

JANUARY 2019



Saint Andrew Family News

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

HOLY THEOPHANY, Baptism Of Our Lord And Saviour Jesus Christ – JAN 6TH

CYPRUS TAVERNA NIGHT – JAN 19TH

Saint Andrew Family News

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

On Sundays we celebrate

Orthros @ 8:45 AM & Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

For other services please check our website or call the office

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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E-mail info@standrewgonj.org Web site <http://www.standrewgonj.org>

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

Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

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The Saint Andrew Family News is published monthly except in July and August and is distributed free of charge to all members. Submissions for the magazine are accepted **only as electronic files, (via e-mail attachment)**. Pending availability of space and permission from Editor-in-chief, your submission will be in the next month's issue.

Please submit your articles and information on time to

Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos info@standrewgonj.org

Deadline for the FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE is January by 14th

DIVINE SERVICES

JANUARY 2019

- Tuesday 1 CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION OF ST. BASIL @8:45AM
- Saturday 5 Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespers, & Divine Liturgy Of St. Basil The Great, Great Agiasmos (*Fasting Day*)
- Sunday 6 HOLY THEOPHANY, Baptism Of Our Lord And Saviour Jesus Christ
Orthros, Divine Liturgy & The Great Agiasmos**
- Monday 7 THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET +ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- Sunday 13 Sunday after Epiphany**
- Thursday 17 +ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
- Friday 18 +ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT & CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA
- Sunday 20 12th Sunday of Luke** ST. EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT
- Sunday 27 15th Sunday of Luke**
HAS Three Hierarchs Program
- Wednesday 30 SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS:
+BASIL THE GREAT, +GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, & +JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

FEBRUARY

- Friday 1 ST. TRYPHON / RELICS*
- Saturday 2 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE
- Sunday 3 16th Sunday of Matthew**
- Wednesday 6 ST. PHOTIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPE
- Sunday 10 Sunday of the Canaanite -
ST. HARALAMBOS / RELICS* -
Godparents' Sunday**
- Sunday 17 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today**
- Sunday 24 Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

Sundays: Orthros @ 8:45AM & Divine Liturgy @ 10AM |

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

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

Religious Education School students will attend the Divine Liturgy at 10am, line up on the left to receive Holy Communion, and then proceed to their class.

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2019

Τρίτη	1	Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ <u>ώρα 8.45πμ</u>
Σαββάτο	5	Προεόρτια τῶν Φώτων - ΘΕΟΠΕΜΠΤΟΥ & ΘΕΩΝΑ ΤΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩΝ (<i>Νηστεία</i>) – Όρθρος, Μέγα Εσπερινό, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου & Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού
Κυριακή	6	ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ & ΜΕΓΑΣ ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ
Δευτέρα	7	Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ
Κυριακή	13	Απόδοσις τῶν Αγίων Θεοφανείων
Πέμπτη	17	+ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Παρασκευή	18	+ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ
Κυριακή	20	ΙΕ΄ Του Λουκά +ΕΥΘΥΜΙΟΥ ΟΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Κυριακή	27	ΙΣΤ΄ Λουκά -Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου <i>Πρόγραμμα των Τριών Ιεραρχών</i>
Τετάρτη	30	ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ +ΜΕΓΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ, +ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ , + ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ

ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

Παρασκευή	1	ΤΡΥΦΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΣ*
Σαββάτο	2	Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
Κυριακή	4	ΙΣΤ΄ Ματθαίου
Τετάρτη	6	+ΦΩΤΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ, ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ
Κυριακή	10	Κυριακή τῆς Χαναναίας +ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΣ ΙΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΘΑΥΜΑΤΟΥΡΓΟΥ* Κυριακή των Νονού και Νονάς
Κυριακή	17	ΙΣΤ΄ Λουκά (Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου)
Κυριακή	24	Κυριακή Β΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν Γρηγορίου Αρχιεπισκόπου Θεσσαλονίκης

Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος - ώρα 8.45πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 10πμ |
Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.15πμ
*(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)**

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 10πμ, θα προχωρήσουν από την αριστερή πλευρά για να λάβουν την Θεία Κοινωνία και θα συνεχίσουν στις τάξεις τους.

Knowing God

By Fr. John Theodosion

Friends, we see in the gospel of Luke chapter 2, that the shepherds having seen the baby Jesus returned to their fields glorifying and praising God for the things that they had heard and seen. And when Christ was eight days old, He was circumcised and was given the name Jesus which had been spoken by the angel of the Lord when He was conceived.



Then we see that Jesus grew and became strong in spirit and was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was with him. For the feast of Passover his parents went to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. And when they left to go home the boy Jesus was not with them. He had stayed behind and Joseph and Mary did not know it. So, after a while they realized that he was not in their company and they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him "Son why have you done this to us? Look, your father and I have sought you anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which he spoke to them.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as our busy lives go rushing by, we look back and say, "Where did this

year go?" We run and run and we sometimes feel that we cannot keep up. We accomplish so much and yet there is still so much more we want to do, but we cannot find the time! The beginning of the new year is a time when we must spend a few moments to reevaluate our direction in life. It is a time to gain control and prioritize the important elements of life. For most of us these elements include work and

family, school, volunteering at church, social life, house, and much more. Oftentimes our personal life gets pushed back and unfortunately, our personal relationship with God gets pushed even farther back. We need to follow the example of our Lord Jesus who even as a boy went to spend time in His Father's house where He could peacefully learn and pray.

Everyone needs a few moments each day to be alone with God and develop their relationship with Him. It can be in the morning, or in the evening, or both, but most importantly it must be time that is quiet and undisturbed. It should be time spent getting to know God better. And the way we get to know God better is by reading about Him in the Bible, praying to Him and spending time with Him.

When we read the Bible we should pick a few verses from the epistles of St. Paul or we can read one of the parables which Christ taught. The Bible teaches us about God and it teaches us how we should live our lives. It teaches about the person of Christ and how we should imitate Him in word

deed and thought. The Bible is our most important source for learning about who Christ is.

Although, it is not enough to learn about Christ and all the things He did and said. It is also essential that we get to know Him the way we know another person, and the only way we can know Him in this personal way is to spend time with him in prayer each day. Imagine if you wanted to marry someone but you never spent time with them. You could say you know who they are, but could you say you really know them? Could you say that you were close with someone whose house you never visited and whom you never invited to your home? Again someone whom you never spend time with?

This is why spending time with God in prayer is so important for really getting to know Him. This prayer time is a time when we can thank Him for all the good things we have in life. These things include our spouses, children, friends, the food we eat, and a peaceful life. This is also a time to ask Him to help with our difficulties in life, like problems at work, a sick relative, or the burdens of school. We should include an opportunity to think about and to ask for forgiveness of our sins in thought word and deed. Also, to help us change

and turn from sin. It's a time to listen to that "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12), inside us which he will use to guide us.

To close our quiet time, we can praise and glorify God for His goodness and mercy, and for all He has done for us. His Birth, the Cross, the Resurrection, and for all the other blessings in our lives, both great and small.

As you begin the New Year, make a commitment to yourself that you will follow the example of Christ to pray in quiet and to come to His Father's house and our Heavenly Father's house to spend time with Him. Invite Him to spend time with you in your house in prayer, visit His house and pray because you will come closer to Him and you will know Him. His example will guide you and give you strength to help you cope with the rigors of daily life. Don't put it off, because you don't want to say the same thing next year, "Where did this year go?!! You want to be like to the shepherds who after seeing God returned to their homes praising and glorifying God. Amen.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

Fr. John Theodosion will begin the HOUSE BLESSINGS in our community on the **1st week in January 2019**. St. Andrew Parishioners will be notified of his pending visit. Please look for a "BLUE POST CARD" indicating date and time.

We will also be announcing in the WEEKLY BULLETIN the TOWNS that Fr. John will be visiting. If you don't receive "BLUE POST CARD" when your TOWN is listed, please contact the office ASAP and make arrangements for «AGIASMO» in your home.

ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΥΣ

Ο π. Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου θα ξεκινήσει τις επίσκεψις για αγιασμό στην κοινότητά μας την **1^η εβδομάδα του Ιανουάριου του 2019**. Οι Ενορίτες θα ενημερωθούν για την εκκρεμούσα επίσκεψή του. Θα λάβετε μια ΜΠΛΕ ΚΑΡΤΑ που δείχνει την ημερομηνία και την ώρα.

Επίσης θα ανακοινώσουμε στο ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΙΚΟ ΔΕΛΤΙΟ την πόλη που ο π. Ιωάννης θα επισκεφθεί. Εάν δεν λάβετε " ΜΠΛΕ ΚΑΡΤΑ " όταν η ΠΟΛΗ σας είναι καταχωρημένη, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με το γραφείο όσο το συντομότερο και κάντε ρυθμίσεις για τον «Αγιασμό» στο σπίτι σας.

JOIN US FOR OUR 16TH YEAR!



CYPRUS

TAVERNA NIGHT

to benefit the St. Andrew Community Center

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

at St. Andrew Hall

**LIVE MUSIC BY NICOS NICOLAIDES
& THE COSMOPOLITANS BAND**

FABULOUS BUFFET BY TAVERNA ZENON

Tickets will be pre-sold only. No tickets will be sold at the door.
Ages 18 and up \$60 • Ages 6-17 \$20 • Ages 5 and under are free

For tickets and info contact:

Chris Demetriou at 973-270-7730, cdemetriou37@optonline.net
or Maro Schuster at 973-584-3747, schuster20@verizon.net

VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT ONLY, NOT ACCEPTED AT DOOR

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ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Elections for the Parish Council were held on December 9th, 2018

All Parish Council members must be Greek Orthodox and in good standing with Saint Andrew for one year prior to the elections in order to run for the Board on the Parish Council. Once elected they must take the following oath:

"I do solemnly affirm that I will uphold the dogma, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and that I will faithfully and sincerely uphold the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council. So help me God."

On the 2nd Monday of most months Parish Council members meet to consider, discuss and decide on matters pertaining to our community. Regular attendance to Divine Liturgy and monthly meetings is required.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our returning Parish Council members for their hard work over the past years and welcome our four re-elected Parish Council members and the two newly elected who will serve in 2019-2020-20\21. Again, we want to thank them for their commitment to the community of Saint. Andrew. We look forward to your many contributions in the New Year.

Manny Christakos

Dr Christakos wishes to run for the Parish Council at St Andrew's to contribute to the church as every parishioner should at some point. Just going to church every Sunday is not enough. He believes it is important for everyone to get involved and contribute to the business and functions of the church. Previously he was unable because of his commitments to his profession. Now that he is retired he can more easily contribute and make a difference. Dr Christakos is a retired Thoracic and Vascular Surgeon who previously practiced in Clifton, New Jersey.



