salmon (Circle Fish choice)
- _____ Pasta la Spensa (Feta/Olives)
- _____ Chicken Marsala or Francaise or La Morristown (Artichokes) (Circle Chicken choice)

Daughters of Penelope News - Alexander #250

After three postponements, the DOP Fifth District Education Foundation was finally able to host their Biannual Festival of Tables on October 23rd at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. This was our Chapter's very first entry and we entered in grand fashion. Our theme was "Amadeus" and Sister Vasilia Christodoulou did a magnificent job setting our table scape with flair and unquestionable class. Of course our members had a lot of fun dressing in theme appropriate garb and enjoying an afternoon of sisterhood. Even our Ahepa President, TJ Borzeka, joined in the fun as part of the District Ahepa "Animal House" themed entry. All of the monies raised supports the District Scholarship program. Did you know that the Ahepa Family awards scholarships on the local, district and national levels? Did you know that the first district Daughters of Penelope scholarship was awarded in 1976 and was in the amount of \$150? The awards have climbed to \$1,500.



On November 14th our chapter meeting included a District Lodge Visitation, a fabulous mimosa brunch and the initiation of 9 new members. We are thrilled that our chapter continues to flourish and hope that you will consider joining our sisterhood. As we enter the Advent season we are grateful to all of you in this warm St. Andrew community who continue to support us.



The Story of St. Nicholas

Lots of people think that St. Nicholas is just another name for Santa Claus, but it's not. If you want to know the truth, it's a lot more fun learning the story of the real St. Nicholas, whose feast day is December 6th.

Behind this name is a boy named Nicholas, who lived about 1700 years ago. Throughout history we have been given many accounts of this boy and his love for God, and the wonderful man that he became.

When Nicholas was a little boy, a plague struck Patara, the town where he lived. Both of his parents soon got sick and died. So Nicholas then went to live with his uncle, who was the leader of a large group of monks at a monastery. This uncle taught him all about God and Jesus from the Bible. Nicholas loved God so much that he also wanted to become a monk when he grew up. Nicholas' parents died wealthy, so they left him a very large sum of money. Since he loved Jesus so much, Nicholas resolved to give his money to those he found in need...and especially to other children in trouble. As he grew up he remembered the teachings of Jesus...that we should "give in secret," so he learned how to be very sneaky. Whenever Nicholas gave things to people, he would sneak around so they wouldn't know where the money came from. Sneaking around to do good is the most fun! For example, a man was selling rugs to pay his debts. His wife and children had no food. Nicholas bought some Turkish rugs from the man, paying him way more than they were worth. Then Nicholas made up an excuse and returned the rugs to the man's wife without getting his money back. Nicholas helped lots of people and he learned to be very sneaky in doing so.

One of the most famous stories about Nicholas brings to mind three girls who couldn't get

married because their father's business had lost all its money. In those days, the only way a girl could get married is if she had a big sum of money called a dowry. The only option for these girls was slavery or worse. Nicholas heard about this poor family and came up with a plan. Late at night he tossed a sock full of gold coins through the oldest daughter's bedroom window. People were surprised when, not long after this, the girl married a good husband. She told them that she was able to marry because she found a dowry hidden away in a sock. Soon after this, Nicholas again tossed another sock full of money through the second daughter's window. Soon, she also married. But a few nights later, when Nicholas crept up to the house with a sock full of money for the third daughter, he found all the windows were shut. So he did what boys sometimes like to do; he climbed up on their roof and dropped it down the chimney, landing in the girl's shoes, set next to the hearth. When she married, she told everyone she'd found a dowry just lying in her shoe. People were amazed and said to one another, "This must be some kind of miracle!"

Several times Nicholas had a strange dream that was always the same. In his dream, Jesus gave him the robes of a priest and a book of the Gospels covered with jewels. When Nicholas told his uncle of these dreams, his uncle told him that Jesus must want him to become a priest. So he did just that while he was still very young. As a priest, Nicholas was even more zealous to tell people about Jesus and always looking for ways to help people in need or children in trouble. People were always talking about that kind, young priest, Nicholas. Nicholas went on a trip to see Bible lands. He traveled to Palestine to see the places where Jesus had walked. Nicholas visited with many Christians and churches along the way and

inspired them to also help the poor and needy. While there he had a dream that Jesus was placing a bishop's hat on his head.

On the way home, his ship was caught in a terrible storm. The ship was roughly tossed about and the sails were torn. Some of the sailors were swept overboard by the waves, and the three sailors who were left on the ship were terribly afraid the ship might soon be overturned or crash on the rocks. They were frightened and praying to God for mercy. Nicholas came up on deck and joined them in their prayer. Just then the storm stopped and the waters became calm. The little ship limped into the port at a city called Myra in Lycia. It was a long ways from Nicholas' home. When they arrived very early in the morning, the three sailors told others in the city how their ship had been saved when young Nicholas the priest had prayed. "It was like a miracle!" they said. But Nicholas had hurried off to the church for morning prayers to give thanks.

In Myra, there used to be a bishop who was very old and had recently died. This was during a time when Christians were being tortured for their faith in Jesus Christ. Because of such troubled times, the priests could not agree on whom to elect as their new bishop. There were several priests at the church that morning. They had been there praying for guidance, and each had the same dream. They each dreamed that the first worshiper who came for morning prayers was to become the new bishop. Nicholas, a stranger in Myra, and still only a young priest, was the first to arrive. How surprised he was when one of the priests came up to tell him that he was to become their next bishop! At first he hesitated, but they told him about the dreams they each had and insisted that he was the one who should become their bishop. Then he told them about his earlier dream with the bishop's

hat. "It's a miracle!" said the priests. Young Nicholas soon became the bishop of Myra.

