

JANUARY 2021



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

ICON OF SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN – JANUARY 7TH

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

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

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

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

*Deadline for the **FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE** is January 18th*

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

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WeShare click on link and follow instructions <https://standrewgonj.churchgiving.com> or call the office

DIVINE SERVICES

JANUARY 2021

- Friday 1 CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & COMMEMORATION OF ST. BASIL @8:45AM
- Sunday 3 SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY
- Tuesday 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 (*Fasting Day*)
- Wednesday 6 HOLY THEOPHANY, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & The Great Agiasmos
- Thursday 7 THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET +ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- Saturday 9 Divine Liturgy YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP @ 9:00AM
- Sunday 10 Sunday after Epiphany
- Sunday 17 12th Sunday of Luke | +ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT
- Monday 18 +ST. ATHANASIOS THE GREAT & CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA
- Wednesday 20 + ST. EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT
- Saturday 23 Divine Liturgy YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP @ 9:00AM
- Sunday 24 14th Sunday of Luke
- Saturday 30 +SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: |+BASIL THE GREAT, +GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, & +JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
- Sunday 31 15th Sunday of Luke

FEBRUARY

- Monday 1 ST. TRYPHON / RELICS*
- Tuesday 2 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE
- Saturday 6 ST. PHOTIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE | YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP @ 9:00AM
- Sunday 7 16th Sunday of Matthew
- Wednesday 10 ST. HARALAMBOS THE MARTYR
- Saturday 13 Divine Liturgy YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP @ 9:00AM
- Sunday 14 Sunday of the Canaanite
- Sunday 21 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins
- Sunday 28 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) **

SATURDAY YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES.

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2021

Παρασκευή	1	Η ΚΑΤΑ ΣΑΡΚΑ ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΕΙΑΣ <u>ώρα 8.45πμ</u>
Κυριακή	3	ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ -
Τρίτη	5	ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ;ΘΕΟΠΕΜΠΤΟΥ & ΘΕΩΝΑ ΤΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΩΝ (Νηστεία) – Όρθρος, Μέγα Εσπερινό, Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου & Ακολουθία του Αγιασμού
Τετάρτη	6	ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ; Μέγας Αγιασμός
Πέμπτη	7	Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΠΤΙΣΤΟΥ
Σαββάτο	9	Θεία Λειτουργία <u>ώρα 9.00πμ για οικογένειες του Κατηχητικού</u>
Κυριακή	10	Απόδοσις τών Αγίων Θεοφανείων
Κυριακή	17	ΙΒ΄ Του Λουκά +ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Δευτέρα	18	+ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΛΛΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΩΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ
Τετάρτη	20	+ΕΥΘΥΜΙΟΥ ΟΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ
Σαββάτο	23	Θεία Λειτουργία <u>ώρα 9.00πμ για οικογένειες του Κατηχητικού</u>
Κυριακή	24	ΙΔ΄ Του Λουκά
Σαββάτο	30	ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ +ΜΕΓΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ, +ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ , + ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ
Κυριακή	31	ΙΕ΄ Λουκά -

ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ

Δευτέρα	1	ΤΡΥΦΩΝ ΜΑΡΤΥΣ*/ <i>Λείψανα</i>
Τρίτη	2	+Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
Σαββάτο	6	+ΦΩΤΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ, ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ & Θεία Λειτουργία <u>ώρα 9.00πμ για οικογένειες του Κατηχητικού</u>
Κυριακή	7	ΙΣΤ΄ Ματθαίου
Σαββάτο	10	+ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΣ ΉΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ
Σαββάτο	13	Θεία Λειτουργία <u>ώρα 9.00πμ για οικογένειες του Κατηχητικού</u>
Κυριακή	14	ΙΖ΄ Ματθαίου (τῆς Χαναναίας)
Κυριακή	21	ΙΣΤ΄ Λουκά (Τελώνου καί Φαρισαίου) - Αρχάς Τριοδίου
Κυριακή	28	ΙΖ΄ Λουκά (τοῦ Ασώτου)

Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος 8.45πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 10πμ
Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος 8πμ & Θ.Λ. 9.15πμ
(Έχουμε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας)*
ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ ΩΡΑ 9ΠΜ ΓΙΑ ΓΟΝΗΣ & ΜΑΘΗΤΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

How Does God Come into the World?

By Fr. John Theodosion

When I think about our Lord's incarnation, I am truly amazed. The fact that He would leave His heavenly kingdom and come to live among us is a truly amazing thing. Think about it. He came during a time when there were not even any "modern conveniences". In those times there were only dirt roads, people did not bathe the way we do, no electricity, or running water, not to mention modern bathrooms or garbage removal. Coming from heaven and being born into this world must have been quite a sacrifice for Him.

He was not just born into this world the way we think of being born in a hospital with nurses and doctors and a clean place for He and Mary to lay down. As we have read, that because there was no room at the inn, the only place for Him to be born was in a cave which was the place where they kept the livestock.

The humility with which our Lord is born is truly a paradox. It is a paradox because God leaves His glorious kingdom not to enter a glorious palace, but to enter the world through a humble cave where animals are kept. He came not to Jerusalem the center of the Jewish world, but to Bethlehem a humble city. So much of what Christ said and did goes contrary to what seems to make sense to the world.

For example, you only have to look at one passage of the Bible, The Beatitudes (Matthew 5), to see what I am talking about. *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ²Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*



³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.⁵ Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the ^[a]earth.⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.⁷ Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." From the perspective of the world these statements are absurd. People do not think of mourning as being a blessing, or being poor in spirit, or being persecuted as being blessings. We think of meekness as weakness, and purity as something to be laughed at. The actions and teachings of Christ seem odd to us even though we call ourselves Christians. Back then when Christ came into the world as an infant and later as He grew into adulthood, He began His ministry, but His actions and words were completely confusing to the people and especially to the Jewish leadership. It is confusing to us also. If most people were going to start some kind of a movement and influence the world where would they go? They would go to the wealthy and the politically strong. They would approach business leaders and people with influence. Instead, everything He did was designed

to keep close to everyday people who did not have wealth or influence and who appeared to need His love and attention the most. Everything He did went contrary to conventional wisdom.

From the perspective of the people of that day he should have been born in a palace or a wealthy person's home. Instead, He came to this earth with humble beginnings and a humble upbringing. If you remember, the place where He was raised, Nazareth, had a very poor reputation. In fact, one of the apostles, Nathanael, when first hearing about Christ, said to Phillip, *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"*

The reason I go through the long explanation of our Lord's humble life is to say that He experienced a very common life not unlike the life we live today. Yes, we have a lot of modern conveniences, but we like the people of Christ's time have many of the same personal struggles; for example, health problems, economic worries, family divisions, concerns for our children, etc. No matter what period of time you look at in history these concerns are very real for the people who were and are going through them. Christ, during His time on earth, saw people who went through these things and I am sure He experienced some if not all of these things Himself. So, when we pray to Him, we are praying to a God who understands what we go through in life, understands who we are, and what our struggles are.

Even though Jesus knows us and understands us and what we go through, we should still approach God in prayer, asking Him to send us His Holy Spirit to help and strengthen us. Christ said *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you,"* (Matthew 7:7). He is telling us to "ask", "seek" and "knock". If we do not pray for these things, how do we expect to receive, find and have it opened for us? Nothing spiritually profitable will happen for us unless we "ask", "seek", and "knock". God is ready to bless us

but if we do not do our part God will not force His will on us. Our asking, seeking, and knocking is our way of letting God know that we are open to His answers, His help, and His solutions, to our difficulties and struggles in life.

It is not uncommon for people to become upset with God for their situation in life even though they have never sought out Him or His solutions as revealed in the Bible or the writings of the Church Fathers. However, if we do not truly seek Him out and do things His way, we cannot make Him responsible. After all, we did it our way and things turned out they as they did. If with faith, trust, and courage, we do things His way they will turn out differently. Not necessarily according to our will but according to God's will. The struggle we all face is to align our will with His because God's will is always better than ours. This is our struggle, to trust that whatever God provides is better than that which we would have been able to plan for ourselves.

Friends, in another part of the Sermon on the Mount when speaking about the worries and concerns of this world our Lord taught us to *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you,"* (Matthew 6:33). As our Lord lived His life in this world, He did not have concern for material possessions and or wealth. Rather, His primary purpose was to lead us to salvation by teaching, healing preaching and giving us His true example of sacrificial love. Doing our best to live our lives by following His example is the way we become His disciples and then eventually we also become His apostles. First learners of the Faith and then sharers of the Faith. Let us never forget that coming into this world was one-way God showed us how much He loves each and every one of us. Let us never forget how much He loves us by making sure we do our best to show and share His love with those who need it.