He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, SUNY Buffalo Medical School, and Residency in General Surgery in Buffalo and Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at University of California at Irvine. He is married to Sylvia Christakos and lives in Mendham. They have three adult children and are now empty nesters. He believes that he can help the church and make a difference. Thank you. Manny Christakos.



Nicholas Monokandilos:

I was born in Campbell, Ohio and moved to Kalymnos, Greece when I was 3 years old. I attended St. George Orthodox church in Kalymnos where I was an altar boy and an Assistant Psalti's for many years.

After completing studies in Mechanical Engineering, I returned to the USA to work in Construction Management.

I am blessed with a loving family, my wife Roslyn and our sons Themelis and Stavros. We have been a part of the St. Andrew Family for the past 18 years.

I strongly believe in keeping our Orthodox traditions and family values in our youth. I look forward to serving St. Andrew as a Parish Council member.

Connie Tirondola

My name is Connie Tirondola. I have been the Treasurer of the Parish Council for about 8 years and was also the Sunday School Director here at St Andrew for the 7 years prior. My husband Rich was also a past member of the Parish Council. We have 3 grown children - Michael, Meaghan and Michele, and 2 grandchildren – Olivia and Julian; and lived in Randolph for 20 years. In 2016, we downsized to a lakefront home in Hopatcong but remain active at St. Andrew. I grew up in the St. George- Clifton community where my father served on the PC and as their treasurer for over 40 years. My sister is a long-time Director/Coordinator of the Sunday School there. Before Rich and I got married we were GOYA Volleyball coaches at St George as well. So my family is no stranger to serving our Church.



As a licensed CPA and Financial Executive for a major investment firm, I feel I am well suited to continue my council role and assist our community with its financial needs. I also have always felt a calling to help others and help our Church. If you reelect me to the St. Andrew Parish Council I would be proud to continue to serve this community and share my talents and treasures.



Richard Tirondola

I have been a member of St. Andrew for over 20 years. My wife Connie has also been a member of the Parish Council here for many years, and Sunday School Director prior to that. We have 3 grown children - Michael, Meaghan and Michele, and 2 grandchildren – Olivia and Julian; and lived in Randolph for 20 years. In 2016, we downsized to a lakefront home in Hopatcong but remain active at St. Andrew's. Connie and I were married at St. George- Clifton community where her father served on the PC and as their treasurer for over 40 years. Before Connie and I got married we were also GOYA Volleyball coaches at St. George.

I was on the Parish Council previously and took a leave to care for my elderly mom and help watch our grandchildren. At this time having retired from a purchasing career, real estate, and child raising, I feel I am ready to resume a council position and assist our community with its growing needs. Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you.

HELLENIC EVENING SCHOOL

[Modern Greek Language. Beginner & Intermediate Levels](#)

will start on **January 22** and run consecutively through **March 26, 2019**

[Tuesday nights 7:00-9:00pm](#)

SUBJECT TO MINIMUM REGISTRATION OF 4 STUDENTS AND A MAXIMUM OF 8

Registration is open to Ages 15 and up

TUITION IS \$300 IS DUE AT REGISTRATION

Contact Salomi Massaras : (973) 262-2091 or e-mail salomi@optonline.net

or the church office: (973)584-0388 or e-mail info@standrewgonj.org

[Ελληνικό Βραδινό Σχολείο Αγίου Ανδρέα](#)

SAINT ANDREW FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2018

	Jan - Oct	Budget	\$ over Budget	
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	347,330.99	401,294.00	(53,963.01)	(1)
EDUCATION/DANCE NET INCOME	33,276.56	29,700.00	3,576.56	(2)
SUMMER CAMP NET INCOME	128.88	500.00	(371.12)	
FUNDRAISING EVENTS NET INCOME	162,627.40	230,500.00	(67,872.60)	
OTHER INCOME	20,561.00	18,334.00	2,227.00	(3)
TOTAL INCOME	563,924.83	680,328.00	(116,403.17)	(4)
EXPENSE				
STAFF EXPENSE	261,374.01	264,466.00	(3,091.99)	
CAR EXPENSE	2,093.99	3,750.00	(1,656.01)	
INSURANCE EXPENSE	43,769.60	44,366.00	(596.40)	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	8,567.21	11,506.00	(2,938.79)	
EQUIPMENT	3,093.59	8,672.00	(5,578.41)	
BANK CHARGES	2,294.64	2,050.00	244.64	
MORTGAGE PAYMENT (Principal & Interest)	112,155.00	112,500.00	(345.00)	
TELEPHONES/INTERNET EXPENSE	4,346.05	4,252.00	94.05	
ADVERTISING	-	-	-	
PERMITS	-	250.00	(250.00)	
LITURGICAL	-	418.00	(418.00)	
UTILITIES	44,703.51	40,318.00	4,385.51	
SUPPLIES & PRINTING EXPENSE	22,683.54	22,296.00	387.54	
BLDG & GROUNDS EXP.	57,800.67	54,380.00	3,420.67	
POSTAGE & HANDLING	3,606.55	2,918.00	688.55	
MINISTRY EXPENSE	56,992.09	60,298.00	(3,305.91)	
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	3,950.00	3,434.00	516.00	
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	7,958.53	9,100.00	(1,141.47)	
TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	
MISC.	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSE	635,388.98	644,974.00	(9,585.02)	(5)
NET CASH RECD (SHORT)	\$ (71,464.15)	\$ 35,354.00	\$ (106,818.15)	(6)
From Operations				
Unrestricted Cash 12/31/17	154,295.58			
Cash generated (used) this year	(71,464.15)			
Cash Balance 10/31/18	\$ 82,831.43			

(1) Stewardship is dangerously lower than budget. Hall Rental and Company Match is higher than budget.

(2) Education is slightly better than budget.

(3) Fundraising is lower than budget due to all major efforts coming in under budget.

(4) Total income is significantly (and dangerously) lower than budget due to lower Stewardship and Fundraising. Stewardship may pick up but there are no other fundraising events planned.

(5) Some operating expenses were higher than budget but total expenses are still less than budget with offsetting variances.

(6) Net cash is dangerously lower than budget due to lower revenues we have just over 1 month reserve when target is 2 months (approx. \$120k)

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

Σας ευχόμαστε ένα ευτυχισμένο νέο έτος!

Happy New Year wishes all from the staff, teachers, and students of the Hellenic Afternoon School. We are starting the 2019 off with a very busy agenda. Fr. John will join us on January 10th as the children learn the traditions around the cutting of the Vasilopeta. We are also preparing for the feast day of the Three Hierarchs.

The Three Hierarchs commemorates our beloved Saints as well as the day of letters and learning. We will celebrate with two events this year. The first will take place in Paramus on Saturday January 26th. The Metropolis has invited the area Greek Schools to present a short segment for their assembly. St. Andrew HAS will be represented by several of our older students. If you would like to attend, kindly leave your information with the office as reservations are required.

The following day, Sunday January 27th, we will present a program at St. Andrew after liturgy. This assembly will include children from all grades. The program from the prior evening will also be included. We request your attendance as we enjoy the children's performances.

Wishing you God's Grace for the New Year,
Salomi Massaras

RADIO CITY P.T.A. TRIP

On Sun. Nov. 11 the P.T.A. sponsored a trip to the world-renown theater in New York to see a show. Radio City was presenting its spectacular Christmas show featuring the Radio City Rockets. The Art Deco Theater is still an architectural gem and it was already decorated for Christmas.



In keeping with its mission of expanding our youths' exposure to cultural and religious this event offered the opportunity to see a depiction of the Nativity. This segment of the show used passages from St. Luke's account of the Nativity and featured live animals. Christmas carols accompanied the narration.

There were 102 people in attendance. Most arrived in the bus that had been chartered. Everyone enjoyed the show. Special thanks go to Anastasia Mitrakos who coordinated getting the tickets and reserving the bus. The P.T.A. will continue to search for events that raise our children's Hellenic and spiritual experience.

† RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Religious Education has had a busy month! Not only have we started preparing for the Christmas Pageant, but the older students participated in the first Youth Sunday. The children recited the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Communion Prayer during the Liturgy. In the new year, the Religious Education program will be starting more programs to further involve our youth in the community.



Meet our Teachers

Eugenia (Gina) Wnek is our newest Religious Education teacher! She previously taught Sunday School, but this is her first year here with our First Grade class. She likes teaching the children about the saints they are named after and the reason we celebrate and honor them. She also loves telling the stories about the miracles Jesus and his disciples performed during their time. She has been apart of the St. Andrew Family since she moved here during the summer. Since moving here, she has joined the Sunday Choir and the Crocheting group. She is a mother of two boys and is happily married for 15 years. Gina deeply loves our religion, Greek culture, community, singing and, most of all, teaching.



PHILOPTOCHOS PAGE

Why should I give? This is a question that has probably crossed everyone's mind when thinking of Philanthropy. The question is often followed by another question, "How did they allow themselves to get into that situation?"

What many people do not know is that a large percentage of homelessness is due to circumstances that befall people unexpectedly and often with no warning. The Ladies Philoptochos of Saint Andrew have been a "hands on" helping aide for individuals who have practically lost everything but the shirts on their backs. Our Philoptochos recently attended a Volunteer Thank You dinner hosted by Family Promise of Morris County. We were invited to participate as a Thank You for preparing and serving dinners to the homeless people who are housed by Family Promise in neighboring churches, as well as for contributing to the Jolin Food Ministry. Jolin food boxes are provided to graduates of the Emergency Shelter Program who are now in the Community Support Program and are living in their new homes, on a fixed income. While at this dinner, we listened to a young mother speak about how her husband lost his job overnight. She could only work part-time due to the fact that she had a special needs child. Along with her husband losing his job went their health insurance and the means to pay for childcare. And as you can imagine their sense of security. Family Promise not only assists people with housing but also helps people by giving them the right tools to get out of their situation and find stability again. They help connect the dots so that people can find their way out of the hopelessness that abruptly interrupted their normal way of life. Yes the people in need live in our community, in Morris County. A



homeless individual could be anyone, an old teacher, a neighbor. The thought of a homeless person immediately makes people think of a drunk, dirty person. Some homeless people do fit that description but the new face of homelessness is that of the very people you and I see around us every day. They look like you and me, but in the blink of an eye they lost the sense of security they knew. We are proud to have a relationship with such a wonderful organization that works so hard for the needs in our local community.