Myra was an important city and Nicholas was a good bishop. He was known for his devotion to God and his zeal for Jesus. When he taught about the Good News of Jesus Christ, people said it was like precious gems coming out of his mouth. He cared equally for the poor and needy, helping those in trouble, often still helping people in secret. Through Nicholas' loving ministry, many pagan people were converted and baptized.

But soon Nicholas was imprisoned. The new Roman Emperor Diocletian hated Christians and was determined to hunt them down and kill them or make them deny their faith. This was around 310 AD. It was one of the greatest persecutions of the Church, and many Christians were cruelly murdered. There were several jailors guarding Nicholas. They tried and tried to convince him to deny his faith in Jesus. They tortured him. He was hungry and cold and wearing chains, but still he kept teaching them about Jesus. He was kind to them despite all of the mean things they said and did to him. His hair and beard grew long and shaggy, but he trusted Jesus to protect him, and prayed for the other Christians to stand firm. Then a miracle happened. There was a new emperor. His name was Constantine. Constantine had a dream that he would conquer through the cross of Christ, and so he became a Christian. He changed the law, so that it would be legal to be a Christian. Nicholas and the other Christians were set free from prison. So Bishop Nicholas went back to his people in Myra. Then many more people were converted to believe in Jesus.

Nicholas was much older now, his beard white, his face wrinkled. But his eyes always sparkled when he talked about Jesus, and he always had some way to help the poor and needy. He loved the people who were under his care...most

especially the children. He still tried hard to be sneaky in helping people. However, his good deeds were so plentiful that sometimes people caught him in the act.

Although Nicholas was a gentle soul, he could be firm too, especially when false teachers would try to influence his churches. In 325 AD, a large number of Church's leaders gathered at Nicaea for a big council. The council was to discuss the bad teaching of a popular false-teacher named Arius. Arius' unorthodox preaching had infected many people of that day into believing that Jesus wasn't really God. In the midst of the council's discussions, it's said that Nicholas actually punched Arius for guiding people astray with his

false teaching. Because of this passionate act of anger, the other bishops there voted to remove Nicholas as bishop. However, Jesus told each of them in dreams that Nicholas had acted in righteous anger and so they restored Nicholas as bishop.

Saint Nicholas died peacefully after a long life of faithful service to Jesus Christ, and offering many kind deeds. In Orthodox tradition, children put their shoes outside their door on the night before his feast day December 6th. In the morning they discover that Saint Nicholas has come to fill their shoes chocolates and little treats.



SAINT NICHOLAS ΤΗΣ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ – Ο ΆΓΙΟΣ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ

Ένας από τους σημαντικότερους αγίους της Ορθόδοξης αλλά και Ρωμαιοκαθολικής Εκκλησίας, είναι ο άγιος Νικόλαος, τη μνήμη του οποίου εορτάζουμε την 6^η Δεκεμβρίου. Στον ελλαδικό χώρο, ο

άγιος Νικόλαος τιμάται ως "κύριος" της θάλασσας και προστάτης των ναυτικών, ενώ στη δυτική και κεντρική Ευρώπη θεωρείται ο "αρχικός Άγιος Βασίλης".

Ο βίος του Αγίου Νικολάου

Άγιος Νικόλαος είναι ένας από τους περισσότερο δημοφιλείς αγίους σε ολόκληρο τον χριστιανικό κόσμο, περίφημος για την αρετή, τη γενναιότητα και τη φιλανθρωπία του. Γεννήθηκε στα Πάταρα της Λυκίας το 270 σύμφωνα με την επικρατέστερη εκδοχή. Οι γονείς του ήταν Έλληνες, ευσεβείς Χριστιανοί, ευκατάστατοι και ο άγιος έλαβε αξιόλογη μόρφωση. Σε μικρή ηλικία όμως, έμεινε ορφανός και κληρονόμος μιας μεγάλης περιουσίας. Μετά την επιστροφή του στα Πάταρα από ένα προσκυνηματικό ταξίδι στους Αγίους Τόπους, χειροτονήθηκε ιερέας, αφού πρώτα μοίρασε την περιουσία του στους φτωχούς.

Έδωσε σθεναρούς αγώνες υπέρ της χριστιανικής πίστης προστατεύοντας τους φτωχούς και τους αδύνατους. Η δράση του εντατικοποιήθηκε μετά την άνοδό του στον αρχιεπισκοπικό θρόνο των Μύρων της Λυκίας. Την εποχή εκείνη, αυτοκράτορας στη Ρώμη ήταν ο Διοκλητιανός. Ο Νικόλαος συνελήφθη, φυλακίστηκε και βασανίστηκε μαζί με άλλους Χριστιανούς τους οποίους εμψύχωνε στη διάρκεια των δοκιμασιών τους. Όταν ανέβηκε στον θρόνο ο Μέγας Κωνσταντίνος, ο άγιος Νικόλαος και όλοι οι Χριστιανοί απελευθερώθηκαν.

Ο άγιος επανήλθε στον αρχιεπισκοπικό θρόνο, έχοντας τα στίγματα από τα βασανιστήρια στο σώμα του. Έλαβε μέρος στην Α' Οικουμενική Σύνοδο της Νίκαιας. Εκεί στήριξε με ιερό ζήλο την ορθόδοξη διδασκαλία και πίστη της Εκκλησίας και τάχθηκε εναντίον του Αρείου και της αίρεσής του.

Ήταν προικισμένος με το χάρισμα της θαυματουργίας και έσωσε πολλούς ανθρώπους ενώ πολύ σημαντική ήταν και η φιλανθρωπική του δράση. Εκοιμήθη στις 6 Δεκεμβρίου 343. Τη μέρα αυτή γιορτάζεται η μνήμη του σε ορθόδοξη και ρωμαιοκαθολική Εκκλησία.