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Parish Registration Now Available - Topic Tips and Resources Now Available

The Department of Religious Education has released the 2021 Topic Tips and Resources for the St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Simultaneously, the parish registration is now available. Both can be found at <https://www.goarch.org/en/oratorical>

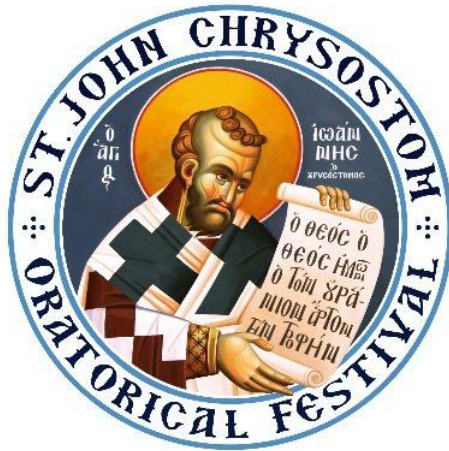
Now in its 37th year, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a speaking program for Junior High and High School Students in our parishes. Each year, approximately 800 young people from grades 7-9, and 10-12, research from one of the approved topics, develop a short speech, and then deliver it at a parish Oratorical Festival. Top speakers move to District (regional) Festivals or straight to a Metropolis (and the Direct District) level Festival. The top speaker in each division then progresses to the Archdiocese Festival.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Festival was cut short, but the planning for 2021 commenced over the summer. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros approved the topics for 2021, which were released

in September. The Topic Tips and Resources offer suggestions for speakers and their teachers about approaches that a speech can take. The Parish Registration information allows the Department to know which parishes are holding a Festival and have that information shared with their local coordinators.

At this time, even with the many challenges that COVID-19 restrictions are still presenting, the Department believes that in-person Parish and District Festivals are possible, given their relatively small size. Each Metropolis and the Direct District will have to determine whether or not it is possible to hold an in-person Metropolis Festival,

which are usually held in April or May. Also, at this time, the Department is making plans for an in-person Archdiocese Festival to be held at the St. Spyridon Church in Loveland, Colorado (the 2020 location) in June 2021 but also looking into the possibility of a virtual Festival, should conditions not allow for such a gathering.



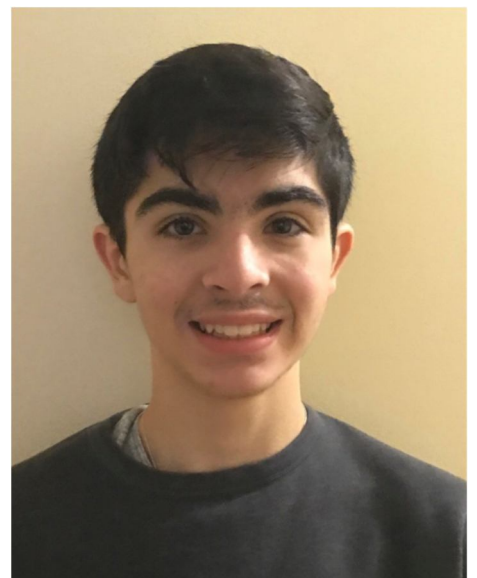
GOYA JANUARY 2021

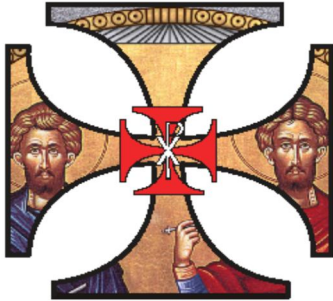
Every year the GOYA surprises and entertains the homebound with Christmas spirit by performing Greek and English carols. Past GOYANS know just how much they love our carols. However, this year due to the COVID-19 the GOYANS will be delivering blankets and cookies. We want to bring that same expression this year with goods such as cookies and blankets. Even though this may be different than our normal GOYAN tradition, we still want to give back to those who are in our church community in the safest way possible.

We are also preparing for the Mr. and Miss. GOYA All Virtual Pageant. Georgio Moskonas and Marina Dorizas will be our Mr. and Miss. Randolph. We are very proud of them. They are studying and practicing for the upcoming event, and we all wish them good luck.

We wish everyone a blessed New Year.

Submitted by Jonathan Crysler





Saint Andrew Philoptochos Chapter

Happy New Year 2021

Dear Philoptochos Member and Friends of Philoptochos,

We pray that this letter finds you in good health. May your heart and home be filled with peace and joy throughout the Year 2021. We take this opportunity to ask you to renew your Philoptochos membership. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining this year. You can also “gift” a membership to a new bride, a new steward in the community or simply someone who may not be in a position to pay for their own membership.

The Philoptochos membership fee is **\$35.00**, payable to Saint Andrew Philoptochos. This donation entitles you to membership in The Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos, as well as The National Philoptochos Society. Please mail your check to Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike Randolph, New Jersey, 07869.

At this time, we take the opportunity to remind everyone that **MEN ARE IMPORTANT** in the life of this Ministry! For many years Philoptochos has enjoyed the support shown by husbands, brothers to the women of Philoptochos who often take time away from their families to offer good works in the name of the Ministry. We invite all men of the community to join our Philoptochos chapter and become an important part of the work done in the name of charity and philanthropy.

Our Chapter continues to provide immediate financial assistance to those in need, while participating in philanthropic programs throughout the country and the world. Our Parish Philoptochos has been and will continue to be a *haven for anyone in need of support*. Should you know of anyone in need, please contact the Church office at 973-584-0388.

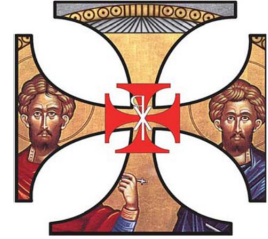
Our Philoptochos Chapter is involved in many philanthropic efforts throughout the year. We all have our special God given talents and we welcome new ideas and suggestions. If you have any questions please feel free to contact any board member and please plan to attend one of our meetings, held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM.

In the Service of Our Lord,

Maro Nicolaou Schuster, Corresponding Secretary



Philoptochos Membership 2021



Dear Philoptochos Members and Friends of Philoptochos,

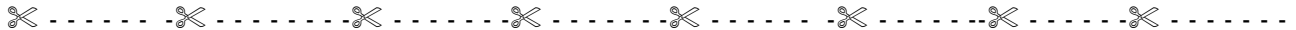
We pray that this letter finds you in good health. May your heart and home be filled with peace and joy throughout the New Year 2021. We take this opportunity to ask you to join or renew your Philoptochos membership. You can also “gift” a membership to a new bride, a new steward in the community or simply someone who may not be able to pay for their own membership. The Philoptochos membership fee is \$35.00, payable to Saint Andrew Philoptochos. The first \$23 of this donation entitles you to membership in The Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos (\$8), as well as The National Philoptochos Society (\$15).

We value the MEN in our organization too and encourage more to join and be a part of this Ministry! We invite all the men and women of the community to join our Philoptochos chapter and become an important part of the work done in the name of charity and philanthropy.

Our Chapter continues to provide immediate financial assistance to those in need, while participating in philanthropic programs locally, nationally and internationally. Our Parish Philoptochos has been and will continue to be a *haven for anyone in need of support*. Should you know of anyone in need, please contact the Church office at 973-584-0388. Our chapter performs philanthropy through various fundraising, social, educational, religious and cultural activities.

Our monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

In the Service of Our Lord, *Mary H. Michailidis, President*



PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to **become a new member** or **renew my 2021 membership** of the Philoptochos Society of Saint Andrew (circle: **new** or **renew**):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Amount: \$35

Make checks payable to Saint Andrew Philoptochos

Return to:

Philoptochos Membership
Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
1447 Sussex Turnpike
Randolph, NJ 07869

We need your help? (check all that apply) Fundraisers Phone calls Bake administrative

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL (HAS)

The Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) has transitioned to fully virtual learning at home as a precaution due to the increase of Covid19 cases in Morris County. The education committee of Saint Andrew's will re-evaluate the situation after the holidays for in person instruction.

In the meantime, the teachers have been working hard in learning better ways to engage students in a virtual setting. Attending webinars and training to improve the use of Google Classroom is the focus on their agenda. The use of Jamboard was recently introduced, a collaborative interactive digital whiteboard in Google Meet. The teachers enjoyed working with this Google application as they found creative and new ways to connect with student's learning.

The teachers believe that student's need to find meaning in their learning for effectiveness. The teacher's guide and help students recognize why they are learning the Greek language and culture, as they assimilate the connection of learning in a visual way to gain a new perspective. This is when interest sparks for engagement in a lesson.

Several holiday activities and assignments have been posted in the Google Classroom in observance of the Christmas holiday. Interactive activities, Greek language videos and downloads for printable hard copies were instantly available for learning fun!

In consulting with the Health Department of Randolph and following all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) with their promoted safeguards: <https://bit.ly/33iWZ5M>, Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School take the best measures to secure the safety of the students and staff.

On behalf of the Saint Andrew's Hellenic Afternoon School teachers, and the HAS Education Committee, would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Σας ευχόμαστε Χρόνια Πολλά, Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένος με Υγεία ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος.





TOYS FOR TOTS is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children, ages 1-12, whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church is an official drop off site for TOYS FOR TOTS. On December 12th we dropped off over 250 gifts which were collected to be distributed to the children... The US Marines were very appreciative and expressed how thankful they are to our parishioners and friends of Saint Andrew for their continued generosity and support.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

The glorious Prophet and Forerunner **John the Baptist** is also referred to as **John the Forerunner** because he was the forerunner of Christ. He was an ascetic and great prophet, who baptized Christ and became one of the most revered saints in the Orthodox Church. John is a cousin of Christ through his mother Elizabeth who was the daughter of Zoia. Zoia is the sister of Christ's grandmother. He was later beheaded by Herod in the first

century to satisfy the request of Herod's stepdaughter, Salome, and wife Herodias. Because he baptized Christ, he is the patron saint of godparents. He is sometimes called the *Angel of the Desert*; because of this title, he is sometimes depicted with wings.

Isaiah 40:3-5 is commonly read as a prophecy of John. His father, Zacharias, was a priest of the course of Abia (1 Chr. 24:10), and his mother, Elizabeth, was of the daughters of Aaron (Luke 1:5). John held the priesthood of Aaron, giving him the authority to perform baptisms of God.