Our Philoptochos ladies were able to purchase two used vehicles and donate them to two very worthy families housed by Family Promise. One of these vehicles went to a single mother of three, a nine year old, a four year old and a two year old. Her oldest child is autistic. Just going to the doctor was a challenge for this mother. Having her own transportation will allow her and her children to seek and find affordable housing in Morris County thus shortening the length of their stay at the shelter. In her thank you Letter she addresses Philoptochos Dear Heroes.

SEP 28, 2018

DLAC HERO,

AS I SAT THERE HEARING THE WORDS, "WE'RE GIVING YOU A CAR", I CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I JUST KNEW OUR LIVES WOULD CHANGE. I INSTANTLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE YEARS I SPENT; ASKING PEOPLE FOR RIDES, TAKING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, LUGGING CARSEATS IN TAXIS JUST TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING OR TO PICK UP MEDICINE AND MILK. LIFE HAS BEEN KIND OF TOUGH. HOWEVER, DESPITE MY NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES, I MAKE IT A POINT TO STAY POSITIVE AND BELIEVE IN HUMANITY. YOU HAVE MADE MY IDEOLOGY POOL PROOF AND FOR THAT, I THANK YOU!

YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL GO A LONG WAY; FROM DRIVING THE KIDS TO SCHOOL TO PICKING UP AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY. MY ELDEST SON IS AUTISTIC AND WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR DONATION HE JUMPED FOR JOY AND EXPRESSED A HAPPINESS THAT I HADN'T SEEN IN YEARS.

SO, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART ... THANK YOU!

WARM REGARDS..

Candace Park

MEKHIS, 9
CORI, 4
AMARI, 2

In December Philoptochos partnered with Elena Melekos the guidance counselor at the Sandshore School of Mount Olive (Morris County) with their Giving Tree fundraiser. Blankets, clothes, toys, books etc. were donated to needy children and their families.

Insert pic here:

I am very proud to be a member of the Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Andrew. It is such a rewarding feeling to know that together with a large amount of women all over the world we change people's lives one person at a time, one situation at a time. We make a difference! We have an impact on people's future. Knowing that people around us are hurting, are hungry, have nowhere to sleep, is just so disheartening. It is our moral obligation to do something.

Lastly I leave you with the words to one of my favorite songs:

DO SOMETHING By: Matthew West

*I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now, thought
How'd we ever get so far down? and
How's it ever gonna turn around?
So I turned my eyes to Heaven
I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty,
Children sold into slavery,
The thought disgusted me.
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, "God, why don't You do something?"
He said, "I did, yeah, I created you".
If not us, then who? If not me and you Right
Now! It's time for us to do something.*

Make a New Year's Resolution to pay it Forward. Make a contribution. Be someone's Hero. Use your God given talents to go out there and make a difference. I promise you that whatever you give, God will bless you threefold.

We will Never see change by Standing Still, Let us Stop Waiting for Someone else to do something, Be the ONE who stands up and does something.

Happy New Year! Be Blessed and Be a Blessing to Others!
Jeanie Kalas



Knitting and Crocheting & Pillow Ministries were very busy this year... :



January 2018:

Roxbury Social Services
16 mittens, 12 (Friends of Roxbury) scarves, 4 hats
homeless outreach in Roxbury

Bridges (Newark) homeless outreach
25 scarves

Battered Women's Shelter,
28 scarves, 3 pairs West
Milford of booties

Battered Women's Shelter,
5 lap blankets,

Morris Plains
8 baby blankets

[Care One Facility,](#)
[Morristown 18 pillows](#)

February 2018:

Bridges (Newark) homeless
30 scarves (GOYA) outreach,
18 gloves, 10 hats

May 2018:

Fireman's Retirement Home,
25 lap blankets Boonton, NJ 25 scarves

[The House of Good Shepherd Retirement](#)
[20 pillows Community, Hackettstown](#)

August 2018:

Merry Heart Senior Home,
25 lap blankets Succasunna, NJ

September 2018:

Oncology & Hematology Specialists
30 lap blankets Mountain Lakes, NJ

Holy Cross Brooklyn (BOC);
35 scarves, homeless street outreach
8 hats, 3 pair of gloves

October 2018:

Morristown Hospital
15 lap blankets, 12 baby blankets

Morris View Nursing home
18 comfort pillows, 18 lap blankets

November 2018:

Morris View Nursing home
30 comfort pillows 23 lap blankets 7
scarves

December 2018:

GOYA Christmas Caroling
6 comfort pillows Parishioners, 6 lap blankets

Morris and Sussex County Social
10 scarves Services (for children) 7 hats

[Dover Low Income Housing](#)
[60 pillows For Senior Citizens](#)

[Morris View Nursing Home](#)
[30 pillows](#)

[Morristown Hospital](#)
[40 child pillows, 34 adult pillows](#)



GOYA GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OF AMERICA NEWS

December was a busy month for Saint Andrew GOYA! We went Christmas caroling to many homes of our parishioners. This was a very humbling experience as everyone was so appreciative and happy to see us. It felt wonderful spreading holiday cheer and the spirit of Christmas!

Our church hosted the GOYA volleyball/basketball tournament. The games were very exciting! Our teams played great throughout the season and all of our GOYAnS showed good sportsmanship and Christian Fellowship. Congratulations to our Senior boys for their 2nd place finish and to our Junior boys for winning the championship! Thank you to Father John, our GOYA advisors, our parents, and our Saint Andrew community for the love and support that they showed us throughout the season. We couldn't have had the success that we had on the court without all of their support off the court!



During Presidents Day Weekend in February, our Senior and Junior Boys Basketball teams qualified for the Champions Tournament, which is the top two teams from District 1(North) and 2(South), from each division. This is the first time in our Metropolis that this tournament is being held. Good Luck to Both teams.



We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Blessed 2019!



Saint Andrew GOYA went Christmas Caroling to homes of our parishioners.





Upcoming Events:

January 11 - District 1 Bridges Sandwich Prep/Outreach in Paramus

January 12 - Bridges Outreach Run, delivering the sandwiches in Newark

January 19-21 - Metropolis of NJ Folk Dance Festival

February 15 - Valentine's Dance at St. George Church in Piscataway

February 16-17 - Volleyball/Basketball Tournaments

March 2 - Sights and Sounds



FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Commemorated on January 6

Troparion & Kontakion

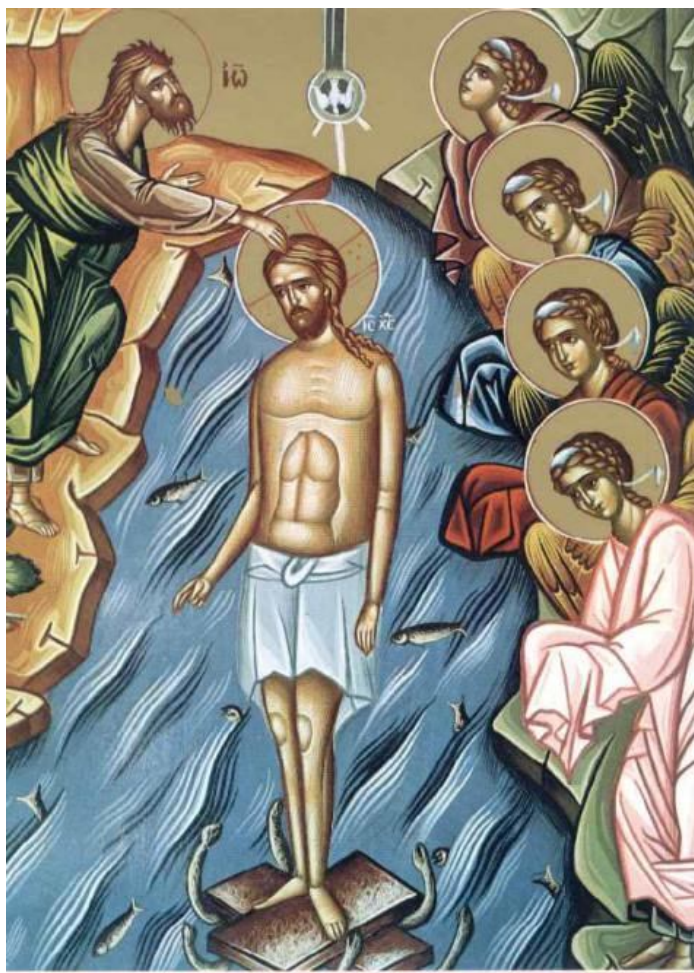
Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this



Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of

ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by

The Orthodox Church in America :The Mission of The Orthodox Church in America, the local autocephalous Orthodox Christian Church, is to be faithful in fulfilling the commandment of Christ to “Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ 6 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

«Τα άγια Θεοφάνεια του Κυρίου και Θεού και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού εορτάζουμε κατά την ημέρα αυτή, και στη Μεγάλη Εκκλησία και στις κατά τόπους άγιες Εκκλησίες, επιτελώντας την παννυχίδα από το εσπέρας. Ο ίδιος ο Θεός Λόγος αφού ενδύθηκε τον παλαιό Αδάμ και εκτέλεσε όλα τα νόμιμα, έρχεται για να βαπτισθεί προς τον μέγα Ιωάννη τον Προφήτη, ο οποίος και τον εμπόδιζε λέγοντας: Εγώ έχω ανάγκη να βαπτισθώ από Εσένα, και Συ έρχεσαι σε μένα; Όταν όμως άκουσε από τον Κύριο το, άσε τώρα αυτά, και κατάλαβε ότι το Βάπτισμά Του αποτελεί εκπλήρωση όλης της δικαιοσύνης του Θεού, είναι δηλαδή μέσα στο σχέδιο της σωτηρίας του κόσμου, δεν Του έφερε εμπόδιο. Βαπτίσθηκε λοιπόν ο Κύριος και αγίασε όλη τη φύση των υδάτων. Κι αφού έθαψε στα ρείθρα του Ιορδάνου όλη την αμαρτία των ανθρώπων, αμέσως βγήκε από το νερό. Έτσι ανακαίνισε και ανάπλασε τον άνθρωπο που είχε παλιώσει λόγω των αμαρτιών, οπότε του χάρισε τη Βασιλεία των Ουρανών».

