

DECEMBER 2022



## Saint Andrew Family News

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

ICON: **Jesus of Nazareth**, the son of Joseph.' And **Nathaniel** said to him, 'Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?' **Philip** said to him, '**Come and see**'

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – December 4<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - December 11<sup>th</sup>

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS -- December 18<sup>th</sup>



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

# Saint Andrew Family News

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

On Sundays we celebrate

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

For other services please check our website or call the office

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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

**NJ Metropolis Web: [www.njgoarch.org](http://www.njgoarch.org) G.O. Archdioceses Web: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)**

Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

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*Please submit your articles and information on time to*

Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

*Deadline for the **JANUARY 2023 ISSUE** is December 12<sup>th</sup>*

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# DIVINE SERVICES

## DECEMBER 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	4	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>   +ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR * / <i>Relics</i>
Tuesday	6	+ST. NICHOLAS ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
Monday	12	+ST. SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TRYMITHOUS
Thursday	15	+ST. ELEUTHERIOS THE HOLY MARTYR
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Sunday before the Nativity</b>
Thursday	22	+ST. ANASTASIA THE GREAT MARTYR
Friday	23	Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior +Orthros, Great Hours at 8am
Saturday	24	Eve of Nativity, St Eugenia, Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom @8am
Saturday	24	+ GREAT VESPERS CHRISTMAS EVE @4:30PM
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ</b> <b>+Orthros &amp; Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD &amp; COMMEMORATION ST. BASIL   Great Vespers @3:30pm</b>

## JANUARY 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD &amp; COMMEMORATION OF ST. BASIL @8:15AM</b>
Thursday	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> )
Friday	6	HOLY THEOPHANY, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & The Great Agiasmos
Saturday	7	THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET +ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Sunday after Epiphany</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
Tuesday	17	+ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
Wednesday	18	+ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT & CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA
Friday	20	+ ST. EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Sunday of the Canaanite</b>
Monday	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 @ 9:15AM

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

# ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

## ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2022

Κυριακή	4	<b>Ι΄ Λουκά</b>   +ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ* <i>Λείψανα</i>
Τρίτη	6	+ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΜΥΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΛΥΚΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Κυριακή	11	<b>ΙΑ΄ Λουκά</b>
Δευτέρα	12	+ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΤΡΙΜΥΘΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ
Πέμπτη	15	+ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ
Κυριακή	18	<b>Κυριακή πρό τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως  </b>
Πέμπτη	22	+ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΕΥΤΡΙΑΣ
Παρασκευή	23	+ΠΡΟ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, +ΕΥΓΕΝΙΑΣ   Ὅρθρος, Μεγάλοι Ὁραὶ, <u>ώρα 8πμ</u>
Σάββατο	24	Παραμονή τῆς Ἑορτῆς τῶν Χριστουγέννων; Ὁσιομάρτυρος Εὐγενίας +Ὅρθρος καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία Ἁγίου Ἰωάννη Χρυσοστόμου <u>ώρα 8πμ</u>
ΘΑ ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΕΙ	24	+Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟ <u>ώρα 4.30μμ</u>
Κυριακή	25	<b>Η Γέννησις του Σωστήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού +Ὅρθρος &amp; καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία Ἁγίου Βασιλείου</b>
Σάββατο	31	<b>Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ 3:30ΜΜ</b>

## ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2023

Κυριακή	1	<b>Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ <u>ώρα 8.15πμ</u></b>
Πέμπτη	5	ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ ΘΕΟΠΕΜΠΤΟΥ & ΘΕΩΝΑ ΤΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩΝ (Νηστεία) – Ὅρθρος, Μέγα Εσπερινό, Θεία Λειτουργία του Ἁγίου Βασιλείου & Ακολουθία του Ἁγιασμοῦ
Παρασκευή	6	ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ; Μέγας Ἁγιασμός
Σάββατο	7	Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ
Κυριακή	8	<b>Απόδοσις τῶν Ἁγίων Θεοφανείων</b>
Κυριακή	15	<b>ΙΒ΄ Του Λουκά</b>
Τρίτη	17	+ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Τετάρτη	18	+ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ
Παρασκευή	20	+ΕΥΘΥΜΙΟΥ ΟΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Κυριακή	22	<b>ΙΕ΄ Του Λουκά</b>
Κυριακή	29	ΙΖ΄ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ (τῆς ΧΑΝΑΝΑΪΑΣ);
Δευτέρα	30	ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ +ΜΕΓΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ, +ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ, + ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ

**Την Κυριακή – Ὅρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ  
Τις καθημερινές – Ὅρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.15πμ  
(Ἐχομε τα Λείψανα του Ἁγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη τῆς ἐκκλησίας μας)\***

# THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT ANDREW HAS BEEN BLESSED

Beloved in Christ,

The community of Saint Andrew has been blessed and we can see that since God has been with us from the time of our formation as a community, he has blessed its members through it. We feel especially grateful as we consider all of our blessings at this important juncture in the life of our community.

However, the word to be grateful is not a feeling but it is a verb, and a verb is something you do, not something you feel. In other words, the fact that we are grateful means that we should not just respond to our Lord's blessings with good feelings towards Him, but rather we should show our gratitude to him. But how do we show our gratitude to him? If God is with us, where do we see him to show him our gratitude?

Christ is with us when we see him in the faces of our brothers and sisters who surround us. We see him in the face of the single mother. We see him in the face of the person who is sick. We see him in the faces of the couple who is struggling to save their marriage. We see him wherever there is human suffering or pain.

When Christ was born into the world for us and He was lying in a manger we experience Him as someone who came to us because He loves us. He comes to us because He is Philanthropos a lover of mankind.

When we show mercy and compassion on those who have need or are suffering, we become philanthropists and we continue the work that he started. This is where we begin to show him the love that He first showed us. The community Saint Andrew becomes the presence of God in a hurting and broken world. In other words, we become the



Emanuel, that we hear about at Christmastime for a world that is in need.

Think about how many over these many years participated in GOYA here and JOY and HOPE Sunday School and YAL. Think about how many Weddings Baptisms Funerals Hospital visits and shut in visits. Think about how many Blankets and pillows were made and distributed, and how many people attended the divine services of the church. How many were fed at the

Faith Kitchen.

How much money has been raised for the education of our children by the PTA and the needy helped in so many ways by the Philoptochos and scholarships given by the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope.

When we think about the story of Christ coming into the world at Christmas, we need to think about it as a Love Story

A story of God Loving us so much that he was willing to give up His place in Heaven and come here to earth to change our life and bring us salvation. This is what Emanuel means, to have God with us. God has been with us and will be with us as long as we do His work in this world. So, now we have been and will continue to be as a church and as its members the Emanuel, the presence of God, to be the changing force that leads people to salvation.

We not only celebrate this life saving work which has gone on in the past, but we also celebrate this life saving ministry which is to come in the next 60 years and beyond.

God Bless the Community of Saint Andrew and God Bless all of us!

Rev. Fr. John Theodosion

# Η ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΗ

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ αδελφοί,

Η κοινότητα του Αγίου Ανδρέου είναι ευλογημένη αφού ο Θεός είναι κοντά μας από την ώρα που δημιουργήθηκε αυτή η κοινότητα και δια μέσω αυτής ευλογεί τα μέλη της. Νιώθουμε ιδιαίτερα ευγνωμοσύνη όταν σκεφτόμαστε όλες τις ευλογίες μας σε αυτή την σημαντική στιγμή στη ζωή της κοινότητάς μας.

Όμως, η φράση είμαι ευγνώμων δεν είναι μόνο συναίσθημα αλλά περιλαμβάνει και ένα ρήμα, και με το ρήμα εκδηλώνεται πράξη και όχι συναίσθημα. Με άλλα λόγια, το γεγονός ότι είμαστε ευγνώμονες σημαίνει ότι δεν πρέπει να ανταποκρινόμαστε μόνο με καλά συναισθήματα στις ευλογίες του Κυρίου μας, καλύτερα είναι να Του δείχνουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη μας. Αλλά πώς θα Του δείξουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη μας;

Ο Χριστός είναι μαζί μας όταν τον αντικρύζουμε στα πρόσωπα των αδελφών μας που μας περιβάλλουν. Τον βλέπουμε στο πρόσωπο της ανύπαντρης μητέρας. Τον βλέπουμε στο πρόσωπο του άρρωστου συνανθρώπου μας. Τον βλέπουμε στα πρόσωπα ενός ζευγαριού που παλεύουν να σώσουν τον γάμο τους. Τον βλέπουμε οπουδήποτε υπάρχει άνθρωπος που υποφέρει ή πονά.

Ο Χριστός γεννήθηκε στον κόσμο για εμάς μέσα στη φάτνη, Τον νιώθουμε ως κάποιον που ήλθε κοντά μας επειδή μας αγαπά. Έρχεται κοντά μας επειδή είναι ο Φιλάνθρωπος ο αγαπών τον άνθρωπο.

Όταν δείχνουμε έλεος και ευσπλαχνία σε αυτούς που έχουν ανάγκη ή υποφέρουν, γινόμαστε φιλάνθρωποι και συνεχίζουμε το έργο που άρχισε ο Χριστός. Έτσι Του δείχνουμε την αγάπη που Αυτός πρώτος μας έδειξε. Η κοινότητα του Αγίου Ανδρέα γίνεται η παρουσία του Θεού σε ένα πληγωμένο και καταρρακωμένο κόσμο. Με άλλα λόγια, γινόμαστε

ο Εμμανουήλ, για τον οποίο ακούμε τα Χριστούγεννα, σε έναν κόσμο σε ανάγκη.

Σκεφτείτε όλα αυτά τα χρόνια πόσοι συμμετείχαν στη GOYA και στα JOY και HOPE, το Κατηχητικό Σχολείο και το YAL. Σκεφτείτε πόσοι Γάμοι, Βαπτίσεις, Κηδείες, Επισκέψεις στα Νοσοκομεία και ιδιωτικές επισκέψεις έγιναν. Σκεφτείτε όλες τις Κουβέρτες και τα μαξιλάρια που φτιάχτηκαν και μοιράστηκαν, και πόσοι άνθρωποι προσήλθαν στις θείες λειτουργίες της εκκλησίας. Ακόμη, και πόσοι έλαβαν φαγητό στη Faith Kitchen.

Πόσα χρήματα μαζεύτηκαν για την παιδεία των παιδιών μας από το ΡΤΑ και για την βοήθεια από την Φιλόπτωχο σε ανθρώπους που είχαν ανάγκη και πόσες υποτροφίες δόθηκαν από τους ΑΧΕΠΑ και τις Daughters of Penelope.