His birth took place six months before that of Jesus, and according to the Gospel account was expected by prophecy (Matt. 3:3; Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1) and foretold by an angel. Zacharias lost his power of speech because of his unbelief over the birth of his son, and had it restored on the occasion of John's circumcision (Luke 1:64).

John was a Nazarite from his birth (Luke 1:15; Num. 6:1-12). He spent his early years in the mountainous tract of Judea lying between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea (Matt. 3:1-12). He led a simple life, wearing rope (gamla) fiber clothing and eating "locusts and wild honey" (Matt. 3:4).

As an adult John started to preach in public, and people from "every quarter" were attracted to his message. The essence of his preaching was the



necessity of repentance and turning away from selfish pursuits. He denounced the Sadducees and Pharisees as a "generation of vipers," and warned them not to assume their heritage gave them special privilege (Luke 3:8). He warned tax collectors and soldiers against extortion and plunder. His doctrine and manner of life stirred interest, bringing people from all parts to see him on the banks of the Jordan River. There he baptized thousands unto repentance.

The fame of John reached the ears of Jesus in Nazareth (Matt. 3:5), and he came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John, on the special ground that it became him to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). John's special office ceased with the baptism of Jesus, who must now "increase" as the King come to his kingdom. He continued, however, for a while to bear testimony to the Messiahship of Jesus. He pointed him out to his disciples, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God." His public ministry was suddenly (after about six months probably) brought to a close by his being cast into prison by Herod, whom he had reproved for the sin of having taken to himself the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19). He was shut up in the castle of Machaerus, a fortress on the southern extremity of Peraea, 9 miles east of the Dead Sea, and here he was beheaded at the instigation of Herodias; later tradition also implicates Salomé. His disciples, having consigned the headless body to the grave, went and told Jesus all that had occurred (Matt. 14:3-12). John's death occurred apparently just before the third Passover of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus himself testified regarding John that he was a "burning and a shining light" (John 5:35). John was the last of the Old Testament prophets, thus serving as a bridge figure between that period of revelation and Jesus. They also embrace a tradition that, following his death, John descended into Hell and there once more preached that Jesus the Messiah was coming

Feast days

Nativity of St John the Baptist

The Orthodox Church remembers Saint John the Forerunner on six separate feast days, listed here in order of the church year which begins on September 1:

- September 23 - Conception of St. John the Forerunner
- October 12 - The Russian Orthodox Church observes the Transfer of the Right Hand of the Forerunner from Malta to Gatchina (1799).
- January 7 - The Commemoration of St. John the Forerunner (main feast day, immediately after Epiphany on January 6)
- February 24 - First and Second Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner
- May 25 - Third Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner
- June 24 - Birth of St. John the Forerunner
- August 29 - The Beheading of St. John the Forerunner

Also, St. John's parents Zechariah and Elisabeth, are commemorated on September 5.

The First Uncovering of the Head of St. John the Baptist took place in the fourth century at the time when Saint Constantine the Great and his mother, St. Helen, began restoring the holy places of Jerusalem.

The Second Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist took place on February 18, 452, at Emesa.

After the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787), which reestablished the veneration of icons, the head of St. John the Baptist was returned to the Byzantine capital in around the year 850. The Church commemorates this event on May 25/June 7 as the Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist.

His relics are kept in several places including:

- St. Demetrios Church, Neo Phaleron, Piraeus
- Benaki Museum, Athens
- Sacred Relics Room, Topkapi Museum, Constantinople (entire right arm and cranium)
- Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria
- Cetinje Monastery, Montenegro (right palm)



Miniature of the Finding of the head of St. John the Baptist (*Menologion of Basil II, 10th c.*)

On January 7th, on the second day of Theophany, the Church celebrates the **Synaxis of the holy Forerunner and Baptist John**. Synaxis meant an assembly or gathering in honor of the Forerunner John, when the faithful gathered in church right after the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, in order to have a service in honor of and for the glorification of the Baptist.

There is a tradition concerning the right hand of St. John the Baptist, which had actually baptized the Lord. After the Forerunner was beheaded by King Herod, his venerable body was buried by his disciples in the famous Samaritan city of Sebastia. When the holy evangelist Luke came to Sebastia during his travels for the sake of spreading Christianity, he wished to take the body of the Baptist back with him to his hometown of Antioch. The body was whole and incorruptible but could not be taken, because the inhabitants of Sebastia greatly venerated the relics of the Baptist and guarded them carefully. The evangelist Luke could therefore take with him only the right hand of the Forerunner, which he brought to Antioch, where it performed many miracles.

A long time passed, and the Emperor's throne became occupied by Julian the Apostate, who openly renounced Christ and worshipped the idols. He began to cruelly persecute Christians, not only the living but also the relics of the dead.

Coming once into Antioch, he began to search for the hand of the Baptist, which local Christians had previously hidden in one of the city towers. Julian cruelly tortured the Christians of Antioch but was unable to uncover the Baptist's hand. After the Emperor's terrible end, the hand of the Baptist was taken out of the tower and once again began to perform miracles.

In the environs of Antioch there lived a great and terrible serpent, whom the pagans worshipped and to whom they brought annual sacrifices. For this sacrifice a young and innocent maiden was usually chosen by lot, who was given over to be devoured by the serpent in the presence of all the people, who watched this as a spectacle. The serpent came out of his cave and frightened everyone with his horrible appearance, his hissing and his gaping mouth, then snatched his victim and tearing her to pieces with his lips, devoured her. Once the lot fell to the daughter of an Antioch Christian. The unfortunate father tearfully prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and His holy Baptist to deliver his daughter from cruel death. When the day of that vile feast dawned, the father went to the church of the Forerunner in which the Baptist's hand was kept, and secretly broke off one of the joints of the little finger, put it in his pocket and carried it out of church unnoticed. Later, when the pagans gathered for the spectacle, the father came there, bringing his daughter to be sacrificed to the serpent, while praying in his heart to God for salvation.

And then the terrible serpent came out of his cave, hissing, with his mouth gaping open, and began to slither towards the maiden, to devour her. But the father did not leave his daughter, appealing to the



Saviour and to His Baptist for help. When the serpent came quite near, the father threw the joint of the Baptist's finger right into the serpent's mouth, and the serpent immediately fell dead. Thus, the maiden was saved from cruel death, while her father loudly thanked God and glorified the Forerunner. All the people who attended the spectacle, seeing the serpent dead and the maiden alive, were greatly amazed at first and awed at the sight of such a wondrous miracle, and then began to glorify the One true God. Then a great celebration took place in Antioch, for a multitude of pagans came to believe in Christ on that day.

Άγιος Ιωάννης, ο Πρόδρομος και Βαπτιστής

Ο Ιωάννης ο Βαπτιστής, επικαλούμενος και Ιωάννης ο Πρόδρομος, είναι άγιος και προφήτης του Χριστιανισμού. Ήταν σύγχρονος του Ιησού Χριστού και θεωρείται ότι με τη διδασκαλία του προετοίμασε τον κόσμο να υποδεχθεί τον Μεσσία Ιησού, εξού και ο χαρακτηρισμός «Πρόδρομος». Η διδασκαλία του υπήρξε δηκτική ιδιαίτερα προς τις ανηθικότητες της όποιας εξουσίας, γεγονός που εξανάγκασε τελικά τον τότε τετράρχη της Γαλιλαίας Ηρώδη Αντύπα αρχικά να

τον φυλακίσει και στη συνέχεια να τον θανατώσει δι' αποκεφαλισμού.

Σύμφωνα με τον Ευαγγελιστή Λουκά, ο Ιωάννης ήταν γιος του ιερέα Ζαχαρία και της Ελισάβετ που ήταν συγγενής της Θεοτόκου.

Περί της σύλληψης και της γέννησής του (που συνέβη έξι μήνες πριν από τη γέννηση του Ιησού Χριστού), ο ίδιος Ευαγγελιστής εξιστορεί θαυμαστά γεγονότα: Αν

και η Ελισάβετ έδειχνε να είναι στείρα, ο αρχάγγελος Γαβριήλ διαμήνυσε στον Ζαχαρία ότι τελικά η γυναίκα του θα γεννήσει αγόρι και θα έπρεπε να του δώσει το όνομα Ιωάννης. Στην αρχή ο Ζαχαρίας φέρεται να μην πίστεψε τα λόγια του Γαβριήλ και πιθανώς να υπέστη κάποιον κλονισμό κατά τον οποίο (ως τιμωρία) έχασε την ομιλία του. Θα παρέμενε άλαλος έως την ημέρα που θα βαπτιζόταν το παιδί που θα έφερνε στον κόσμο η Ελισάβετ. Έτσι κι έγινε. Οκτώ ημέρες μετά τη γέννηση του μωρού, όταν ζητήθηκε από τον ίδιο να φανερώσει το όνομα του παιδιού, εκείνος έγραψε σε μια πινακίδα το όνομα «Ιωάννης» και αμέσως επανήλθε η ομιλία του.



«πάσαν την περίχωρον του Ιορδάνου κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας».