Εδώ και μερικές ημέρες η Εκκλησία μάς προετοιμάζει, μετά την Γέννηση του Κυρίου, για την δεύτερη (τρίτη στην πραγματικότητα μετά και την περιτομή Αυτού) μεγάλη Δεσποτική εορτή, των Θεοφανείων, της Βαπτίσεως του ενανθρωπήσαντος Θεού. Η μία, σημειώνουν οι

the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday

άγιοι υμνογράφοι, παραπέμπει στην άλλη, μολονότι και οι δύο εορτάζονταν από κοινού στους πρώτους χριστιανικούς αιώνες, ως εορτή των Επιφανείων, της Φανέρωσης του Θεού στον κόσμο, κάτι που διακρίθηκε από τον τέταρτο μ. Χ. αιώνα, για λόγους περισσότερο πρακτικούς παρά πίστεως. Τελικώς όμως καθιερώθηκε ο ξεχωριστός εορτασμός τους, ο οποίος μολονότι ξεχωριστός, συνθεωρείται από τη λειτουργική παράδοση της Εκκλησίας μας. Ο υμνογράφος Ιωάννης ο μοναχός, μάλιστα, συγκρίνει τις δύο εορτές, για να καταλήξει σε κάτι που ξενίζει: η Βάπτισμα του Κυρίου είναι λαμπρότερη από την εορτή των Χριστουγέννων. «Λαμπρά μεν η παρελθούσα εορτή – σημειώνει – λαμπρότερα δε Σωτήρ η επερχομένη». Και εξηγεί: «Εκείνη άγγελον έσχε ευαγγελιστήν και αύτη Πρόδρομον εύρε προετοιμαστήν. Εν εκείνη, αιμάτων εκχεομένων, ως άτεκνος ωδύρετο η Βηθλεέμ· εν ταύτη, υδάτων ευλογουμένων, πολύτεκνος γνωρίζεται η Κολυμβήθρα. Τότε Αστήρ τους Μάγους εμήνυσε, νυν δε Πατήρ κόσμω σε υπέδειξεν. Ο σαρκωθείς και πάλιν ερχόμενος εμφανώς, Κύριε, δόξα σοι» (Λαμπρή η προηγουμένη εορτή της Γεννήσεως του Κυρίου, λαμπρότερη όμως, Σωτήρα, αυτή που έρχεται. Εκείνη είχε ως ευαγγελιστή άγγελο, και αυτή βρήκε προετοιμαστή Πρόδρομο. Σε εκείνη, επειδή χύθηκαν τα αίματα των νηπίων, οδυρόταν

η Βηθλεέμ ως άτεκνη, ενώ σε αυτήν, επειδή ευλογήθηκαν τα ύδατα, η Κολυμβήθρα της Εκκλησίας γίνεται γνωστή ως πολύτεκνη. Τότε Αστέρας φανερώθηκε στους Μάγους, τώρα δε ο Πατέρας Σε υπέδειξε στον κόσμο. Συ που σαρκώθηκες και πάλιν έρχεσαι φανερά, Κύριε, δόξα Σοι).

Ο ίδιος υμνογράφος, συνθερώνοντας, όπως είπαμε, τις δύο εορτές, τις βλέπει ως επί μέρους φάσεις εκπλήρωσης της αρχικής υποσχέσεως του Θεού, ήδη από την εποχή της πτώσεως στην αμαρτία των πρωτοπλάστων, περί της σωτηρίας του κόσμου. Σε κάθε φάση μάλιστα ο Θεός χρησιμοποίησε και τα ανάλογα μέσα, τους «λειτουργούς του μυστηρίου» Του. «Κύριε, πληρώσαι βουλόμενος α ώρισας απ' αιώνας, από πάσης της κτίσεως, λειτουργούς του μυστηρίου σου έλαβες· εκ των Αγγέλων τον Γαβριήλ, εκ των ανθρώπων την Παρθένον, εκ των Ουρανών τον Αστέρα, και εκ των υδάτων τον Ιορδάνην· εν ω το ανόμημα του κόσμου εξείληψας, Σωτήρ ημών δόξα Σοι» (Κύριε, θέλοντας να εκπληρώσεις όλα όσα καθόρισες προαιώνια, απ' αρχής της δημιουργίας, έλαβες λειτουργούς συνεργάτες του μυστηρίου σου: από τους Αγγέλους τον Γαβριήλ, από τους ανθρώπους την Παρθένο Μαρία, από τους Ουρανούς τον Αστέρα, και από τα ύδατα τον Ιορδάνη, μέσα στον οποίο εξάλειψας την αμαρτία του κόσμου, Σωτήρα μας, δόξα Σοι).

Η επισήμανση του υμνογράφου περί της εξαλείψεως της αμαρτίας του κόσμου μέσα στον Ιορδάνη συνιστά την απαρχή αυτού που θα ολοκληρωθεί επάνω στον Σταυρό του Κυρίου και στην Ανάστασή Του. Ότι αποκαλύπτει ο λόγος του Θεού - ότι δηλαδή ο Κύριος στον Σταυρό «κατήργησε το σώμα της αμαρτίας του μηκέτι δουλεύειν ημάς τη αμαρτία», όπως και με την Ανάστασή Του καταπάτησε τον θάνατο και τον διάβολο - ξεκίνησε από τη Βάπτισή του Κυρίου. (Ένας ύμνος μάλιστα του αγίου Ιωσήφ του υμνογράφου προσφέρει ανάγλυφα την αλήθεια



αυτή. Ο Κύριος έρχεται στον Ιορδάνη με τον τρόπο που Τον υπέδειξε ο Ιωάννης: «*ίδε ο αμνός του Θεού, ο αίρων την αμαρτίαν του κόσμου*». Ο Ιωάννης βλέπει τον Κύριο, αλλά Τον βλέπει φορτωμένο με τις αμαρτίες του κόσμου. Κι έτσι φορτωμένος έρχεται στον Ιορδάνη, οπότε ο Ιωάννης Τον αντιμετωπίζει με φόβο και τρόμο. «*Αίρων τας ημών αμαρτίας επί ώμων, ήλθες Ιησού προς τα ρείθρα του Ιορδάνου· εγώ δε δέδοικά σου το φρικτόν της ελεύσεως· πώς ουν μοι κελεύεις σε βαπτίσει; Αυτός εμέ καθάραι ήκεις, και πώς Βάπτισμα το παρ' εμού επιζητείς, το πάντων καθάρσιον;*». Δηλαδή: Με σηκωμένες τις αμαρτίες μας στους ώμους Σου, ήλθες Ιησού στα ρείθρα του Ιορδάνου. Εγώ δε φοβάμαι τη φρικτή έλευσή Σου. Πώς λοιπόν με διατάζεις να σε βαπτίσω; Συ ο ίδιος ήλθες να με καθάρσεις και πώς ζητάς το δικό μου βάπτισμα, το βάπτισμα που εσύ φέρνεις και καθαρίζει τα πάντα;)

Η Γέννησή του Κυρίου αποτέλεσε τη βάση της νίκης κατά της αμαρτίας, του θανάτου και του διαβόλου, η Βάπτισή Του ενεργοποίησε τη νίκη αυτή, ο Σταυρός και η Ανάσταση την οριστικοποίησαν. Ο Κύριος με άλλα λόγια λύτρωσε το ανθρώπινο γένος από τη δουλεία της αμαρτίας με όλες τις φάσεις της ζωής Του. Η αποστολή έπειτα από Αυτόν του αγίου Πνεύματος, κατά την

ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής, σήμανε την απαρχή της οικειοποίησης της λύτρωσης αυτής από όσους θα Τον αποδέχονταν. Στην Εκκλησία δηλαδή αυτό που ο Κύριος έφερε στο ανθρώπινο γένος θα γινόταν και προσιτό και οικείο στις καρδιές των ανθρώπων. Κι όπως με το Βάπτισμα του Κυρίου έχουμε την απαρχή της νίκης κατά της αμαρτίας, του θανάτου και του διαβόλου, όπως είπαμε, έτσι και με το βάπτισμα στην κολυμβήθρα πια της Εκκλησίας, ο πιστός εντάσσεται στο σώμα του Χριστού και γεύεται ψυχοσωματικά τις δωρεές αυτής της λύτρωσης.

Η υμνολογία της Εκκλησίας μας αδιάκοπα και πολλαπλώς τονίζει τις διαστάσεις αυτές της κάθαρσης του κόσμου και του ανθρώπου από την αμαρτία διά της Βαπτίσεως του Κυρίου. Δεν βαπτίστηκε ο Κύριος, διότι είχε ανάγκη Αυτός του βαπτίσματος: απόδειξη το γεγονός ότι αμέσως βγήκε από τον Ιορδάνη, ελλείψει αμαρτιών, την ώρα που οι άλλοι βαπτιζόμενοι παρέμεναν εξομολογούμενοι τις αμαρτίες τους. Το βάπτισμα, όπως είπαμε, ήταν για εμάς τους ανθρώπους. Εισερχόμενος στον Ιορδάνη Αυτός που σήκωνε τις αμαρτίες των ανθρώπων, βύθισε και εξάλειψε τις αμαρτίες αυτές, όπως παλαιότερα ο Ίδιος ως μόνον Θεός εξάλειψε τις αμαρτίες των ανθρώπων διά του κατακλυσμού των υδάτων επί Νώε, κι όπως έδωσε νέα αρχή στη ζωή του Ισραήλ, κάνοντάς τους να περάσουν μέσα από τα σχισμένα ύδατα της ερυθράς θάλασσας με τον Μωυσή. Έτσι τα νερά λειτούργησαν πάντοτε, πραγματιστικά, αλλά και συμβολικά, για την κάθαρση των αμαρτιών των ανθρώπων. Γι' αυτό και ο Κύριος, είδαμε, τη σωτηρία την «έδεσε» με το «νερό και το Πνεύμα». «*Εάν μη τις γεννηθή εξ ύδατος και Πνεύματος ου μη εισέλθη εις την Βασιλείαν των Ουρανών*».

Και βεβαίως η εξάλειψη των αμαρτιών διά του Βαπτίσματος του Κυρίου ήταν το αποτέλεσμα του

αγιασμού των υδάτων και του φωτισμού που έφερνε η είσοδος Του στο νερό του Ιορδάνη, συνεπώς σε όλη τη φύση, κύριο και καθοριστικό στοιχείο της οποίας είναι το νερό. Ο Κύριος δηλαδή, η πηγή της αγιότητας και του σωτηρίου πνευματικού φωτός, εισάγει με την είσοδό Του στο νερό, τον αγιασμό και το φως Του. Έκτοτε η φύση αγιάστηκε και η Εκκλησία μας συνεχίζει και διαιωνίζει τον αγιασμό αυτόν με τον Σταυρό του Κυρίου που εμβαπτίζεται κατά την τελετή του Αγιασμού των υδάτων. Είπαμε όμως: ο αγιασμός αυτός συνιστά την απαρχή, η οποία οριστικοποιήθηκε τελεσίδικα με τον Σταυρό και την Ανάσταση, περαιτέρω δε με την αποστολή του αγίου Πνεύματος κατά την ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής.