Όταν σκεφτόμαστε την ιστορία του Χριστού που ήλθε στον κόσμο τα Χριστούγεννα, πρέπει να την σκεπτόμαστε ως μια Ιστορία Αγάπης.

Η ιστορία του Θεού που μας Αγαπά τόσο πολύ που ήταν πρόθυμος να αφήσει τον Παράδεισο για να έλθει εδώ στη γη να αλλάξει τη ζωή μας και να μας φέρει τη σωτηρία. Αυτή είναι η σημασία του Εμμανουήλ, να έχουμε τον Θεό μαζί μας. Ο Θεός ήταν μαζί μας και θα είναι μαζί μας για όσο κάνουμε τα έργα Του σε αυτό τον κόσμο. Έτσι, ήμασταν και έτσι θα συνεχίσουμε να είμαστε ως εκκλησία και ως μέλη της, ο Εμμανουήλ, η παρουσία του Θεού, η δύναμη αλλαγής που οδηγεί τον κόσμο στη σωτηρία.

Όχι μόνο εορτάζουμε αυτό το σωτήριο έργο που έγινε στο παρελθόν, αλλά επίσης εορτάζουμε αυτό το σωτήριο ποιμαντικό έργο που συνεχίζεται για τα επόμενα 60 χρόνια και ακόμη περισσότερα.

Ο Θεός ας Ευλογεί την Κοινότητα του Αγίου Ανδρέα και να έχουμε όλοι την Ευλογία του Θεού!

Αιδ Πατήρ Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου

Adaptation by: Maria Kiritsis, Athens GR



## Quotes from 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program

*"Saint Andrew celebrates 60 years through the Grace of God and the dedicated work and leadership of our wonderful community. God grant and bless Saint Andrew many years!" | DEBBIE (PAPPAS) AND MARTY BURNE*

*"We thank God for Father John and the good people of Saint Andrew and pray that God will bless us all with many more years of health and happiness and ultimately with salvation." | GREG WARHOLAK*

*Ευγνωμοσύνη και ευχαριστίες σ' αυτούς που πριν 60 χρόνια ανέλαβαν την ίδρυση της εκκλησίας μας | JEFFERSON DINER*

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

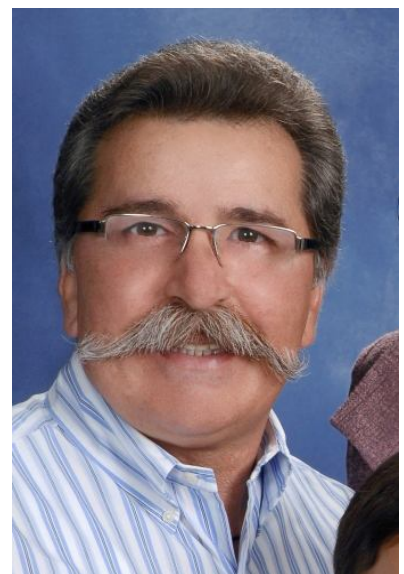
Today we are blessed to celebrate the completion of the first half-century of worship in St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. More importantly, we join together in anticipation for the beginning of our second half-century of worship and community in our spiritual home, named for the first follower of our Lord. Our gathering tonight represents the culmination of a year-long celebration of faith that began with the donation of holy relics to our community – including relics of St. Andrew – and the commissioning of a commemorative icon of St. Andrew that we have reproduced on a prayer card for each in attendance at this gala celebration.

On behalf of the community of St. Andrew, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Fr. Tsigas and Fr. John for providing fifty years spiritual leadership. I also thank the founding families who worked so hard fifty years ago to provide us with a much-needed spiritual home in our own community, as well as the many families who followed to work hard for its relocation and its later expansions to accommodate the increasing needs of our community.

During our fifty years in the service of the Lord, our community in the Morris County area has enjoyed steady and continued growth, best reflected in our expanding list of families in our mailing list, and the increasing rolls of children in our Sunday School, Greek School and Goya. Our other ministries are also increasingly vibrant, many extending beyond our own community to feed and clothe the "least of us," working hard on our behalf to fulfill Christ's admonition to his followers.

We are also well-positioned for the future, with space reserved to someday extend our sanctuary – a dream that will hopefully soon become a necessity with our continued growth. But after spending time with many of you in the past few years, I firmly believe we are even better positioned with personal, strong, and devout Christian beliefs essential to our Christian mission. Residing in your hearts is the firm foundation of Christian faith enabling us to accomplish much in the next fifty years!

With Love in Christ,  
Nicholas Monokandilos, Parish Council President



My Dear Children,

Today is a great and historic day. We are celebrating 60 years of our beloved Saint Andrew's community. Our families, with great effort, founded this community that you and your children enjoy today. Let us reminisce of the little church on Union and River Street in Dover. That's where it all began, the Community of Saint Andrew. It's there that we dreamed and struggled for 11 years to fulfill our vision of a new and larger sanctuary and small hall with space for catechism classes.

A few years later, we built the community center that serves the needs of the community to this day. For the 27 families that started our community, memories of the struggle, the effort, the joy, and enthusiasm led to fulfilling the daring dreams to build this huge undertaking so that future generations would reap the bountiful gifts. I would like to thank all those parishioners who dared to take these great steps, that were above and beyond any expectations. These brave families built the foundation of everything you needed for your spiritual, religious, and social growth.

Let's remember the members of the Building Fund, and the chairperson, the late Captain Spiro Moraitis. Every Thursday he had a meeting and the rest of the week he was visiting families, and humbly asking for their financial assistance which they willingly reciprocated. That's how we were able to take a loan for only \$250,000 to finish the project. The community center received an additional blessing from the late Van Paftinos who took the responsibility and donated all the bricks and labor for finishing the construction of the community center. A week after having heart bypass surgery, Van was on top of the church roof working on a frosty day. It took everything I had to urge him to stop and come down from there. This was the enthusiasm of our parishioners. I thank everyone with all my heart and may God bless them.



Now that our community has grown in number, we should learn to work, united, with enthusiasm and love! Continue this wonderful work and try to live in a way that pleases our Lord and God. And if you raise your children close to Christ, you have succeeded as parents. Love your church! And try to make your home "A Home Church".

May God's grace and Saint Andrew's prayers be with us all, and may my best wishes accompany them!

Sincerely,  
Rev. Konstantine Tsigas

Με χαρά και υπερηφάνεια γιορτάζουμε τα 60 χρόνια της Εκκλησίας μας – Τάκης και Σουλτάνα Σερέτη  
TAKIS & SULTANA SERETIS





# 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA OF SAINT ANDREW CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022

Beautiful Gala celebrating the **60th Anniversary** of our beloved parish of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church.



Mary, Bessie, and Athena

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA COMMITTEE

*"Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you."* Matthew 18:20

May God continue to bless our beautiful parish of Saint Andrew as we celebrate this special milestone together May God continue to bless our beautiful parish of Saint Andrew as we celebrate this special milestone together! | THE IBRAHIM FAMILY





Bravo!! To our Greek Dancers and their instructor Angelo Gergatsoulis for a memorable performance at our 60<sup>th</sup> Gala setting the mood for a FUN evening

## SAINT ANDREW HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

The students of the Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) continue to progress with teacher implementation of new strategies and enhancing curriculum to improve conversational dialogue between student and teacher, and student with their peer. The teachers are always finding new ways to engage the students, as they work together with creative lessons. The teachers use of our new library includes all genres in both Greek and English, enhance reading and comprehension in the classroom. We look forward to upcoming events including several read aloud after church service as our teachers volunteer to read selective Greek language books with all students.

Other events include our annual Hellenic book fair. The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School continues to promote new Greek language books in which upholds various interest for everyone. Join us at our annual Hellenic Book Fair, and see a plethora of Greek language books sponsored by the Saint Andrew PTA and the Hellenic Book Club of New York City. This event will be after our **Annual Christmas Pageant**.

We are so excited to collaborate with the religious education teachers and students for a memorable Christmas program!

The Hellenic Book Fair event on:

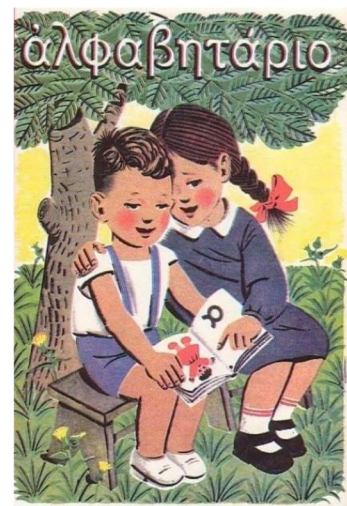
**Sunday, December 11, 2022 at the Saint Andrew's social hall.**

**We hope to see you there!**

Lastly, the students completed their Christmas drawing and recently submitted to the ANT1 Children's Drawing Contest. Good luck to our students!

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

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Καλή Πρωτοχρονιά!





On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> Our Hellenic Afternoon School  
 delighted our Saint Andrew community with their  
 Annual (28<sup>th</sup> of October) OXI DAY Program

The students recited poems commemorating the Greek's refusal to surrender to fascism during WWII.  
 Big thankyou to our beautiful children and their dedicated teachers.

Religion lays the foundation  
 for our children's spiritual  
 future.

Join us in building a  
 community of faith for our  
 children!

On Friday night October 28<sup>th</sup>  
 We had a great turn-out and a wonderful  
 time with our children at our  
 annual Saint Andrew Trunk or Treat!  
 Thankyou Vasilia and Effie for putting it  
 together.



# GOYA

As the GOYA year continues, so do the Volleyball and Basketball seasons. It has been a very exciting and challenging season for both Volleyball and Basketball. Our regular season concludes on November 20th at Paramus and then we look forward to the Playoffs on December 3rd. Good luck to all teams!

On October 22nd, the GOYA hosted the Faith Kitchen. The Faith Kitchen is when the GOYAn's take



the time to make sandwiches for the homeless. And as always it was very rewarding giving sandwiches to the less fortunate. We had a good turnout and look forward to helping again in the future!

In other news, the GOYA went to the Bowling Tournament and Dance at Fairview on November 5th. At this event, we get a chance to meet GOYAn's from other parishes. After the bowling, we went Fairview Ascension Church for Dinner, Dancing, and Awards. Karmen Giannikopoulos got 2nd place out



of the Seniors and Evangelos Clapsis got awarded Best Male Average. It's always fun seeing old faces and making new friends The next dance for our GOYA is the Christmas Dance on December 27th!

