

MARCH 2021



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

The Fourth Sunday of the Triodion Period: Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) – March 14th

2nd Stewardship Sunday - March 14th

Saturday of Souls (*with Kollyva*) March 6th, 13th & 20th

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

☎: 973-584-0388

Fax: 973-584-3573

E-mail info@standrewgonj.org

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

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

Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

2021 PARISH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020

Steven Mitrakos, *President*

Athena Borzeka, *Vice President*

Peter Petrou, *Treasurer*

Connie Tirondola, *Assistant Treasurer*

Thomas (TJ) Borzeka, *Assistant Treasurer*

Maro Nicolaou Schuster,
Corresponding Secretary

Herbert Schuster, *Recording Secretary*

BOARD MEMBERS

Manny Christakos

Pavlos Giannikopoulos

James Kardaras

Nikolaos Karkanias

Nicholas Monokandilos

Nick Pappas

John A. Paxos

Peter Sedereas

Yianni Tsamutalis

The Saint Andrew Family News is published monthly except in July and August and is distributed free of charge to all members. Submissions are accepted **only as electronic files, (via e-mail attachment)**.

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 **APIRL 2021 ISSUE** is March 15th
Please find magazine issues on our web site <https://www.standrewgonj.org>*

To receive WEEKLY BULLETIN E-mails serviced by the Archdiocese's LISTSERV please send e mail to info@standrewgonj.org and request your preferred email address to be added to our Distribution List

To receive e mails serviced by CONSTANT CONTACT please follow link and subscribe
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/WXhDvtV/StAndrew>

by submitting this request, you are consenting to receive emails from:
SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869, US

Like Us / Follow Us on our church Facebook page
Online Giving System

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

DIVINE SERVICES

Services scheduled below are subject to change. Please consult weekly bulletin/website for updates.

MARCH

- Saturday 6 1st Saturday of Souls *(with Kollyva)*
Sunday 7 Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)
Saturday 13 2nd Saturday of Souls *(with Kollyva)*
Sunday 14 Forgiveness Sunday / Cheesefare Sunday [2nd Stewardship Sunday]
Forgiveness Vespers at 4:00pm
Monday 15 Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm **[Great Lent begins]**
Wednesday 17 Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday 19 1st Salutations @6:00pm
Saturday 20 3rd Saturday of Souls *(with Kollyva)* [ST. THEODORE commemorated]
Sunday 21 Sunday of Orthodoxy
Monday 22 Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday 24 Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Thursday 25 **ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS** Orthros at 8am Divine Liturgy at 9am
Greek Independence Day the 25th of March
Friday 26 2nd Salutations @6:00pm
Sunday 28 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
Monday 29 Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday 31 Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm

A P R I L

- Friday 2 3rd Salutations @6:00pm
Sunday 4 Sunday of the Holy Cross [Western Easter]
Monday 5 Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday 7 Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday 9 4th Salutations @6:00pm
Sunday 11 Sunday of St. John Climacus
Monday 12 Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday 14 Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Friday 16 Akathyst Hymn @6:00pm
Sunday 18 Sunday of Mary of Egypt
Monday 19 Office of the Great Compline @6:00pm
Wednesday 21 Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy @6:00pm
Saturday 24 LAZARUS SATURDAY – TIME TBA Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Sunday 25 Palm Sunday - Orthros & Divine Liturgy @8:45am
The Service of the Nymphios @7pm
Mon- Sat 26- 1/5 HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Sunday 2 HOLY PASCHA – Vespers of Agape @11am

Sundays: Orthros @ 8:45AM & Divine Liturgy @10AM | **Weekdays:** Orthros @ 8AM & Divine Liturgy @9:15AM
SATURDAY YOUTH & FAMILY WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES.

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

Οι Ιερές Ακολουθίες που προγραμματίζονται παρακάτω υπόκεινται σε αλλαγές.
Παρακαλούμε συμβουλευτείτε το εβδομαδιαίο δελτίο / ιστοσελίδα μας για ενημερώσεις και αλλαγές.

ΜΑΡΤΙΟΣ

Σάββατο	6	Α΄ Ψυχοσάββατον (με κόλλυβα)
Κυριακή	7	Κυριακή της Αποκρέω
Σάββατο	13	Β΄ Ψυχοσάββατον (με κόλλυβα)
Κυριακή	14	Κυριακή τῆς Τυροφάγου [2nd Stewardship Sunday] Μέγας Εσπερινός <u>ώρα</u> 4:00μμ
Δευτέρα	15	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ [Νηστεία]
Τετάρτη	17	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	19	Α΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Σάββατο	20	Γ΄ Ψυχοσάββατον (με κόλλυβα) [+ΑΓΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ]
Κυριακή	21	Κυριακή Α΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν (τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας)
Δευτέρα	22	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Τετάρτη	24	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Πέμπτη	25	Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ «25η Μαρτίου» Ὁρθρος - <u>ώρα</u> 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - <u>ώρα</u> 9.15πμ
Παρασκευή	26	Β΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	28	Κυριακή Β΄ των Νηστειῶν - Γρηγόρου του Παλαμά Ἀρχιεπ. Θεσσαλονίκης
Δευτέρα	29	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Τετάρτη	31	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ

ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΣ

Παρασκευή	26	Γ΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	4	Κυριακή Γ΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν (τῆς Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως)
Δευτέρα	5	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Τετάρτη	7	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	9	Δ΄ Χαιρετισμοί - <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	11	Κυριακή Δ΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν - τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Ἰωάννου τοῦ συγγραφέως
Δευτέρα	12	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Τετάρτη	14	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Παρασκευή	16	Ακάθιστος Ὕμνος <u>ώρα</u> 6μμ
Κυριακή	18	Κυριακή Ε΄ τῶν Νηστειῶν - Ὁσίας Μητρός ἡμῶν Μαρίας τῆς Αἰγυπτίας
Δευτέρα	19	Ακολουθία Μέγα Απόδειπνων <u>ώρα</u> 6.00μμ
Τετάρτη	21	Προαγιασμένη Λειτουργία <u>ώρα</u> 6.00μμ
Σάββατο	24	Σάββατον τοῦ Λαζάρου <u>ώρα</u> θα ανακοινωθεῖ Ὁρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυριακή	25	Κυριακή τῶν Βαΐων Ἡ Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου <u>ώρα</u> 7μμ
Δεύτερα-Σάββατο	26	1^η /5^{ον} ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑΣ
Κυριακή	2	Ἅγιο Πάσχα Ὁ Εσπερινός τῆς Αγάπης <u>ώρα</u> 11πμ

Την Κυριακή – Ὁρθρος 8.45πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία 10πμ | **Τις καθημερινές** – Ὁρθρος 8πμ & Θ.Λ. 9.15πμ
ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ ΩΡΑ 9ΠΜ ΓΙΑ ΓΟΝΗΣ & ΜΑΘΗΤΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ

Feed My Lambs

By Fr. John Theodosion

I have been thinking about our church and the unfortunate circumstances created by the Coronavirus and how we have become so separated from one another as a community. There are many of you that I have not been able to see face to face, or even at all since the whole pandemic began a year ago. I know that I miss you and I am sure you miss each other.



even though this spiritual connection still exists, the physical and social connection is suffering.

I began to think about how do I feed this flock since it is difficult to even see each other? As I was pondering this question, I began to think about when Jesus was talking to Peter after His resurrection in John 21:15-17.

I was listening to a lecture last week in which the presenter was talking about so called mega churches. He was saying that even though these churches are so large, they maintain small group gatherings to help their parishioners feel like they belong. Although our church is not a “mega church” we do have a large community. I began to think, how can we create small groups, so people feel like they belong? How can we feed people spiritually through these small groups and help them feel connected especially during this time?

As I thought about it, I realized that most importantly, we are connected by the Holy Spirit! We do not have to create small groups in our church for our people to feel connected, because we are connected by the love and Grace of God. However, I realized as well that we have so many built in ways to connect to one another and participate in the life of our Saint Andrew community. The small groups are built into the very life of our community. Unfortunately, now

Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”

I began to think and pray, and then I thought some more. I cannot possibly reach out to every member of our church, but then by the Grace of God I remembered the small groups. We do not just have one large flock and one shepherd. We have a large flock made up of smaller flocks and each flock has its own shepherd. Each of our

parish ministries is like its own flock making up the bigger flock which is our church.

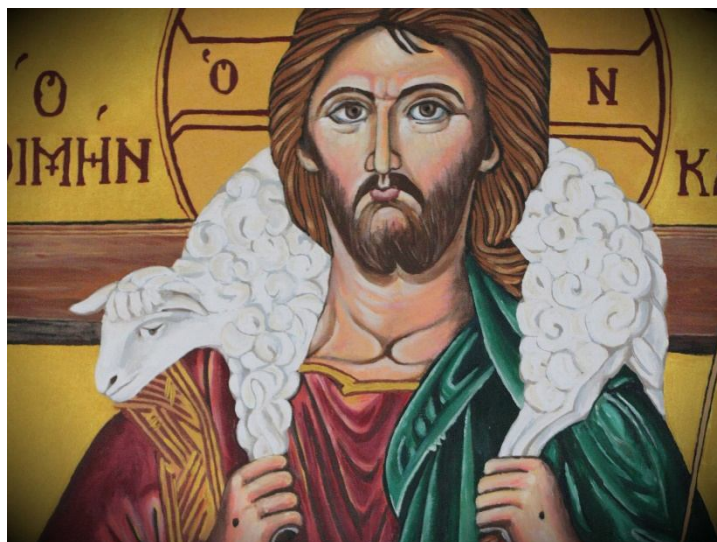
Christ Himself did not do all the ministry all alone. He gathered up the disciples and apostles and engaged them to help with the ministry and work of the church. So, when Christ is speaking to Peter, He is not only speaking to him but to me and to you as well. He wants all of us to feed the flock of His church. What does this mean? It means that each leader of each ministry should be actively working to keep their respective flocks together and connected to the church.

What does this look like? During this time, I think as leaders and shepherds, of our respective ministries, we can call, email, write a card, set up online gatherings etc. For example, Religious Education directors can reach out to staff and teachers and teachers can reach out to students. GOYA Advisors can reach out to officers and coaches can reach out to their players. Philoptochos board members can reach out to various ministry chairs and those chairpersons can reach out to committee members and workers. My thought is that just because we cannot have our usual activities and gatherings does not mean that we can't maintain, as much as possible, our connection to one another.

Each one of us is an important part of the flock of Saint Andrew, and each one of us can act as representatives to help shepherd it. We do not want anyone to get lost or slip through the cracks. The parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15:4-7 reminds us of our Lord's concern and care for each one of us. Our Lord Jesus taught, "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost

until he finds it? And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

Let us all work together to keep the flock of Saint Andrew together by reaching out to our coworkers, friends and acquaintances in our respective ministries and keeping them close. At some time, we pray soon, this pandemic will end. We cannot wait until then to figure out how to gather the flock back together again. In the Gospel of John chapter 10, Jesus talks about the wolf, *who* catches the sheep and scatters them. The wolf is real and can be very seductive and subtle. He will attack our sheep and we do not want to lose even one! We want to keep the wolf out so that as part of our church community the sheep will stay connected to Christ and His Church. So, as Christ said, "I have come that they (the sheep), may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."



"I, Name of Parish Council Member, 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 Charter and Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and that I will faithfully and sincerely fulfil the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council. So, help me, God."



Each year, all **Parish Council** Members affix their signature and renew the above **Oath of Office**. This Pledge was also taken in person after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 31st with the members in attendance.