Η υμνολογία μας είναι ανεξάντλητη στη διαπίστωση των επί μέρους θεολογικών όψεων της Βαπτίσεως του Κυρίου. Και βεβαίως είναι αυτονόητο ότι αφενός εξαγγέλλει πάντοτε την αιτία του χαρακτηρισμού της Βαπτίσεως του Κυρίου ως εορτής Θεοφανείων: στη Βάπτιση φανερώθηκε ο Τριαδικός Θεός. «*Εν Ιορδάνη βαπτιζομένου Σου, Κύριε, η της Τριάδος εμφανρώθη προσκύνησις*». Ο Πατέρας που προσμαρτυρεί τον Ιησού ως μονογενή Του Υιό, ο Χριστός που βαπτίζεται, το άγιον Πνεύμα που βεβαιώνει την αλήθεια των λόγων του Θεού Πατέρα. Και αφετέρου επισημαίνει ότι με το Βάπτισμά Του ο Κύριος αρχίζει κατά επίσημο, θα λέγαμε, τρόπο τη δράση Του στον κόσμο προς σωτηρία αυτού. Όπως παλιά στον Ισραήλ ένας προφήτης ή ένας ιερέας έχριε διά μύρου τον βασιλιά, ώστε αυτός επισήμως να κατασταθεί στη θέση του, έτσι και εδώ: ο ίδιος ο Θεός Πατέρας χρίει διά του πνευματικού μύρου, του αγίου Πνεύματος, τον Υιό Του ως τον Μεσσία του κόσμου.

<http://pqdorbas.blogspot.com/2015/01/6.html>

In the December, 2018 issue of the Saint Andrew Family News the article "PROTECTING THE CHURCH WE LOVE" was offered in English. We are happy to be able to include the same article for our Greek readers below.

ΠΡΟΣΤΑΤΕΥΟΝΤΑΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΠΟΥ ΑΓΑΠΑΜΕ

Η κιβωτός της Χριστιανικής Εκκλησίας σαλπάρει μέσα από ταραχώδη νερά τις ημέρες αυτές. Μεγάλα σκάνδαλα έχουν προσβάλλει τις Χριστιανικές κοινότητες σε όλες τις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες και τον κόσμο όλο, σκάνδαλα σοβαρής διάστασης, σκάνδαλα που μπορούν να περιγραφούν μόνο ως αμαρτία, ως επιβολή του κακού, και ως αποτυχία των Χριστιανών και των ποιμένων τους να ανταποκριθούν στη φύσι και το αποστολικό έργο της Εκκλησίας για το οποίο έγραψε ο Απόστολος Παύλος στους Εφέσιους.

«.....έμοι τῷ ἐλαχιστοτέρῳ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις αὕτη, ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν εὐαγγελίσασθαι τὸν ἀνεξιχνίαστον πλοῦτον τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ φωτίσαι πάντας τίς ἡ οἰκονομία τοῦ μυστηρίου τοῦ ἀποκεκρυμμένου ἀπὸ τῶν αἰώνων ἐν τῷ Θεῷ, τῷ τὰ πάντα κτίσαντι διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα γνωρισθῇ νῦν ταῖς ἀρχαῖς καὶ ταῖς ἐξουσίαις ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις διὰ τῆς ἐκκλησίας ἡ πολυποίκιλος σοφία τοῦ Θεοῦ.»

Σήμερα, ακόμη και η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία βρίσκεται κοντά στο χείλος ενός νέου σχίσματος και αυτό το σκάνδαλο μιας πιθανής ασυμφωνίας και έχθρας είναι μάλιστα άλλο ένα σημάδι ότι κάθε άλλο παρά όλα καλά είναι τα πράγματα στον οίκο της πίστης.

Καμμία Χριστιανική κοινότητα δεν μπορεί να νίψει τας χείρας για αυτά τα σκάνδαλα και τις ασελγείς παραβιάσεις της ηγεσίας και ποιμαντικής φροντίδας. Αφού παρά τις θεολογικές διαφορές οι οποίες είναι, για εμάς τους Ορθόδοξους Χριστιανούς, ξεκάθαρες και βέβαιες, είμαστε απόστολοι του ίδιου Κυρίου. Δεν υπάρχουν πολλοί

με το όνομα Χριστός. Και πάλι, ο Απόστολος Παύλος μας υπενθυμίζει, « Είσθε ένα πνευματικόν σώμα και έχετε ένα και το αυτό Πνεύμα Ἅγιον, που σας ζωογονεί, καθώς επίσης έχετε κληθεί όλοι εις μίαν και την αυτήν ελπίδα της κλήσεώς σας. Ενας και μόνος είναι ο Κυριος, μία είναι η πίστις όλων των Χριστιανών, ένα το βάπτισμα που έχουν λάβει. Ενας και μόνος ο Θεός και Πατήρ όλων, αυτός ο οποίος κυριαρχεί επί όλων ανεξαιρέτως και δια μέσου όλων ενεργεί και φανερώνει την αγαθήν του πρόνοιαν, και μέσα εις όλους μας κατοικεί.» (Προς Εφεσίους 4:4-6)

Η αμαρτία του ενός φέρνει το σκότος σε όλους. Όπως εμείς, από την ανθρώπινη φύσι, μοιραζόμαστε τις συνέπειες του προπατορικού αμαρτήματος του Αδάμ, έτσι επίσης και οι αμαρτίες και τα σκάνδαλα που σχετίζονται με διάφορα εκκλησιαστικά σώματα σήμερα, πρέπει να βαρύνουν **όλους** τους Χριστιανούς. Το φορτίο υπάρχει σε όλων τις καρδιές. Μπορούμε να είμαστε συνεργοί, ακόμη και από απάθεια ή μετριότητα - ή άρνηση. Κανείς δεν μπορεί να ξεφύγει από τη μεγάλη προδοσία. Πώς εμείς, ως κάτοχοι της Αποστολικής πίστης, προστατεύουμε την κοινωνία – την κοινωνία της πίστης – από εκείνες τις δυνάμεις που επιζητούν να την καταστρέψουν, να την εξασθενήσουν, ή να τη διαπραγματευτούν; Δεν πρέπει να κοιτάζουμε προς ένα θεσμό ή έναν οργανισμό. Είναι ανώφελο να βλέπουμε το αληθινό πρόβλημα κάπου «εκεί έξω». **Γεγονός είναι ότι πρέπει να κοιτάζουμε τις δικές μας καρδιές, εκεί ο εξαπατών ψάχνει να αιχμαλωτίσει την προσοχή μας (το λογισμό μας)**

και να μας αφηγηθεί την θανάσιμη ψεύτικη ιστορία του.

Ο άγιος Πατέρας μας, Άγιος Σιλουανός του Αγίου Όρους, μας παρέχει καθοδήγηση στα συγγράμματά του για την προστασία της Εκκλησίας του Χριστού. Έγραψε, «Όλα τα προβλήματα προέρχονται από την αλλαζονεία. Εάν είμασταν ταπεινοί, τότε ο Θεός θα μας φανέρωνε όλα τα μυστικά Του επειδή μας αγαπά. Όπως είπε ο Κύριος, «Διδάξου από Εμένα, που είμαι πράος και ταπεινός στην καρδιά, και θα βρείτε ανάπαυση στις ψυχές σας.»

Για να μάθουμε από τον Χριστό πρέπει να μάθουμε να πειθαρχούμε και να μεταμορφώνουμε τα εγώ μας – τη θέση της υπερηφάνειας. Ο εγωισμός είναι η πηγή της πνευματικής δυστυχίας, της ξηρασίας, και ενός βασανιστικού αισθήματος αποξένωσης από τον Θεό. Ο εγωισμός μπορεί επίσης να είναι ένας παράγοντας που ευθύνεται για τις ταραχές και τα σκάνδαλα στην Εκκλησία. Ο Θεός αποκάλυψε στον Μεγαλόσχημο Σιλουάνο ότι η ρίζα όλων των ανθρώπινων αμαρτιών είναι η υπερηφάνεια / ο εγωκεντρισμός. Δίδαξε στον Σιλουάνο ότι ο Θεός είναι ταπείνωση, και ότι ο άνθρωπος που θέλει τον Χριστό, ο άνθρωπος που θα ήταν χαρούμενος στα αλήθεια στη ζωή του, η εκκλησία που θα ήταν η πιο ολοκληρωμένη, **πρέπει να μάθουν πώς να είναι ταπεινοί.**

Επειδή ο κάθε πιστός μπορεί να υποχωρήσει στον εγωισμό και τον έλεγχο, η Εκκλησία, μπορεί από μόνη της να αμαυρωθεί και να χάσει τον σκοπό της και το επίκεντρό της. Η ταπεινότητα δεν είναι βέβαια μία αρετή της μόδας ή δημοφιλής στην κουλτούρα του «εγώ πρώτος - Είμαι τόσο εντυπωσιασμένος με τον εαυτό μου.» Και όμως είναι το μεγαλύτερο αντίδοτο του να ζούμε με μια αχαλίνωτη αίσθηση της δικής μας αξίας στον αγώνα της δικής μας θέλησης ενάντια στο θέλημα του Θεού για εμάς. Η ταπεινότητα είναι το πρόπον πνεύμα για τους Επισκόπους, τους ιερείς, και τους κοσμικούς εάν θέλουν να αποτρέψουν το κακό

από το να προκαλεί σκάνδαλα, διχόνοια, ή σχίσμα. Αν δεν ελεγχθούν, μπορεί να καταλήξουν σε κενό της ψυχής, σε πνευματικό θάνατο. Αρχίζουμε να ακούμε τις ρυπαρές φωνές αυτού του κόσμου και χανόμαστε μέσα στη δίνη. Πώς θα φτάσουμε σε αυτό το ταπεινό σημείο;

Στο βιβλίο του **Το Βουνό της Σιωπής**, ο Κυριάκος Μαρκίδης αναφέρει τα λόγια του Γέροντα Μάξιμου, του Αθωνίτη λέγοντας, «Όταν οι άνθρωποι εκμηδενίζουν τον δικό τους εγωισμό και προσπαθούν να ενωθούν με το Θεό, τότε ό,τι επιθυμούν είναι αυτό που επιθυμεί και ο Θεός, και τους δίνεται.»

Για να βρούμε αυτούς τους κινδύνους για τη ψυχή μας και επομένως και για την Εκκλησία, **πρώτα πρέπει να ψάξουμε την καρδιά μας και τη ψυχή μας με ειλικρίνεια.** Ο Άγιος Σιλουάνος έγραψε ότι «Η αλαζονεία και ο εγωκεντρισμός επιφέρουν κάθε καταστροφή και πτώση, η χάρι χάνεται, η καρδιά παγώνει, η προσευχή είναι αδύναμη.»