Our dance group has restarted, and we've had a good turnout with approximately 15 GOYAn's attending practices and we have a good time. We had an amazing time dancing at the 60th Anniversary Gala, and look forward to Sights and Sounds, and the Festival! We would like to grow our group even more, so consider joining!

We are hosting a Movie Night on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the church and plan on Going Christmas Caroling as well (*look for date in upcoming communications*).



Written By: Karmen Giannikopoulos

## Executive Board 2022-23

*President:* Despina  
*VP:* Jonathan and Dora  
*Treasurer:* Peter  
*Recording Secretary:* Ava  
*Corresponding Sec.:* Michael  
*Historian:* Vageli

## Board Members

Karmen  
Demi  
Themelis  
Elisabeth

## GOYA Advisers:

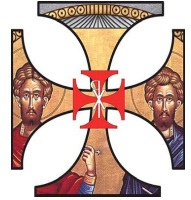
Polymnia Crysler  
Marlena Karipidis  
Roslyn Monokandilos  
Diana Sedereas  
Peter Sedereas



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP 2023



### PHILOPTOCHOS MISSION

*To promote charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.*

#### The Executive Board

- President*  
Mary Michailidis
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
Marina Venizelos
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
Maria Daniskas
- Treasurer*  
Salomi Massaras
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Maro Schuster
- Recording Secretary*  
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- The Board Members**
- Antonia Clapsis  
Maria Galvin  
Irene Laoudis  
Panayiota Louca  
Irene Petrou
- Advisor to Board**  
Eleni Constantinides

**Spiritual Advisor**  
Fr John Theodosion

Dear Members of Saint Andrew,

We pray that you are well and enjoying the Christmas season. The following is a little information about Philoptochos that we hope will encourage membership!

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that has offered 90 years of philanthropy through a multitude of programs that make a difference in the lives of people in the United States and throughout the world.

#### The mission of the Society is:

- **To help the poor**, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to aid anyone who many need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts.
- **To promote the charitable**, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars, and other educational resources.
- **To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts** and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs.
- **To promote participation** in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy, and kindness.

It is evident that Philoptochos is an important part of our community!

Please join the Saint Andrew Philoptochos and make a difference in the lives of so many people in need. There is something for everyone. We thank you for all your help and support as we could not continue our Philanthropy without our wonderful members. We look forward to your membership renewal as well as new memberships!

May God Bless you and your families with health and happiness Always.

Please contact any Philoptochos Member or the church office for a MEMBERSHIP FORM.

In the service of the lord  
Marina Venizelos, *2<sup>nd</sup> VP Philoptochos*

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[www.standrewgonj.org](http://www.standrewgonj.org) • E-mail: [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

## Let's get back in the habit...Together



We are all familiar with the idea that it takes repetition for something to become a habit. But did we ever consider that this concept could apply to our attendance of the Divine Liturgy at Saint Andrew? Since the pandemic shut down our church for many months, we were forced to create a new habit of not attending church in person. And although Saint Andrew is now open and ready for our return, it can be difficult to find our way back.

Perhaps you have become comfortable just watching the livestream from home or have even filled your Sunday mornings with other activities. If you are like me, a working parent of two middle school aged children, you may be constantly called in different directions and feel out of the habit of helping your family get ready on Sunday mornings to arrive on time and experience the Divine Liturgy with fellow parishioners. On these mornings I find myself having thoughts of - will we be late for church; will we walk in at the wrong time; will people notice that my family is 'out of practice' while receiving communion or sitting in the pews? After sharing this concern with Father John recently, he reminded me that we are not in church to judge one another and while arriving at church on time should always be our goal, it sometimes takes a few tries to get it right.

I am hoping that by sharing this journey to get myself and my family back to church every Sunday, I can inspire others who may be struggling as well to take that first step back. Come and join me in church this Sunday and together we can start to create our renewed habit.

Sincerely,  
Jaime Andrews  
Saint Andrew Stewardship Committee Member

# "Come and See"

In the Gospel of John we read of the calling of the disciples... "*Philip finds Nathaniel, and said to him, 'We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, **Jesus** of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'* And **Nathaniel** said to him, '*Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?'* **Philip** said to him, '*Come and see*'" (John 1:45-46).

Each of us is also called to *Come and See* the One who brings us peace and understanding. The One who came to be our great example in life.

## **See the World as God's Gift to You**

Come and see God's many blessings in your life. What is your response to His gifts? In gratitude and thanksgiving, you offer your time, talents and treasure in proportion to what you have been given.

Gregory the Theologian writes, "You will never overcome God's generosity, even if you give away all that you have.... And however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God (Or 14.22)."

## **See What the Church can Become**

Come and see what the Church can become – not just maintaining current programs, but doing the ministries made possible by your support.

In the early Church, every person coming to the gathering of the Church brought everything they could spare for the needs of the Church. They provided for the sustenance of the clergy, widows and orphans, for helping the poor, and for all the good works of the Church. This is the Church that we as Orthodox Christians claim to be.

How much can your offering do for Christ? -Only as much as you empower it to do. It depends on your love, because we give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him. We are called to love God with our entire being – our time, talents and treasury.

## **See God Work through You**

Come and see God work through you to serve His Church and those who seek His Truth.

Remember the Samaritan woman at the well. After meeting Jesus "...The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and said to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came to him" (John 4).



God will place you in situations to share your faith. As He called upon His disciples on the day of His Ascension, He has also called upon you to be His witness" *...in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

In the Gospel, we read of people coming to see Jesus. There were four individuals who also brought their friend, a paralyzed man, to be healed. When they found the place so crowded that they couldn't get close, these friends removed part of the roof, and lowered their friend down on a stretcher and laid him at Jesus' feet.

We also begin by bringing ourselves to Christ. But it doesn't stop there. After we have brought ourselves, we bring others. The greatest gift we can give to another person is Christ and the ministries of the Church provide the opportunity to do so. But these ministries require our support.

We are able to fulfill God's mission for the Church only to the extent that we support it. We do this by our physical, spiritual and financial support. Did you know that there are some 500 references in the Bible about prayer? But there are some 2300 references in the Bible about offering financial assistance to the Church to assist in transforming people.

### **Come and See**

This Phrase is simple yet powerful. It calls us to change our location – physically and spiritually. If we want to find Christ, we must move toward Him. We must grow and mature in our faith.

Giving to the Church is an opportunity – an opportunity to examine our priorities and values. It is an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It is an opportunity to participate in the work of God. Come and see what we can do together with your support.

A check mailed to the church is meaningless unless it is accompanied by our presence, by our willingness to serve, by our prayers, and by our commitment. Giving is not a substitute for our commitment – it is an expression of our commitment. Come and see how you can grow through service to the Church.

**Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome**

(Psalm 66:5).

### **Consider Weekly Giving**

In I Corinthians 16:2 we read "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his/her income." Regular stewardship contributions are easier to manage and keep the Church and her ministries in our thoughts and plans. One way to do this is through automatically scheduled payments sent directly from your bank. In this way, we offer back to God the "first fruits" of our labor, realizing that all we possess comes from Him.

### **Consider Cheerful Giving**





In II Corinthians 9:7 we read “Each person should give what he/she has decided in his/her heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Consider your weekly expenditures on entertainment, coffee, etc. Keep in mind that the expenses of the Church increase every year. In order to grow our ministries and meet our expenses, stewardship contributions must also increase each year.

### **Consider Proportionate Giving**

The more we are given, the more is expected of us. Each steward should determine the percentage of their income that will be committed to Christ and His Church.

## **ΕΡΧΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΙΔΕ**

Στο κατά Ιωάννη Ευαγγέλιο διαβάζουμε για το κάλεσμα των μαθητών... *Ευρισκει Φιλιππος Τον Ναθαναηλ Και Λεγει Προς Αυτον Εκεινον Τον Οποιον Εγραψεν Ο Μωυσης Εν Τω Νομω Και Οι Προφηται Ευρηκαμεν Ιησουν Τον Υιον Του Ιωσηφ Τον Απο Ναζαρετ Και Ειπε Προς Αυτον Ο Ναθαναηλ Εκ Ναζαρετ Δυναται Να Προελθη Τι Αγαθον Λεγει Προς Αυτον Ο Φιλιππος Ερχου Και Ιδε* (Ιωάννης 1:45-46).

Ο καθένας από εμάς καλείται για να Έρθει να Δει Αυτόν που μας φέρνει ειρήνη και κατανόηση. Αυτόν που καθίσταται το μεγάλο μας παράδειγμα στη ζωή.

### **Δείτε τον Κόσμο σαν Θείο Δώρο**

Ελάτε να δείτε όλες τις ευλογίες του Θεού στη ζωή σας. Ποια είναι η ανταπόκριση σας στα δώρα Του; Με ευγνωμοσύνη και ευχαριστία, προσφέρετε τον χρόνο, το ταλέντο και τους θησαυρούς σας σε αναλογία με αυτά που έχετε λάβει.

Ο Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος γράφει, «Δεν θα γίνει ποτέ η γενναιοδωρία του Θεού, ακόμη κι αν δώσεις όλα όσα έχεις... Και όσα κι αν Του φέρεις, πάντα θα υπάρχουν κι άλλα. Ούτε ποτέ θα δώσει κάτι που είναι δικό σου, γιατί όλα ρέουν από τον Θεό».

### **Δείτε Τι Μπορεί να Γίνει η Εκκλησία**

Ελάτε να δείτε τι μπορεί να γίνει η Εκκλησία – όχι μόνο να διατηρεί τα τρέχοντα προγράμματα, μα φέρνοντας εις πέρας τις αποστολές που γίνονται εφικτές με τη δική σας υποστήριξη.

Στο ξεκίνημα της Εκκλησίας, κάθε άνθρωπος που συμμετείχε στις συγκεντρώσεις έφερνε ότι μπορούσε να διαθέσει για τις ανάγκες της Εκκλησίας. Παρείχαν για την συντήρηση του κλήρου, χήρες και ορφανά, για την βοήθεια των φτωχών, και για όλα τα καλά έργα της Εκκλησίας. Αυτή είναι η Εκκλησία η οποία εμείς οι Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί υποστηρίζουμε ότι είμαστε.

Πόσα μπορεί η να προσφέρει η εισφορά σας στον Χριστό; Μόνο όσο την εξουσιοδοτήσετε. Εξαρτάται από την αγάπη σας, γιατί δίνουμε στον Χριστό και την Εκκλησία του όχι βάση των αγαθών μας, αλλά βάση της αγάπης μας για Αυτόν. Καλούμαστε να αγαπήσουμε τον Θεό με όλο μας το είναι – τον χρόνο, το ταλέντο και τον θησαυρό μας.