Τόσο η εμφάνιση αυτή όσο και ο ασκητικός βίος του Ιωάννη, παράλληλα με τα κηρύγματα και τις βαπτίσεις μετάνοιας στις οποίες προέβαινε, ήταν επόμενο να προκαλέσουν πλήθος ακροατών αλλά και πολλών θαυμαστών του από όλη τη Παλαιστίνη που έσπευδαν να τον ακούσουν, μεταξύ των οποίων και στρατιώτες και Σαδδουκαίοι και Φαρισαίοι τους οποίους όλους στη συνέχεια βάπτιζε στον Ιορδάνη ποταμό. Έτσι δεν άργησε αυτή η δράση του να προκαλέσει και την προσοχή του Μεγάλου Συνεδρίου των Εβραίων που έστειλε αντιπροσωπεία για να ελέγξει τι συμβαίνει.

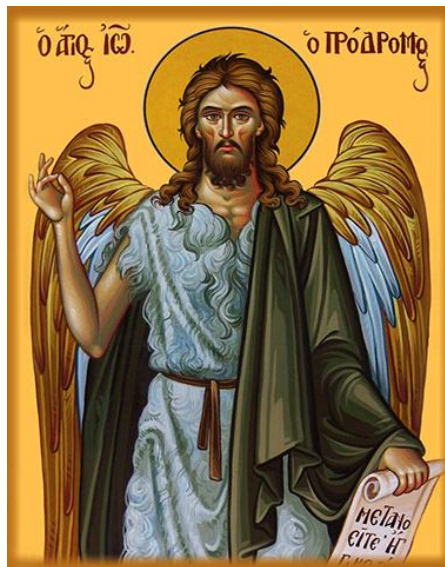
Πατρίδα του Ιωάννη κατά μία παράδοση φέρεται η Χεβρών, κατ' άλλη όμως φέρεται η πόλη Ιούττα. Περί της νεανικής ζωής και του ιδιωτικού του βίου καμία πληροφορία δεν υπάρχει εκτός της πολύ λιτής αναφοράς του ίδιου Ευαγγελιστή ότι: «το παιδίον ηύξανε και εκραταιούτο πνεύματι και ην εν ταις ερήμοις¹ έως ημέρας αναδείξεως αυτού προς τον Ισραήλ».

Εκεί τον συνάντησε και ο Ιησούς Χριστός και του ζήτησε να τον βαπτίσει. Εκείνος αρχικά αρνήθηκε, όμως ο Χριστός επέμεινε κι έτσι ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Πρόδρομος βάπτισε τον Ιησού Χριστό στα νερά του Ιορδάνη ποταμού.

Σύμφωνα με αναφορά του Ευαγγελιστή Λουκά ο Ιωάννης εμφανίζεται πλέον σε ηλικία 30 ετών «κατά θείαν εντολήν», «εν τη ερήμω της Ιουδαίας».

Τα τίμια λόγια του Προδρόμου ενοχλούσαν τις διεφθαρμένες συνειδήσεις των Φαρισαίων καθώς και του τετράρχη της Γαλιλαίας και Περαιάς Ηρώδη Αντύπα, όταν τον έλεγξε για την παράνομη συμβίωσή του με τη σύζυγο του ζώντος αδελφού του Ηρώδη Φιλίππου, την Ηρωδιάδα, ο οποίος και τον φυλάκισε. Σε κάποια γιορτή των γενεθλίων του, ο Ηρώδης

Κάνοντας όμως λόγο περί του Ιορδάνη ποταμού συνάγεται ότι αναφέρεται στο νότιο τμήμα της χώρας, την περιορδάνεια περιοχή, κηρύσσοντας: «Μετανοείτε, ήγγικεν γαρ η βασιλεία των ουρανών», «βαπτίζοντας τους προσερχόμενους προς αυτόν» (κατά Ματθαίον). Παράλληλα με τα κηρύγματά του ήταν και η εμφάνισή του, καθώς και ο ασκητικός βίος και η διατροφή του. Φορούσε μάλλινο ένδυμα από τρίχες καμήλου και ζώνη δερμάτινη. Η δε διατροφή του ήταν άγριο μέλι και ακρίδες. Φαίνεται δε πως δεν παρέμενε συνέχεια στο ίδιο μέρος, αλλά περιερχόταν



ζήτησε από την κόρη του Σαλώμη να του χορέψει και της υποσχέθηκε με όρκο να της δώσει ό,τι του ζητήσει. Η Ηρωδιάς, η μητέρα της, που φθονούσε τον Ιωάννη, βρήκε τότε την ευκαιρία που αναζητούσε και προέτρεψε την κόρη της να ζητήσει το κεφάλι του μέσα σ' ένα πινάκιο (πιάτο). Έτσι ακολούθησε ο αποκεφαλισμός. Μετά το μαρτυρικό αυτό τέλος του Ιωάννη, οι μαθητές του «ήραν το πτώμα αυτού και έθηκαν αυτό εν μνημείω» (κατά Μάρκον).

Spiritual Living for a Broken World

“Because human beings were made in the image of God, our lives will be **fully human** *only* as our face is turned toward God and our actions formed by God’s love. Freedom is doing. We find ourselves as we find fellowship with God. Happiness, the happiness that gives fullness of life, will be ours only as our **will** conforms to God’s will, and that is found in Christ” (*Early Christian Thought*, Robert Louis Wilken, 2003, page 153-154).



Gregory of Nyssa is one of the many incredible Church Fathers who offers tremendous insights into what it means to be human, especially in this time of a worldwide pandemic and the enormous fear it has created. You may be wondering why, during this pandemic, that the question “what is human?” should be on our minds. Sometimes everything is just right for us to finally become aware of a subtle nudging by God to seriously take a good look at ourselves.

“Tragic circumstances can have great spiritual benefits hidden within them. We are wholly responsible for the direction we choose to follow we can remain inert and lifeless, or we can engage with the dynamic increase of life in God” (*Remember Thy First Love*, Archimandrite Zacharias, 2010, page 19).

Can you think of a more urgent time than now to choose to “engage with the dynamic increase of life” when death and the fear of dying from the coronavirus have impacted our humanity? Science and evolution try to reduce you and me to a natural phenomenon, a natural product of some random, almost accidental, cosmic process. There are countless convincing arguments that center our natural humanity into the material structure of this

world. Somehow, any theory that the human mind can construct seems to fall short of understanding our humanity. Honestly, any of you reading this, are you satisfied by explanations that reduce us to the world? St. Gregory offers this profound thought, “Everything in nature finds its completion in the things that have been made, but human beings find their fulfillment in God” (Wilken, page 150). This means

that being human is not the same as any natural process. We are constructed to have the **capacity** to know God. In an electrical circuit, a capacitor stores electricity until needed. Our humanity is created with an ability to do something, as far as we can determine, that will release our fullness. We are like seeds that need to be planted, watered, and nurtured before what is contained in this seed can become its fullness and bear fruit. This process of growth towards the fulfillment of our potential is what in Orthodoxy is called the “**spiritual life**”.

The New Year 2021 must be a beginning towards yours and my human fulfillment and this is realized only by drawing nearer and nearer to God. How do we develop a “spiritual life” in this time of crisis? There is an urgency to this “must”; we live an unfulfilled life, afraid of death, because our humanity lives in a place that successfully has displaced God to the outer limits of life. Because of this willful action, we are a people who live in a culture of death. We choose darkness, not light. God’s warning to Adam and Eve is our warning - embrace a reality without God and you reap death! Rather than seeing ourselves through this capacity to know God, we retreat into ourselves and shut God out. Jesus knocks at the door of each person’s heart, but many simply turn up the volume of their

distractions to drown out His incessant knocking. Perhaps this pandemic, a genuine crisis, is revealing a desperately needed “spiritual benefit”. Ought we not stop and listen?

A spiritual life is not a magical antidote to the reality of the coronavirus. Devout believers will contract this dreaded illness, and some will die from its effects. Our bodies are subject to the natural processes of this world. If we foolishly disregard precautions, why should we be spared from a very real and insidious virus? You should never go to Church and imagining that God will protect you because you went to Church. Jesus, the Son of God, was not spared the Cross. We must begin to develop a real spiritual life that functions in the real world, that has the strength to overcome the constant testing we will undergo because of our resolve to pursue God. There is no more difficult journey than the spiritual journey. Perhaps this is why so many do what is most convenient and have the kind of spiritual life that is unable to sustain them during this pandemic. We need to be very different in 2021. It is a year that very seriously challenges our spiritual health.

A spiritual life must begin with a self-examination. There can be no dismissal of the serious illness of our soul due to the persistence of the state of Sin in which we choose to continue living our lives. This is not acting badly, as if Sin were an ethical issue; this is who we are, the condition of our soul. It is the very substance of our humanity. In its present state, this humanity is suffering from its long absence from the Lord’s presence and the soul’s poor health is felt in how we live. For most, there is a relentless search for meaning. Perhaps it can be found by returning to Christ and allowing His full humanity to instruct our sick humanity, our suffering soul. As the Fathers all express, humanity is only fulfilled when it rests in God, when it participates through Christ in the

Uncreated. While this is indescribable, many are living witnesses to that reality. The Saints offer us a view of God we urgently need to see. This pandemic ought to awaken each of us to Life. Rather than allowing Fear to rob us of the joy of this Life, we ought to enter this Life and see the miraculous of God’s creation.