We would like to thank all our Parish Council Members for their dedication and service to our Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. May God Bless their works for His Glory!



GYRO & SOUVLAKI TAKE OUT

March 6 & 7

Sat 12-6pm & Sun 12-5pm

order & take out

You will enjoy our delicious

**Gyro sandwich, Souvlaki sandwich,
Souvlaki on a stick, Greek fries,
Greek pastries**

***and complimentary with sandwich orders:
soda or water***



St Andrew Financial Summary 2020

	Jan-Dec	Budget	\$ over Budget	Jan-Dec 2019	20 vs. '19
INCOME:					
Stewardship	354,614.65	350,000.00	4,614.65	349,348.50	5,266.15
"Festival Fund" Contributions	126,745.00		126,745.00		126,745.00
Other Contribution Income	<u>107,580.15</u>	<u>127,000.00</u>	<u>(19,419.85)</u>	<u>129,807.93</u>	<u>(22,227.78)</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION INCOME	588,939.80	477,000.00	111,939.80	479,156.43	109,783.37
EDUCATION/DANCE NET INCOME	24,091.05	40,000.00	(15,908.95)	37,718.78	(13,627.73)
SUMMER CAMP NET INCOME	-	200	(200.00)	199.24	(199.24)
FUNDRAISING EVENTS NET INCOME	11,968.01	180,000.00	(168,031.99)	188,024.99	(176,056.98)
OTHER INCOME	38,213.00	25,000.00	13,213.00	44,438.50	(6,225.50)
TOTAL INCOME	663,211.86	722,200.00	(58,988.14)	749,537.94	(86,326.08)
EXPENSE:					
STAFF EXPENSE	318,834.35	363,750.00	(44,915.65)	311,632.50	7,201.85
CAR EXPENSE	3,887.91	5,750.00	(1,862.09)	7,852.93	(3,965.02)
INSURANCE EXPENSE	60,959.87	62,100.00	(1,140.13)	60,697.55	262.32
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,930.94	9,010.00	(7,079.06)	3,302.85	(1,371.91)
EQUIPMENT	3,590.27	6,000.00	(2,409.73)	3,909.83	(319.56)
BANK CHARGES	5,816.42	3,900.00	1,916.42	3,737.56	2,078.86
MORTGAGE PAYMENT	134,586.00	134,586.00	-	134,586.00	-
TELEPHONES/INTERNET EXPENSE	6,551.47	6,400.00	151.47	5,023.47	1,528.00
ADVERTISING	140	2,500.00	(2,360.00)	261.74	(121.74)
PERMITS	-	250	(250.00)	100.00	(100.00)
LITURGICAL	-	500	(500.00)	-	-
UTILITIES	38,650.21	58,500.00	(19,849.79)	53,782.68	(15,132.47)
SUPPLIES & PRINTING EXPENSE	19,771.58	34,200.00	(14,428.42)	34,439.91	(14,668.33)
BLDG & GROUNDS EXP.	23,645.58	68,100.00	(44,454.42)	53,732.47	(30,086.89)
POSTAGE & HANDLING	3,500.89	5,000.00	(1,499.11)	4,366.38	(865.49)
MINISTRY EXPENSE	71,638.72	75,700.00	(4,061.28)	69,728.96	1,909.76
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	3,009.60	6,000.00	(2,990.40)	4,048.21	(1,038.61)
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	550	7,500.00	(6,950.00)	4,165.53	(3,615.53)
TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	2,310.00	(2,310.00)
MISC.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	697,063.81	849,746.00	(152,682.19)	757,678.41	(60,614.60)
NET CASH RECD (SHORT)	(\$33,851.95)	(\$127,546.00)	\$93,694.05	\$ (8,140.47)	\$ (25,711.48)



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

PARISH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Steven Mitrakos
President

Athena Borzeka
Vice President

Peter Petrou
Treasurer

Connie Tirondola
Assistant Treasurer

Thomas J Borzeka
Assistant Treasurer

Maro Nicolaou Schuster
Corresponding Secretary

Herbert Schuster
Recording Secretary

MEMBERS

Manny Christakos

Pavlos Giannikopoulos

James Kardaras

Nikolas Karkanias

Nicholas Monokandilos

John A. Paxos

Nick Pappas

Peter Sedereas

Yianni Tsamutalis

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We write to provide a financial report for 2020, with great relief for surviving the pandemic year in decent shape, but with some concern for the current fiscal year as pandemic conditions continue.

We entered the year with a budget that anticipated a deficit of \$127,546 but completed the year with a deficit of only \$33,852. We managed this, even though our income was nearly \$60,000 less than we had budgeted. This was achieved largely through reduced expenses, by over \$150,000.

The cancelation of the festival and car raffle could have created disastrous results for 2020. This caused us to lose \$168,000 from budgeted fundraising. The pandemic also caused significant loss of income from rentals, candles, and education fees.

We overcame the cancelation of our largest fundraisers because of your commitment to Saint Andrew. Pandemic hardships did not prevent you from fulfilling your Stewardship commitments, and then some, exceeding our budget for Stewardship collections. But without question, the success of our substitute Festival Fund is what really prevented us from falling into dire straits.

The reduction of expenses was partly through deliberate cost-saving measures – such as canceling the cleaning service and garbage disposal pickup during the pandemic. But we also saved money through the reduced use of our facilities, resulting in lower utility costs for example.

The current year will present added challenges. The pandemic will again prevent us from being able to have a festival. But our facility expenses are sure to increase as we gradually reopen our facility as the year progresses and the pandemic slowly subsides.

To have a chance to remain financially solvent, in 2021 we will again need to rely heavily upon another successful Festival Fund fundraiser to raise between \$125,000 to \$150,000 to maintain financial solvency. In the days that follow, we will be providing information about this renewed fundraising effort.

Thank you for ensuring the continued vitality of our community.

Peter Petrou, Parish Treasurer

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL HAS

The HAS teachers and students continue to work together and do their best in these trying times. Traditional teaching practices while incorporating new technologies into lessons in the Greek language and culture in the most interesting ways will be the start of developing a more enhanced curriculum now and for the future.

Our one learning platform, Staellinika, provided by the Stavros Niarchos foundation, will give a grant of \$600,000 to support Hellenic education programs and teacher training. This is fantastic news as The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon school will have the opportunity to receive educational materials, technological equipment, and software that will enhance learning. Using technological applications for virtual learning and in-person instruction has positively influenced the way we look at Greek education. We will continue and strive to provide the best education we can for our students.

This year, 2021 marks 200 years since the day the Hellenic Revolution of 1821 began. Hellenes honor this great historical event in various ways. In celebration of the liberation of the historic lands in which created a free and independent Hellenic State after more than 500 years of oppression, the HAS teachers are working together to create assignments and activities to commemorate this special day.

ANT1 Christmas Drawing Contest:

It was a difficult decision to choose three students under 10 years old who participated in the ANT1 Christmas drawing contest. Everyone did a great job depicting Christmas with their

drawing. Unfortunately, we did not have any winners from ANT1 instead, the PTA will give three \$25.00 Amazon gift cards sent directly to their homes to the following chosen students:

Μπράβο στα παιδιά!

Kindergarten: Eleftheria Aspromatis

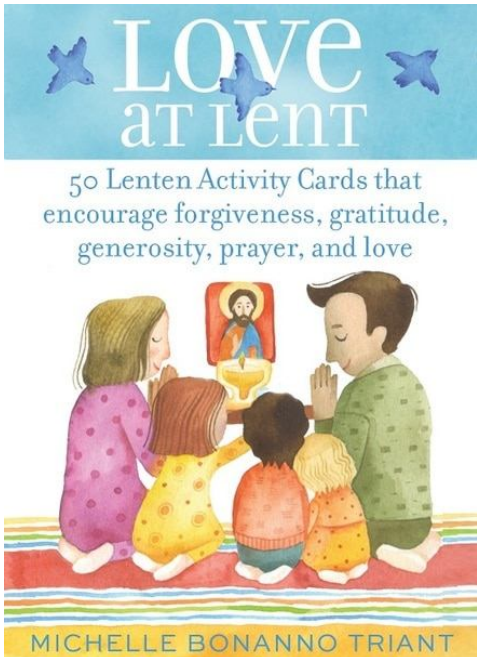
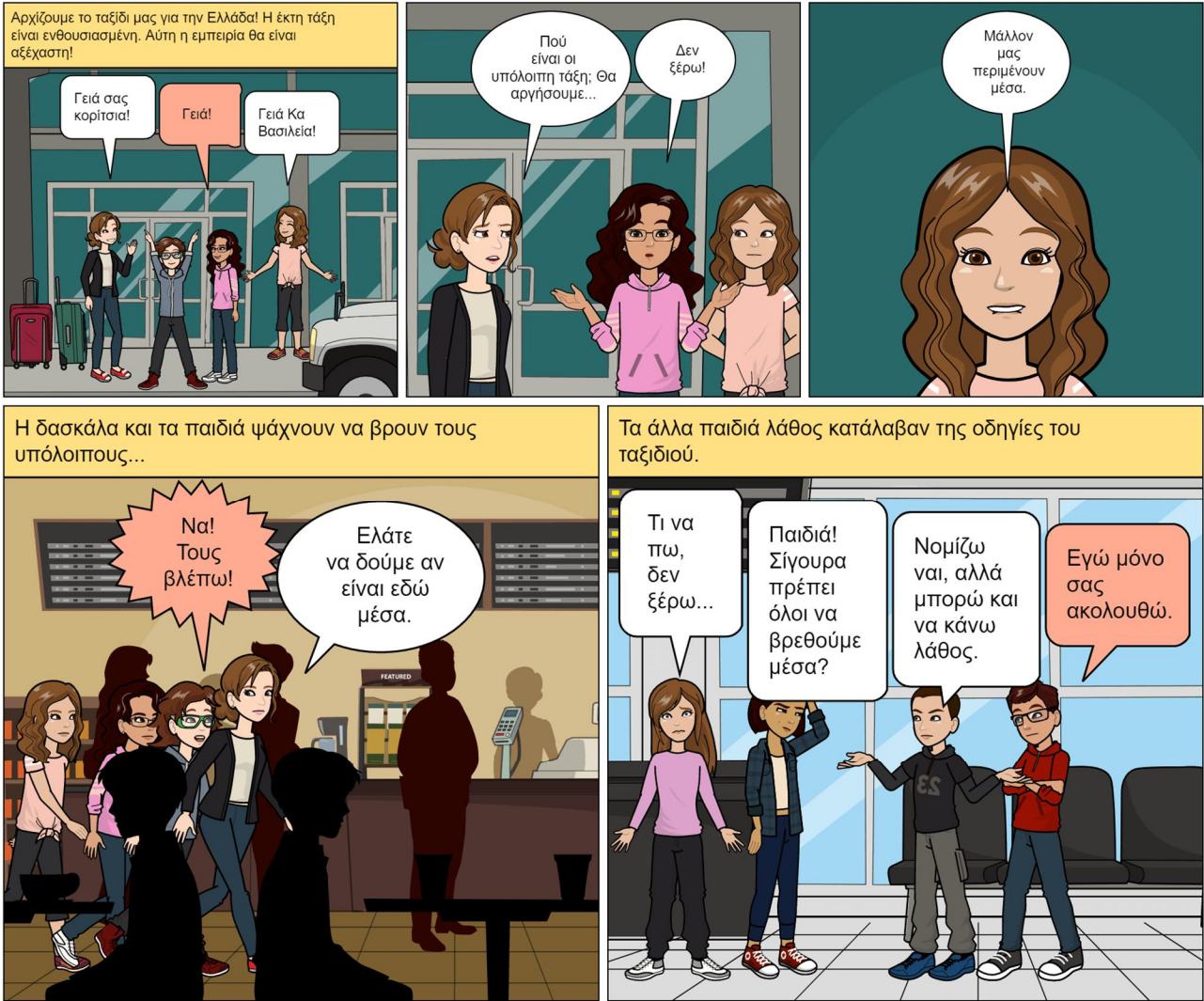
Second grade: Violetta Benas

Third grade: Despina Kontogianni

Happy International Greek Language Day! (February 9, 2021) Recently, the 6th grade of Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School was assigned an “End of the Year Project”. As graduating students, this is an opportunity to apply and practice their previous knowledge and new skills in grammar, speaking, listening, and writing in Greek while working together and having fun.