### **Δείτε τον Θεό να Δουλεύει Μέσω Εσάς**



Ελάτε να δείτε τον Θεό να δουλεύει μέσω εσάς για να υπηρετήσει την Εκκλησία Του και όλους αυτούς που αναζητούν την Αλήθεια Του.

Θυμηθείτε την Καλή Σαμαρείτισσα στο πηγάδι. Αφού συνάντησε τον Ιησού... «Αφηκε Λοιπον Η Γυνη Την Υδριαν Αυτης Και Υπηγεν Εις Την Πολιν Και Λεγει Προς Τους Ανθρωπους Ελθετε Να Ιδητε Ανθρωπον Οστις Μοι Ειπε Παντα Οσα Επραξα Μηπως Ουτος Ειναι Ο Χριστος Εξηλθον Λοιπον Εκ Της Πολεως Και Ηρχοντο Προς Αυτον» (Ιωάννης 4:28-30)

Ο Θεός θα σας βάλει σε καταστάσεις για να μοιραστείτε την πίστη σας. Όπως κάλεσε τους μαθητές του την ημέρα της Αναλήψεως Του, έχει καλέσει και εσάς να είστε μάρτυρες Του «...στην Ιερουσαλήμ, και σε όλη την Ιουδαία και Σαμάρεια και έως το τελευταίο μέρος της γης».

Στο Ευαγγέλιο, διαβάζουμε συνέχεια για ανθρώπους που έρχονται να δουν τον Ιησού. Υπήρχαν και τέσσερα άτομα που έφεραν και τους φίλους τους, έναν παράλυτο άνδρα, για να γιατρευτεί. Όταν είδαν ότι ο χώρος ήταν τόσο κοσμοβριθής που δεν μπορούσαν να πλησιάσουν, αυτοί οι φίλοι αφαίρεσαν τμήμα της οροφής, και κατέβασαν τον φίλο τους σ' ένα φορείο στα πόδια του Ιησού.

Ξεκινούμε επίσης με το να «φέρνουμε» τον εαυτό μας τον Χριστό. Μα δεν σταματά εκεί. Αφού φέρουμε τον εαυτό μας, φέρνουμε και άλλους. Το μεγαλύτερο δώρο που μπορούμε να κάνουμε σε κάποιον άνθρωπο είναι ο Χριστός, και οι αποστολές της Εκκλησίας μας παρέχουν την ευκαιρία να το κάνουμε. Μα αυτές οι αποστολές απαιτούν την υποστήριξη μας.

Μπορούμε να εκπληρώσουμε τη αποστολή του Θεού για την Εκκλησία μόνο μέχρι εκεί που την υποστηρίζουμε. Το κάνουμε μέσω της σωματικής, πνευματικής και οικονομικής μας υποστήριξης. Γνωρίζατε ότι υπάρχουν περίπου 500 αναφορές στην Βίβλο για την προσευχή; Μα υπάρχουν περίπου 2300 αναφορές για οικονομικές εισφορές και βοήθεια στην Εκκλησία για υποστήριξη στην μεταμόρφωση των ανθρώπων.

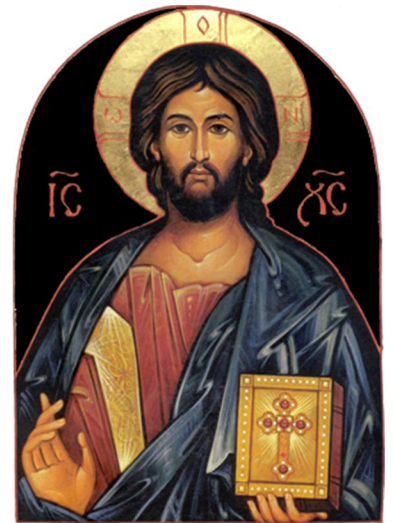
### **Ελάτε να Δείτε**

Αυτή η Φράση είναι απλή μα πολύ δυναμική. Μας καλεί να αλλάξουμε την τοποθεσία μας – σωματικά και πνευματικά. Εάν θέλουμε να βρούμε τον Χριστό, πρέπει να κινηθούμε προς Αυτόν. Πρέπει να μεγαλώσουμε και να ωριμάσουμε μέσα στην πίστη μας.

Το να δίνουμε στην Εκκλησία είναι μια ευκαιρία – μια ευκαιρία να εξετάσουμε τις προτεραιότητες και τις αξίες μας. Είναι μια ευκαιρία να εκφράσουμε την ευχαριστία μας, να δώσουμε τον εαυτό μας και να μεγαλώσουμε με χάρη. Είναι μια ευκαιρία να συμμετάσχουμε στο έργο του Θεού. Ελάτε να δείτε τι μπορούμε να κάνουμε μαζί με την υποστήριξη σας.

Μια επιταγή που ταχυδρομείται στην εκκλησία είναι ανούσια εκτός εάν συνοδεύεται από την παρουσία μας, από την προθυμία μας να υπηρετήσουμε, με τις προσευχές μας, και με την δέσμευση μας. Το να δίνουμε δεν αντικαθιστά τη δέσμευση μας – είναι μια έκφραση της δέσμευσης. Ελάτε να δείτε πως μπορείτε να μεγαλώσετε μέσα από την υπηρεσία στην Εκκλησία.

Ελθετε Και Ιδετε Τα Εργα Του Θεου Ειναι Φοβερος Εις Τας Πραξεις Προς Τους Υιους Των Ανθρωπων (Ψαλμός 66:5)





GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

### *Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship*

The Holy Eucharist is called Holy Communion because it unites us to one another as the Body of Christ. The word *Eucharist* comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. This is what we do when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy – we are giving thanks. The Eucharist – the sacrament of Holy Communion – is the focus of our parish life. As Eucharistic Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God’s gift. We offer our small piece of the world back to God in thanksgiving with the words, “Thine own of Thine own we offer to Thee....”

In this our 60<sup>th</sup> year as a Community of Saint Andrew we have bounced back in many ways from the effects of the Coronavirus, however I would say we are not out of the woods. So many of our programs are operating like they were before the pandemic began. At this time, though, some have not, namely the Agape group, Sunday School and the PTA. We are counting on all of our families to help get these programs back up and running like they did in the past. As well, in the coming year we will be focusing our efforts to provide Faith and Family Evenings at the church, to expand our ministries to the poor and needy and continue to minister to all of our parishioners both young and old.

We ask you to show your thanks to God by supporting the worthy ministries of our church. Giving to His Church is an important way to thank God for His grace and generosity that most of us experience. The question is not, “What are the dues?” but “How can I thank God for my many blessings?” We are stewards of what we have learned from the Gospel and we are the caretakers of Saint Andrew. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could and should be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

Before completing the enclosed Commitment Card and Information Form, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. A check mailed to the church is most meaningful when accompanied by your presence, by your leadership, by your willingness to serve, by your prayers, and by your commitment. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of your commitment and an expression of thanks for the many blessings in your life. Saint Andrew really needs you in order to fulfill its potential.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Fr. John Theodosion



Parish Priest



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW YORK

## SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

### Προσφέροντας Ευχαριστία: Οικονομία της Θείας Ευχαριστίας

Η Θεία Ευχαριστία ονομάζεται Θεία Κοινωνία επειδή μας ενώνει τον ένα με τον άλλο ως Σώμα Χριστού. Η λέξη *Ευχαριστία* προέρχεται από την ελληνική λέξη ευχαριστώ. Αυτό κάνουμε την ώρα της Θείας Λειτουργίας – προσφέρουμε ευχαριστία. Η Λειτουργία της Θείας Ευχαριστίας είναι το επίκεντρο της ενοριακής μας ζωής. Ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί βλέπουμε τον κόσμο ως δώρο Θεού. Προσφέρουμε το μικρό μας μερίδιο από τον κόσμο στον Θεό και Τον ευχαριστούμε με τα λόγια, «Τα σα εκ των σων Συ προσφέρωμεν....»

Διανύοντας τον 60ό χρόνο ως Κοινότητα του Αγίου Ανδρέα, έχουμε κυλήσει πίσω με πολλούς τρόπους από τα επακόλουθα του κορωνοϊού και δεν έχουμε ξεφύγει ακόμη από αυτό το πρόβλημα. Πολλά από τα προγράμματά μας λειτουργούν όπως και πριν την πανδημία. Προς το παρόν όμως, αυτό δεν συμβαίνει με την ομάδα Αγάπη, το Κατηχητικό σχολείο και τον Σύλλογο Γονέων και Διδασκάλων. Βασιζόμαστε σε όλες τις οικογένειές μας να βοηθήσουν να λειτουργήσουν και πάλι αυτά τα προγράμματα, όπως έκαναν και στο παρελθόν. Επίσης, τον ερχόμενο χρόνο θα εστιάσουμε τις προσπάθειές μας στις βραδιές Πίστης και Οικογένειας στην εκκλησία, στην επέκταση των έργων μας στους πτωχούς και όσους έχουν ανάγκες και στην συνέχιση των έργων μας σε όλα τα μέλη της ενορίας και νέων και μεγαλύτερων.

Σας ζητούμε να δείξετε την ευχαριστία σας στον Θεό με την υποστήριξη των άξιων έργων της εκκλησίας μας. Προσφέροντας στην Εκκλησία Του είναι ένας σημαντικός τρόπος να ευχαριστήσουμε τον Θεό για την χάρι και γενναιοδωρία Του που οι περισσότεροι χαιρόμαστε. Η ερώτηση δεν είναι, «Τί χρωστάω;» αλλά «Πώς μπορώ να ευχαριστήσω τον Θεό για τις τόσες ευλογίες μου;» Είμαστε οικονόμοι σύμφωνα με όσα έχουμε μάθει από το Ευαγγέλιο και είμαστε και οι φροντιστές της εκκλησίας του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Βλέπουμε την εκκλησία μας όχι όπως είναι, αλλά όπως θα μπορούσε και θα έπρεπε να είναι. Προσφέρουμε το θησαυρό μας και τους εαυτούς μας με θυσία, έτσι ώστε, ως μέλη του Σώματος του Χριστού, να φτάσουμε τις πλήρεις δυνατότητές μας για Αυτόν.