Η μετακομιδή του λειψάνου του αγίου Νικολάου

Ο τάφος του αγίου Νικολάου στα Μύρα, έγινε δημοφιλής τόπος προσκυνηματος. Λόγω όμως των πολέμων και των επιθέσεων στην περιοχή, οι

Χριστιανοί άρχισαν να φοβούνται ότι δεν θα μπορούν να προσκυνούν στον τάφο του αγίου. Η Βενετία και το Μπάρι επωφελήθηκαν και έσπευσαν να πάρουν τα λείψανα του αγίου. Την άνοιξη του 1087 τελικά, ναυτικοί από το Μπάρι πήραν τα λείψανα και τα μετέφεραν στην πόλη αυτή της νοτιοανατολικής Ιταλίας. Ο ναός του αγίου Νικολάου στο Μπάρι, υπήρξε ένα από τα σημαντικότερα προσκυνηματα στη μεσαιωνική Ευρώπη.

Ο άγιος Νικόλαος προστάτης των ναυτικών

Όπως είναι γνωστό στη χώρα μας, ο άγιος Νικόλαος τιμάται ως προστάτης των ναυτικών. Το γεγονός αυτό ξεκίνησε από τα Συναξάρια του και την αναφορά θαυμάτων που έκανε στη θάλασσα. Στο ταξίδι της επιστροφής του από τους Άγιους Τόπους, μια δυνατή καταιγίδα "απειλήσε" να καταστρέψει το πλοίο στο οποίο επέβαινε. Οι ναυτικοί και οι συνεπιβάτες του τρομοκρατήθηκαν. Ο άγιος Νικόλαος έμεινε ατάραχος και προσευχήθηκε ήρεμα. Ξαφνικά ο άνεμος κόπασε και η θάλασσα γαλήνεψε, εκπλήσσοντας τους πάντες που απέδωσαν τη σωτηρία τους στον άγιο. Η λαϊκή παράδοση, θέλει τον άγιο Νικόλαο να είναι αυτός που επινόησε το πηδάλιο των πλοίων, τα οποία ως τότε ταξίδευαν ακυβέρνητα. Χαρακτηριστικά της θαλασσινής του ιδιότητας, είναι τα λατρευτικά του επίθετα. Στο Γαλαξίδι προσονομάζεται "Ναύτης", στη Χίο και την Πάρο "Θαλασσίτης" και στη Μάνη "Αρμυρής".

Saint Nicholas: The Real Santa Claus

Χρησιμοποιούμε αυτό τον τίτλο (Άγιος Νικόλαος: ο πραγματικός Άγιος Βασίλης), που υπάρχει στο διαδίκτυο για να τονίσουμε τη διαφορετική "ιδιότητα" του αγίου Νικολάου στη δυτική Εκκλησία. Αυτή του αγίου που προσφέρει δώρα στα παιδιά. Πώς όμως ξεκίνησε όλη αυτή η ιστορία;

Όπως αναφέραμε, ο άγιος Νικόλαος μοίρασε την περιουσία του στους φτωχούς και γενικότερα φημιζόταν για τη γενναιοδωρία του. Μετά τη μετακομιδή (για κάποιους κλοπή...) των λειψάνων του, η λατρεία του στη Δύση γενικεύτηκε. Μάλιστα, ήταν ο

πλέον "δημοφιλής" άγιος απ' ότι φαίνεται. Ένα από τα πολλά θαύματα του αγίου Νικολάου ήταν η ανάσταση τριών παιδιών που είχαν δολοφονηθεί.

Στην πρωτότυπη εκδοχή της, η ιστορία έχει ως εξής:

Τρεις μικροί μαθητές πηγαίνοντας στο σχολείο τους σταμάτησαν σε ένα πανδοχείο. Εκεί τα παιδιά ναρκώθηκαν, ληστεύθηκαν και δολοφονήθηκαν. Πέρασαν επτά χρόνια. Μια μέρα χτύπησε η πόρτα του πανδοχείου. Ήταν ο άγιος Νικόλαος, ο οποίος ζήτησε από τον πανδοχέα-δολοφόνο των παιδιών να του δείξει που τα είχε φυλάξει και έπειτα παρακάλεσε τον Θεό να τα αναστήσει, κάτι που έγινε.

Τα παιδιά επέστρεψαν στα σπίτια τους, στους έκπληκτους και χαρούμενους γονείς τους. Υπάρχουν διάφορες παραλλαγές αυτής της ιστορίας. Ο πανδοχέας είναι άλλοτε κακός κηπουρός, άλλοτε κακός χασάπης, ο οποίος από τότε έγινε πιστός υπηρέτης και ακόλουθος του αγίου Νικολάου.

Έτσι, ο άγιος Νικόλαος έγινε ο προστάτης των παιδιών.

Όσο για τον άγιο Νικόλαο δωρητή, πιοααρακτηριστική είναι η ακόλουθη ιστορία:

Ο άγιος Νικόλαος άκουγε για ένα φτωχό άνθρωπο ο οποίος είχε τρεις κόρες που αδυνατούσε να προικίσει. Ο άγιος έριξε τότε κρυφά από το παράθυρό του τρεις τσάντες με χρυσάφι και όταν ο φτωχός πατέρας των κοριτσιών τον αντιλήφθηκε, του ζήτησε να μην αποκαλύψει τίποτα. Αυτή η ιστορία θεωρείται ως η "πηγή" της φήμης του αγίου Νικολάου ως δωρητή. Έτσι, σύντομα στη Δύση υπήρχε ο κατάλληλος συνδυασμός για τη μετατροπή του αγίου σε αυτόν που μοιράζει δώρα στα παιδιά.