Please do not lose another year to living exclusively to a world that will never bring you the happiness and meaning you have the capacity to experience. Start your spiritual life, your spiritual journey. Contact Fr. John, visit a local monastery, find a spiritual guide to help you begin. Come to Church, observe the restrictions, take the precautions, and receive the Body and Blood of Christ each time you participate in the Divine Liturgy. Find time for silence and pray. It takes time to learn how to pray and a good place to begin is with the Psalms. While these are difficult, reading them prayerfully and allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you will make them something special. The Psalms can provide so much comfort and assurance during these difficult times. Try keeping a spiritual journal of your reflections, your insights, and most of all, your questions. Central to all of this is a willingness to live differently, to live more lovingly, more compassionately. You will experience the passions trying to return you to your old, worn-out self, but persist and embrace the new you! Remember, if you walk the way of Jesus Christ, He first asks each of us to “pick up our cross” and then follow Him. This cross will continually weigh you down on the journey, but if you endure, Jesus will ultimately take that cross upon Himself so that you might be able to “walk on water”.

Remember Your First Love! True happiness is only experienced in our participation in Christ, so what are you waiting for? Start walking!!!!

Herbert Schuster

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

JANUARY RESOLUTIONS yes, or no? - 2021!

WELCOME JANUARY AND A NEW YEAR 2021! This month it is about resolutions. We will have a new President, with the approval of vaccines hopefully if fight the pandemic we can put part of 2019 and all of 2020 behind us! This pandemic has devastated many families around the world. Also, many with various illnesses have passed. May their memory be eternal.

One thing I actually never did was say I was going to make were more New Year Resolutions. I did make some in previous years, some I kept some I did not. I am sharing again an awesome article called **"10 Spiritual Resolutions for Orthodox Christians"** and I think this month after I quote them, I will once again try to make a resolution for each of them based on my own life. I hope you do the same and read them to your children and apply them to yourself as well.

"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 listening to our Sunday liturgies this year and light my "thimiato" (incense) and pray along with Father John and St. Andrew parishioners.

"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. 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.

"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."*

*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.

"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. Now I donate online.

"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.”

*Once again, because of various medical issues, thank God not too serious, I attend services online.

“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.”*

*As a retired educator, I work part-time for Educational Services Commission of Morris County wherever I am needed.

“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. I will do that. For those who cannot attend in-person, I will tell them how to attend virtually.

“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.”*

*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.”*

*I hope to be able to attend in-person services soon when the pandemic has passed, and I am vaccinated!

“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.

Once again, I learned something new today about “Spiritual Resolutions”! How about you?

During this blessed time of the year, I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas, and I want to wish everyone, family and friends, a Blessed New Year all of 2021, 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 the New Year 2021, “Theophania”, Epiphany Day January 6th, with a special prayer for the occasion.

NEW YEAR’S MONTH OF JANUARY 2021.

Prayer on the First Day of the Year

“O Lord our God, Who have placed times and seasons under Your own authority, Who, in your infinite compassion and goodness, have counted us worthy to enter a new year of Your loving kindness, bless it and keep us in peace.”

Also 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.

On behalf of my husband Mike, and my son Nicholas, we would like to wish you all a Joyous and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year, 2021!

Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions for our "Parents' Corner" at:

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(You can also find me on FACEBOOK under my name

Alexandra Alex Protopapas)

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RENEWING YOUR MARRIAGE: REAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT REAL LOVE - AN ONLINE ANCIENT FAITH RETREAT

AN ONLINE ANCIENT FAITH RETREAT

RENEWING YOUR MARRIAGE

Real Tools to Support Real Love

WITH
Fr. Nick and Dr. Roxanne Louh

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021

Marriage is hard work. Sometimes, it's harder than it needs to be because we don't have the right tools to help us in our struggles. Join Fr. Nick and Dr. Roxanne Louh for a life-giving online marriage retreat. Drawing on faith and psychology, the Louhs will help you understand what makes couples argue and how you can turn those hard times into strengths. As you learn more about the mind and heart of your marriage, you'll be more able to renew the love that forms the foundation of your relationship.

Only one registration is needed per couple/household.

Where: Online! Login information and a guest packet will be provided via email to all registrants on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

When: **Saturday, February 13, 2021 10:30 am - 3:15 pm**

No cancellation requests will be processed after Sun 1/31/21

Session: *Uncommon Love* Understand how faith and psychology contribute to your journey toward lasting love. Learn practical steps you can take to rediscover and nurture the foundation of your marriage.

BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

MIA ROSE DIMITRAKIS, daughter of Richard Dimitrakis and Vicky Koukoutsis was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday, February 8th, 2020 and given the name **ΜΑΡΙΑ – MARIA**. Godparents were Nicholas and Joanne Papamarkos.

ELIAS PETER SPIES, son of Ryan Jeffrey Spies and Margarita Maria Sergonis was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday, July 19th 2020 and given the name **ΗΛΙΑΣ – ELIAS**. Godfather was Sergio Sergonis.

SOPHIA ELENI SABA, daughter of Steven Saba and Alexandra Darsinos was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday July 25th, 2020 and given the name **ΣΟΦΙΑ - SOPHIA**. Godmother was Elizabeth Kantzaridis.

ANTHONY JELIS, son of Elias Jelis and Christina Antoniou was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday, July 25th, 2020 and given the name **ΑΝΤΩΝΗΣ - ANTONIS**. Godfather was Vasilios Hatzinikolaou.

KATERINA SKY BUSECK was Baptized and Chrismated according *in the* Orthodox Faith on Saturday July 25th, 2020 and given the name **ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ – KATERINA**. Godparents were Konstantinos and Amanda Tsantakis.

ANTHONY JAMES HARRIS, son of Timothy Francis Harris II and Alexis Marie Galinis was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday, July 25th, 2020 and given the name **ΑΝΤΩΝΗΣ – ANTHONY**. Godmother was Ioanna Protogiannis.

RAELYN DONATELLA SASPDA, daughter of Christopher Joseph LaSpada and Kristiana Marie Schuster was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday, August 23rd, 2020 and given the name **ΧΡΙΣΤΙΝΑ – KRISTINA**. Godfather was Stefanos Schuster and Godmother was Marina Lombardi.

SYRE WARREN, son of Eric Richard Warren and Katerina Constantinides was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday, September 6th, 2020 and given the name **ΜΑΡΙΟΣ – MARIOS**. Godmother was Natasa McDonnell and Godfather was Frank McDonnell.

LYRA LEIGH HUNSICKER, daughter of Kyle John Hunsicker and Kayla Paskas was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday, September 13th, 2020 and given the name **ΓΛΥΚΕΡΙΑ – GLYKERIA**. Godmother was Amanda (Dardaganis) Young.

ZOE HOPE SPIROPOULOS, daughter of Christopher Bobby Spiropoulos and Lauren Hope Talamini was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church at 12:00pm on Saturday, September 19th, 2020 and given the name **ΖΩΗ – ZOE**. Godmother was Angelica Spiropoulos.

CAMDEN NICHOLAS POLIZOIS son of Keith Stewart Polizois and Stephanie Lynn Cochran was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church at 1:30pm on Sunday, September 20th, 2020 and given the name **ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ – NICHOLAS**. Godfather was Christopher Polizois.

ZACHARY DEMETRI DEMOPOULOS, son of Demetri Demopoulos and Angelica Spiropoulos was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church at 1:30pm on Sunday, October 4th, 2020 and given the name **ΖΑΧΑΡΙΑΣ – ZACHARY**. Godmother was Anastasia Demopoulos and Godfather was Zachary Spiropoulos.

JOHN EVERETT BAKKER, son of Jarred Matthew Bakker and Melissa Ann Rotsides was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday, October 24th, 2020 and given the name **ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ – JOHN**. Godfather was Demetrios Rotsides.

JAMIE MORGAN NEWBERY, daughter of Richard Carl Newbery and Anna Hatziemanuel was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday, November 15th, 2020 and given the name **ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ – DIMITRA**. Godmother was Pelagia Hatziemanuel.

WEDDINGS - ΓΑΜΟΙ

Ronnie Jaghab of Hackettstown, NJ and **Diane Falcone** of Staten Island, NY were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on **September 10th, 2020** at 3:00pm by the Rev. Fr. John Theodosion the sponsor being Daniel Jaghab and witness being Carol Ann Ammirata.

Christopher Ralph D’Andrea of Lincoln Park, NJ and **Katerina M. Melekos** of Hopatcong, NJ were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on **September 26th, 2020** at 3:00pm by the Rev. Fr. John Theodosion the sponsor being Elena Melekos, witness being John D’Andrea.

George Kritharis of Sparta, NJ and **Nicole A Umina** of NYC, NY were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on **September 27th, 2020** at 3:00pm by the Rev. Fr. John Theodosion the sponsor being Nikolaos Kritharis, witness being Athanasios Kritharis.

OBITS & FUNERALS – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

+Zoe Paleocostas, 65, passed away peacefully on March 27 in Rockaway, NJ. She was born February 25, 1955 in Eleftheriani, Greece to Demetrios and Spyridoula (Pexos) Papadopoulos. She is predeceased by her father, Demetrios. Zoe immigrated with her family to the United States in 1966. Zoe is survived by her husband of 40 years, Vasilios, and 4 children, Steven and wife Ashley, Vicky and husband Billy, Sandy, and Dimitri; her mother, Spyridoula; grandchildren, Loula, Zoe, Demetra, Alexander, Mila, Christiana, and Adriana; her sister, Efthimia and husband Gus; and niece and nephews, Angie, Billy, and Dimitri.

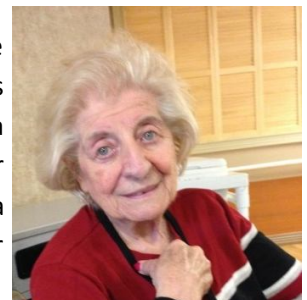
Funeral Services were held privately at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 10am. Internment was at Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover, NJ.