Αυτό αληθεύει και στη **δική μου** ζωή; Μήπως έχω επιτρέψει την υπερηφάνεια και τον εγωισμό να καταλάβουν τον εαυτό μου, τον γάμο μου, την οικογένειά μου και τις σχέσεις μου, στην εργασία μου στον κόσμο; Στη μάχη της θέλησης ανάμεσα σε εμένα και το Θεό (ο ορισμός της υπερηφάνειας), επιζητώ να υπερισχύσω ή να παραδοθώ; Να απαιτήσω τον έλεγχο της ζωής μου;

Αυτές οι ερωτήσεις απαιτούν σκληρή κρίση. Ένας γιατρός δεν μπορεί να θεραπεύσει μία αρρώστια χωρίς διάγνωση. Η υπερηφάνεια και ο εγωισμός δεν θεραπεύονται χωρίς πρώτα να τα αναγνωρίσεις, με ειλικρίνεια, στις ψυχές μας και στην καθημερινή μας ζωή – και στην Εκκλησία μας.

Δεύτερον, αγκαλιάστε τον πόνο. Μη σφάλτε, η προσπάθεια να μετατραπεί η υπερηφάνεια / εγωισμός σε αληθινή ταπείνωση, θα είναι ενάντια στις φυσικές μας ορμές. Ο εγωισμός είναι ένα αχόρταγο και άπληστο πράγμα. Μόλις

υποκύψουμε σε αυτόν, μόλις δώσουμε αυτό που θέλει, θέλει περισσότερο και περισσότερο από εμάς. Αν αλλάξουμε την κατεύθυνση της θέλησής μας προς τη θέληση του Θεού, είναι αντίθετο με τη φυσική και ενστικτώδη αντίδραση του εγωισμού μας προς τον εαυτό. Τέλος πάντων, είναι ευκολότερο να **μη** ζεις ως Χριστιανός παρά να ζεις όπως ζούσε ο Χριστός. Και όμως ο Άγιος Σιλουανός μας βεβαιώνει ότι «κρατώντας τις ψυχές μας στην κόλαση» είναι το αληθινό μονοπάτι προς την ταπεινότητα. Πρέπει να γνωρίζουμε ότι η μαθητεία μας θα μας κοστίσει.

Όπως έγραψε ο Άγιος Σιλουανός για τη μάχη του Αδάμ με το Θεό, «Υπάρχει μία επίπονη και βαθιά λύπη στη ψυχή. Ο Αδάμ έπεσε κάτω στο χώμα και έκλαψε πικρά και το χώμα δεν του ήταν καθόλου ευχάριστο. Πονούσε η καρδιά του για το Θεό και κραύγασε, «Η ψυχή μου κοπιάζει για τον Κύριο και Τον αναζητώ με δάκρυα.»

Ζώντας το πεπρωμένο κάθε μέρα, το προσωπικό μας εγώ, η μάχη μας να αποσπάσουμε τον έλεγχο από τον Θεό παρά να Του παραδοθούμε, το μόνο που θα μας φέρει είναι ατελείωτα δάκρυα και λύπη.

Τέλος, μην εγκαταλείπετε την ελπίδα. Ο Άγιος Σιλουανός υπέφερε σφοδρά στον πνευματικό και

ψυχολογικό του αγώνα για κάπου 15 χρόνια, μα ποτέ δεν το έβαλε κάτω. Αυτό είναι το κλειδί. Έμεινε αφοσιωμένος στον αγώνα του, στην εξέλιξη της προσωπικής του πνευματικής αλλαγής. Κράτησε ζωντανή την ελπίδα του ενώ υπέφερε επειδή και ο Χριστός υπέφερε. Η ελπίδα ήταν μία διέξοδος από την απελπισία και την αποθάρρυνση, μία διέξοδος από τον πνευματικό θάνατο και την παγίδα του εγώ.

Ό,τι και να βρείτε στην αναζήτηση της ψυχής σας και όσο οδυνηρό και να είναι να δαμάσετε το φουσκωμένο σας εγώ και να μοιάσετε με τον ταπεινό Χριστό, **κρατηθείτε, ποτέ μην εγκαταλείψετε.** Να προσεύχεστε για τον εαυτό σας και να προσεύχεστε και για την Εκκλησία να είναι και αυτή επίσης πιστή στην φύση της και το κάλεσμά της – και όχι στην εξουσία και τον έλεγχο στην πνευματική αλήθεια και τον αυθεντικό ασκητισμό – όχι στη δημιουργία βολικών θεωριών της πίστης που εξυπηρετούν τους εαυτούς τους. Ο Κύριός μας ο Ιησούς υποσχέθηκε «ανάπαυση των ψυχών μας,» και θα κρατήσει την υπόσχεσή Του! Είθε ο Κύριος ημών Ιησούς Χριστός να αγγίξει τις καρδιές μας και την καρδιά της Εκκλησίας Του με τον ειρηνικό και ταπεινό Του τρόπο.

Adaptation by Maria Kiritis, HAS teacher

Ο Πατέρας Δημήτριος Αντώκας είναι ιερέας στην Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία του Αγίου Γεωργίου στην Bethesda, Maryland.

Save the date for the MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Αποκριάτικο Γλέντι 2019

Sunday, February 17th at 5pm

Join us to celebrate and enjoy an evening of: *entertainment, food, dancing, tricky tray & prizes!*

The Knoll Country Club West, 12 Knoll Lane, Boonton, NJ



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



We have been abuzz with activity this year as we reflect on some of our recent events.

On Friday, October 12th we had our first bowling night with our AHEPA chapter. Over 25 of us gathered at Circle Bowl and shared a lot of laughs and even

showed a modicum of prowess as we bonded together as one Ahepa Family.

On November 18th we had our raffle drawing for “Two Tickets to Greece” \$2,000 travel voucher. Our net profit will benefit our beloved St. Andrew as well as our local, district and national charities. We then headed over to the Four Sisters Winery in Belvidere for a wine tasting event and murder mystery dinner. It is very exciting to say that both the raffle (300 tickets) and wine event (45 seats) were completely sold out nearly a month ahead of time. Our lucky winner was Terry Diamantoukos of Cherry Hill, NJ.

On December 2nd, we hosted a joint Christmas lunch with our AHEPA at the Morris Tap Grill on Route 10 in Randolph. We played Christmas Jingo and enjoyed a delicious lunch in the company of Father John and Joseph Theodosion. We are hoping to attract new members to the AHEPA Family as we look to our **DOP District Lodge Visitation and Initiation on January 20, 2019.**



We wish all of you a Blessed Advent Season as we continue to be thankful for all that we have here in this loving community of Saint Andrew.



ROOM FOR AGAPE - JANUARY 2019 VOICE FOR THE SENIORS



Χρονιά Πολλά !

We all make New Year resolutions – often repeating the same one year after year. It's difficult to be disciplined enough to actually facilitate the growth of a healthy force of habit, paying a price to willfully make oneself Mind along a

very certain line on a permanent basis. Reaching a goal is possible when willing to give to get something better! First, we must see and then declare a *reason* worth fighting for: ***because it's good for our soul***. Once we learn the pattern of the process, we can apply it to other aspects of our life as well. *A disciplined student becomes one who habitually succeeds, carefully building – step by step (never by leaps out of bounds).*

Our fault here is that sometimes we “get trapped in our car” – in a mean steady rut *on our way* to a road that was paid for, paved by others to make it easy on sufferers. Having thought there was no other way, we cling to the wheel in hopes that trouble will soon go away, or patterns will mystically change. Maybe yes, maybe no. I keep thinking about old Greek mountain roads, long since rutted by uncapped springs and sudden showers that wind their paths around perilous corners - until suddenly the road is smooth again but, in the meantime, not being native to it, stay absolutely scared to death. That's Life.

I got to thinking about people of the past and how they practiced their “mindfulness” for giving – sharing what they learned by saving priceless/ treasured memories. A few quite literally broke their backs while trying to clear a path for heirs. (Others like me didn't take time to save stories: too busy to process, packed them away in a mess. They find their way out – eventually. Sometimes it's gold - and sometimes, devilled egg. Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me -- my burden is light.” (Matt 11:30) Now I get the connection—and why I love Him so. I listened, feeling very familiar.

Many were mothers, breastfeeding their babies: closely connected/ taken for granted as just being there – *no thank you*. Many were fathers, feeding their families: *offering provision – often, no thank you*. Some were shepherds, feeding a flock: *giving gentle guidance*. Some were fishermen, netting a gathering before *selling their cache* in the village. Some were priests, like pastors, *sharing a feeling of wonder*.

All the above had needs and answers but each was a little different. Patterns remain the same, forming a foundational lie for all the rest to build on – to cook and bake; to feast and laugh; to watch the children play, oldies youthful still in spirit. They shared in “bondage”, *sharing commonality*, a theme: ones to mind as the way to work together – *to profit as a whole: community*.

Families change, people change, societies change, communities change - but one thing stays the same: a way to “*make Mind*”: a way to sustain what is gained – plus a little bit more, meaning progress - together.

For example, standing aside one day, summarily calculated in review, ancient Abraham realized how *lucky* he was, noticing how much he'd inherited by way of free blessings over the years. He sought a

way to appreciate gain by passing it on to the next. He thought to give thanks by offering sacrifice straight from his heart – in the purest form of love he could think of: a spotless lamb. Looking around, he didn't see one – until noticing his most treasured son, Sarah's little lamb, Isaac, at his side - right there, purely trusting and innocent as could be. Isaac humbly complied as placed on the altar of sacrifice. At the moment, just before plunging his knife and lighting a consuming fire, the voice of God stopped him, providing a lamb stuck in a thicket nearby. Abraham found favor in the eyes of the Lord and lived a truly blessed unforgettable life. (Genesis 12-18)

Reading about Abraham in Old Testament scripture, one might easily call it a fabulous fable – except for the lesson imparted: God asks us to be whole heartedly *willing* – but not to be stubborn about it. Despising pride, He rewards humility. Despising greed, He teaches sacrifice. Despising rigidity, He makes allowance for flexibility. **Balance means always - a gain.** The lamb that Abraham sacrificed was the equivalent of a tithe – giving from his heart with awesome gratitude. Tenths multiply – exponentially, with savings in between. You can see how to save more and more for yourself. Tithe is the film that surfaces on slow-boiling milk. A tithe is the heavy cream that rises to form buttery gold - when set aside and beaten down a while. A tithe is the change in your pocket

at the end of a day. A tithe is a moment spent being kind. *The spirit of tithe forms the base of a great resolution that builds and strengthens and even confirms what our Faith is all about – as a very personal matter!*

We can argue over what is real and what was allegory as recorded in the Tanakh (Old Testament), or some other figure of speech – or “manna for speaking” that appears like food in the desert at dawn and disappears well before noon, (as for Israelites trapped in Sinai desert after Exodus from bondage in Egypt) but truth is woven into the fabric of our faith in such a way that *solitary patterns* can be translated *in principle*, meaning just the same – in sum sense of the working word, GO – right from the very beginning. **Amazingly beautiful; Spirit's divine!** The Word is malleable – buttery gold, working like clay in a potter's hands, beauty dependent on touch.