Φαίνεται ότι αυτό ξεκίνησε από την Ολλανδία με τον SinterKlaas ο οποίος αν και είναι φανερό ότι προέρχεται από τον άγιο Νικόλαο, ενσωματώνει στοιχεία από τους γερμανικούς-σκανδιναβικούς μύθους των θεών Wodan και Odin. Στην ολλανδική

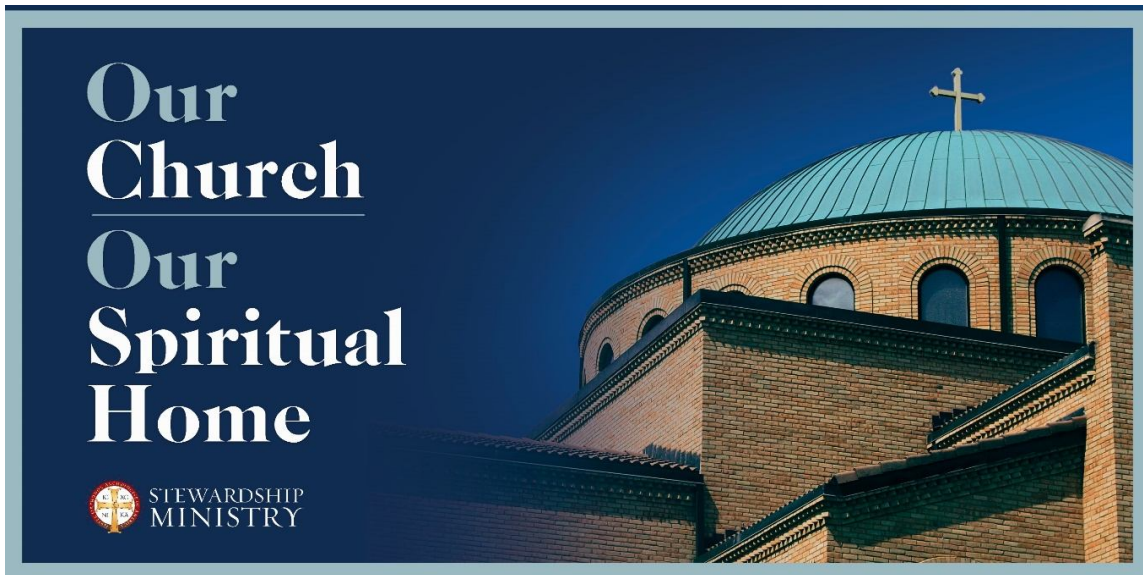
παράδοση, ο άγιος εικονίζεται καβαλάρης σε ένα ιπτάμενο άσπρο άλογο.

Στην Αγγλία, ο Father Christmas προέρχεται εν μέρει από τον άγιο Νικόλαο και εν μέρει από τον Sinterklaas. Το ίδιο συμβαίνει και με τον Άγιο Βασίλη και τον Santa Claus των Η.Π.Α. οι οποίοι βέβαια συνδέονται με τις ημέρες των Χριστουγέννων και της Πρωτοχρονιάς.

Στην Ολλανδία, στο Βέλγιο, το Λουξεμβούργο και την Κάτω Ρηνανία, ο Sinterklaas στις 5 ή 6 Δεκεμβρίου φέρνει δώρα σε όλα τα παιδιά. Κάτι ανάλογο γίνεται και στις υπόλοιπες χώρες της Κεντρικής Ευρώπης, όπου συνήθως τα παιδιά αφήνουν τις μπότες τους στα περβάζια των παραθύρων, το βράδυ της 5ης προς 6η Δεκεμβρίου για να αφήσει εκεί ο άγιος δώρα. Το ίδιο γίνεται και στη Βόρεια Γερμανία με τον Sankt Nikolaus.

Αυτές είναι σε γενικές γραμμές οι παραδόσεις για τον άγιο Νικόλαο στην Ευρώπη, όπου έχει και μία άλλη "διάσταση" από τον άγιο της Ορθοδοξίας, τον οποίο τιμούμε σήμερα.





What is Christian Stewardship?

Christian Stewardship is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work., for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

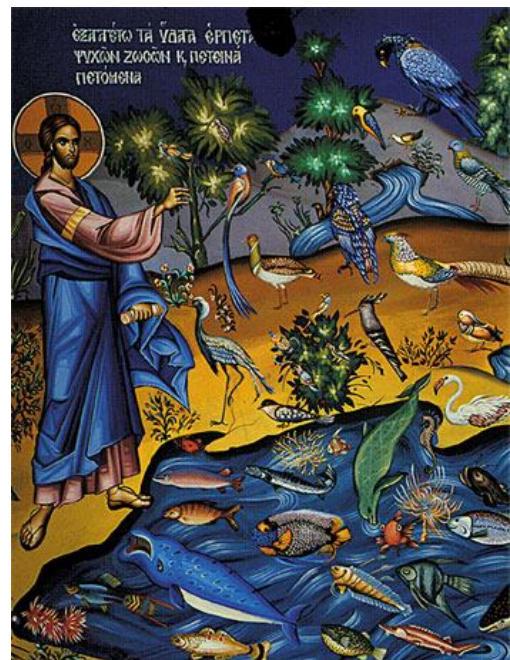
...offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying “I believe...”, as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leadership

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



Join us for Little Angels Playgroup (LAP)!

Calling all Little Angels ages 0-4! For basic introduction to Greek nursery rhymes and religion.

Our Playgroup will meet every other Friday. Feel free to bring toys, snacks. A caretaker must be present.

Drop in any time between 9:30-11:30am
on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month

December 3, December 17, January 7, 2022 ...

If you have questions or plan on attending, please contact Athina Vella at amv1823@gmail.com or call/text 973-879-7095.

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

CHRISTMAS - 2021 - LET'S FOCUS

Time passes by so fast so let's focus on what are priorities for our family this Christmas. We got through 2019 - 2021 with illnesses, economic problems, the pandemic, politics, virtual meetings, virtual church, virtual school, PHEW! So we have been through some bad times, but good times too. We have learned to focus, and we still marched on! A small sign I recently read that focuses on ten things money can't buy gave me the idea to focus on these ten things and what they mean to me using one example. Think about them, discuss them with your children and what they mean to them, ask for one example, and you give one example! (Quoted definitions come from Oxford Languages)X46

Let's Go!