George Kavalos, age 71, passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2020 with his wife and daughters in their home in Flanders, NJ. George was born on the island of Crete in Greece on April 27th, 1948 in the village of Honos. He was enlisted in the Greek Navy from 1966 until 1968. He came to the United States in 1971 George is survived by his wife Anna, his two daughters Irene and Fotini, and his son Emmanuel.

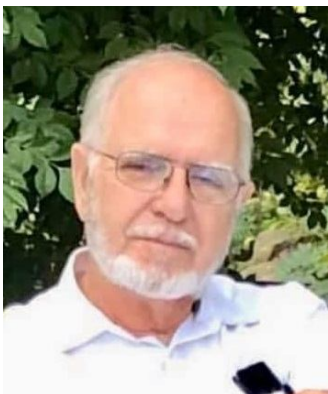
Funeral Services were held privately at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 11am. Internment was at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Chester, NJ. In lieu of flowers please consider a contribution in George Kavalos' name to St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, New Jersey.

Amalia Mpakarakes, 93 of Denville, New Jersey passed away on April 6, 2020 at Autumn Lake Healthcare in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey due to respiratory illness. Amalia Mpakarakes was born Amalia Pavlides on January 22, 1927 in Brooklyn New York to Aristotle and Angelica Pavlides. Amalia Mpakarakes is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Mpakarakes, her brothers James and George Pavlides and her parents Aristotle and Angelica Pavlides. Amalia Mpakarakes is survived by her daughters Regina Kaplan and Angelica Pavoni and her grandchildren Dean Kaplan, Alexander Pavoni, Elena Kaplan, and Nicholas Pavoni.



A Funeral service was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Saturday April 11th at 11 AM. Private burial followed on April 20th at Cypress Hill cemetery in Brooklyn New York.

Joan C. Midis, nee Chacharon, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Anthony M. Midis; preceded in death by her parents Alexander Chacharon, Irene (Frank) Varouxakis; Dearest sister of the late Themis (Betty) Chacharon; Barbara (late Leonard) Neiman; late Theodore L. Varouxakis. Dearest sister in law to late Panos (late Voula) Midis MD, late Costa (Anna) Midis. Dearest cousin of George (Aliko) Ellas. A private Funeral for the repose of Joan's soul on Wednesday, May 6th at 10am followed by a burial at the Rest land Cemetery in East Hanover NJ.



Spyros I. Simonis, age 73 longtime resident of Parsippany NJ passed away on May 4th in his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on October 10, 1946 in Athens Greece and is predeceased by his parents Ioanni Simonis and Georgia Varveri. Spyro is survived by his devoted wife Georgia Simonis; loving daughters Barbara Simonis and Anna (Dennis) Gruebelic; sister Louiza Simonis, and grandchildren Georgia, Nicholas, and Zoe.

Funeral service was held for the repose of Spyros' soul on Thursday, May 7th at 10am at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. Burial followed at the Evergreen Cemetery in Morristown, NJ.



Anna Maria Pappas, 57, passed away on May 23, 2020 at Morristown Medical Center due to complications from her valiant battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Born in Jersey City, NJ, Anna grew up in Madison, NJ, before moving to Harding Township in 1981. Anna is survived by her dear parents, Gus and Christine Pappas; her loving daughter, Christina Maria Juliano, and her husband Michael; her beloved brothers, Chris Pappas, and his wife Davina; and Peter Pappas. She is also survived by her adored nephews, Dean Pappas and George Pappas; her adored niece, Eloise Pappas; and Anna’s boyfriend, Stephen Sangillo.

On Friday May 29, at 9:30am a private Funeral Service for the repose of the soul of Anna took place. It was followed by the burial at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, NJ.

Olga Lambos, 85, of Rockaway Twp., passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2020, at Care One of Morris, Parsippany. She was born in Diasellaki, Greece and moved with her husband to the US in 1958 and lived in Jersey City before moving to Rockaway in 2004. She is survived by her husband of 62 years Alexios; daughter Angela Nicolaou and her husband Antonis; son Arestides Lambos and his wife Michele; grandchildren Olga and Haralambos (Harry) Nicolaou and Alexios and Athena Lambos as well as many nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Service for the repose of Olga’s soul was held On Thursday May 28th, 2020 at 11:30am at Saint Andrew, followed by a burial at the Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover, NJ.



Elaine Barrett, age 93, of Roseland, died on April 16, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. Elaine was born in Newark, she grew up in West Orange, and settled in Roseland in 1968. She is pre-deceased by her beloved husband, Leonidas Barrett and is survived by her beloved children, Leslie Barrett, Michael Barrett (Cathy), and Gary Barrett; eight cherished grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. A Funeral Services were held privately for the repose of Elaine’s at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Tuesday April 21st, 2020 at 1:30pm. Private burial followed the service at the Rest land Memorial Park in East Hanover, NJ.

John Plastoris, age 93, a lifelong resident of Dover, passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2020, at Regency Grande Nursing Home, Dover. John served in the US Navy from 1943 to 1955. He is survived by his wife are 62 years Estelle; two children Karen and Alice. He is predeceased by his brother George; Sister Barbara and his parents George and Kaliopi. A Funeral Service was held at Saint Andrew on Tuesday, April 28th, 2020 at 11am, Internment at Locust Cemetery, in Dover, NJ.

John M. Evangelis, 60, of Wharton, NJ passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at Morristown Memorial Hospital Hospice surrounded by the love of his family and friends. John was born on January 4, 1960 at Kambia, Chios, Greece. Son of Michael and Kitsa Evangelis, growing up in Wharton, NJ, John attended Wharton School Systems.....

A Funeral Service was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Thursday, September 17th, 2020 at 10AM. Interment was at the Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover.



Donations in memory of a +Loved One can be mailed to Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church or you may choose to donate online our

*Website: <https://www.standrewgonj.org/> and choose **PayPal / ONLINE WeShare.***

We will notify the next of kin (bereaved) of your donation and we will pray for the repose of their loved one’s soul.



+Vasilios "Bill" Paleokostas, 64, passed away on November 14, 2020 in Morristown, NJ. Bill was born on May 3, 1956 in Paravola, Greece to Sotirios and Vasiliki (Patlias) Paleokostas. He is predeceased by his wife of 40 years, Zoe. He immigrated with his wife to the United States in 1980. He was co-owner of The Plaza Diner in Bloomfield, NJ for over 30 years. His greatest joy in life was family, which he valued over everything. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, cheering on his grandchildren at their games and recitals, and visiting his beloved homeland. Even after a lung cancer diagnosis in 2018, his spirit never wavered, and he beat cancer like a boss in 2020. Bill is survived by his 4 children, Steven and wife Ashley, Vicky and husband Billy, Sandy, and Dimitri; grandchildren, Loula, Zoe, Demetra, Alexander, Mila, Christiana, and Adriana; his sisters, Alexandra and Fotini; brother and sister-in-law, Gus and Effie, and niece and nephews, Angie, Billy, Dimitri, Chris, Sotiris, Rania, and Vicky.

A Funeral Service was held for the repose of his soul on Thursday, November 19th, 2020 at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph at 11:00AM. Interment is at the Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover, NJ.

+Kyriaki (Katie) Sedereas, age 93, passed away on November 18, 2020 in Randolph, New Jersey. She was born on August 28th, 1927 in the coal mining town of Herrick, Ohio. Her parents were Greek immigrants, Stelios Cederas of Chios, Greece and Maria Kalomedis of Kalamata, Greece. As a young child during the Great Depression, her family lived in Tridelfhia, West Virginia, where her father worked in the coal mines. Katie would always say, "times were tough, but we always managed to get through it". Katie was pre-deceased by her loving husband Peter and is survived by her 2 children, her son Costa and wife Eugenia, and her Daughter Maria (pre-deceased by her husband Vasili); grandchildren, Peter and his wife Diana, Katie and her husband George, StevenJohn and his wife Stacey and Marlana and her husband Larry ; Great-Grandchildren, Venia, Constantine, Despina, Fotine, John, Katie, Billy, John and Peter; her brother, Michael; and Katie leaves behind a much beloved extended family and friends. Katie was predeceased by her brother Marco and Sisters Helen, Diana, and Sophie.



A Funeral Service was held for the repose of her soul on Monday, November 23rd, 2020 at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph at 11:00AM. Internment was at the Restland Cemetery, East Hanover.

+Evangelia Papastavrou, age 90 of Dover passed away Friday, December 4, 2020 at the Saint Clare's Medical Center Dover Campus following a brief illness. Evangelia was born in Argos Orestikon, Kastoria. She along with her husband Naoum, daughter Stavroula (age 10) and son Stavros (age 1) emigrated to the US in 1967. Evangelia has always been a devout Christian. She was active in several local Greek Orthodox parishes—Ss. Constantine & Helen, Orange, 1967-1972; St. George, Clifton, 1972-1980 and in St. Andrew since the early 1980s. Devoted to her family, Evangelia resides with her daughter and son-in-law since the death of her own husband, Naoum in 2001. She makes friends very easily and is always interested in helping others in any way she can.



A loving and devoted wife, mother who would always put the needs of her family and friends before hers. Evangelia was a kindhearted and loyal person as well as an exceptional grand and great grandmother. If there was one thing you can say her heart was full of love. Evangelia was predeceased by her beloved husband Naoum Papastavrou in 2001.