Our January luncheon is Tuesday, the 15th at 11:30am – here at the church, weather permitting. If you want me to call you as a reminder, be sure to let me know your phone number if it's different than the one you gave me at first, or don't have access to the Church Bulletin. Many have changed over the years – or been blocked; I can no longer reach you.

Maryann Brinkley (973-442-3011) and Betty Kelly (973-704-0377) co-chairs



THREE HOLY HIERARCHS & GREEK LETTERS DAY

After Divine Liturgy
Sunday, January 27, 2019
 The Hellenic Afternoon School
 will present their
 “Three Hierarchs Program”

JANUARY – We have “Blah’s, but let’s make them “Ah’s” for 2019? New Resolutions for 2019?

Happy New Year everyone! I've had many “Blah’s” the past few months with illness but thank the Almighty God, my Panayia, and my family the “Ah’s” won and I am grateful and looking forward to a healthy and productive year in 2019. I will include the article called **“10 Spiritual Resolutions for Orthodox Christians”** and I think this month after I quote them I will try to make a resolution for each of them based on my own life for the past year. I hope you do the same and read them to your children, and apply them to yourself as well.



Let us therefore use the virtue of forgiveness as a basis for our continued commitment to theosis and by regarding our earthly relationships with one another as truly important. Let us practice forgiveness, as it is the first step in preparing for Holy Confession and Holy Communion each and every Sunday.”

This I can do easily. At times I may have hurt someone and not realize it, blah, but it doesn't hurt to ask forgiveness from those I have hurt or may have hurt. Before we take Communion, and before our children take Communion, we should ask for forgiveness from one another. These are refreshing “Ah’s”!

“3) Learn about praying and prayers. *We tend to use the prayers we were taught as children. There are many prayers available for parishioners to use: check the prayer book and ask your Priest, he can assist by providing prayers that pertain to your specific situation(s). Pray often, more than once a day. If you do not have a prayer corner set up in your home, ask your Parish Priest to assist you in setting one up.”*

“1) Arrive for Church Services on time! *We take for granted the Divine Liturgy at the best of times. Often we believe that as long as we are there for the Gospel, Sermon and Communion we have had “a good enough dose of God for the week.” Partaking of the Matins or Orthros service and the full Divine Liturgy will prepare you fully for stepping up to the precious and life giving Chalice of Christ. This will in turn fortify your spiritual journey into the world for the coming week. Our responsibility to Our Lord is to respect the schedule laid out for us, at least once a week.”*

I have been praying a lot at home as I was dealing with some medical issues but will make an effort to physically attend services in my community church. Ah! It will be refreshing to bond with my community brothers and sisters!

“2) Ask for forgiveness from our family, friends and Christian brothers and sisters in our parish. *Forgiveness is a difficult virtue to put into practice and even more difficult to use regularly.*

I always try to read different prayers and every night I pray for my family & friends, all those living, and all those who have passed. I like adding my Table Prayer Guide monthly and I try to apply it to whatever I am writing about in this article and my resolution is to continue doing that. I wear a prayer rope day and night. At times I lose it in a sleeve and it drives me crazy, but somehow it

always shows up. (I can rely on my cat to find it most of the time).

“4) Become a steward in your parish and community. Become” an active, involved, caring Orthodox Christian. Donate to your Parish, become, if not already, involved in keeping our environment clean (God placed us on this earth to care for His creations!!!), donate to food banks, school lunch programs, etc. Create an organized community outreach for the less fortunate residents of your area. As stewards of humanity, it is incumbent upon us, as Orthodox Christians to lead by example”.

My resolution is to continue to be a good steward in my parish and my community as a parish member, a wife, a mother, a friend, and a teacher. I will continue publishing for our “Parents Corner” and thank you to those who respond and send me tid-bit info and new material.

“5) Attend more than one (1) Church Service per Month. Don’t be a “C” & “E” (Christmas & Easter) Parishioner. Place prayer, worship and Church Services on your list of priorities, above all other recreational activities. The benefit of a fulfilling spiritual life will lead you to many rewards in the future.”

We definitely need to make a resolution to attend church more often than just on holidays!

“6) Put your God-given Talents to use. We all have hidden talents, or talents not used to their full potential. Recognize them, ask for guidance from Our Lord and put them to use for the benefit of God’s Holy Church.”

I intend on using my experience to continue to assist those with learning difficulties, disabilities, both children & adults, and fighting for justice and assistance for those in need. Parents, if you need info on these topics, contact me and I will put you in touch with some professionals.

“7) Invite your children, grandchildren, siblings and friends to Church Services. Become a host to your own family. Guide them and explain to them that the One Holy Universal and Apostolic Church is the One True Church. Explain that Orthodoxy offers all to its faithful. Bring one guest to Church per year at least and allow God to do His work.”

This is a good resolution. Yup! I can do this! Can you?

“8) Contact your family members that have stepped away from your family; or if you have stepped away, call your family. Practice patience, understanding and forgiveness. We are on this earth but once. We have one opportunity to practice forgiveness and ask for it as well. It is never wrong to come back home, even after a lengthy absence. We should never be embarrassed to admit our faults to our families and our desire to renew our relationships. We must remember, we are not perfect, we all have faults and we never know when we may be called by God to return home.”

I have great family ties here and abroad and we are all very close. This one is easy! How about you? Did you have a disagreement recently with a distant family member? A good resolution to make amends never hurts!

“9) Experience the life of the Church and her many gifts to heal you. Attend Church services; come to Confession and Communion on a regular basis. We were born unto this earth dependent upon our Lord. Use Confession to unburden your sins and Communion to heal you. Rely on your Parish Priest to be your Father Confessor and Spiritual Guide.”

My faith, my family, my love of my community keep me going and when there are too many “Blah’s”, I am confident the “Ah’s” will triple because I have my faith, my family, and my church community to turn to. I may not always be visible, but I am available to anyone who needs to contact

me as members of my community were there for me.

“10) Recognize that we are tested by Our Lord and tempted by the devil himself, daily. We are put to the test daily, as in school, so in life. Pray frequently, ask for guidance, see beyond the test, look for the good only in all situations. Avoid temptations that are “too good to be true.” Recognize that we are accountable for all of our thoughts, actions and deeds.”

I pray often - in fact every day and every night. Prayer gets me through the day, helps me forget bad memories, gives me strength, gives me hope, and reminds me to be aware of the differences between right and wrong and temptation. This is one resolution I will keep close to my heart always.

Well? Did we all learn something today about “Spiritual Resolutions”? No more “Blah’s”? There will always be sadness, losses, health issues, and

conflicts, but we can overcome them with a million “Ah’s”. God never gives us more than we can handle. Faith gives us strength to go on. 2019 will be a great year!

During this blessed time of the year, I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas Day, and I want to wish everyone, family and friends, a Blessed New Year all of 2019, and I would like to express my gratitude to my faithful readers, and thank you for listening and reading, and being a part of my life by giving me the opportunity to write in “Parents Corner” monthly. With these resolutions, I’ve had an epiphany that I have a lot to work on, so let’s also celebrate Theophania, Epiphany Day January 6th, with a special prayer for the occasion.

NEW YEAR’S MONTH OF JANUARY 2019.

This month’s **Table Prayer Guide** is from **“Prayers for Special Occasions – Theophany”**

“We glorify You, loving Master, Almighty, King from everlasting. Creator and Author of all. We glorify You, only begotten Son of God, born of the Father without a mother, and of a mother without a father. For in the previous feast we saw You an infant; in the present one we see You complete, perfect, manifested from the perfect God. For today the time for feasting has come and the choir of the saints holds assembly with us, and angels celebrate with men. Today the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came upon the waters. Today the unwaning sun has dawned, and the world is lit up with the light of the Lord. Today the moon with its brilliant rays shares its light with the earth. Today the luminous stars embellish the universe with their joyous luster. Today the clouds refresh humanity with a rain of justice from above

Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions for our “Parents’ Corner” at: alexandraproto@gmail.com
(You can also find me on FACEBOOK under my name Alexandra Alex Protopapas)

On behalf of my husband Mike, and my son Nicholas, we would like to wish you all a Healthy and Happy New Year, 2019!

Alexandra Protopapas MEd

Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences – Retired

Educational Services of Morris County (ESC) (currently at Academy of St Elizabeth, Arrow Academy, Parsippany Schools)
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The deceased was the beloved _____ (husband, wife, father, mother, other) of bereaved*
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SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

SOPHIA PANAGIOTA MASTROGIANNAKOS, daughter of Timothy and Patricia (Kavanaugh) Mastrogiannakos of Sparta, NJ was baptized on November 11th, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **SOPHIA – ΣΟΦΙΑ**. Godmother was Maria Loiacono.

JAMES WILLIAM FISCHETTI, son of Luke and Irene (Paxos) Fischetti, of Succasunna, NJ was baptized on November 17th, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **DIMITRIOS – ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ**. Godfather was Costas Paxos.

OLIVIA TSAKIRIS, daughter of Demetrios Tsakiris and Alexandra Provatidou of Morristown, NJ was baptized on November 18th, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **OLIVIA – ΟΛΙΒΙΑ**. Godmother was Barbara Simonis.

LUKAS SHEA CAMERON son of Bradley and Eleni (Zavros) Cameron of Long Valley, NJ was baptized on November 24th, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **LUCAS – ΛΟΥΚΑΣ**. Godmother was Brooke Leonardi.

WEDDING – ΓΑΜΟΣ

On Sunday, December 9th, 2018 at 1:30pm **Thomas Andreopoulos** wed **Erika Barletta** of Hanover Township, PA. Sponsor was Dimitri Andreopoulos witness was Barbara Barletta.

Congratulations to all! Συγχαρητήρια σε όλους!

FUNERALS – ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

+Dimitrios “Jimmy Paliatsas, of Dover, NJ passed away on November 7th, 2018. Our sincerest condolences to his family. He was the beloved father of Vasilki, George (Erica), Angie, and Aikateriny Paliatsas. A funeral was held at Saint Andrew for the repose of his soul on Tuesday, November 13th.