According to research, Students retain 90% of language learning from what they say and what they do. It’s learning by doing with their peers, and this project does just that. This educational application (Pixton EDU) was chosen for its simple layout creating a storyboard in Greek. The students will create a fictional storyline of their eight-day adventure that will include Greek mythical, historical, cultural, and religious aspects in their travels that will be significant to the locations they will visit. We titled it “Our Virtual Class Adventure to Greece”. The class project will be published and posted for all to see. Below is a glimpse of the student’s work. We cannot wait to see the finished product!

Submitted by: Vasilia Anton-Christodoulou
HAS Teacher, HAS Director of Education
vantonchristo@standrewgonj.com



LOVE at Lent
 by Michelle Bonanno Triant,
 illustrated by Maria Constantinescu

Love at Lent is a project for the whole family, with daily tasks that reinforce the Lenten values of kindness, forgiveness, prayer, generosity, gratitude, and love. Choose one card each day of Great Lent and Holy Week to discover a new task to complete! Tasks such as "Connect with Your Elders" or "Celebrate a Saint" encourage behavior toward the greater good, contribution to community, mindfulness, prayer, and spiritual devotion for families. The *Love at Lent* cards also work well in other settings, such as Sunday school classes, church ministry groups, and homeschool cooperatives. This beautifully illustrated set includes an introduction, fifty activity cards, and three prayer cards.



Preorder online from Ancient Faith Store (\$14.95) Expected release date is March 4th, 2021

GOYA MARCH NEWS



On Friday, February 5th, our GOYA rented out an **AMC theatre in Rockaway**. The list of movies you can watch ranges from old classics to movies that came out recently. Twenty GOYAnS ended up going to watch *Back to the Future*. The GOYAnS had a great time and would definitely do it again soon! It was great to have an outing together.

The day after the movie, a few of the GOYAnS offered a **helping hand in the Church Gyro Sale!** The GOYAnS mostly worked as runners, where they brought the orders to people's cars.



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day a great success!

The annual cutting of the Vasilopita was held in January. Fr. John blessed the bread and then cut a piece for each ministry at St. Andrew. The GOYA piece had the lucky coin which means we will have a blessed year and hopefully a more normal one!

Though quite challenging, we are doing our best to keep our GOYA as active as possible during these difficult times. We have a few ideas for other events which will be announced soon.



GYRO FEST on February 6th was a great success. Thank you to all who helped and all who supported. Next **GYRO FEST** on March 6th and 7th

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD: SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESEFARE SUNDAY) – MARCH 14TH

Introduction

The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During the pre-Lenten period, the services of the Church include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

Biblical Story

Sunday of Forgiveness, the last of the preparatory Sundays before Great Lent, has two themes: it commemorates Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and it accentuates our need for forgiveness. There are obvious reasons why these two things should be brought to our attention as we stand on the threshold of Great Lent. One of the primary images in the Triodion is that of the return to Paradise. Lent is a time when we weep with Adam and Eve before the closed gate of Eden, repenting with them for the sins that have deprived us of our free communion with God. But Lent is also a time when we are preparing to celebrate the saving event of Christ's death and rising, which has reopened Paradise to us once more (Luke 23:43). So sorrow for our exile in sin is tempered by hope of our re-entry into Paradise.

The second theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Matthew 6:14-21) and in the special ceremony of

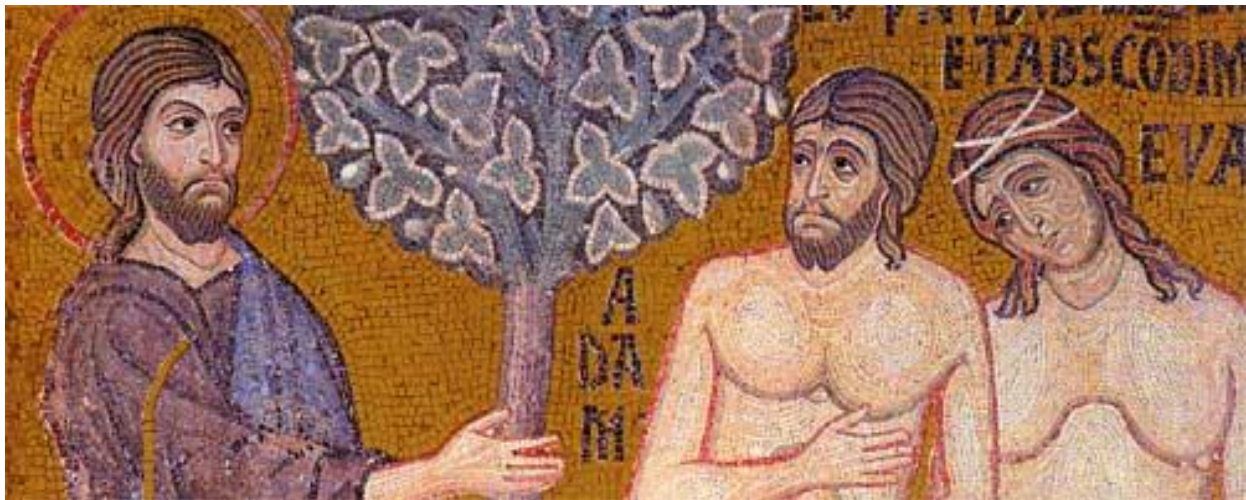
mutual forgiveness at the end of the Vespers on Sunday evening. Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from others, but should link us to them with ever-stronger bonds.

The Sunday of Forgiveness also directs us to see that Great Lent is a journey of liberation from our enslavement to sin. The Gospel lesson sets the conditions for this liberation. The first one is fasting—the refusal to accept the desires and urges of our fallen nature as normal, the effort to free ourselves from the dictatorship of the flesh and matter over the spirit. To be effective, however, our fast must not be hypocritical, a “showing off.” We must “appear not unto men to fast but to our Father who is in secret” (vv. 16-18).

The second condition is forgiveness—“If you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you” (vv. 14-15). The triumph of sin, the main sign of its rule over the world, is division, opposition, separation, hatred. Therefore, the first break through this fortress of sin is forgiveness—the return to unity, solidarity, love. To forgive is to put between me and my “enemy” the radiant forgiveness of God Himself. To forgive is to reject the hopeless “dead-ends” of human relations and to refer them to Christ. Forgiveness is truly a “breakthrough” of the Kingdom into this sinful and fallen world.

Icon of the Feast

The icon of the Sunday of the Last Judgment incorporates all of the elements of the parable from Matthew 25:31-46. Christ sits on the throne and before him the Last Judgment takes place. He is extending his hands in blessing upon the Theotokos on his right, and John the Baptist on his left. Seated on smaller thrones are the Apostles, represented by Peter and Paul, a depiction of the words of Christ in Matthew 19:28. (1.)



1. Ashamed for the sin that they committed by eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve now stand before Christ.

The icon shows Adam and Eve standing before Jesus Christ [1.]. Prior to their descent into sin through disobedience, Adam and Eve were blessed with a beautiful relationship of communion and fellowship with God. However, they were tempted by the devil appearing in the form of a serpent [2.] to disobey God and eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:15-17).



2. Adam and Eve were tempted to sin by the devil 3. A cherubim with a flaming sword was appointed by God who appeared to them as a serpent. to guard the gate of Eden and the way to the tree of life.

When they took of the fruit and sinned, they realized that they were naked. Further, when “they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden” ... they hid themselves “from the presence of the Lord” (3:8). The icon shows Adam and Eve attempting to cover themselves with fig leaves as they try to hide, and yet they stand ashamed before the Lord.



4. For their disobedience, the Lord has Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise. They leave dressed in garments prepared by God.

Because of their disobedience the Lord expelled them from the garden. The icon shows the Archangel of the Lord directing them out of Paradise, through the gate of Eden where God placed “the cherubim and a sword flaming and guarding the way to the tree of life” (3:23-24) [3.]. Adam and Eve are dressed in the garments of skins made for them by God (3:20) [4.].

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Sunday of Forgiveness

The Sunday of Forgiveness is commemorated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on Saturday evening. The hymns of the Triodion for this day are added to the usual prayers and hymns of the weekly commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ. The naming of the Sunday is taken from the commemoration of the Exile of Adam and Eve from Paradise and from the Gospel reading of the Divine Liturgy.

Scripture readings for the Sunday of the Last Judgment are: At the Orthros (Matins): The prescribed weekly Gospel reading. At the Divine Liturgy: Romans 13:11-14:4, Matthew 6:14-21.

The Sunday of Forgiveness is also known as Cheesefare Sunday. This is the last day that dairy products can be eaten before the Lenten fast. The full fast begins the following day on Clean Monday, the first day of Great Lent. On the evening of the Sunday of Forgiveness the Church conducts the first service of Great Lent, the Vespers of Forgiveness, a service that directs us further on the path of repentance and helps us to acknowledge

our need for forgiveness from God and to seek forgiveness from our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the first time that the Lenten prayer of St. Ephraim accompanied by prostrations is read. At the end of the service all the faithful approach the priest and one another asking for mutual forgiveness.

Orthodox Christians are encouraged to enter Great Lent in repentance and confession by attending these services, coming for the Sacrament of Confession, and dedicating themselves to worship, prayer, and fasting throughout the Lenten period. The first day of Lent, Clean Monday, signifies the beginning of a period of cleansing and purification of sins through repentance.

On the Saturday before this Sunday, the second of three Saturdays of the Souls are held. This is a special commemoration when the Church offers a Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service for the departed faithful. This is considered a universal commemoration of the dead. Through the memorial services, the Church is commending to God all who have departed and who are now

awaiting the Last Judgment. This specific Saturday is a general commemoration of all the ascetic Saints of the Church, both men and women. As we

set out on the Lenten fast we are reminded that we will make this journey as members of a family, supported by the intercessions of the Saints.

Hymns and Prayers of the Feast of the Prodigal Son

Exapostelation of Matins (Tone Two)

Wretch that I am I disobeyed Your good commandment, O my Lord. And being stripped of Your glory, alas, with shame I am laden. And I have been evicted from the pure delights of Paradise. O merciful and compassionate, have mercy on me who rightly has been deprived of Your goodness. We were expelled of old, O Lord, from the Garden of Eden, for wrongly eating from the tree. But, O my God and Savior, You once again have restored us through Your Cross and Your Passion. Thereby, O Master, fortify and enable us purely to finish Lent and to worship Your holy resurrection, Pascha our saving Passover, by the prayers of Your Mother.