***MANNERS** - "A person's outward bearing or way of behaving toward others". For me, saying "thank you" and "you're welcome" are important manners to focus on.

***MORALS** - "A person's standards of behavior or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do". Telling the truth even when I know I may have done something wrong is important to me.

***RESPECT** - "Due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others". I respect other's opinions even if I do not agree with them.

***CHARACTER** - "Strength and originality in a person's nature". I want to be surrounded by those who respect my wishes and have good morals and dignity.

***COMMON SENSE** - "Sound judgment in practical matters". Oh my! So many things cover common sense like not putting your hand in a fire or wearing a seat belt when driving!

***TRUST** - "Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something". Easy for me - trust God even when bad things happen!

***PATIENCE** - "The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset". I try to be patient with some adults and situations, but I am always patient with children.

***CLASS** - "Impressive stylishness in appearance or behavior". I try not to judge people based on their type of individuality because we are all Children of God.

***INTEGRITY** - "The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness".

I try to be honest with everyone and just pray I can be surrounded with those who have integrity.
***LOVE** - *“An intense feeling of deep affection”*. For me, GOD IS LOVE, but of course without my faith in GOD I would not have the capacity to love my family and others!

YOUR TURN! Let’s focus of course on the Birth of Christ this Christmas, let the children focus on their holidays with church, gifts, and family time, but what a nice way to spend time with them when they are home from school. Ask them to give one example of the words above and give your own examples as well! Parents, you have vocabulary homework this Christmas!

This month’s **Table Prayer Guide Prayers:**

“Today is born of a Virgin, He who holds creation in the hollow of His hand. As a mortal He is wrapped in swaddling rags, He who in His being cannot be handled. God lies in a manger, who of old established the heavens in the beginning. He is nourished with milk from the breast, He who rained Manna on the People in the desert. He summons Magi, the Bridegroom of the

Church. He accepts their gifts, the Son of the Virgin. We worship your birth, O Christ. Show us also your divine Epiphany.”

Christmas Royal Hours, 9th hour

“Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being, and the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach; Angels with Shepherds give glory, while Magi journey with a star, for to us there has been born a little Child, God before the ages.”

Saint Romanos the Melodos | 6th Century, Constantinople

On behalf of my husband Mike, and my son Nicholas, we would like to wish you all a Joyous and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year, 2022!

Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions for our “Parents’ Corner” at: alexandraproto@gmail.com - Have a good month!

(You can also find me on Facebook under my name Alexandra Alex Protopapas)

Alexandra Protopapas Med | Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences – Retired, but currently at: Educational Services of Morris County (ESC) (currently at Academy of St Elizabeth, Trinity Christian School, Parsippany Schools) | (Information, eaching, Tutoring, Counseling, Homebound Instruction (973-214-2583)



Knitting & Pillow Ministries

Please join us on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 10am** for knitting and or sewing. We need you to help us provide blankets, scarves, and pillows to the different organizations we are helping. Feel free to drop in for a cup of coffee ... we usually have little lunch a lot of laughs.

Dates in 2021: 12/1, 12/15 | Dates in 2022: 1/5, 1/19



ROOM FOR AGAPE
VOICE FOR THE SENIORS
DECEMBER 2021



This year has been especially difficult, testing our bonds of love. The coherent powers of sweetness are like glue that binds us together. I keep thinking about our precious Theotokos, her sensitive touch, and her sacrifice on our behalf to bring Christ down to us. She illumines us with love. We celebrate the heart and power of memory that never dies and always recalled as we live together like a spark of light, a fire rekindled, and only serves to strengthen our bonds through the glue of togetherness. We cannot calculate, we cannot measure, we all fall short of expressing how precious, how priceless right now Saint Andrew Church has served to strengthen those bonds of love by working together with joy in our hearts in whatever form that may take.

We only keep right on learning with every breath we take. We only keep right on re-confirming the wonder and trust of those bonds. Paradoxically speaking, it is so precious in extreme, it is absolutely priceless.

This indeed is a song of love to summarize all the sweetness and coherent energies wrapped in divine heartfelt love. Again, paradoxical is walking towards the Light of Christ. It can be absolutely blinding, all the while trusting in His embrace.

Memory is such precious gift; we can't allow it to be defiled. To all of those who have lost loved ones, your loss is shared by all of us as one. We are grateful for their presence while it lasted. But now their memory continues forever through the work we do on their behalf.

Athena Maria (Mary Ann) and Betty the "ever ready battery", co-chairs

BE NOBLE ~ GO GLOBAL

Roxbury's Global Hi-5 Multi-Cultural Expo

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“THE BLESSING OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH AT GROUND ZERO”



My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Could there have been a more fitting climax to the Apostolic Visit of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States than the “Opening of the Doors” service at the Saint Nicholas National Shrine, and the crowning of the Church with the Holy Cross? The dramatic raising of the permanent Cross atop Church, and the presentation of the Precious Relic of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker at the “Opening of the Doors.” when His All Holiness gave his special blessing to the Shrine, was truly a crowning moment of the Visit. The fact that occurred on the very day of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Enthronement of His All Holiness as Ecumenical Patriarch – which I also honor as the feast of my Patron Saint, the Holy Martyr Elpidophoros – made the day all the more extraordinary.

Therefore, in place of my usual message, I present to you once again the message of His All Holiness at Ground Zero and our Saint Nicholas National Shrine. These are words that merit our consideration again and again, as we come closer each and every day to the full operation of the Shrine as our ministry to the Nation.

REMARKS OF HIS ALL HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH B A R T H O L O M E W

At the Special Opening of the Doors of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine World Trade Center New York, New York |(November 2, 2021)

* * *

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Most Reverend Metropolitans and Bishops, Esteemed Members of the Friends of Saint Nicholas, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Throne, Beloved Children in the Lord,

We stand here today, on this Hallowed Ground at the World Trade Center, where the world changed in a cruel and terrible moment twenty years ago.