Survivors include her children Stavroula and husband Nicholas Tsemberlis and Stavros Papastavrou and wife Eleni Axiotis, her grandchildren Katina and husband Pantelis Genouzos, George Tsemberlis, and Evangelia and husband Tripp Adams, Demi Papastavrou and Michael Papastavrou. Also surviving are her great grandchildren Nicholas and Leonidas Genouzos, Abigail, and Sophia Adams.

A Funeral Service for the repose of her soul was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 10 AM. Interment at Locust Hill Cemetery Dover, NJ.

+Margaret E. Paxos, age of 81 on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Margaret was born on July 29, 1939 to Peter and Emma (Bayles) Plant passed away in Dover, NJ, and was celebrated as the first girl in many generations. She grew up in Lake Hopatcong and attended Roxbury High School. She married Andrew Paxos of Chios, Greece in 1956. They settled in Succasunna in 1965, raised five children, and worked together to build several successful restaurant businesses. Margaret embraced the Greek culture, becoming fluent in Greek and was baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church. She welcomed Andrew's family with open arms, as her in-laws and many other relatives emigrated to America and helped them to assimilate. She mastered Greek culinary specialties, and her pastitsio and melomakarona were a part of every family celebration.



Margaret is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years, Andrew, as well as her loving children, Irene Sergonis (Sergio), Kitsa Jobeless (Ronald), John Paxos (Janet), Voula Evangelis, Tina Huelsenbeck (Roger). Margaret will be fondly remembered as Yiayia by her grandchildren, Angela Melchionne (Joseph), Rita Spies (Ryan), Michael Sergonis; Sophia Orzillo (Marc), Tully Evangelis (Nicole); Andrew and Jeremy Paxos; Mike and A.J. Evangelis; Nicolas, Andrea and Austin Huelsenbeck. She will also be lovingly remembered as Big Yiayia by her 16 great grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by her brother Daniel Plant, as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends. Margaret is predeceased by her late brothers Richard, Peter, Robert, and David Plant and her grandson Jesse Faunt.

After raising her children, Margaret returned to school and earned an associate degree at the County College of Morris in 1994. When Margaret was diagnosed with scleroderma in 2001 and was told she had five years to live, she decided to fight the disease. She joined the Scleroderma Foundation to help advocate for disease research and awareness. She founded a local support group with her daughter Kitsa. Margaret continued working as an Insurance Underwriter at New Jersey Manufacturers until her retirement in 2003, after nearly 20 years of service. Margaret was an avid swimmer who enjoyed spending time at her beach houses in Seaside Park and Florida. Margaret was one of the founding members of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church and a secretary for the St. Andrew Philoptochos Society. Margaret was a voracious reader of love stories and mysteries. She enjoyed traveling and cruises. She loved animals, especially her dog Leo and parrot Joe. On weekday afternoons, she could be found watching her favorite soaps. When evening came, she watched Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune with her husband Andy. Most of all, Margaret loved spending time with her family; it meant everything to her. She was loved by all who knew her and will be missed immensely.

Funeral Service for the repose of her soul was held on Friday, December 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869. Interment followed at Locust Hill Cemetery. COVID protocols were followed.

+Kyriaki (Kay) Lewis, age 94 passed away on Monday, December 14th, 2020. Kay was born Kyriaki Fiakos on February 28, 1926 in the village of Athienou, Larnaca, Cyprus. She moved to the United States in 1951 to marry George Lewis, with whom she remained married until his death in 1989. She worked alongside her husband at the original Budd Lake Diner in Budd Lake, NJ. Upon her husband's retirement, Kay went to work for JC Penny and then later for Howmet Aerospace Inc. in Rockaway, NJ.

Kay lived in Budd Lake, New Jersey for sixty years and then moved to Califon,



New Jersey to be closer to her family. Kay is survived by her two daughters, Lia Lewis and Georgia Haglund, her son-in-law, Benjamin Haglund and her two grandchildren, Eleanor Haglund and George Haglund.

As a founding member of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Kay was an integral part of the church community for over 55 years. She was a member of the Philoptochos, serving on its board for several years. Kay was also a member of the Daughters of Penelope, serving as its President for six years. She joined the Wednesday afternoon knitting group upon its formation and continued to be a member of the group, despite being housebound, knitting blankets from her home. Kay volunteered annually to work at the church festival, starting her shifts early in the morning and working until closing every day that the festival was open.

Most importantly, Kay never missed Sunday liturgy. You could see her on Sundays and holidays seated in her favorite spot on the right side of the third pew. Even when she was unable to attend church as often as she would like, she devoted her Sunday mornings to reading the liturgy from her armchair.

A Funeral Service for the repose of her soul was held at 9:30am Saturday, December 19th, 2020 at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph NJ 07869. Interment followed at the Mount Olive Union Cemetery, Flanders NJ.

+Demetrios K. Tsigas, 59, of Melbourne, FL was called to the Lord on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, from complications related to his three-year struggle with lung cancer that metastasized to his brain. Father Demetri is survived by his wife of 26 years, Eleni (Zuras), his sons Jordan and Jonathan, his parents Fr. Konstantine and Presvytera Spiridoula Tsigas, his sisters, Vasiliki Fotinis and Katerina Papaioanou, and their husbands, Panayiotis and George, and nieces and nephews Spyridoula, Emmanuel, Anastasia, Konstantina, and Theofania. He also leaves behind father- and mother-in-law Peter and JoAnn Zuras, brother- and sister-in-law Bill and Stephanie Kutson, and their children Constantine, Peter and Catherine, and brother-and sister-in-law Dean and Katja Zuras, and their children Melina and Nicholas. As well, dozens of aunts, uncles, and cousins in Greece and America mourn his loss. He is preceded in death by his daughter Nikonika Evangelia, and a brother John.



Demetri was born on December 12, 1960 in Patras, Greece. In 1962 the family emigrated to the United States, ultimately settling in Succasunna, New Jersey, where his father, a priest, and mother started St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church and ministered to that community for 43 years. He attended Roxbury High School, went on to graduate from Rutgers University with a double major in Biology and Psychology. After a year of graduate work, he felt a calling to the Holy Priesthood, leading him to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts. After graduating with his Master of Divinity degree in 1987, he spent 8 years serving as a youth director. First for the Diocese of New Jersey and then for the Greek Orthodox communities in Piscataway, NJ, Norfolk, VA, and Broomall, PA. He met and married Eleni Zuras in Bethesda, Maryland in 1994. In 1995 they were invited by his former classmate, Fr. James Retelas, to serve Holy

Trinity in Portland, Oregon. Later that year, he became ordained as a deacon at his hometown parish of St. Andrews, and then on July 5th, ordained to the priesthood, faithfully serving the Holy Trinity community until 2002 as the associate priest. He was then transferred to St. Gregory of Nyssa in El Cajon, California where he shepherded the small but faithful flock for four years. Ready to move “back East” to be closer to family, he and Eleni and their two young boys – born in 1999 and 2002 – packed up an RV and enjoyed a cross country tour as they headed to Florida. On December 1, 2006, he began his ministry at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Melbourne, Florida.

Fr. Demetri preached forgiveness and healing. Even his business cards reminded all who met him: “God is Love. We are created in God’s Image. We were created to love!” Important lessons in history and a potluck menu that always included his own healthy contribution were hallmarks of his community Bible studies. Many catechumens came to the faith through his church tours, teaching Liturgies, and personal mentoring. Proud accomplishments included a new education building, expansion of the church’s footprint, and the creation and purchase of the Greek Orthodox section at Florida Memorial Gardens. Hundreds of families experienced him through the 85 baptisms, 30 marriages, and 109 funerals that he celebrated in his 14 years in Melbourne. In addition to lovingly serving as the pastor and priest of St. Katherine’s, he also pursued ecumenical relationships throughout Brevard County, notably with the church’s Jewish neighbors at Temple Beth Sholom, on the Board of the Salvation Army, and as President of the South Brevard Ministerial Association for three years, where he was loved, accepted, and embraced by everyone there. He lived his sermons, believing everybody to comprise the body of Christ and thus worthy of our love and unity. He was frequently invited to deliver the invocation at various Brevard County events.

However, none of this clerical description truly explains the man. He was generous and genuinely caring, even with total strangers. He had a passion for coffee, wine, music, Star Trek, and working out. He had an equally strong compassion for the underdog. Even the cheesiest movie moved him to tears if it lifted up the weak, the oppressed, and celebrated the love of God. Reflecting the hospitality and “philoxenia” (friend of strangers) that defines the Tsigas family, he made – and kept – friends everywhere he went. Everybody knew what his hobbies and values were because he shared them and expressed them with abandon. He took his illness on with humor, faith, discipline, and an unwavering desire to ensure that even this battle would “glorify God.” With every new diagnosis, he reported to his congregation, “God has blessed me again.” Fr. Demetri was a man who personified love in his very being, who walked his talk, and who marched to his own drumbeat, at any cost. Eager to speak the truth and engage people who he felt needed his lessons, he did not pull his punches. His teaching styles were fun and engaging, but also could be confrontational when necessary. He proudly kept his card-carrying status as a former punk rocker who had Ultimate Frisbee skills, an abiding love for the youth, and an idealist’s vision of how we could heal our country. Most especially, he loved and greatly respected his wife, adored and was proud of his sons, never ever forgot his daughter, and made a conscious effort to spend time and be present with his family, even while serving the needs of his flock.

The Funeral Service was held at St. Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Church, North Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL on Wednesday, December 2nd at 12 noon, following a Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Interment at Florida Memorial Gardens, Melbourne, FL.