Prokeimenon of Vespers (Tone Plagal Fourth)

Idiomela: Turn not away Thy face from Thy child for I am afflicted; hear me speedily. Draw near to my soul and deliver me.

Stichos: Thy salvation, O God, hath set me up. The poor see and rejoice.

Kontakion (Tone Plagal Second)

O Master, Guide to wisdom, Giver of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Champion of the poor, make firm my heart and grant it understanding. O Word of the Father, give me words, for see, I shall not stop my lips from crying out to Thee: I am fallen, in Thy compassion have mercy on me.

SATURDAY OF SOULS | ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ (psee cho SA va ta)

ORTHROS @8AM & DIVINE LITURGY @9:15AM | MARCH 6TH, 13TH 20TH

LIST OF NAMES Please write clearly the *+Names* of your beloved for eternal memory and blessed repose.

They will be prayed for on **all three Saturdays**. You may submit your **+List** along with your offering for the priest by 9am on day of service or bring **+List** to the office before Saturday.

Baptismal +Names please: for example **+Nicholas** NOT Nick or Niko or.., **+Vasiliki** NOT Vickie or Vaso or.., **Konstantinos** NOT Dean or Costa or.... **+Chrysanthi** NOT Chrissy or Chris or.....

KOLLYVA: order your kollyva and bring your donation to the office with your check payable to St. Andrew **or** bring your prepared kollyva from home.

1. **Kollyva prepared at home:** Please bring to church by 8:45am. Place dish on table and submit **+List** of Names with your offering.
2. **Individual Kollyva dish:** If you do not want to prepare your own you may wish to order from the church your individual Kollyva dish for your beloved. the cost for kollyva is **\$30**.
3. **COMMUNAL KOLLYVA TRAY:** Many parishioners participate in the Saint Andrew COMMUNAL KOLLYVA TRAY. The cost for this is \$15 each week or **\$45** for all three Saturdays.

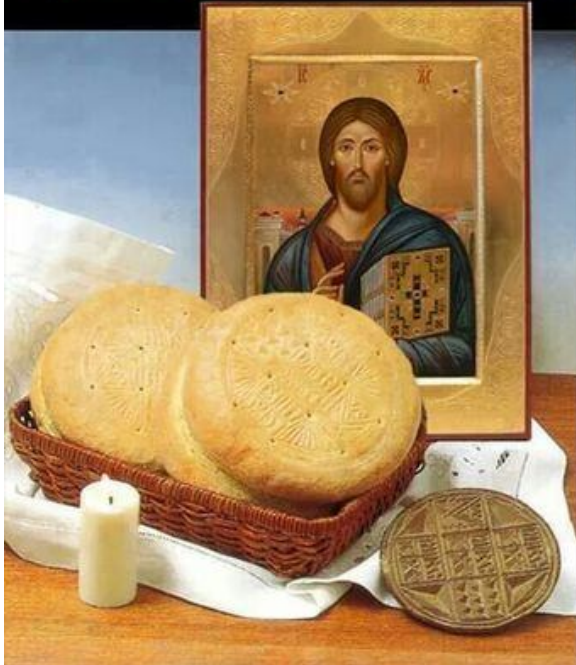
Please contact the office and make arrangements by Thursday before the Saturday of Souls.

973-584-0388 info@standrewgonj.org

ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

Ας μην ξεχνάμε όσους αγαπάμε!

Οι ψυχές των κεκοιμημένων ζουν και περιμένουν να προσευχηθούμε γι' αυτούς!



Ένα πρόσφορο για τη Θ. Λειτουργία...
Κόλλυβα για Μνημόσυνο...
Η συμμετοχή μας στη Θεία Κοινωνία...
μαζί με εγκάρδιες προσευχές...
είναι το καλύτερο δώρο
για τις ψυχές όσων νοιαζόμαστε!
Για να συγχωρεθούν,
για να αναπαυθούν...

On the SATURDAY OF SOULS

**Let us not forget
those we love!**

*The souls of those who have
laid to rest, are alive in
Christ and are waiting for
us to pray for them!*

**THREE SATURDAYS
MARCH 6, 13 & 20**

**One prosphoron for the Divine
Liturgy...**

**Kollyva for the Memorial
Service...**

**Our participation in the Divine
Liturgy & Holy Communion ...
along with heartfelt prayers...**

**is the best gift
for our beloved souls of whom
we care for!**

**so that they may be forgiven,
so that they may rest in peace ...**

St. Andrew – Randolph - March 20, 2021

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



Do you feel like you can be a voice in our Orthodox Christian community?

Do you want to work on your presentation skills?

Do you miss participating in activities with friends?

- Participate in the Junior Division (grades 7-9) or Senior Division (grades 10-12)
- One finalist from each division will represent St. Andrew at the District level in April 2021
- Parish level will be held **in-person**, socially distanced, and following all appropriate COVID-19 guidelines

For more information contact Athina Vella at amv1823@gmail.com

Junior Division (Grades 7–9)

1. Discuss the challenges and opportunities of watching a church service that is live streamed.
2. Prayer is called a “conversation with God.” Discuss the meaning of prayer in your life.
3. During the pandemic, people noticed that our natural environment became cleaner. What can this teach us about our care for the natural world?
4. Why is the Church still relevant, especially for young people, in our increasingly secular, post-COVID world?
5. Choose one parable from the Gospel of Luke chapters 15 or 16 that is particularly meaningful to you and explain what we can learn from it.

Senior Division (Grades 10–12)

1. During the stay-at-home period of the pandemic, Orthodox Christians had to find ways to practice their faith without attending church in person or participating in parish activities. Discuss what you learned during those days.
2. In July 2020, a Turkish court gave permission for Hagia Sophia to be converted from a museum into a mosque. Discuss the significance of Hagia Sophia in the history of Christianity and the power of monuments like it to inspire religious identity.
3. We live in a highly polarized society – left vs. right, personal liberty vs. common good, and other issues where it seems everything is politicized. How are we as Orthodox Christians called to navigate this environment?
4. St. Peter writes, “Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:16). What is freedom and how does it become a basis for being a servant?
5. In the Psalms we read, “If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you.” (Psalm 130:3-4, NRSV). Discuss how an Orthodox Christian understands sin, forgiveness, mercy, and repentance.

Saint Andrew GREAT LENTEN BIBLICAL STUDY

Spring 2021 | Thursdays at 7:30pm

March: 11 & 18 and April: 1 & 15

We might still be in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, but that doesn't mean that we can't make the most of the upcoming time of Great Lent. Holy Lent has so much spiritual nourishment to offer us, all we need to do is partake. At each session, we will take time to look at important Biblical themes that help us to make the most of Holy Lent. These themes will include Repentance and Forgiveness as we enter into Great Lent, Faith and Prayer, The Cross and Humility, Charity, Fasting and Divine Liturgy.

Since we cannot meet in person, we will be meeting via Google Meet which is similar to Zoom so you must **RSVP to info@standrewgonj.org to receive the link to participate.**

We hope everyone who is part of the Saint Andrew Community will take part in this virtual Lenten gathering.



PRAYER

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.

-St. Paul's letter to the Philippians

One key to a more fulfilling life is prayer. For Orthodox Christians, the aim of prayer is to enter into conversation with God. Prayer is sometimes referred to as *dialogue with God*. Often it is a *waiting on God in silence*. In the church it is defined as the *lifting of the mind and heart to God, and also as walking in the presence of God*. We turn our mind and thoughts toward Him. We mentally gaze at Him and speak with Him in reverence, fear, and hope. At times we speak to Him with words and at other times we stand in reverent silence, saying nothing, but being aware of His presence. In this dialogue with God we praise Him and thank Him. We ask Him for what we need. Our mind and our heart are opened to Him. Prayer is not only repeating words, it is trust in God that he hears and directs us in His Way involving spiritual growth and development.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
present in all places and filling all things,
the treasury of blessings and Giver of life:
come and abide in us.

Cleanse us from all impurity,
and save our souls,
O Gracious Lord.

PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

To be read each weekday during Great Lent

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth,
despair, lust of power, and idle talk.
But give rather the spirit of chastity,
humility,
patience, and love to Thy servant.
Yea, O Lord and King,
grant me to see my own transgressions,
and not to judge my brother,
for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages.
Amen.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY MARCH 14TH, 2021

God's Blessings and Stewardship: Give Back, Pay it Forward

“... The greatest of these is love.”

*Bring or mail in Your Pledge Form to be blessed on our
Second Stewardship Sunday, March 14th.*

Because these are difficult days, we are not able to fully gather in our spiritual home for prayer and fellowship. Yet, we remain united as a family of faith, always present for one another in prayerful love and support. We look forward to the time when we can all safely gather together in our beloved Saint Andrew Church.

It is important to remember that, in the words of Archbishop Elpidophoros, *“The Ekklesia extends far beyond the four walls of any church building.”* The Church is not the building, but rather, it is people of faith that remain connected, drawing spiritual nourishment from God and strength from one another. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact us and we will help in any way we can.

As leaders of our parish, we are working to build upon existing ministries and to initiate new ministries that will keep us connected as the Saint Andrew family. We have been streaming our services online since last March to keep you connected when you cannot attend.

We ask that you take a moment to evaluate your life. We are called for the sake of our church to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education, and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

A 2ND STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

The Stewardship Committee understands that submitting your pledge card may not be uppermost in your mind especially with all the COVID restrictions we all have to adhere to. Despite that, we will be celebrating a Second Stewardship Sunday on March 14th. The 2021 Pledges will be placed in a box in the Narthex of our church as you enter, then they will be brought to the solea and blessed by Fr. John.

You may ask, “Why must I commit to give a specific amount?”

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

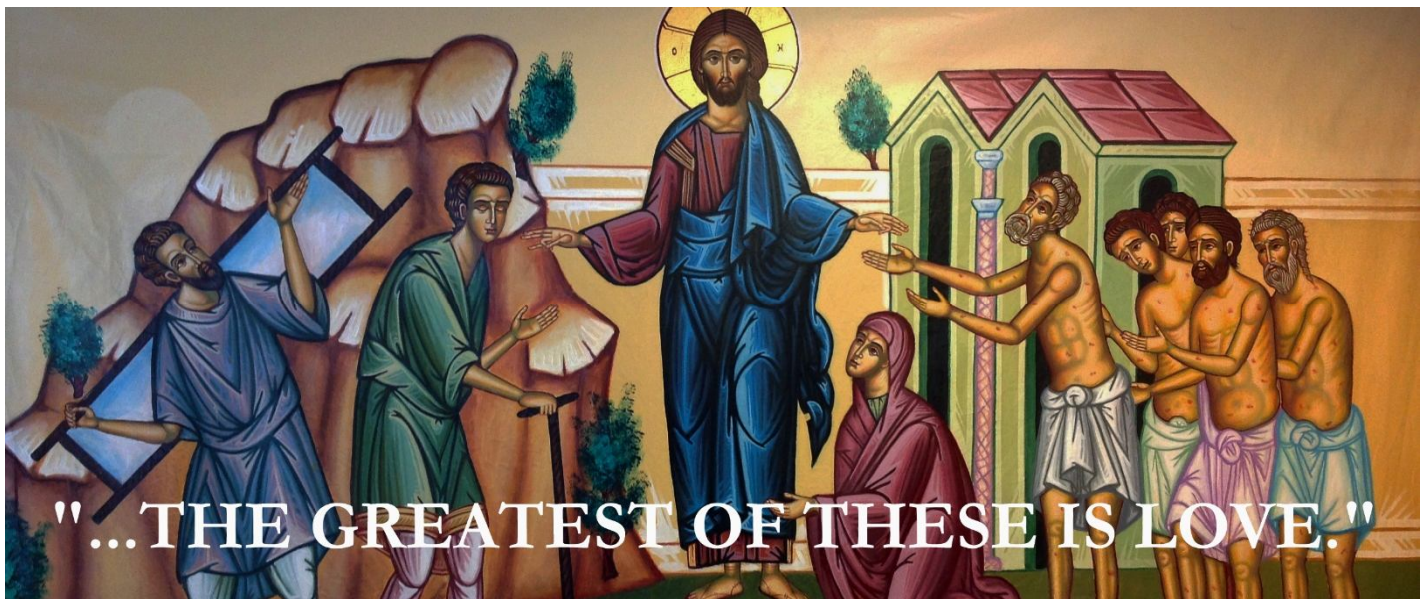
What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

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

Please continue to support our church so that together we may serve our members and our community during this difficult time. You can find the 2021 Pledge on our website. Your offerings of support may be submitted by mail to the church. We have also made online giving available on our church website (standrewgonj.org) for one-time and periodic giving.