We stand here, before Church and National Shrine of Saint Nicholas, the Wonder-working Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose historical See is an integral part of the Holy Mother and Great Church of Christ: our Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

We stand here today, before a Church resurrected by faith and devotion, and extraordinary toil and labor.

We stand here today, as we celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of our Enthronement as the Successor to the Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called Disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And we stand here today, celebrating the Patronal Feast of our spiritual son, His Eminence Elpidophoros, to whom we have entrusted the hopes of our Eparchy in this Great Nation, the Holy Archdiocese of America.

This Sacred Ground of the American experience, is where the Orthodox Christian Faith will take the lead in manifesting to the world that there is more good than evil, that there is life beyond death, and that love will always triumph over hatred.

We have come to this place to open Doors on Greek Orthodoxy to the American Consciousness of what the best in religion can be.

We have come to this place to open Doors on the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Her Spiritual Mission and History.

We have come to this place to open Doors on the story of the Immigrants who came to these shores in the shadow of Lady Liberty, searching for a new life and new opportunities.

We have come to this place to open Doors to promote inclusion, tolerance, and mutual understanding among all peoples of faith and good will.

We have come to this place to open Doors of Saint Nicholas the Worker of Miracles, because he is the patron of all sojourners – from those who died on

9/11, to those who mourn their loss, to the pilgrims who will enter this National Shrine.

From the Lands of the Seven Ecumenical Councils, that established the Christian Faith throughout the Oikoumene,

From the Queen of Cities – Constantinople, which preserves the authentic Traditions of Scripture, Monasticism, and is the guardian of the Holy Mountain Athos,

From the Domain of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker himself, we bring his physical and spiritual presence, in the Sacred Relic of his Holy Hand, which will find an eternal resting place within this National Shrine.

And we bring our paternal and Patriarchal Blessing to this Special Opening of the Doors, that inaugurates the countdown to the day when the Shrine will be fully open to all people, and for all people.

A short time ago, we blessed and raised Cross of Christ to be permanently affixed atop the dome.

This crowning of the Church by the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is our sign and symbol of victory, for Νικόλαος means: “Victory of the People.” The cowardly attack that wrought so much death in this place does not have the final word.

From the first moments of the destruction, brave men and women rushed in to where even Angels feared to tread. They risked their lives. They sacrificed their lives. They knew the love that is greater than any hatred, the same love that brought our Lord Jesus Christ to the Cross.

He ascended the the Cross on Golgotha to create a ladder to Heaven for all humanity. The brave souls who ascended the stairs of the Towers that day, created, by their love and by their sacrifice, numberless ladders to heaven. The Angels carried their precious souls to the heights, even as their bodies were lost among the ruination of that fateful day.

Today, the Cross of our Lord reminds each and every one of us that through death, He has conquered death. And the resurrection of the Saint

Nicholas Church as this Shrine for the Nation is an affirmation of our Hope of the Resurrection and life Eternal through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We bestow our sincere thanks and abundant blessings upon the Friends of Saint Nicholas, who have come together with our dear friends and spiritual sons, Archbishop Elpidophoros and Father Alexander Karloutsos, to make possible this resurrection of Saint Nicholas at Ground Zero.

We give thanks to all civil authorities, and especially former Governors Pataki and Cuomo, and our dear friends of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who made the path clear for this rebuilding effort that we celebrate today.

And we give thanks to all of you – the faithful of the Parish, and those from around the country and the

globe who have given of themselves in prayer and fasting, in gifts both great and small, to make this dream of Saint Nicholas a reality.

May His precious Relic, his miracle-working hand extend over you all and grant you health, prosperity, and every spiritual blessing.

And May this resurrected Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, shine the light of Christ throughout this City of New York and around the world, as a beacon of Hope, of Faith, of Love – the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

*Lord, establish forever this holy house!
Τοῦτον τὸν Οἶκον στερέωσον, Κύριε!
Ἀμήν.*

With the prayers of our Ecumenical Patriarch, the Lord will indeed establish the Saint Nicholas National Shrine unto ages of ages.

With Love and Blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ,

†ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

JAYELYN MARIE ALVARADO, daughter of Jack Alvarado and Dolores Pittman of Lake Hopatcong, NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday October 23rd, 2021 and given the name **MARIA - ΜΑΡΙΑ**. Godparents were Nicholas and Panayiota Delis.

BRYLEIGH MARIE DELIS, daughter of Sam Delis and Jayelyn Alvarado of Lake Hopatcong, NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday October 23rd, 2021 and given the name **DEMETRA - ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ**. Godparents were Chris and Charita Demosthenous.

ELIAS JOSEPH DELIS, son of Sam Delis and Jayelyn Alvarado of Lake Hopatcong, NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday October 23rd, 2021 and given the name **ELIAS - ΗΛΙΑΣ**. Godparents were Nicholas and Panayiota Delis.

WEDDING – ΓΑΜΟΣ

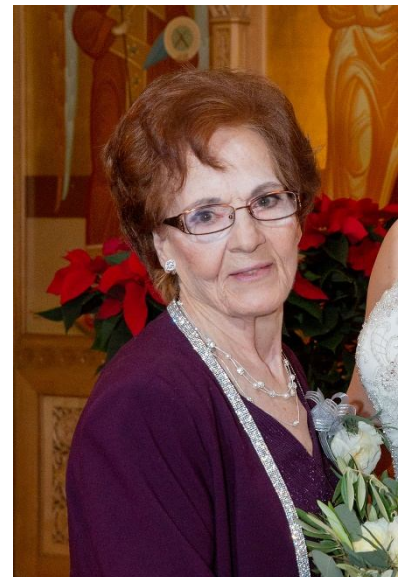
On Sunday October 31st Sam Delis wed Jayelyn Alvarado of Lake Hopatcong NJ. Sponsor was Nicholas Delis, Witness was Panayiota Delis.