Πριν συμπληρώσετε την εσώκλειστη Κάρτα Δέσμευσης και το Πληροφοριακό Έντυπο, σας παρακαλούμε να σκεφτείτε καλά την δέσμευση που κάνετε. Η επιταγή που αποστέλλετε ταχυδρομικά στην εκκλησία θα έχει νόημα όταν συνοδεύεται και από την παρουσία σας, τη διοικητική σας ικανότητα, την προθυμία σας να υπηρετήσετε, τις προσευχές σας, και τη δέσμευσή σας. Η προσφορά δεν είναι υποκατάστατο της δέσμευσης – είναι έκφραση της δέσμευσής σας και έκφραση ευχαριστίας για τις πολλές ευλογίες στη ζωή σας. Η εκκλησία του Αγίου Ανδρέα σας χρειάζεται πραγματικά για να μπορέσει να εκπληρώσει τις δυνατότητές της.

Με εν Χριστώ σεβασμό,

Αιδεσιμότατος Πατήρ Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου

  
Ιερέυς της ενορίας

## Frequently Asked Questions

*How do I become a member of the parish?*

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

*Why must I commit to give a specific amount?*

Please keep in mind that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget.

*What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?*

During the course of a year, circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.

## Eternal Life begins Now

“The Church is the unity of all worlds, earthly and heavenly, of angels and men, of the living and the dead. We obtain real communion with God and we participate in God’s uncreated energy. God does not stay in heaven, directing history from there. He directs the world with His uncreated governing energies. We do not aim at appeasing God, but to heal ourselves, so that the vision of God becomes light for us and not fire. Furthermore, in the Church we live eternal life starting from now. We do not simply await the life to come, but we experience and enjoy it from the present. The Kingdom of God, according to the Fathers, is not life beyond the grave, but communion with God, above all, the vision of the uncreated Light.”

Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos  
*The Illness and Cure of the Soul in the Orthodox Tradition*

**Weekly or Monthly Giving  
sustains our church!**

SAINT ANDREW  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE  
RANDOLPH, NJ 07869

*Giving Thanks*  
**Eucharistic  
Stewardship**



**Saint Andrew**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**2023**

# information

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE PHONE OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS preferred for communication (or both w b used) \_\_\_\_\_

## IF NEW PARISHIONER

Names and birthdates of adults in household: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dependent Children's names and birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body. To be truly a member of the Church as Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.

*We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your tax-deductible Commitment. Please understand it will cost approximately (\$38.46/week, or \$167/month) \$2,000 per year per family to sustain our parish.*

## treasure

In gratitude for God's Blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount in 2023.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly/monthly/ANNUALLY

Consider making your donations using our **NEW ABUNDANT APP**

Please send me information on:

- Automatic Offerings thru your Bank or Credit Card
- Offering Envelopes to mail to our St. Andrew Church or place in the Offering basket.
- Planned Giving on making a planned gift to our St. Andrew Church.

Please return Form to our Saint Andrew Church Office.

## time & talent

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (✓). Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

### WORSHIP

- \_\_\_\_\_ Choir
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Ushering
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baking Prosforo

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist/Substitute Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ GOYA Volunteer/Coach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Young Adult League (YAL)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Camp Staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Education

### COMMUNITY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Festival
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bake/Cook for Events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Greet Parishioners/Newcomers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Building Maintenance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interfaith Furnishings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furniture Resale (used)

### HELLENIC CULTURE

- \_\_\_\_\_ Promote Hellenic Activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist/Substitute Greek School
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist/ Greek Dance Program

### PHILANTHROPY

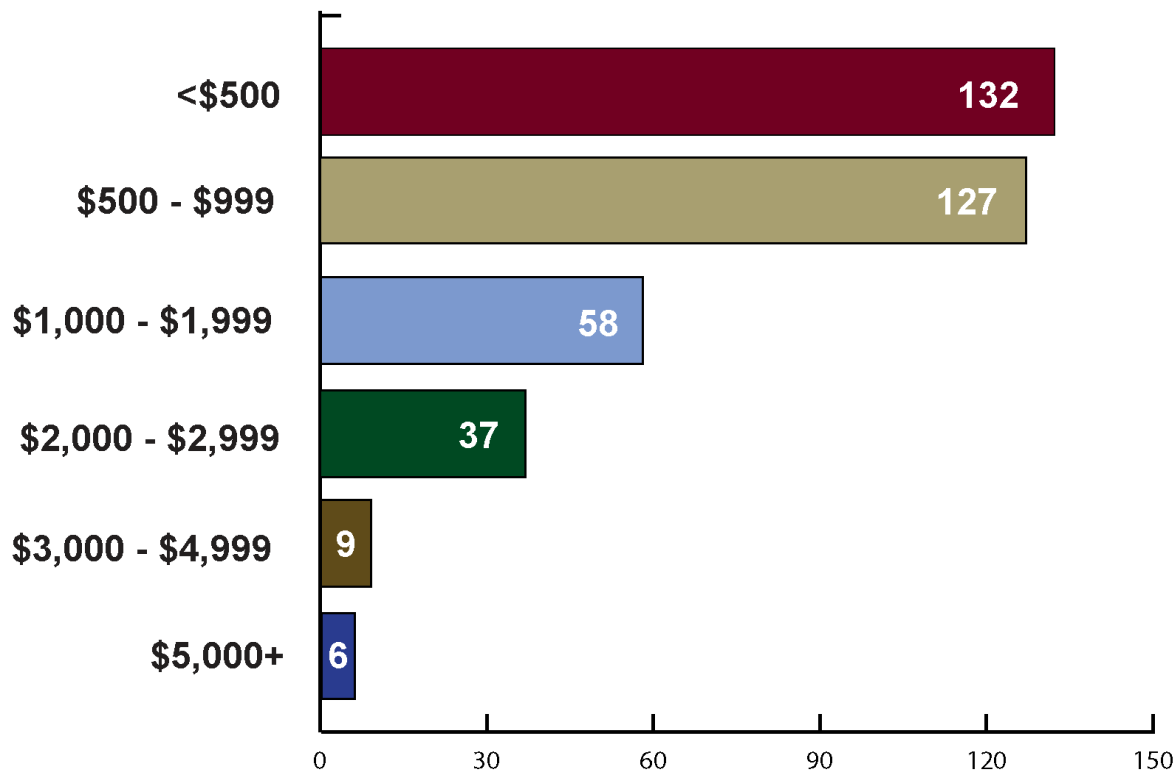
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect for Food Pantry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cook/Serve for Soup Kitchen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit Elderly/Infirm
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drive others to/from church
- \_\_\_\_\_ Knitting/Crocheting/Sewing

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- \_\_\_\_\_ Office Help
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Media
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer – general
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grant writing

Any other Talents or information not listed above: \_\_\_\_\_

# Saint Andrew 2021 Stewardship Distribution



***Where does your pledge fall? A pledge of \$2000 per family will allow the church to continue its ministries. Would you consider increasing your 2023 pledge?***

## Tax-savvy ways

*to make your giving go further at Saint Andrew*

There are various ways to support our Church and fulfill your stewardship commitment.

While stewardship donations usually take the form of cash, check or electronic transfer, there are other methods of giving which allow stewards to experience tax benefits while increasing donations to the Church. Two common non-cash alternatives to contribute to Saint Andrew are 1) the giving of long-term appreciated securities and 2) Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA.

### **Consider giving long-term appreciated securities**

- Donating long term assets, especially appreciated securities (e.g. stocks, bonds, mutual funds), instead of cash, can be a generous and tax-efficient way to support our Parish. Generally, if your assets have increased in value from your acquisition date, it may not be in

your best interest to sell those assets to generate the cash to fulfill your stewardship. Contributing the securities directly to the Church increases the amount of your gift as well as your potential tax benefits.

### Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA

- If you are at least age 70½, have an IRA, and plan to donate to Saint Andrew this year, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. This action can satisfy your stewardship commitment and allow funds to be withdrawn from an IRA without any tax consequences. If you are obligated to make a required minimum distribution (RMD), a QCD can also be used to satisfy this requirement. So, if you are subject to an RMD and would face increased income tax liabilities, a QCD can yield both a good tax and philanthropic result.

While the two strategies mentioned here are effective opportunities for non-cash giving, there are additional methods including: estate giving strategies, charitable trusts, “bunching” strategies and donor-advised funds (DAFs).

Before undertaking any of these giving strategies, you should consult your legal, tax, or financial professional. Each of these, when properly employed, represents a tax-advantaged way for you to give more to Saint Andrew!

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Jim Andrews, CPA is a practicing Certified Public Account in New Jersey.  
He and his family are members of the Saint. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ.

## Daughters Of Penelope Chapter Alexander #250

On, Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation hosted its 33rd Annual Fall Gala at the Pines Manor in Edison, N.J. AHEPANS and friends from around the country attended the fundraiser that continues raising cancer research funds. Three checks were awarded during the evening bringing the total to nearly 1.3 million dollars.



Our local AHEPA Family was represented by AHEPA President, Thomas John Borzeka along with Daughters of Penelope District Treasurer, Athena Borzeka, President, Eleni Boyadjis, Vice President, Georgia Haglund, members Peggy Kalamaras, Mary Hadjiyerou and new initiates, Eleni Kyriakides and Anna Kavalos.



## Dear Parishioners,

Our new on-line giving platform, called **Abundant Giving**, is now **LIVE!**

Abundant allows you to give online through our website, with text messages and through our mobile app, **securely**, from anywhere at any time. You can give one-time gifts or set up recurring donations, manage your gifts, and even view your online giving history. By giving online, you eliminate church envelopes, writing checks and visits to the ATM or bank to withdraw cash. The payment methods available for giving are debit and credit cards and a bank or savings account (ACH). After the initial setup, giving is Quick, Easy, and Secure.

There are three ways to give using the Abundant Online Giving program:

- Weblink – <https://abundant.co/standrew/give>
- Mobile App – Go to the App Store on your smartphone and download the app called Abundant Giving.
- Text – Text our keyword **STAND** to 73256

### How to Set Up an Abundant Online Giving Account

- Access the new online giving platform via this link: <https://abundant.co/standrew/give>. The link also appears on our church website: [www.standrewgonj.org](http://www.standrewgonj.org)
- Set up your contribution by filling out the form. You can either give a “one-time” contribution or set up a “recurring” contribution.
- Once you have filled out the form – be sure to include your email address – and once you submit the contribution – you will receive a screen that:
  - Says “Thank you” for your gift
  - Provides you with a confirmation number for your gift
  - In the section, “Before You Go” – it will give you the opportunity to create an account. Check the box and you can create a username and password.
  - You now have a new online giving account.



### How to Set Up the Abundant App

- Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android device and download “Abundant Giving”
- Search for St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph, NJ. Select our church and sign in or sign up for an account.
- Follow the prompts to Give.
- Swipe up on the app screen to access your giving history, scheduled gifts and saved payment methods.