“For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.”

–Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ 14^{ης} ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 2021

Οι Ευλογίες του Θεού και η Οικονομία: Ανταποδίδω, Πληρώνω Προκαταβολικά

«..... Η Σπουδαιότερη όλων είναι η αγάπη. »

Φέρτε μαζί σας ή ταχυδρομήστε Το Έντυπο με τη Δέσμευσή σας για να ευλογηθεί την
Δεύτερη Κυριακή της Οικονομίας, στις 14 Μαρτίου.

Με όλες αυτές τις δύσκολες μέρες, δεν μπορούμε να συγκεντρωθούμε όλοι μαζί στο πνευματικό μας σπίτι όπως παλιά για προσευχή και συντροφιά. Και όμως, παραμένουμε ενωμένοι ως μια οικογένεια πίστης, πάντα παρόντες ο ένας για τον άλλο σε προσευχή αγάπης και υποστήριξης. Περιμένουμε με ανυπομονησία την ημέρα που θα μπορούμε όλοι να μαζευόμαστε μαζί στην αγαπημένη μας Εκκλησία του Αγίου Ανδρέα.

Είναι σημαντικό να θυμόμαστε ότι, σύμφωνα με τα λόγια του Αρχιεπισκόπου Ελπιδοφόρου, «*Η Εκκλησία επεκτείνεται πολύ πιο μακριά από τους τέσσερις τοίχους οποιουδήποτε κτιρίου που είναι εκκλησία.*» Η Εκκλησία δεν είναι το κτίριο, αλλά μάλλον, είναι οι άνθρωποι της πίστης που παραμένουν συνδεδεμένοι, παίρνοντας πνευματική τροφή από τον Θεό και δύναμη ο ένας από τον άλλο. Εάν εσείς ή κάποιος που γνωρίζετε έχει ανάγκη βοήθειας, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας και εμείς θα σας βοηθήσουμε με όποιον τρόπο μπορούμε.

Ως στελέχη της ενορίας μας, εργαζόμαστε για να κτίσουμε πάνω στις ήδη υπάρχουσες ομάδες βοήθειας και για να δημιουργήσουμε νέες ομάδες που θα μας κρατήσουν ενωμένους ως η οικογένεια του Αγίου Ανδρέα. Από τον προηγούμενο Μάρτιο μεταδίδουμε τις λειτουργίες διαδικτυακά για να σας κρατήσουμε σε επαφή όταν δεν μπορείτε να προσέρχεστε.

Σας καλούμε να αφιερώσετε μία στιγμή να αξιολογήσετε την ζωή σας. Καλούμαστε για το καλό της εκκλησίας μας να προσφέρουμε τα δώρα μας, την εκπαίδευσή μας, τις ικανότητές μας, τη μόρφωσή μας και τα χαρίσματά μας στις εργασίες που ο Θεός παραθέτει έμπροσθεν μας. Εάν αυτό το κάνουμε ταπεινά και με προσευχή, το σώμα του Χριστού θα λειτουργεί πλήρως.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ

Η Επιτροπή Οικονομίας κατανοεί ότι το να υποβάλλετε την δεσμευτική σας κάρτα ίσως να μην είναι και η πρώτη σας σκέψη ειδικά με όλους τους περιορισμούς που πρέπει να σεβόμαστε λόγω του COVID. Παρ' όλα αυτά, θα εορτάσουμε μία δεύτερη Κυριακή Οικονομίας στις 14 Μαρτίου. Οι δεσμεύσεις σας για το 2021 θα τοποθετηθούν μέσα σε ένα κουτί στον Νάρθηκα της εκκλησίας στην είσοδο, έπειτα θα μεταφερθούν στον σολέα και θα τα ευλογήσει ο Πατέρας Ιωάννης.

Ίσως ερωτήσετε, «Γιατί πρέπει να δεσμευθώ να δώσω συγκεκριμένο ποσό;»

Παρακαλώ να έχετε κατά νου ότι η οικονομική συνεισφορά σας παραμένει αυστηρά απόρρητη. Όμως, παρακολουθούμε τα ποσά που έχετε τάξει για να σχεδιάζουμε καλύτερα τον προϋπολογισμό μας.

Και αν δεν μπορέσω να εκπληρώσω τη συνεισφορά που υποσχέθηκα;

Κατά τη διάρκεια του χρόνου, οι συνθήκες στη ζωή καμιά φορά αλλάζουν. Η συνεισφορά σας εκτιμάται γιατί δίδεται από αγάπη στον Θεό και την Εκκλησία Του. Σας παρακαλούμε να μην στεναχωριέστε αν δεν μπορέσετε να εκπληρώσετε την οικονομική σας δέσμευση – χαιρόμαστε που είστε μέλη της ενορίας μας. Ο Θεός γνωρίζει τις καλές προθέσεις σας.

Σας παρακαλούμε να συνεχίσετε να υποστηρίζετε την εκκλησία μας ώστε όλοι μαζί να υπηρετούμε τα μέλη μας και την κοινότητά μας κατά τη διάρκεια αυτού του δύσκολου καιρού. Μπορείτε να υποβάλλετε τις προσφορές σας στήριξης ταχυδρομικώς προς την εκκλησία. Επίσης, έχετε τη δυνατότητα να προσφέρετε ηλεκτρονικά στον ιστότοπο της εκκλησίας (standrewgonj.org) είτε μία φορά είτε περιοδικά.

«Αφού ο Θεός, αν και Αθάνατος, επέλεξε να εργαστεί μέσω ημών, μέσω των προσφορών μας, για να συνεχίσει το έργο Του της διάσωσης στον σημερινό κόσμο.»

-Πατήρ Αντώνιος Κονιάρης

“Christ comes to Seek and Save the Lost?”

was offered in English. We are happy to be able to include the same article for our Greek readers

Ο Χριστός Έρχεται να Αναζητήσει και να Σώσει τους Χαμένους

Από τον Πατέρα Ιωάννη Θεοδοσίου

Η Κυριακή του Ζακχαίου, μία από τις πέντε Κυριακές ακριβώς πριν τη Μεγάλη Νηστεία. Αυτή είναι η πρώτη Κυριακή που αρχίζουμε να μιλάμε για πράγματα που θα μας προετοιμάσουν για τη Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή. Γιατί άραγε το Άγιο Πνεύμα διάλεξε αυτό το ανάγνωσμα (Λουκά 19:1-10), για να μας προετοιμάσει για τη Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή; Αναφέρεται λοιπόν, σε έναν άνθρωπο που μετανοεί. Είναι μια ιστορία για το πώς μία ψυχή μεταλλάσσεται. Δείχνει πώς η ψυχή μπορεί να αλλάξει. Αυτός δεν είναι ο σκοπός της ζωής μας; Να αλλάζουμε, να γινόμαστε σαν τον Χριστό, να γινόμαστε αγνοί. Η Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή είναι η εποχή του χρόνου που πρέπει να εστιάζουμε στην μεταμέλεια με περισσότερη επιμέλεια.

Ο Ζακχαίος άλλαξε μέσω του Ιησού Χριστού, και επίσης μέσω της εφαρμογής της θέλησης που είχε. Είναι μια περίπτωση μελέτης για το πώς να ζεις τη Χριστιανική ζωή, πώς να ΑΠΟΦΑΣΙΣΕΙΣ να αλλάξεις, πώς να ΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΕΙΣ να αλλάξεις, και πώς αφού ΔΕΧΤΕΙΣ το έλεος του Θεού, θα ΑΠΟΦΑΣΙΣΕΙΣ να συνεχίσεις να διορθώνεσαι και να γίνεσαι καλύτερος. Όλα αυτά τα στοιχεία βρίσκονται σε αυτή την ιστορία.

Ο Ζακχαίος ήταν τελώνης (ο Άγιος Λουκάς λέει πως ήταν ο αρχιτελώνης) και ήταν πλούσιος. Αυτό σίγουρα υποδηλώνει πως ήταν πολύ κακός άνθρωπος στην αρχή της ζωής του. Επίσης εξαπάτησε πολλούς ανθρώπους. Οι τελώνες δεν ήταν μόνο αυτοί που εισέπραταν φόρους. Ήταν κατά κανόνα διεφθαρμένοι, συχνά απατεώνες, και κλέφτες. Λήστευαν τις χήρες για να έχουν πλούτο

στα παλάτια τους. Ο Ζακχαίος ήταν ο χειρότερος όλων, ήταν το «πρώτο σκυλί», μα η συνείδησή του τον ενοχλούσε. Ακόμη και εν μέσω της απείσιας συμπεριφοράς του, υπήρχε ένας μικρός σπόρος μέσα του, που περίμενε να καλλιεργηθεί. Τον προβληματίζε και του έλεγε ότι «αυτό που κάνω είναι λάθος, αυτό που κάνω δεν με γεμίζει. Αυτό που κάνω είναι κακό και άθλιο και διεφθαρμένο.» Αυτές οι κρίσεις συνεχίστηκαν για αρκετά χρόνια, αφού παίρνει πολύ καιρό να εξελιχθεί σε ΑΡΧΙΤΕΛΩΝΗΣ. Κατά τη διάρκεια αυτών των χρόνων, καλλιεργούνταν η συνείδησή του. Ο Ζακχαίος ήταν Ιουδαίος, αλλά απείσιος Ιουδαίος. Βέβαια, γνώριζε τον Ιουδαϊκό νόμο, και για τον Μεσσία. Είχε ακούσει όσα λέγονταν για τον Ιησού. Μάλιστα, ως αρχιτελώνης, του προσφέρονταν η πιο σημαντική θέση στις συγκεντρώσεις, από τους αρχη-υποκριτές, τους Φαρισαίους, και Σαδδουκαίους. Προφανώς άκουγε συχνά για τον Χριστό. Όταν έμαθε για Αυτόν, με κάποιο τρόπο κατάλαβε πως είχε κάτι θαυμάσιο, και στο βάθος της προσωπικής του διαφθοράς, ήθελε να μάθει για Αυτόν. Η περιέργειά του για τα άγια πράγματα θα οδηγήσει στη λύτρωσή του, όπως έγινε και με την Αγία Μαρία την Αιγυπτία.

Ήθελε να δει τον Ιησού, ποιός ήταν, αλλά δεν μπορούσε, «για τον τύπο».