DONATIONS RECEIVED +IN MEMORY OF:

+Louis Arvanitis

Costa & Mary Demos

+Vasilios Paleocostas

Efthimios & Christina

Kalavrouziotis

Demos & Afrodite Paxos

Dimitrios & Haroula Drosos

Ioannis & Antonia Gizas

Angela Michael & Ioannis

Tzitzikopoulos

George Milonas

Peter & Julie Ioannou

Vasilios & Marina Staikos

+Zoe Paleocostas

Vasilios & Marina Staikos

+Evangelia Papastavrou

Costa & Mary Demos

Jack & Betty Kelly

John & Ellen Manetas

St. Andrew Knitting Group

Reta Matthews

Eleftheria Tambakis

Pauline Pappas

Panagiota Damkas

Tsasilas Family

+Anna Maria Pappas

Jim & Ann Morgan

+Ernest Stamoutsos

Maria Stamoutsos

+Athanasios Vittas

Dimitrios & Haroula Drosos

+Katie Sedereas

Townsquare Diner Employees

Demos & Afrodite Paxos

Chris & Theodora Neroutsos

Debra Sedereas

Tommy & Carrie Katechis

Costa & Mary Demos

John & Ellen Manetas

Takis & Soutana Seretis

Nick Margaronis

Peter & Irene Petrou

Chrysanthe Borzeka & Family

Joanne Varratos Diamantidis

Karen Hahalis

Dimitrios & Voula Katsigiannis

James Jenkins

Michael & Cathy Barrett

Keith & Holly Marin

Rich & Connie Tirondola

John & Rita Toohey

Marios & Eleni Constantinides

Chris & Dave Mortensen

Meri & Steve Tango

Ann Ahlert

Dimitrios Dontas

Kosta & Olga Floris & Family

The Wharton Police

Department

Elisa Kethley

Dianne Marchese

Yianni & Stacey Kontolios & Family

Edward Rochford

Konstantinos Ipsilantis

Dimitrios & Haroula Drosos

George & Despina Vouvoudakis

Bill & Angela Kontolios

Jim & Nina Condolios

Stamatios & Sandy Psarros

+Katie Sedereas continued

Mary Provost

Maria Stamoutsos

Vivie Malaxianis

Angeliki Brouard & Family

Alex, Theano & Dimitra Stavros

Peter & Julie Ioannou

Jack & Betty Kelly

Peggy Kontos & Angela

Ploumbis

Chris & Tammy Tsavekou

Vasilios & Marina Staikos

John & Maria Kostakis

+Fr. Demetri Tsigas

Gregory & Georgia Pavelis

Joanna Lignos

Takis & Soutana Seretis

Dimitrios & Haroula Drosos

Costas & Dina Seretis

Brodan & Irene Ferenc

Beatrice Pallis

George Milonas

Costa & Mary Demos

Theodora Harris

Chrysanthe Borzeka

Joanne Varratos Diamantidis

Kosta & Aristeia Argyriou

Angeliki Brouard & Family

Jack & Betty Kelly

Keith & Holly Marin

Despena & Sofia Eptamenitis

Ioannis & Antonia Gizas

Eleanor & Paul Tsakonias

John & Ellen Manetas

Pauline Pappas

Costa & Eugenia Sedereas

Vasilios & Marina Staikos

In loving memory

O God to spirits of all flesh, who has trampled down Death, and overthrown the devil and given life unto Thy word; give eternal rest the soul of the departed servants, in a place of brightness, in a place of the verdure, in a place of repose, from whence all pain, sorrow, and sighing have fled away. Pardon, every transgression which may have been committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For there is no man who lives and does not commit a sin. Thou only art without sin. Thy righteousness is everlasting, and Thy word is the Truth.

Amen

SAINT ANDREW COMMUNITY PARTNERS “DIAMOND PARTICIPANTS”

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

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



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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION see Family Worship on Saturdays and emails with lesson plans

Hellenic Afternoon School Mondays and Thursdays 4:30pm virtual 12/10/20 to TBD

2021

1/4/21 AT 4:30PM HAS IS BACK IN SESSION virtual

1/10 CUTTING OF COMMUNITY VASILOPITA

1/11 @ 7:30 PM STEWARDSHIP MEETING virtual

1/25 @ 7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING VIRTUAL

1/26 @ 7PM PHILOPTOCHOS MONTHLY MEETING virtual

1/28 @ 7PM GOYA MONTHLY MEETING virtual

2/21 Triodion Begins

Feb SUN TBD Mr. and Miss GOYA will

3/6 Saturday of Souls also on 3/13 & 3/20

3/15 Great Lent begins

March SAT TBD Sights and Sounds

4/4 Western Easter

4/25 Palm Sunday

5/2 HOLY PASCHA

May FRI TBD Annual Tricky Tray

5/8/2021 @ 2PM SUN WEDDING STAMOUTSOS_PILOVSKY

5/22 FAITH KITCHEN - PARISH COUNCIL

6/19 Saturday of Souls

6/26 FAITH KITCHEN - GOYA

6/27/21 @ 1PM SUN WEDDING CASTORINA_WENDT

7/24 FAITH KITCHEN -PHILOPTOCHOS

8/28 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP/AHEPA

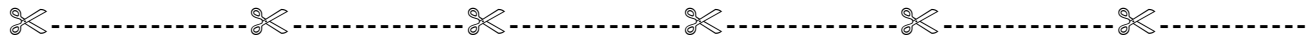
9/25 FAITH KITCHEN - PARISH COUNCIL

9/5/21 @ 2PM SUN WEDDING MARIN_ROSENGARTH

11/20/21 @ 3PM SAT WEDDING KAVALOS_FREIDHOF

11/27 FAITH KITCHEN - PHILOPTOCHOS

12/ 25 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP/AHEPA (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)



MEMORIAL GIFT

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

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

NAME & ADDRESS OF BEREAVED* _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF DONOR(S) _____

MEMORIAL GIFTS PAYABLE TO ST. ANDREW ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

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

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

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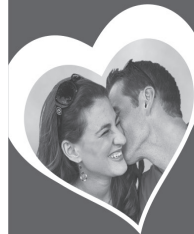
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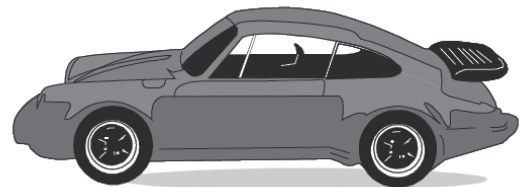
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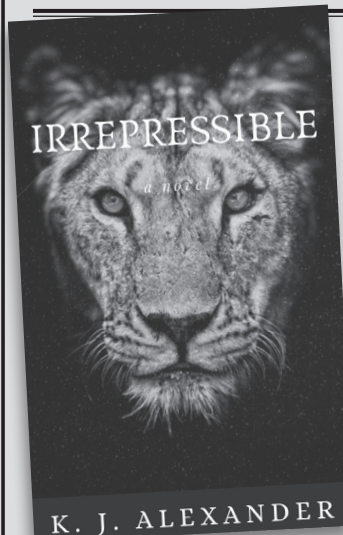


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Rev. John Theodosion frjohn@standrewgonj.org

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager, Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos info@standrewgonj.org

Financial Administrator, Cathy Barrett fin@standrewgonj.org

Parish Ministry Administrator: Anthony Bosco tboz266@aol.com

STEWARDSHIP

Ellen Manetas, *Chairperson*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Harriet Karkanias, Rachel Lopardo, Maro Nicolaou Schuster

BYZANTINE CHANTERS/CHOIR

Panayiotis Fotinis, *Chanter*

Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fr. John Theodosion, Athena Borzeka, Vasilias Christodoulou, Maria Galvin,

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL

Vasilias Christodoulou, *Director*

TEACHERS

Haroula Christodoulou, Vasilias Christodoulou, Effie Kritharis, Yiota Louca,
Maria Pallis, Stacey Papanikolaw, Eleni Zeris

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Philoptochos Society: Mary Michailidis, *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): Athina Vella

HOPE & JOY: Harriet Karkanias, Lynn Axiotes

GOYA

Andrew Venizelos, *GOYA President*

Peter Sedereas, Marina Venizelos, Polymnia Crysler, Marlena Karipidis,
Diana Sedereas, Roslyn Monokandilos, *GOYA Advisors*

Hellenic Dance

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Jr & Sr Groups Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*



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Metropolis of
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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

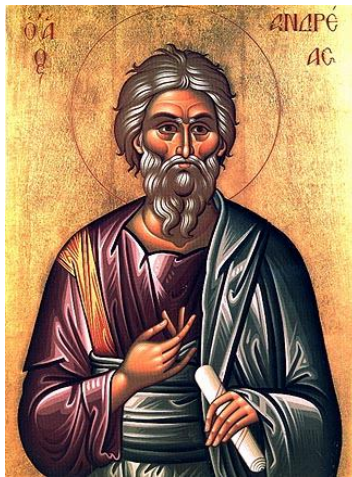
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God's judgement is nothing else than our coming into contact with truth and light. ...Our hearts will be opened by the penetrating light of God, and what is in these hearts will be revealed. If in those hearts there is love for God, those hearts will rejoice seeing God's light. If, on the contrary, there is hatred for God in those hearts, these men will suffer by receiving on their opened hearts this penetrating light of truth which they detested all their life.

Alexander Kalomiros | River of Fire

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.