+Stefanos Vellios, of Succasunna, NJ passed away on November 10th, 2018. Our sincerest condolences to his family. He was the beloved husband of Joanna, devoted father of: Chris (Melanie Perez) Vellios and Fran (Tom Matthews) Vellios. A funeral was held at Saint Andrew for the repose of his soul on Wednesday, November 14th.

John E. Stamatiades, of Parsippany, NJ passed away on December 3rd, 2018. Our sincerest condolences to his family. He was the devoted father of: Joseph (Ivy) and Louis (Sherry) Stamatiades A funeral was held at Saint Andrew for the repose of his soul on Thursday, December 6th.

May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η μνήμη αυτών.

DONATIONS RECEIVED IN BLESSED MEMORY

+John Gatanas

Irene Axiotes
Jeffrey & Maria Yoanides

+Donna Lee Green

John & Chrysanthe Borzeka

+Stefanos Vellios

Charles & Mary Demos
Jack & Betty Kelly
Dimitrios & Harriet Drosos
Pinelopi Sikolas
Theodora Harris

+Dimitrios Paliatsas

Joanna Lignos
Dimitrios & Harriet Drosos
Patricia Langis
Tim & Christina Papayianis
Sofia Caruso
Irene Axiotes
Jeffrey & Maria Yoanides
John Taxiarchou

+Argyro Syristatides

Joanna Lignos

+Danny Sakas

Eleni Boyadjis & John Gaudio
Anthony & Lauren Boyadjis
Terrence & Lorraine Boyadjis
Michael & Chrystalla Daly
John & Chrysanthe Borzeka

+Vasiliki Seretis

Vasilios & Zoe Paleocostas & Family
Costas & Effie Gizas & Family
Spyridoula Papadopoulou

May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η μνήμη αυτών.

IN THE HOSPITAL? HOME-BOUND?

Please let the Church Office know!

In today's age of information privacy, churches are not notified when parishioners are admitted to hospitals, nursing homes or other care facilities. Both those facilities and your church depend on having the church notified by a friends or family member so pastoral care and outreach can be offered. The same goes for those homebound. If you or any of your loved ones are in any of these situations, please contact the Church Office at 973-584-0388 to request a visit from our priest Fr. John Theodosion or our new and wonderful Visitation Ministry. Also, if you are interested in helping reach out to fellow parishioners in those situations, please contact the office info@standrewgonj.org.

ΝΟΣΗΛΕΥΕΣΤΕ ΣΤΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ;

Είστε περιορισμένοι στο Σπίτι; Ενημερώστε το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας!

Στη σημερινή εποχή με τον σεβασμό των προσωπικών δεδομένων, οι εκκλησίες δεν ειδοποιούνται όταν εννοίτες της εισάγονται σε νοσοκομείο, γηροκομείο ή άλλη μονάδα φροντίδας. Και η εκκλησία βασίζεται σε κάποιο φίλο ή οικογενειακό πρόσωπο για να ειδοποιηθεί και να προσφέρει ιερατική φροντίδα ή να προσεγγίσει κάποιον. Το ίδιο ισχύει και για όσους είναι περιορισμένοι στο σπίτι. Εάν εσείς ή κάποιος από τους αγαπημένους σας βρίσκονται σε τέτοια κατάσταση, παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με το Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας στο 973-584-0388 και να ζητήσετε μία επίσκεψη από τον Πατέρα Ιωάννη Θεοδοσίου ή από τη νέα και θαυμάσια Ομάδα Επισκέψεων. Επίσης, εάν ενδιαφέρεστε να βοηθήσετε τους συνεννοίτες μας που είναι σε αυτές τις κατάσταση, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήσετε το Γραφείο.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

PILLOW MINISTRY TBA ON A Monday @11am

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays @9am

KNITTING GROUP Wednesdays @10am -2pm

Hellenic Afternoon School Thursdays @4:30pm

JR Greek Dancing Thursdays @6:30pm

GOYA Greek Dancing Thursdays @7pm

YOUTH GROUPS

HOPE HELLENIC ORTHODOX PRIMARY

EDUCATION grades K-2 in public schools

JOY JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH grades 3-6

GOYA GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OF AMERICA
grades 7 in in public schools (and older than 13)

12/27 NO HAS / NO Greek Dance

12/30 Family Worship/ NO Religious Ed Class

2019 Happy New Year

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS JANUARY: 1/6 PHILOPTOCHOS,
1/13 PTA, 1/20 DOP, 1/27 GOYA

1/3 @4:30p HAS / @6:30 Greek Dance

1/12 @2pm Wedding Ferrarini & Rotsides

1/12 GOYA Bridges Outreach in Newark

1/13 Community Vasilopita in Church

1/13 @12:15pm HOPE/JOY Meeting & Vasilopita

1/13 @3pm Wedding Panagakos & Darling

1/14 @7:30pm Parish Council 2nd Monday

1/15 @11:30 Agape Luncheon 3rd Tuesday

1/19 HOPE/JOY Rizzo's Wildlife World

1/19 CYPRUS TAVERNA NIGHT

1/20 DOP District Lodge Visitation and initiation

1/22@7PM PHILOPTOCHOS Meeting 4th Tuesday

1/24 GOYA Meeting 4th Thursday

1/27 @12pm HAS THREE HIERARCHS PROGRAM

1/28 @7pm Stewardship Meeting

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FEBRUARY: 2/3 PHILOPTOCHOS
2/10 PTA, 2/17 DOP, 2/24 GOYA

2/10 GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

2/10 Recognizing Ministries ARTOCLASIA for the
SCOUTS and SCOUT LEADERS

12/15 GOYA VALENTINE'S DANCE IN PISCATAWAY

2/17 MARDI GRAS PTA / KNOLL COUNTRY CLUB @5PM

2/23 HOPE & JOY Cooking Class

2/24 Sights and Sounds Preview

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS MARCH: 3/3 BAKALIKO,
3/10 PTA, 3/17 DOP, 3/24 GOYA

3/2, 3/9, 3/10 SATURDAY OF SOULS

3/2 Sights & Sounds Festival /Westfield NJ

3/3 Sights & Sounds Replay at St. Andrew

3/8 JOY Ninja Warriors

3/11 Lent Begins - Clean Monday (Καθαρή Δευτέρα)

3/17 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY – Icon Procession

3/17 Mardi Gras /PTA @ 5pm

3/23 HOPE/JOY Cooking Class

3/24 @12:30pm HAS MARCH 25TH PROGRAM/gym

3/31 @1pm GID PARADE IN NYC, NY

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS APRIL: 4/7 PHILOPTOCHOS,
4/14 PTA, 4/21 DOP, 4/28 PASCHA NO COFFEE HOUR

4/6 HOPE/JOY Appalachian Trail Hike

4/7 SA Oratorical Festival /Rel Ed

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



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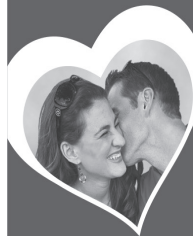
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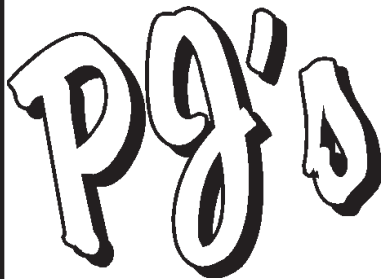
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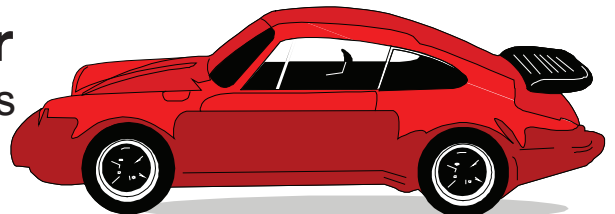


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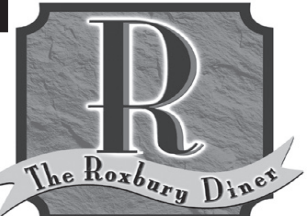
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Financial Administrator, Cathy Barrett fin@standrewgonj.org

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Alex Vlassis, *Head Chanter & Choir Director*

Chris Neroutsos, *Chanter*

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Fr. John Theodosion, Athena Borzeka, Maria Galvin,

Salomi Massaras salomi@optonline.net

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL TEACHERS

Amalia Armenakis, Haroula Christodoulou, Vasilias Christodoulou, Maria Kiritsis, Effie Kritharis, Yiota Louca, Salomi Massaras, Maria Pallis, Stacey Papanikolaw, Eleni Zeris

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Philoptochos Society: Petra Knox, *President*

Coffee Hour *need facilitator*

Agape Group: Maryann Brinkley & Betty Kelly *co-chairs*

AHEPA: TJ Borzeka, *President*

Daughters of Penelope: Eleni Boyadjis, *President*

PTA: Maria Pallis, *President*

Little Angels Playgroup (LAP): Maria Pallis

HOPE & JOY: Harriet Karkanias, Lynn Axiotes

GOYA

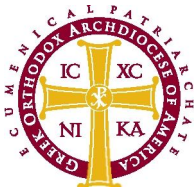
Constantine Sedereas, *GOYA President*

Polymnia Crysler, Yiota Louca, Peter Sedereas, Marina Venizelos, *GOYA Advisors*

Hellenic Dance

GOYA Tanya De Boer, *Instructor* & George Clapsis, *Assistant Instructor*

Jr & Sr Groups Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*



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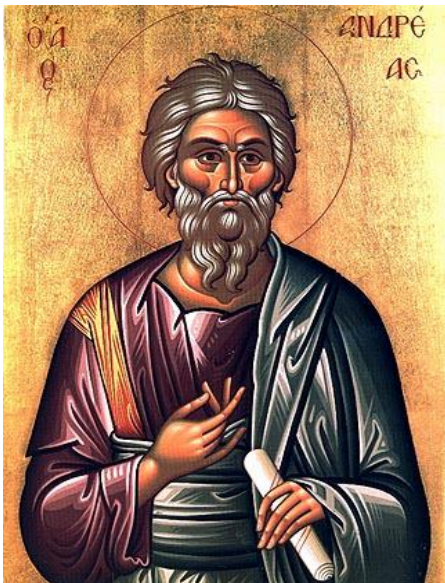
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The Meaning of Life.....

What is Life?

It is a gift from God that is given to us in order to purify our souls from sin and to prepare ourselves, through Christ, to receive eternal life.

What is Man?

A being created through the limitless love of God and to whom God gave the choice between holiness and (spiritual) death.

From The Saint of the Prisons - Valeriu Gafencu (Romanian Martyr for Christ during Communism)

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.