Θυμάστε την παραβολή του τυφλού που επιθυμούσε την ίαση από τον Χριστό και έπρεπε να φωνάξει για να ακουστεί πάνω από την κακοφωνία της πίεσης. Του έλεγαν συνεχώς ξανά και ξανά «Ησυχία, ησυχία, μην Τον ενοχλείς.» Τί είναι η

πίεση; Είναι τα πάθη μας, οι αμαρτίες μας, οι αμφιβολίες, η απόγνωση, και η τεμπελιά. Μερικές φορές είναι οι άλλοι που μας λένε ότι είμαστε τρελλοί, ή ότι εγώ δεν ζω έτσι, εσύ γιατί είσαι φανατισμένος; Και εντός και εκτός της εκκλησίας δεχόμαστε τέτοιο πόλεμο και πειρασμό. Αυτό είναι που αποκαλούμε πίεση.

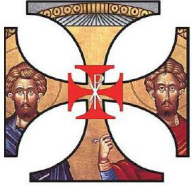
Ο Ζακχαίος δεν μπορούσε την πίεση, επειδή είχε μικρό ανάστημα. Ήταν πολύ μικρός, και αδύναμος. Δεν μπορούσε να δει τον Θεό χωρίς κάποια βοήθεια. Έτρεξε προς τον Χριστό, γνωρίζοντας τον δρόμο του Χριστού, πού επρόκειτο να πάει. Εάν είχε σκαρφαλώσει σε ένα δέντρο κάπου στα περίχωρα, δεν θα είχε δει τον Χριστό, γιατί ο Χριστός πορεύονταν στο κέντρο της πόλης της Ιεριχούς. Έπρεπε να βρίσκεται εκεί που θα ήταν ο Χριστός. Ο κάθε ένας από εμάς πρέπει να είναι στο δρόμο του Χριστού, για να πει ο Χριστός κατέβα, όπως είπε και στον Ζακχαίο.

Έτσι και εμείς, ας σκαρφαλώσουμε πάνω σε μια συκομουριά και ας ανυψώσουμε τις σκέψεις μας. Ενω εξυψώνουμε τις σκέψεις μας, ας διορθώσουμε προσεκτικά και την προσοχή μας. Ενώ ο Ζακχαίος ήταν πάνω στο δέντρο, σίγουρα δεν εξέταζε τον φλοιό τους ή τα φύλλα τους. Κοιτούσε προσεκτικά, σκιάζοντας τα μάτια του, και παραφύλαγε πότε και πού ο Θεός – άνθρωπος θα εμφανιζόταν. Την ίδια ώρα γελοιοποιούνταν. Μπορείτε να φανταστείτε πως αυτός ο άνθρωπος που ήταν ο αρχιτελώνης ανάμεσα στους τελώνηδες σίγουρα έτρωγε εκλεκτό φαγητό και πολύ πιθανώς ήταν και λίγο παχύς. Ένας χοντρούλης σκαρφαλωμένος στο δέντρο σίγουρα ήταν ένα αστείο θέαμα. Εμείς ως Χριστιανοί επίσης αισθανόμαστε εκτεθειμένοι στη δική μας παράνομη συκιά. Ο κόσμος μας λέει πως αυτό που κάνουμε είναι ανόητο. Ακόμη και Ορθόδοξοι μπορεί να μας χλευάζουν και να λένε ότι αυτό που κάνουμε είναι ανόητο. Ακόμη και εμείς οι ίδιοι ίσως βασανίζουμε τον εαυτό μας αναρωτώμενοι: «ποιός

ο λόγος, ποιό το όφελος;» Πολεμάμε εμείς οι ίδιοι τον εαυτό μας, επίσης άλλοι πολεμούν εναντίον μας, οι δαίμονες μας πολεμούν, και καμμιά φορά αναρωτιόμαστε ποιός ΕΙΝΑΙ με το μέρος μας, όταν ξεχνάμε ότι ο μόνος οικοδεσπότης του παραδείσου, ο άνθρωπος- Θεός Ιησούς Χριστός, είναι μαζί μας. Θα έπρεπε να είμαστε πρόθυμοι να αλλάξουμε όπως ο Ζακχαίος. Σαν αυτόν, παλεύουμε με τις αμαρτίες μας, πρέπει να είμαστε σαν αυτόν στον αγώνα μας να γίνουμε ενάρετοι. Θα έπρεπε να σκαρφαλώσουμε και εμείς στο δέντρο, και να συγκεντρώσουμε τις σκέψεις μας στο Χριστό, και να μην νοιαζόμαστε υπερβολικά για άλλα πράγματα (η πίεση), που συμβαίνουν γύρω μας.

Ο Ζακχαίος μας κάνει μια μεγάλη χάρη δίνοντάς μας να μελετήσουμε μία περίπτωση μετανοίας. Θα έπρεπε όλοι να μάθουμε κάτι από αυτόν. Έχω ακούσει τόσους πολλούς να μου λένε «Δεν βλέπω καμμία αλλαγή στη ζωή μου, και δε νιώθω τίποτα.» Ο τρόπος που βρίσκουμε την αλλαγή στη ζωή μας, και ο τρόπος που βλέπουμε και αισθανόμαστε τον Θεό, είναι να έχουμε διαρκή αγώνα, σε βάθος χρόνου. Δεν υπάρχει άλλη λύση. Η εκκλησία δεν γνωρίζει τίποτε άλλο, παρά την εγκαρτέρηση, την επιμονή, και προσευχή, και την ελπίδα. Πρέπει να προσανατολιστούμε στον δρόμο του Χριστού, και να ανυψώσουμε τις σκέψεις μας. Τότε ο Θεός θα έλθει στο άτακτο δέντρο μας, και θα φέρει τη σωτηρία στο σπίτι μας. Στο τέλος, η παρουσία Του θα μας είναι τόσο αληθινή που όλα τα άλλα στον «κόσμο» θα μας φαίνονται ψεύτικα. Προσεύχομαι ο Θεός να σας βοηθάει στον αγώνα σας, και την καρτερικότητά σας σε όλες τις δοκιμασίες και δυσκολίες, ώστε όταν ο Θεός σας καλέσει, θα ακούσετε, και θα «κατέβετε από τον άτακτο τρόπο της ζωής σας», και μετά ο Θεός θα κατοικεί στο σπίτι σας όπως έγινε με τον Ζακχαίο.

Adaptation by Maria Kiritsis of Athens, GR



SAINT ANDREW PHILOPTOCHOS



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Philoptochos Scholarship

Dear Graduating Senior,

The St Andrew Philoptochos invites you to apply for scholarship consideration.

The award will be based on the following eligibility criteria:

1. Parents are Stewards of St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church.
2. Involvement and participation in Church activities.
3. Required academic information:
 - Official high school transcript (must be in a sealed envelope from the Guidance Office).
 - SAT or ACT scores (can appear on transcript or printed from College Board web site).
 - Two letters of recommendation with at least one being from a teacher.
 - A list detailing Church community involvement: activities and organizations to which you belong and your specific role in each of these activities and organizations.
 - Extra-curricular activities outside the Church community.
 - An essay in which the applicant explains how their experiences as a member of the St. Andrew community have prepared them for their future. Submit a clear printout of the essay with the application.

Note: if you took a year off after high school, detail on a separate sheet your activities in the year since high school graduation.

To obtain a copy of the application, please contact the church office or any Philoptochos Board Member or download it from the church website or E-Bulletin.

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
1447 Sussex Turnpike
Randolph, NJ 07869
Attn: Philoptochos Scholarship Committee

Completed application must be postmarked on or before **May 14, 2021** or hand-delivered by that date.

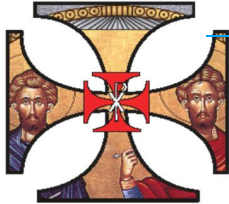
The Scholarship winners will be announced in **June 2021**

We welcome your application and wish you success in the review process.

The Scholarship Committee

1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869-1830

Saint Andrew Family News March 2021



LENT - A PHILANTHROPIC JOURNEY

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus offers a parable about stewardship. Three servants are each given a “talent” for which he is accountable. Isn’t this what it means to be a steward? In the parable, a talent is an enormous sum of money, more than anyone could ever earn in a lifetime. Three servants are given talents according to how their master confidently believes each can work to utilize and to increase these talents. They are being asked to be good stewards. But Jesus clearly is not concerned about financial growth, so that His use of this word “talent” can also mean our special characteristics that define each of us in a unique way. Each of these unique talents is indispensable to the whole. But do you know your “talent” and more importantly, how are you making it increase?

If the “kingdom of heaven is LIKE a man traveling to a far country” then his “return” is also “like the kingdom of heaven. All human action could be occurring in this kingdom. If we are, then the “man” in returning expects an accountability. What have we done with what we have been given?

This is very serious, because the same “kingdom of heaven” that is like a “man traveling to a far country” is the same “kingdom of heaven” that is like a “man returning from a far country and expecting accountability”. Many of us have a childish sense of “heaven” as some place where what we know of life has ended and we live in a peaceful, loving presence with God. What if we are wrong? What if the “kingdom of heaven” is how you live your life and bring increase to your gifts, your “talents”? Jesus does not tell us a story to frighten us into doing the least. Jesus is telling us that if we do not, we are not going to be in the “kingdom of heaven”, that we will

lose what we cling to and then be “cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:30). This is a frightful, even terrifying warning to each of us from Jesus Himself to show increase with whatever amount you have been given.

The intent of this parable is to awaken you to an accountability for the talents you have received, and the fact that the “kingdom of heaven” may require your talents to have shown increase here and NOW! This does not, however, imply earning your way by service, by accruing merit points. But it does reveal everything about you, who you really are. Which of the three do you NOT want to be?

As an Orthodox Christian, how can I use my talents, my gifts, to help, to show increase? That should be your first stop - assessing how I can help with what I have been given. We each need to realize our limitations and our abilities. I cannot help anyone with something for which I have no talent. Here are some thoughts to help you:

1. Being stewards, each of us is being called to donate our talents for the service of others. It is not that anyone skill has more value than another, but how it is used to help those in need that reveals the true value of any skill. Volunteering to serve salads in the Faith Kitchen is equal in value with the preparation of the meal that is served. It is what is being done to help those in need that constitutes the value of any action.
2. This pandemic has severely hindered our ability to help the poor and needy. We have both a lack of needed financial support and a shortage in material

supplies that can meet the need of those asking for our help.

3. The reality of our situation has provided new opportunities for ways to contribute to helping others. Your ability to provide financial support and restore the supply shortages is one crucial way to show “increase” in what you have been given.
4. We are in a critical time where our very Orthodox Christian identity is being challenged to express itself in actions that reach out to the poor and needy. It is a time where how we respond to the “least of my brethren” is a direct answer to Jesus Himself. You may see this distressing time as a blessing to you because here is an opportunity to live



out your “talents” within the very kingdom you wish to enter.

Lent is upon us, and what would be a better way to begin the Lenten journey than to offer your help, your “talents”, to help your brothers and sisters in need! Please continue to support our St. Andrew Church and the philanthropic efforts of the Philoptochos. Both desperately need your commitment to help so that as we travel the path of our Lenten journey, let us, like the Good Samaritan, help those who we meet along the way.