OBITS & FUNERALS – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

Ourania "Nitsa" Gribas passed away at the age of 87 on October 27, 2021, at Morristown Medical Center after a courageous 26-year battle with lung disease with her family by her side until the very end. She was a stoic fighter, but her weary lungs could no longer sustain her strong will to live. Through it all she maintained her sense of humor and grace. She was a devout Orthodox Christian whose faith was a compass in every aspect of her life. Nitsa was born on March 30, 1934, in Tyrnavos, Greece and married the late Zisis Gribas in November of 1956. With their three children, Nick, Despina, and Angela, they immigrated to the United States in 1971.

Following the family trade, she was an extremely talented seamstress. She made elegant custom garments for her clients and one-of-a kind clothing for her children. One year, unable to do the traditional dyeing of Easter eggs because she was on bed rest, she creatively dressed the eggs in hand-made outfits. With her endless talent, she tailored ecclesiastical vestments which were works of art that were in high demand and even recognized by the NYC Ballet.

Nitsa led a full life with passion and hard work. She was dedicated to her family and made sacrifices to ensure that they could build a happy and secure life. Despite her language barrier and being in a foreign country during the time of no Internet or GPS, she drove to Pennsylvania and found a reputable eye surgeon for her child. This



was 'classic Nitsa' - there were no obstacles which she could not overcome by forging a path forward, an asset she bestowed upon her children and grandchildren.

Nitsa was a woman of many talents. Not only was she an expert seamstress but was also the pastry chef, dishwasher, and invaluable partner at the family restaurant by her husband's side. She was well known for her handmade phyllo pies "pites", which she hand-rolled in record time and her "World's Best" rice pudding which her husband promoted. She made traditional spoon sweets; tended to her vegetable garden; tackled all the landscaping and renovated their home in Samarina single-handedly. She always came up with unique solutions, which were admirably dubbed as "Nitsa-specials" even when it came to restructuring the arms of a couch while standing on a milk crate with a saw in hand. On multiple occasions she tempted fate, like the time she used a rickety ladder, that was missing every other rung, to climb on the roof and sweep the pine needles off, all while having a swollen knee.

Guided by her faith and incredible conviction in all that she did, she aspired to greatness with unwavering perseverance and strength. Her desire to always be current and informed was guided by her unbounded thirst for knowledge and learning. She was a loving daughter, sister, cousin, wife, mother, theia, mother-in-law and yiayia that weaved and held together the fabric of her family. Her love was not loud, not flaunted, unconditional and always present. Her absence will be deeply felt by all those that knew and loved her.

Nitsa was pre-deceased by her loving husband, Zisis Gribas. She is survived by her sister Chrisoula and her devoted children, Nick Gribas and wife, Natalia; Despina Gribas and husband, Aaron Hohenstein; Angela Athineos and husband, Christopher; along with her cherished grandchildren Zisis, Alexander and Ekaterina Gribas and Panayoti and Anna Athineos.

A Funeral Service was held at Saint Andrew for the repose of her soul on Monday November 1st, 2021, at 11am. **Interment** followed at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Chester NJ

Elias S. "Luis" Massad 83, passed away peacefully Friday morning, November 12, 2021, at Morristown Medical Center after a long illness.

Elias was born on December 1, 1937, in a predominantly Greek community in Egypt. His family fled Egypt for Greece for a better life, due to the persecution of the Christian community in Egypt at the time. Elias later immigrated to the U.S. after graduating from the University of Cairo, Egypt and continued his studies as a CPA and far beyond. He later met his wife Barbara Christos, who together became members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Newark and St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ. Elias was known as a soft-spoken gentleman, and a shrewd intelligent businessman. He served the local Greek community and was known as "The Diner Accountant", where he would make house calls to people to accommodate them that had no means of travel to get to him. After his wife Barbara became ill, he gave his Accounting Practice to

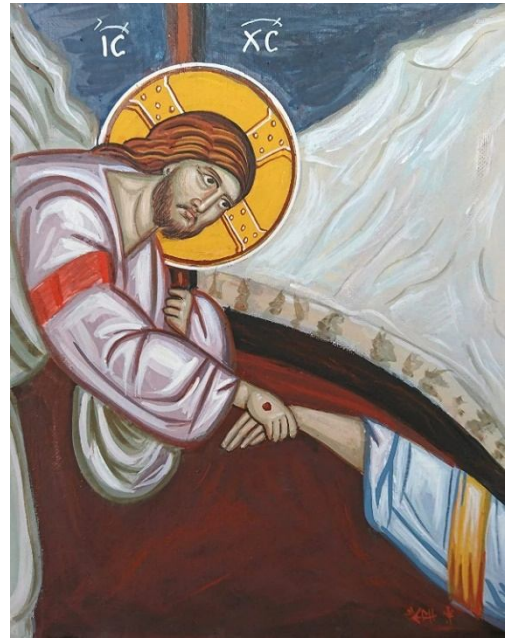


a local Greek accountant that reminded him of himself along with the remainder of his clients that he kept close to him. Luis also became a corporate executive and board member of Henry Brothers Electronics where he was responsible for taking the company public, one of 3 companies he brought to the New York Stock Exchange. He was very generous to his family in Greece buying them land, homes and cars, and was always generous to his friends as well.

He was an avid ping pong player, excellent backgammon player, loved to play poker with his friends, loved James Bond movies, loved billiards, and loved his wife Barbara and dog Muffy along with his best friends Takis and Sultana Seretis, who cared for him for the past 4 years when he became ill.

Elias' mother was Irene Voskopoulos whose family was from Constantinople and fled there again due to the persecution of the Christian community there. His father was Dr. Simeon Massad. He was predeceased by both his parents, his wife Barbara in 2007, and his sister Marika in 2017. He is survived by his sister Georgette Petrakis of Switzerland.