### How to Set Up the Abundant Text Feature

- Text STAND to 73256
- Click the link you receive in your text message box.
- Follow the prompts to give.

### Questions or concerns?

We encourage you to give **Online Giving** a try today!

We will demonstrate our new online giving platform at the General Assembly Meeting scheduled for December 4, 2022.

If you have any questions or need assistance, email Cathy Barrett at [fin@standrew.org](mailto:fin@standrew.org) or contact the Church Office at 973-584-0388. We are ready to assist you.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Fr. John Theodosion  
Parish Priest

The Ladies of the Saint Andrew Philoptochos Society and Daughters of Penelope  
 Would like to invite everyone to our  
 Annual Christmas Dinner  
 Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
 Forte's 486 Route 10 in Randolph



**Appetizers:** Bruschetta (Toasted bread topped with fresh tomatoes & fresh mozzarella, topped with fresh basil) | **Salad, Penne Pasta** | **Choice of Entrée:** Shrimp Alla Griglia, Shrimp Francese, Eggplant Rollatini  
**Lenten desserts:** Melomakaruna and Fruit | Soft drinks, Coffee & Tea included  
**BYOW** - Bring your own wine | **\$40pp** | **RSVP** to: Maro Schuster [maroschuster13@gmail.com](mailto:maroschuster13@gmail.com) ; Eleni Boyadjis [eboyadjis@aol.com](mailto:eboyadjis@aol.com)

## Share your Christmas & New Year's Wishes

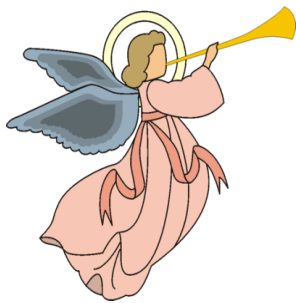
Saint Andrew Philoptochos appreciates all that you do, and we are grateful for your generosity which helps us offer hope and strength to those who are most in need.

The donations you make this year will be set aside and will only be used to assist individuals and families from within our Saint Andrew community. We thank you and appreciate any monetary assistance that you may offer.

Several requests for assistance are being presented to us and WE CONTINUE TO RESPOND.

It is our tradition to create a **Holiday Card** and mail the **Christmas and New Year's greetings** from parishioners to the entire church family.

Please print clearly how you would like your family's name to appear in the card and return the form below to the church office, to a Philoptochos member after church, or send it to the church attn: Philoptochos. You may offer your donation in cash, or you may send a check or use the

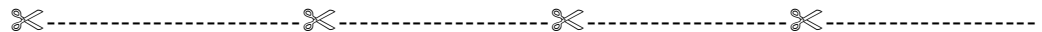


WeShare electronic system on the church website. Please note in the memo area "Christmas Card" when paying with WeShare.

**Deadline for greetings is Friday, Dec. 16, 2022.**

Wishing you Christmas Blessings and a Happy Healthy New Year 2023!

Καλα Χριστουγεννα και Καλη Προτοχρονια!



**Yes, I/we would like to donate (circle & or write in an amount).**

**\$25.00    \$50.00    \$75.00    \$100.00    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other**

**ON THE LINE BELOW, PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY (ΓΡΑΨΕΤΕ ΤΟ ΟΝΟΜΑ ΣΑΣ ΚΑΘΑΡΑ)**

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**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which donation method (circle)    In person    Mailed in    WeShare

If donation by WeShare, please send this form to Saint Andrew (address below).

If mailing in donation, please make check payable to "Saint Andrew Philoptochos" and send to:

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH | 1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE | RANDOLPH, NJ 07869

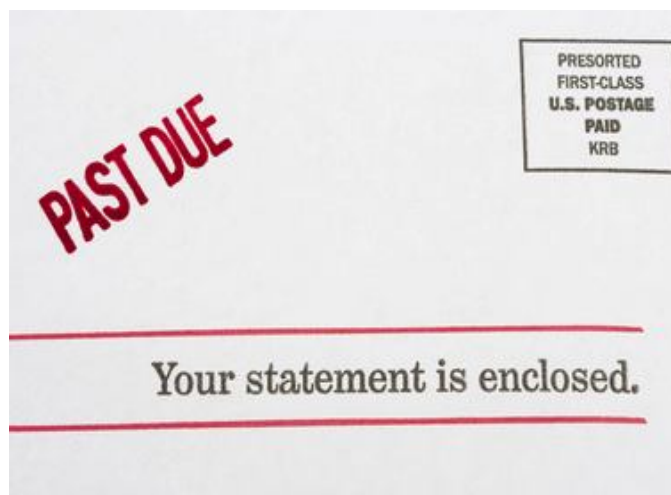
# ΠΟΣΑ ΟΦΕΙΛΩ;

του Bill Marianes<sup>1</sup>

«Πόσα οφείλω;» ρώτησε κάποιος άνθρωπος της ενορίας. «Για ποιό πράγμα;» ρώτησα. «Ξέρεις, αυτά που οφείλω στην εκκλησία.» Αλήθεια, δεν ήξερα τί να πω, έτσι έκανα μία απλή ερώτηση: «Πόσο έχεις ευλογηθεί;» «Πολύ» είπαν, «αλλά έχει αυτό καμμιά σχέση; Απλά θέλω να μάθω πόσα χρήματα πρέπει να δώσω στην εκκλησία για να είμαι μέλος»

Και τότε ήταν που συνειδητοποίησα πως, ανάμεσα στα άλλα, χρησιμοποίησε λάθος αντωνυμία. Στην πραγματικότητα δεν ασχολούνταν με τις περιουσίες «τους». Είναι όλα «Του» (δηλαδή του Θεού). Δεν κατάφεραν να καταλάβουν ότι η εκκλησία του Χριστού δεν πουλάει «συνδρομές» ούτε χρεώνει «οφειλές» και ότι όλα όσα έχουν «αυτοί» στην πραγματικότητα ήταν δώρο από τον Θεό, τον Πατέρα τους. Όλα! Η ζωή τους, τα ταλέντα τους, η γενετική τους σύσταση, οι εμπειρίες της ζωής τους, οι άνθρωποι που τους αγαπούσαν, οι ευκαιρίες που τους παρουσιάστηκαν να μεγαλουργήσουν, οι ευκαιρίες τους για να ξεχωρίσουν στον κόσμο, τα πράγματά τους και ακόμη και τα χρήματά τους. Τίποτε από όλα αυτά δεν ήταν στα αλήθεια δικό τους. Αυτοί ήταν απλά ένας προσωρινός οικονόμος (διαχειριστής) των δώρων του Θεού. Δεν το καταλαβαίνουν και ήθελαν μόνο να τους δώσω έναν μαγικό αριθμό λες και υπήρχε γραμμένος σε κάποιους χρυσούς πίνακες.

Έτσι απάντησα σύμφωνα με όσα μας δίδαξε ο Χριστός πάνω σε αυτό το θέμα: **«Δώσε τα όλα, είπα.»** Ο Ματθαίος στο 19:16-21 μας παρουσιάζει την παραβολή του νεαρού που ρώτησε τον Χριστό: «Ποιά καλή πράξη να κάνω για να έχω αιώνια ζωή;» Ο νεαρός εστίασε στο σωστό, την αιώνιο ζωή, και όχι σε κάποια προσωρινή επιτυχία, προαγωγή στη δουλειά ή μια όμορφη ζωή. Ο Χριστός απάντησε αφού πρώτα επανέλαβε τις 10 Εντολές και μετά είπε ξεκάθαρα: **«Αν θέλεις να γίνεις τέλειος, πήγαινε πούλησε τα υπάρχοντά σου και δώσε τα χρήματα στους φτωχούς, και θα**



**έχεις θησαυρό κοντά στο Θεό' κι έλα να με ακολουθήσεις».**

Προσέξτε τί είπε ο Χριστός. «Αν θέλεις να γίνεις τέλειος....» Τέλειος, όχι μέτριος, ούτε κατά δύο τέταρτα. Ο δρόμος για την τελειότητα είναι να επιστρέψουμε όσα μας έχουν δοθεί. Πόσοι από εμάς είμαστε έτοιμοι να προχωρήσουμε «ολοκληρωτικά» και να ακολουθήσουμε το μονοπάτι προς τον υπέρτατο σκοπό που είναι πιο πλούσιος και γεμάτος από οτιδήποτε μπορούσαμε να φανταστούμε; Ο νεαρός δεν ήταν έτοιμος και «....έφυγε λυπημένος.»

Παραδόξως, είναι κάπως αστείο, επειδή στο τέλος όλα θα τα αφήσουμε. Όταν πεθάνουμε (σε αυτή τη γη), δεν θα πάρουμε τίποτε από τα υπάρχοντά μας. Δεν θα δείτε ποτέ νεκροφόρα να ακολουθείται από UHaul. Γιατί να μην τα δωρήσετε τώρα και να απολαύσετε τη χαρά που νιώθεις όταν βοηθάς κάποιον άλλο. Ή μήπως θα προτιμούσατε και εσείς να «φύγετε λυπημένοι.»

Ατελείωτος είναι ο αριθμός των κειμένων στις Γραφές που λένε ξεκάθαρα ότι η υποχρέωσή μας της οικονομίας για τα τόσα πολλά δώρα του Θεού σε εμάς, είναι να δίνουμε ό,τι μας αναλογεί σύμφωνα με τις ευλογίες που έχουμε λάβει. Μάλιστα, η Παραβολή των Ταλάντων κατά τον Ματθαίο 25:14-30 αναφέρεται στα όσα δώρα μας

χαρίζει ο Θεός και πώς τα δεχόμαστε και τα καλλιεργούμε και έπειτα τα επιστρέφουμε ανάλογα με πόσα πήραμε και με σκοπό να ακούσουμε ως ανταμοιβή: «εὖ, δοῦλε ἀγαθὲ καὶ πιστέ. Ἐπ’ ὀλίγα ἦς πιστός ἐπὶ πολλῶν σὲ καταστήσω· εἴσελθε εἰς τὴν χαρὰν τοῦ Κυρίου Σου.»