Have a blessed Lenten journey!
In the service of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Maro Nicolaou Schuster,
Philoptochos, Corresponding secretary

Lent: A Journey Home

Every year most of us have an annual physical with our doctor. Vital physical tests are conducted to assess the health of our bodies. Areas that need improvement will demand changes to one’s lifestyle to restore good health. Many of these changes will be in diet. Perhaps our way of eating has not been very healthy, so that a conscious effort is needed to get things back on the right track. Often, exercise now becomes an essential routine. We all know how unpleasant exercise is when first begun. Initial pain produces reluctance to continue, but if we persevere, we begin to enjoy the feeling of a healthier body and this produces a healthier mind set. Being healthy helps one function better in life and allows the joys of life to permeate each day.

But have you ever had an annual “soul” check-up? How healthy is your spiritual living? Sadly, many of us, without even realizing it, neglect our soul’s health. Unlike the way our body can be evaluated, the soul needs different tools. Lent is our invitation

to us to examine the health of our soul’s spiritual health.

Great Lent, beginning March 15, is almost always associated with “giving something up” for 40 days. This is almost always “meats and dairy”, Sadly, Lent is then experienced as a constant struggle with what you have “given up”. What is given up owns us more than ever and becomes the biggest distraction from the purpose of Lent.

Lent is a journey that begins with *Repentance*. “Lent is not a time for self-inflicted agony or self-improving therapy. It is greeted as the *sanctified season* consecrated to the correction, purification, and enlightenment of the total person through the fulfillment of the commandments of the crucified God.” (*The Lenten Spring*, Thomas Hopko, (1983), page 11). Repentance is an honest acceptance of our current spiritual condition as being impoverished, so that like the prodigal son, we make a conscious

decision to travel in a new direction towards life. Lent reminds each of us how deeply embedded we are in the world. Eating and drinking center most of our social interactions. We almost never gather for spiritual fellowship. Have you ever wondered why that is? During Lent, we are called to recognize how we are living our lives. We have managed to drive Sin out of our living by making it irrelevant to our times. What was once Sin is now given psychological explanations rather than spiritual explanations, so that the illness of our soul persists. We experience this is a quest for “meaning”, as if something is missing that needs to be found to have a full life.

By going on a journey, you allow the journey to direct you. Is Lent a journey of simply fasting? If you were going on a diet, fasting would be a wonderful way to arrive at your destination. But if the Lenten journey brings you before the “crucified God”, do you think being a little leaner is how you ought to arrive? Lent begins by considering what we expect to find once we arrive at our destination. What will fasting alone achieve? Do we even understand why we ought to change our ways, why we should repent? Lent is the “sanctified season” in which we do not “give up” but “take on” the requirements of “correction, purification, and enlightenment” that comes from the “fulfillment of the commandments of Christ”. Do we know what these “commandments of Christ” are and how we should live them? If not, then perhaps Lent is the time to open the Gospel of John and do some serious study. We cannot live the commandments if we do not even know what they are.

You cannot do this alone. This kind of study of the Gospel of John requires guidance. It is the role of our St. Andrew Church and Fr. John to help us in our Lenten journey. There are weekly services that focus on the challenges of a Lenten journey. By attending, either in person or online, you will receive help in understanding spiritual things. Once you begin to

comprehend these deeper things, your fasting is empowered. You will have less and less of a struggle with the things you have given up as the things you have taken up begin to nourish you in new and mysterious ways.

Lent invites us to Purification. “For I AM a jealous God” is the warning against idolatry. Many dislike the word “jealous” but it is perfectly clear - God is Life and anything that replaces God brings death! It is a hard truth. Idolatry? We are far too smart for that, but are we? What centers how we live? Have you ever given thought to that? Lent invites us to purification of an idolatry expressed as the “Passions”. “The passions represent the lowest level to which human nature can fall. Man is brought to them to a state of passivity, of slavery. They overcome the will. Passions are an unquenchable thirst.” (*Orthodox Spirituality*, Dumitru Staniloae, (2003), page 77). If you struggle to give anything up for Lent, perhaps this has become a passion you serve, and if you serve this passion, it becomes your idol. Therefore, Lent urges each of us to purification, to rid ourselves of anything that takes priority over God. Passions own us if we allow them into our lives. The real reason for this is that we are programmed for God, but the passions imagine they can function as “gods” and provide our thirst for the infinite. The very first place for the passions to manifest their futile attempt to give us a reality is our “stomach”! This is a very serious challenge, but if we are to be honest about our spiritual health, we must be honest with ourselves. Fasting now helps reveal our passions.

This is a particularly difficult year. The pandemic has isolated us from worshipping together. We are not receiving the much-needed spiritual food received through the Divine Liturgy and the Eucharist. Many simply do not know how to read the Bible in a prayerful way. It would not be an understatement to say that we are in a spiritual

crisis. That is why Lent this year has become extremely important for the re-evaluation of our spiritual health. Each of us is challenged to focus on what we will “take up” and not what we uncomfortably “give up”! It is a journey of REPENTANCE that leads to the action of PURIFICATION. The soul of each of us is thirsting for Christ’s living presence, but it cannot



happen if the world keeps Him out. Do not let the world overcome God. When God tells us WHO God is, we need to listen! Make this Lent more than an obligatory “giving up”; make this Lent your returning journey to the crucified God now RISEN! The time has come to come home!

Herbert Schuster

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

MARCH - EDUCATION AND THE PANDEMIC 2020 - 2021

Parents, as a teacher and counselor, I can understand your frustration with the education of our children during this trying time of the current pandemic. It was a year ago in **March 2020**, when we were exposed to changes in schools when they abruptly closed and went to remote schooling. Teachers and the schools were unprepared! Administration was unprepared! Parents were unprepared! Students were unprepared! Educators had to confront ongoing efforts to meet the academic need and well as the physical and social and emotional needs of students. A lot of the responsibility came on who? You, the parents, were now given a responsibility you were not prepared for, most of the time.

Think back to a year ago when we were informed schools will need to adjust to remote learning. Running around to gather all materials from your children’s schools. Did you have laptops, i-pads, computers at home for your children to follow along with their classes at a time when even the teachers had to be trained to a new way of teaching. What about the special-needs children? Hmm...Everyone had to buy electronic devices when stores were closing, figure out how to connect, let me not go on and on about this!

March 2020 - Stress was all around and affected schools and homes. Some parents had to leave work, find babysitters, yiayia, pappou, to help the children

and if there was more than one child in the household, who do you help set up first? Zoom???? Whoever heard of Zoom sessions a year ago? By now, **March 2021**, parents are experts on Zoom, Google Classroom, distant learning, and all the “fun”!!! (I hope you see I am being sarcastic)!

Today many schools are still only dealing with distant learning, but most are in hybrid learning where some are in school every other day, and some half days, some full days if they were able to meet all the requirements. That was impossible last March through June. Safety is a priority depending on the atmosphere and physical environment of the classroom, social distancing, having enough teachers, and of course this September, masks, masks, masks, social distancing, no large groups together, quarantining, etc. This of course applied to the work environment as well, churches, Greek School, Sunday School, sports, etc. You know what I am talking about!

With distance and hybrid learning, teachers work harder to develop positive relationships with and among students as they do not see each other often. Teachers work on innovative ways to build trust and identity safety where your children can feel welcomed, accepted, valued, and safe. Be patient with the teachers as some teach from home, some from the building itself, and some had to leave as it was too much for them. I believe out of the 50 states, New

Jersey rates number one in providing the best education to their students despite all the difficulties. Some teachers even volunteered to work with the younger students individually if they needed extra help. The elementary students are the most difficult to reach. Now we are in March, most are in a routine and hopefully if we can, their schools will re-open “normally” in September.

Teachers are still in training and the positive is that they have developed relationships with their peers. Elementary teachers share best practices in distant learning with the secondary teachers as they have monthly, and some weekly Zoom sessions with their colleagues and with administrators at different times. They share what works and what does not.

The students have stepped up too! The older ones help the younger ones and even the younger ones help you! It has been a difficult time, and now in **March 2021**, we will still need to adjust, but let us hope we can overcome the difficulties.

Our children, our students, they are our future. They want to see our eyes, they need to hear our voices, they want to see what our hands are doing, and most importantly, they need to know what is in our heart and how much we care. Our smiles are missing with the masks when they are hybrid in school, so I believe smiling should be mandatory for now during Zoom and Google Classroom and at home as well! Make sure you pray aloud with them and give them hope for the future.

This month’s **Table Prayer Guide** is from **Reverend Father Epiphanius Theodoropoulos – Counsels for Life, “For Families”**.

“For the correct upbringing of your children: few words, much example, and more prayer are necessary.”

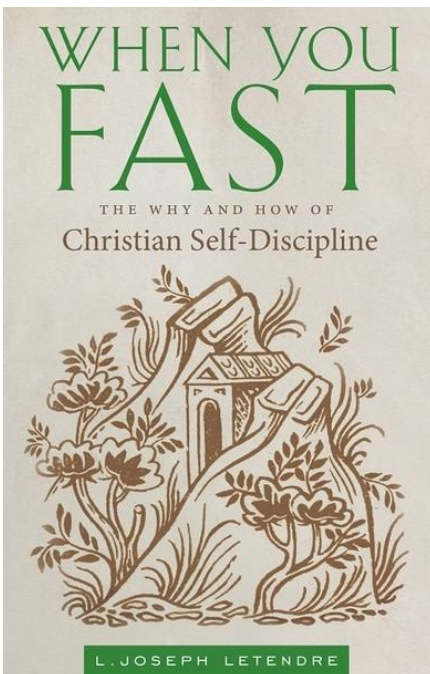
Feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions for our “Parents’ Corner” at: alexandraproto@gmail.com - Have a good month!

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

Alexandra Protopapas MEd

Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences – Retired, but currently at: Educational Services of Morris County (ESC) (currently at Academy of St Elizabeth, Trinity Christian School, Parsippany Schools)

(Information, Teaching, Tutoring, Counseling, Homebound Instruction (973-214-2583)



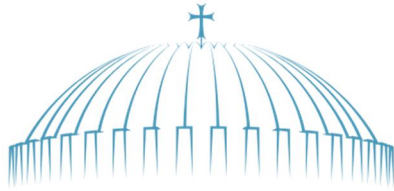
WHEN YOU FAST

by L. Joseph Letendre

In this companion volume to the popular *When You Pray*, L. Joseph Letendre explores the underpinnings of the Church's practice of fasting and of ascetic discipline in general. Rather than being preoccupied with the details of food regulations, he helps the reader understand the purpose of fasting and how to enter into it more willingly and fully.

About the Author: L. Joseph Letendre is the author of *When You Pray* from Ancient Faith Publishing as well as the popular guide, *Preparing for Confession*. His writing has also appeared in *Touchstone*, *The Reformation and Revival Journal*, and *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*. He recorded the audiobook of St. Nikolai Velimirovic's *Prayers by the Lake* for AFP. He holds degrees in psychology, philosophy, and education, as well as an MDiv from St. Vladimir's Seminary. He is a parishioner at All Saints Antiochian Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL.

Order online from Ancient Faith Store (\$12.95)



SAINT NICHOLAS
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH & NATIONAL SHRINE
 AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If there is one thing that our Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine will represent to every American, it will be that religious freedom cannot be thwarted, cannot be stifled, cannot be overcome. When that terrorist attack destroyed the Twin Towers and everything around them, including Saint Nicholas, and thousands of our fellow human beings met an unjust and terrible death, it was an attack not simply on our way of life. As it was motivated by religious hatred, it was a direct attack on the freedom of religion enshrined in our Constitution.