Funeral Service was held for the repose of his soul on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 11am at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ. **Interment** followed at Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover.



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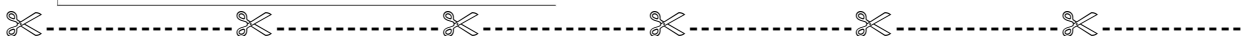
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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

PILLOW & KNITTING 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY 10am

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays 9am

Hellenic Afternoon School Mon or Thu 4:30pm

Greek Dancing Thu Grp 1 @5:45 & Grp 2 @6:30pm

GOYA Volleyball Tuesdays 7pm

GOYA Basketball Wednesdays JR. 6pm | JR. 7:30pm

GOYA Greek Dancing Thursdays @7:30pm

LAP 1ST & 3RD Friday of each month @9:30-11:30am

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN DECEMBER 2021: 12/5 PHILOPTOCHOS*
12/12 PTA, *12/19 DOP* [*PLEASE BRING LENTEN OPTIONS],
12/26 GOYA

12/1 @10AM PILLOW & KNITTING 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY

12/3 @ 9:30-11:30AM LAP PLAY FRIDAY

12/4 GOYA DISTRICT I PLAYOFFS B._BALL & V._BALL

12/5 @11:45 HOPE & JOY MEETING ROOM 102-103

12/11 @11AM BAPTISM

12/12 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT | REL ED & HAS (SNOW DATE 12/19)

12/12 ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

12/14 PHILOPTOCHOS & DOP CHRISTMAS DINNER MORRISTOWN
DINER @6:30PM RSVP BY DEC 10 TO MARY M. OR ELENI B.

12/15 @10AM PILLOW & KNITTING 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY

12/17 @ 9:30-11:30AM LAP PLAY 1ST & 3RD Friday

12/19 SNOW DATE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT | REL ED & HAS

12/25 FAITH KITCHEN – DOP -AHEPA

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN JANUARY 2022: 1/2 PHILOPTOCHOS
1/9 PTA, 1/16 DOP, 1/22 GOYA, 1/30 BAKALIKO

1/7 @9:30-11:30AM LAP PLAY FRIDAY

1/7 GOYA MAKING SANDWICHES FOR BRIDGES AT ST DEMETRIOS
UNION NJ AT 7PM

1/9 CUTTING OF COMMUNAL VASILOPITA

1/9 @11:45 HOPE & JOY MEETING ROOM 102-103

1/27 @7PM GOYA MEETING

1/25 @7 PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING

1/30 THREE HIERARCHS | HAS PROGRAM IN CHURCH

1/31 @7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING



MEMORIAL GIFT

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Please remember the Late † _____ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.
Kindly accept the memorial gift as a token of Love and Respect in his/her memory.

The deceased was the beloved _____ (husband, wife, father, mother, other) of bereaved*
Please ACKNOWLEDGE my/our gift to a member of the family.

NAME & ADDRESS OF BEREAVED* _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF DONOR(S) _____

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PLEASE SEE SCHEDULE UPDATES IN WEEKLY E-BULLETIN & OR WEB SITE

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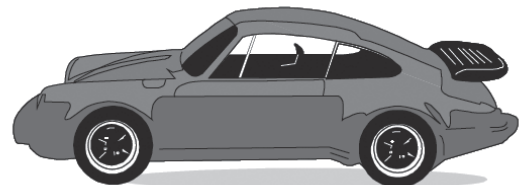
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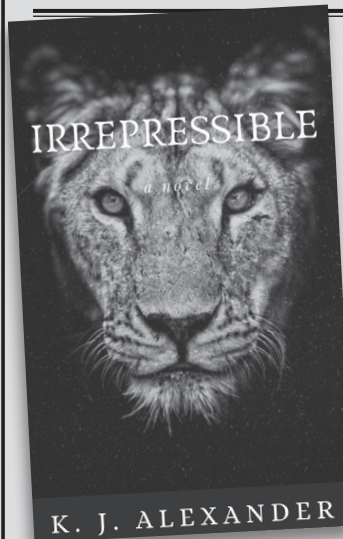


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IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander



To her, she's just
another foster kid.
To them, she's
the queen who will
save them all.

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Financial Administrator, Cathy Barrett fin@standrewgonj.org

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Vasilias Christodoulou, *Director*

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PTA: Maria Pallis, *President*

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GOYA Archontia Fromouzopoulou, *Instructor*

Jr & Sr Groups Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

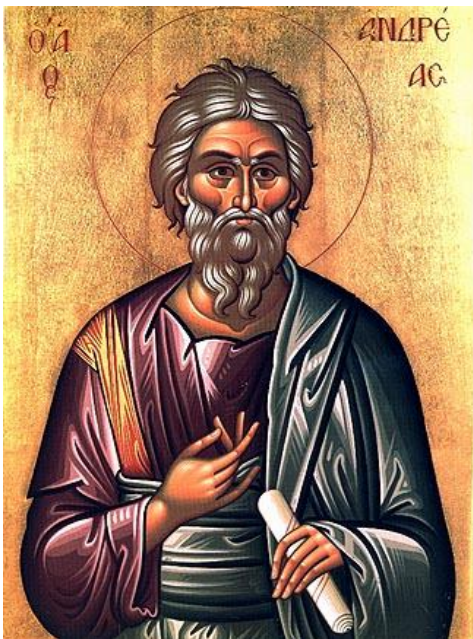
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Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

HYMN OF THE APOSTLE ST. ANDREW

As first of the Apostles to receive the call,
and very brother of the prince of them,
intercede O Andrew,
with the Master of all of us,
peace to all the world to grant,
and to our souls His great mercy.

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

The Saint Andrew Vision Statement

Our Greek Orthodox Community of Morris County is a welcoming place where the family of Saint Andrew is committed to God, Orthodox worship, Christian education, philanthropy, and Hellenic culture, for the benefit of those whose lives we touch.