Η Β προς Κορινθίους 9:7 μας διδάσκει: « Ο καθένας ας δίδει σύμφωνα με την αγαθὴν διάθεσιν της καρδιάς του, ὄχι με λύπην ἢ ἀπὸ ἀνάγκην. Διότι ο Θεός αγαπά εκείνον, που δίδει με καλωσύνην και γλυκύτητα”. Προσέξτε την ἔμφαση στην προσφορά ἀπὸ καρδιάς και ὄχι να αισθανόμαστε ὅτι πληρώνουμε ἕνα χρέος. Και φυσικά δεν μπορούμε να παραλείψουμε το κατηγορηματικὸ μήνυμα στο κατὰ Λουκᾶν 16:11 **“ Ἐάν λοιπὸν στον φθαρτὸν και προσωρινὸν πλούτον, που παρασύρει εἰς ἀδικίαν, δεν εφανήκατε ἀξιόπιστοι, τον ἀληθινὸν και αἰώνιον πλούτον της βασιλείας του Θεοῦ, ποιὸς θα σας τον ἐμπιστευθῆ;”** Επαναλαμβάνεται λοιπὸν ὅτι πρέπει να δίνουμε ἀνάλογα με τις ευλογίες που μας χάρισε ο Θεός.

Στην Αγία Γραφή δεν υπάρχουν αναφορές για «οφειλές» ἀλλὰ βρίσκουμε πολλές αναφορές για την δεκάτη. Η δεκάτη εἶναι ἡ υποχρέωση να δίνεται τουλάχιστον το 10% των αγαθῶν που ἔχουμε ευλογηθεῖ. Σημειώστε τη φράση «τουλάχιστον» και σημειώστε ὅτι ἐννοεῖ να δίνεται το 10% ΟΛΩΝ των πρώτων καρπῶν και ευλογιῶν μας. Σε συτό περιλαμβάνονται και ο χρόνος και τα ταλέντα μας, ὅπως και οὖ θησαυροὶ μας. Και ο τίτλος δεν εἶναι μόνο ἕνα φαινόμενο της Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης ὅπως μαθαίνουμε σε πολλές περιπτώσεις, ὅπως στο κατὰ Ματθαῖον 23:23 ὅπου οὖ γραφές και οὖ Φαρισαῖοὖ παραινούνται να συνεχίσουν τη δεκάτη (το νόμο) ὅπως και να ακολουθοῦν τις νέες ἐντολές της δικαιοσύνης, του ἐλέους και της πίστες.

Ακόμη και ο Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος τον 4<sup>ο</sup> αἰῶνα εἶπε: «Και αν υπήρχε τότε κίνδυνος (αναφερόμενος στην Παλιὰ Διαθήκη) να παραλείψουμε τη δεκάτη, σκεφτεῖτε πόσο σπουδαῖο πρέπει να εἶναι τώρα!» Και αν υπήρχε ο κίνδυνος να παραλείψουν τη δεκάτη την εποχὴ του

Αγίου Ἰωάννη του Χρυσοστόμου, σκεφτεῖτε πόσο μεγαλύτερος εἶναι τώρα ο κίνδυνος.

Στους Κανονισμοὖς της Ενορίας της Ἑλληνικῆς Ορθόδοξης Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς στο Ἄρθρο 18, 1 δηλώνεται: **« Η συμμετοχὴ στην Οικονομία συνιστάται να εἶναι το 10% του ετήσιου εισοδήματος ὅπως δηλώνεται στην Αγία Γραφή, με σκοπὸ τη βοήθεια στις οικονομικὲς υποχρεώσεις της Ενορίας, της Μητρόπολης και της Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς.»** Το ΟCA ἔχει ἐπίσης υιοθετήσε τη δεκάτη ως το ὄχημα χρηματοδότησης των Ἐπισκοπῶν.

Οὖ οδηγίες ἀπὸ ὅλες τις πηγές εἶναι ξεκάθαρες, το μήνυμα εἶναι ἀπλό και ο μαθηματικὸς τύπος εὐκόλος. Ἐνα ελάχιστο 10% ὄλων των δῶρων που μας χάρισε ο Θεός. Ὅχι κάποιο αυθαίρετο ποσό δολλαρίου που δεν συμβαδίζει με τις ευλογίες που ο κάθε ἕνας ἔχει λάβει. Ὅχι κάποιος τύπος που βασίζεται σε προῦπολογισμοὖς που βασίζονται σε κυμαινόμενο και καμμιά φορά τυχαῖο ἀριθμὸ οικονομικῶν δεσμεύσεων, οὔτε κάποιος ἀσχετος μαθηματικὸς τύπος. Ὅχι και στο ἴδιο ποσό για ὄλους που λανθασμένα ὑπονοεῖ ὅτι ὄλοι μας ἔχουμε ευλογηθεῖ το ἴδιο.

Ακόμη και ὅταν ο Κύριος πήγε στον οἶκο του φοροεισπράκτορα, του Ζακχαίου, το μήνυμα ἀγάπης του Χριστοῦ ὠθησε τον Ζακχαῖο να δώσει το 50% στους φτωχοὖς μαζί και την ὑπόσχεση να ἀποζημιώσει ὄσους εἶχε ἀδικήσει στο τετραπλάσιο.

Η Αγία Γραφή δεν μας δίνει καμμιά διαφορετικὴ καθοδήγηση, μόνο την ποσοστιαῖα δωρεὰ ἀνάλογα με ὄσα ἔχουμε. Εἶτε εἶναι του Χριστοῦ ολόκληρο το ποσοστό που ζήτησε ἀπὸ τον νεαρό ἄντρα, εἶτε το παράδειγμα του πατέρα της Παρθένου Μαρίας, του Ἰωακεῖμ, ο οποίος ἔδωσε το 33% στην ἐκκλησία, 33% στους φτωχοὖς και ἔζησε με το ὑπόλοιπο. Γενικά εἶναι ἕνα ποσοστό ἀπὸ τις ευλογίες που μας χαρίστηκαν.

Ἐπιλέξτε λοιπὸν το ποσοστό που σας ἀρέσει περισσότερο: **100%** (του νέου ἄντρα), **66%** (του Ἰωακεῖμ), **50% + το τετραπλάσιο** των ἀδικιῶν (του Ζακχαίου) ἢ το **10%** (της Αγίας Γραφῆς και του UPR).

Μην κάνετε όμως λάθος, είναι ποσοστό και όχι σταθερός αριθμός.

Οι Χριστιανικές ενορίες που βασίζονται οικονομικά στην ενορία, έχουν την τάση να αγωνίζονται οικονομικά, και σίγουρα δεν χαίρονται ευρωστία και ανάπτυξη των ποιμαντικών έργων και της προσέγγισης και του ευαγγελισμού. Αντίθετα, οι Χριστιανικές ενορίες που εφαρμόζουν κάποιο είδος δεκάτης ως ποσοστό, ή πραγματική οικονομία, έχουν πληθώρα πηγών, ποιμαντικών έργων και ευλογιών. Όπως διδασκόμαστε στην Β Προς Κορινθίους 9:7-3

*“Ας γνωρίζετε δε τούτο· ότι εκείνος που στο χωράφι του σπέρνει με τσιγκουνιά λιγοστό σπόρο, θα θερίση και λίγο σιτάρι. Και εκείνος που σπέρνει απλόχερα, θα θερίση πολύν καρπόν.»* Αδελφοί μου, δεν είναι τόσο δύσκολο.

Στις πάνω από 500 ενορίες σε όλη τη χώρα που είχα την ευλογία να παρευρεθώ τα τελευταία 5 χρόνια, έχω επανειλημμένα ανακαλύψει ότι όταν οι άνθρωποι σταματήσουν να θεωρούν τη δέσμευσή τους στην Εκκλησία του Χριστού ως ένα λογαριασμό που πρέπει να πληρωθεί, ή ως μία εμπορική συναλλαγή που βασίζεται στην ικανοποίησή τους, αλλά αντίθετα τη δουν ως την ευκαιρία να μοιράζονται με τη θέλησή τους και με χαρά τις ευλογίες που ο Θεός τους χάρισε, τότε οι ζωές τους και οι ενορίες είναι γεμάτες από χαρά, ειρήνη και αγάπη και αληθινά πλούτη και αφθονία.

Τα χρεωστικά συστήματα είναι αρχαϊκές συνταγές για εξάλειψη. Έτσι όταν κάποιος θέλουν να πάρουν θέση υπέρ ενός χρεωστικού συστήματος, τους ερωτώ: *«Αν νομίζετε αλήθεια πως ένα χρεωστικό σύστημα είναι η σωστή απάντηση για την εκκλησία σας, πώς αποφασίζετε ποιό είναι το «σωστό» επίπεδο χρέωσης, τότε άλλαξε τελευταία φορά και πώς λειτουργεί για την εκκλησία σας;»* Η σιωπή που ακολουθεί είναι συνήθως εκκωφαντική. Το ξέρουν ότι κάνουν λάθος. Το ξέρουν ότι δεν λειτουργεί μακροπρόθεσμα. Το ξέρουν πως δεν είναι ούτε σύμφωνα με τη Γραφή ούτε δίκαιο. Απλά προβληματίζονται να εγκαταλείψουν το εύκολο.

Όμως, στο σπουδαίο βιβλίο, Περνώντας τον Δίσκο – Γιατί οι Χριστιανοί της Αμερικής Δεν Προσφέρουν Περισσότερα Χρήματα, οι Christian Smith, Michael O. Emerson and Patricia Snell αναφέρουν μία μελέτη που κατέληξαν πως: **«Σχεδόν όλοι οι ενορίτες που ρωτήθηκαν είπαν ότι θα μπορούσαν να δώσουν περισσότερα χρήματα από όσο δίνουν και πιστεύουν θα έπρεπε να δίνουν περισσότερα»**. Γνωρίζουμε τι πρέπει να κάνουμε. Μερικές φορές απλά χρειαζόμαστε λίγη βοήθεια και ενθάρρυνση να κάνουμε το σωστό. Θεωρείστε και αυτό το μήνυμα μία ενθάρρυνση.

Η Αγία Γραφή, εφαρμόζεται περισσότερο στις Χριστιανικές εκκλησίες και όλες οι μελέτες και έρευνες φτάνουν στο ίδιο συμπέρασμα. Τα χρεωστικά συστήματα, δεν δουλεύουν, δε θα δουλέψουν, δεν μπορούν να δουλέψουν και ούτε είναι σωστή έκφραση της πίστης ούτε και είναι αποτελεσματική λειτουργική στρατηγική.

Ο ορισμός μου της οικονομίας είναι σχετικά απλός. Πιστεύω η οικονομία είναι αυτό που κάνεις με όλα τα δώρα που ο Θεός σου έδωσε. Όλα όμως τα δώρα. Έτσι αν θέλετε να κριθείτε ως σπουδαίοι οικονόμοι, τότε να είστε γενναιόδωροι με όλα τα δώρα που σας δόθηκαν από τον Πατέρα σας. Ή μπορείτε να διαλέξετε να μη ζήσετε το είδος της ζωής που δίδαξε ο Χριστός και να κάνετε στιδήποτε θέλετε εσείς.

Λοιπόν κάθε μέρα που μπορείτε να κοιταχτείτε στον καθρέφτη και να αξιολογήσετε τη ζωή σας ως οικονόμοι (διαχειριστές) όλων των πολλών δώρων και ευλογιών που ο Θεός σας χάρισε και σας εμπιστεύτηκε, ρωτήστε τον εαυτό σας: **«Πόσα μου οφείλει ο Θεός, και πόσα Του χρωστώ εγώ;»** Η επιλογή δική σας. Όπως και οι συνέπειες. Αυτή είναι η ομορφιά της ελεύθερης βούλησης. Ξέρετε τι χρειάζεται να κάνετε, αποφασίστε με σοφία!

Είθε ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί καθώς αναζητείτε το δικό σας μοναδικό κάλεσμα οικονομίας. Μείνετε στο Μονοπάτι και απολαύστε τη διαδρομή. (SOTPAET).

Adaptation by Maria Kiritsis Athens GR

**THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE**

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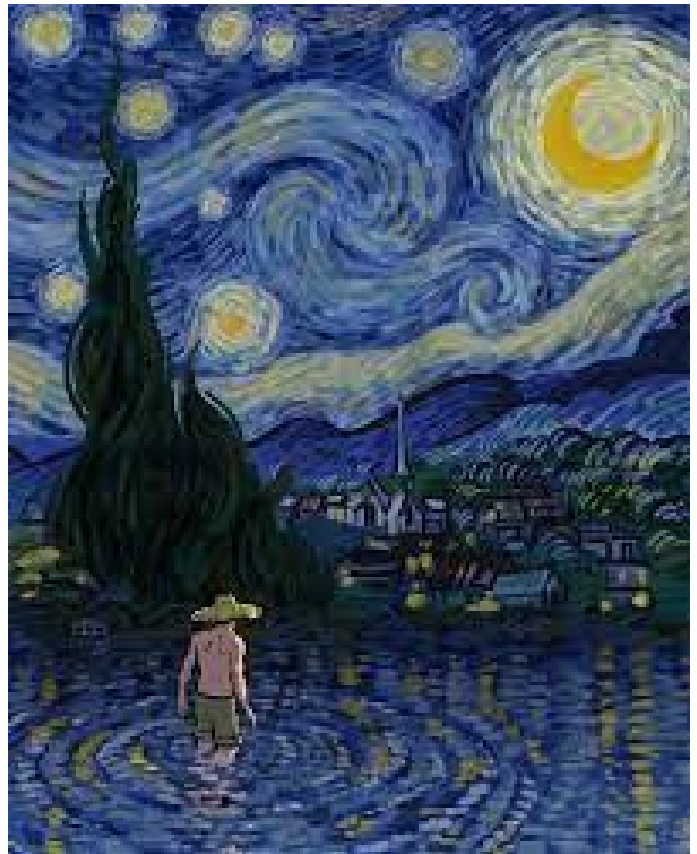
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This event is free of charge and open to all members of the Saint Andrew community.

Although this lecture is free of charge, we do request that you RSVP by January 5th to [georgiahaglund@gmail.com](mailto:georgiahaglund@gmail.com).



**About Michael Norris**

Mike got his BA in classics from the University of California at San Diego and his MA in classics and Ph.D. in art history at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He spent twenty years at the Cloisters Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and has lectured on trips all over the world. He lives in Teaneck, New Jersey.

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## PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

### CHRISTMAS – 2022 – It's About Christ

Christians, Christmas! What to think about first? We just talked about how to be thankful in our last article, and if you are reading this, be thankful again that you have heat, electric, a loving family, good friends and a welcoming church community which I have been a part of for over 50 years! Make Christmas as simple as possible to truly embrace its meaning. **It's About Christ!** Of course this time of the season can still be fun and we can enjoy ourselves and make our children happy with the traditional exchange of gifts, visits to Santa, caroling, partying, and time off from school for the kids.

It is a good time to include family traditions and *include your children in celebrations at the church.*

As I repeat every year, do less, and enjoy more. However, let's not forget, **It's About Christ.** Keep it simple. Having a joyful environment and talk about past Christmases as well. I have recently lost my loved one and I still struggle at times, but when I think about it, **It's About Christ.** There are many of us who miss those who will not celebrate with us during the holidays, especially Christmas time, but we must remain positive and remember we have Christ with us always to keep us afloat. Focusing on that keeps me balanced around family and friends. Sharing conversations about Christ and why we celebrate puts it all together and what happens around us make sense.

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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 | 6<sup>th</sup> Century, Constantinople**

On behalf of my son Nicholas, we would like to wish you all a Joyous and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year, 2023!  
Feel free to e-mail me or call with your comments and suggestions for our "Parents' Corner" [alexandraproto@gmail.com](mailto:alexandraproto@gmail.com) (973) 214-2583

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

**Alexandra Protopapas M.Ed.** Certified Teacher of the Handicapped and Social Sciences - Retired. Educational Services Commission of Morris County, (ESC) and currently assigned to Academy of St. Elizabeth part-time.



at:

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## WEDDING - ΓΑΜΟΣ

On Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2:00pm **Sergei Greenlee** of Wilton, CT will wed **Katerina Louca** of Randolph, NJ. Officiant was Rev. Fr. John Theodosion, sponsor was Nicole Louca and witness was Demetrios Louca.

*Congratulations to all and we wish them all the blessings.*  
*Συγχαρητήρια σε όλους και τους ευχόμαστε όλες τις ευλογίες.*

## OBITS & FUNERALS ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΑ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

**Gregory Pabelis** (Grigorios Pavelis) of Dover, NJ passed away peacefully on Friday October 21, 2022 surrounded by his family.

Born on December 29, 1954 in Panagoula, Greece, Gregory was the son of the late Zoes and Artemisia Pavelis. Gregory immigrated to the US in 1973 where he met his wife Georgia a few years later. In 1982 they wed and had two children. With only an elementary school education, he worked in many restaurants learning the language and how to cook. Ultimately, he lived the "American dream" and was able to own and operate a restaurant until he retired in 2014.

He is predeceased by his parents and brother, Kostantinos Pavelis. He is survived by his loving wife Georgia Pavelis whom he was married to for over 40 years as well as his son Zoes Pavelis and his wife Melanie, daughter Maria Seretis and her husband George and four beautiful grandchildren, Eleni, Vasilios, Remi and Theo. He is further survived by his older brother Paraskevas Pavelis and wife Vasiliki along with numerous brother/sister in-laws: Vasiliki Angelopoulou, Ioanna Lignos, Demetrios (wife Vasiliki) Ramantanis, Ioannis Ramantanis, Thanasi (wife Sophia) Ramantanis and Antonios (wife Hariklia) Ramantanis. As well as many nieces and nephews. **Visitation** were held Wednesday, October 26, from 4 to 7 PM at Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph. **A Funeral Services** for the repose of his soul was held Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. **Interment** followed at Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover NJ.



**Axiotes, Lynn (+Evagelia)** age 52 of Wantage Twp., NJ passed away Wednesday October 19, 2022 at Hackensack University Medical Center following a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born in Dover, NJ she resided in Lafayette and Andover Townships prior to moving to Wantage Twp. in 2012.

A devout member of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, where she also served on the Greek Orthodox Youth Association. Lynn was a very active Leader with Wantage Girl Scout Troop 97155. She was also a member of JOY and the M.O.P.S group of Redeemer Lutheran Pre School of Andover, NJ. Lynn was also a Back Stage Mom for Dance Expressions Hamburg, NJ. A loving and kindhearted generous soul who was always willing to help anyone who needed anything. She loved a celebration of any kind.

Lynn was predeceased by her father Michael Nicholas Axiotes. Survivors include her beloved husband Daniel A. Beauchamp, her cherished daughters Gabrielle A. and Alexa G. Beauchamp as well as her loving mother Maria and her husband Jeffrey Yoanides of Lafayette Twp. Also surviving are her brother Nicholas M. and his wife Vanessa Axiotes of Vernon Twp., her nephew and godson Michael N. Axiotes, her sister Irene C. Axiotes of Lafayette Twp. as well as her Aunt Sofia T. Caruso of Lafayette.

**Visitation** was held Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 and 7-9 PM in the Iliff- Ruggiero Funeral Home #156 Main Street (Rt. 206 S.) Newton, NJ 07860. A **Funeral Services** for the repose of her soul was held Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM in the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, **Interment** followed at the Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover, NJ.

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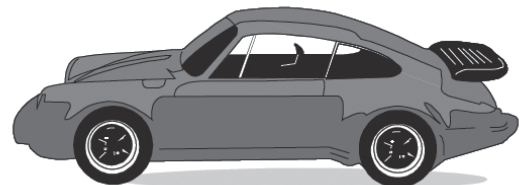
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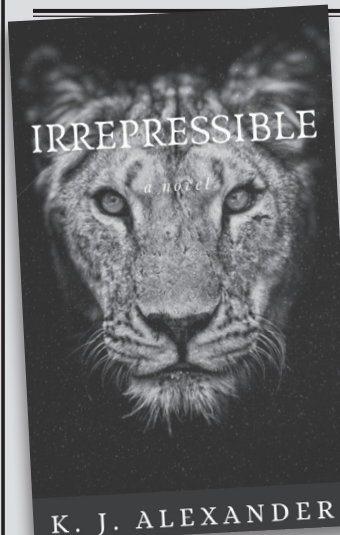


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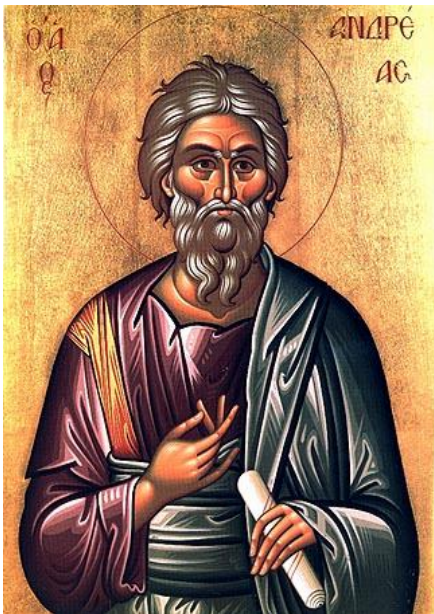
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Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos

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### 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.