As I reflect on this Bicentennial Year of Greek Independence and the courage of the Heroes of 1821 who rose up for their Faith and their Nation – ὑπὲρ πίστεως καὶ πατρίδος, I think of all the generations of men and women of conscience who have fought for their spiritual liberty, even in the face of great odds. In 1821, the challenges facing the Greek People seemed insurmountable, but their faith and character carried the day. Likewise, in the face of the terror of 9/11, the task of rebuilding our lives seemed equally insurmountable.

Like those Greeks of two hundred years ago, who regained their Parthenon for posterity, we have also struggled to regain our Saint Nicholas. It is not without significance that marble from the same vein that Pericles mined to build the greatest single symbol of democracy the world has ever seen, is being used to clad our National Shrine. By this choice, we are signaling to the world that faith can only flourish in freedom, and as proud Greek Orthodox, we invoke the very stones of Greece to bear witness. Just as our Lord Jesus Christ did on his Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday:

And when Jesus drew near to Jerusalem, as He descended of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen. They cried out: "Blessed be the King that comes in the Name of the Lord: peace in Heaven, and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus: "Rabbi, rebuke your disciples!" And Jesus answered them, "I tell you that if My disciples are silenced, the stones will immediately cry out."

(Luke 19:37-40)

The stones of Saint Nicholas stand for a free and positive exercise of religious freedom for every person, not only for Orthodox Christians. We rebuilt the Church for the same reason the World Trade Center was rebuilt – because the destruction and tyranny of hatred cannot be allowed to stand. At one level, it did not matter what House of Worship was destroyed on 9/11; it had to be rebuilt. But it has fallen to us, the Greek Orthodox People of America to meet the challenge to rebuild as a sign of love, of faith, and of hope. We have and we will, and even more so, in this auspicious year of the Bicentennial of Greek Independence.

With paternal Blessings in Christ,

Ὁ Ἀμερικᾶς Ἐπιτοποφῶρος
 Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



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*



DIAMOND PARTNER

The Randolph DINER
BAR and GRILL

517 Route 10 East, Randolph • 973.328.2400
therandolphdiner.com

Brooklyn BAGEL & DELI
& MEDITERRANEAN FOOD MARKET

517 Route 10 East, Randolph • 862.244.9073
brooklynbagelanddeli.com

chilly yogurt

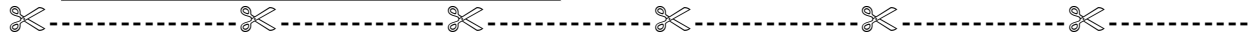
Frozen yogurt & Cliff's homemade ice cream – you can't beat that!
517 Route 10 East, Randolph • 862.397.4734

DIAMOND PARTNER

The All New
TOWNSQUARE DINER
SERVING NORTH JERSEY
SINCE 1987

320 Rt 15 South, Wharton
973-366-7309
townsquare-diner.com

**The Sedereas
and Paxos Families
Welcome You!**



HONOR GIFT

SAINT ANDREW | 1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE | RANDOLPH, NJ 07869-1830

Please pray for the Health of _____ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.

Kindly accept this **HONOR GIFT** for the occasion of:

NAME DAY, BIRTHDAY, WEDDING, ANNIVERSARY, GRADUATION .. OTHER

as a token of Love, please **ACKNOWLEDGE** my/our gift to:

NAME & ADDRESS OF HONOREE: _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF DONOR(S): _____

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



Saturday, March 13 | 7pm

Toasting from home... together!

Join us virtually as experts from Stew Leonard's lead a special taste experience from the comfort of your own home. Each tasting kit includes three bottles of wine, three companion cheeses, crackers and snacks, and a donation to IOCC.

Tickets and info at:

iocc.org/northjersey

or

Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis <vasilikitf@gmail.com>

\$100 Early Bird Tasting Package (by 3/5)

\$125 Tasting Package (by 3/8)

Tasting packages will be available for pickup March 12-13 at
Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph, NJ

P.S. If you aren't able to join us live on March 13 but still want to help, visit
iocc.org/northjersey to make a donation.

Sacrament of Chrismation

On Sunday, February 6th at 10:00 am William Henry Wendt was received into the Greek Orthodox Church by the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation with the chrismation name of **WILLIAM**. Celebrant priest was Fr. John Theodosion and sponsor was Yotta Vlastakis. *Congratulations to all!*

Honor Gift for appreciation of: **The Tirondola Family** **donated by** Anthony Smorra

Obit & Funeral – Νεκρολογία και Κηδεία

+**Peter Tsakiris** |1936 – 2021| Peter was born on April 17th, 1936 in Loutraki, Greece, the third of five siblings. At a young age, he lived through the ravages of World War II when his home was occupied by German soldiers. His family survived the war, but soon after they were marked by tragedy once again when they lost their father to illness.

Peter became a merchant marine and had the opportunity to travel the seas all over the world. He immigrated to the United States in search of a better life, following in the footsteps of his father who had previously come to the United States through Ellis Island in 1920.

Having always wanted to start his own family, Peter married Soula in 1970 and they had three sons. He worked hard to achieve the American dream and established his own business as a house painter until he lost his vision. Peter was a hardworking man, devoted husband, and wonderful father who loved his family dearly and instilled the values of a strong work ethic, honesty, and integrity to his children.

Peter passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, January 25th, 2021 on his 51st wedding anniversary, surrounded by his family under the care of his loving wife, Soula. He is survived by his sons, Andy, Demetri, and John, his three daughters-in-law, his four adoring grandchildren, and his three sisters. He will be dearly missed.

The funeral service was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Friday, January 29th at 11:00 a.m. followed by **internment** at the Evergreen Cemetery in Morristown, N.J. May his memory be eternal.



“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” –Romans 14:8

Donations Received +In Memory of:

+**Andreas Christodoulou**

Christos & Natalie
Koutsokoumnis
Yammel Sanchez-Ocana
Michael & Cathy Barrett
David & Georgia Bulko
Steve & Anna Zavros
Spiro & Mary Hadjiyerou
John & Maria Kostakis
Michael & Cathy Barrett
Marion Economo
George & Marina Venizelos
Eftychia Gizas
Joanne Varratos Diamantidis
Takis & Soultana Seretis
George Milonas
Evangelos & Irene Kalavriziotis
Vasilios & Voula Seretis

+**Eilish Marie Loughran**

Vasilios & Voula Seretis

+**Spyros Moraitis**

James Baldwin
Wesley & Chrisanthy LaBua
Spiro & Mary Hadjiyerou
Maria Carsburg
Vasilios & Voula Seretis

+**Evangelia Papastavrou**

Spiro & Mary Hadjiyerou

+**Margaret Paxos**

Nick & Linda Paxos

+**Katie Sedereas**

John & Carol Karipidis
Vasilios & Voula Seretis

+**Richard Smith**

Costa & Mary Demos

+**Peter Tsakiris**

John, Christine & Sonja Jajko
Patricia, David & Tanya Senior
Georgia Simonis
Chrysanthe Borzeka
Froso Kontominas
Dimitrios & Haroula Drosos

+**Stephanie Tsemberlis**

George Milonas

+**Fr. Demetri Tsigas**

Steve & Anna Zavros
Peter & Julie Ioannou
Elizabeth Montgomery
Thomas & Carol Mpakarakes
Athena Mantgas
Spiro & Mary Hadjiyerou
Vasilios & Voula Seretis

+**Parishioners Who Passed Away During Pandemic**

St. Andrew Philoptochos

**SAINT ANDREW CALENDAR * LOOK FOR UPDATES ON WEEKLY E BULLETIN
WEEKLY SCHEDULE: TBA, TBC, TBD, TBR**

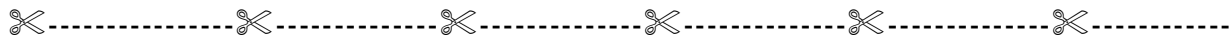
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

Hellenic Afternoon School Mondays and Thursdays 4:30pm

3/6 SATURDAY OF SOULS also on 3/13 & 3/20
 3/6 & 3/7 GYRO FEST (see pg 7)
 3/8 @7:30pm Stewardship Sunday **virtual**
 3/11 @7:30pm Lenten Study and 3/18, 4/1 & 4/15
 3/14 2nd Stewardship Sunday (see pg 20)
 3/15 Great Lent begins
 3/20 @12:30pm SJC Oratorical Festival (see pg 18)
 3/22 @7:30PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **VIRTUAL**
 3/23 @ 7PM PHILOPTOCHOS MONTHLY MEETING **virtual**
 3/25 @ 7PM GOYA MONTHLY MEETING **virtual**
 March SAT TBD Sights and Sounds
 4/4 Western Easter
 4/25 Palm Sunday
 5/2 HOLY PASCHA
 5/8/2021 @2PM SUN WEDDING STAMOUTSOS_PILOVSKY
 5/14 PH. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE (see pg 25)

5/15 @10:30 AM BAPTISM
 5/21 @9:30-11:30AM CHURCH RESERVATION
 5/22 FAITH KITCHEN - PARISH COUNCIL
 6/12 @11:30AM BAPTISM
 6/19 Saturday of Souls
 6/26 FAITH KITCHEN – GOYA
 6/27/21 @1PM SUN WEDDING CASTORINA_WENDT
 7/17/21 @3:30PM WEDDING Schorr_Schuster
 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



MEMORIAL GIFT

ST ANDREW | 1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE | RANDOLPH, NJ 07869-1830

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.

GATEWAY DENTAL

Dr.K
Creating healthy smiles

Dr. Tim Kalavrouziotis, D.M.D.
is looking forward to treating all of
your family's dental needs at the
following convenient locations:

Black River Dental

DR. KALAVROUZIOS

O: 973-328-7732 • F: 973-328-1409
office@gatewaydentalnj.com • gatewaydentalnj.com
121 Center Grove Road • Suite 2 • Randolph, NJ 07869

blackriverdental.com • 908-879-5333
530 East Main Street • Suite A1 • Chester, NJ 07930

**THANK YOU
TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS!**



Electrical Services

All Home and Business Electrical Needs
Generator Installation & Maintenance

FREE Estimates

Senior & Military Discounts

973-874-0880

OAK RIDGE, NJ 07438 • FULLY INSURED • NJ LIC #17112



CatholicMatch New Jersey

CatholicMatch.com/NJsingles

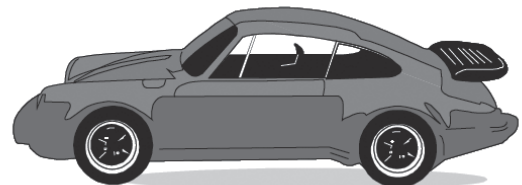
PG's

Auto Body

"Helping Protect Your Automotive Investment"

Expert Collision Repair

- Foreign & Domestic • Free Estimates
- Insurance Work Welcome
- Rental Cars Available



Earning Our Reputation One Satisfied Customer At A Time

973-584-1008

25 State Highway Route 10 • Succasunna, NJ

ShopRiteWine\$.com

An Exceptional Selection of Wines, Spirits & Beer

120 US HWY 206 South CHESTER



**NO CLUB CARDS
NO MEMBERSHIP FEES
908.879.5352**



American Red Cross

Locals love you more

Locally owned, independent merchants return 68% of their income to your local economy.

National chains?
43% (or less)

Online sellers?
Zip. Zero. Nada.

So...who **really** loves ya, baby?



Learn more:
the350project.net

© The 3/50 Project LLC; all rights reserved. 68 and 43 figures courtesy of Civic Economics.

ADVERTISE

YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS SPACE

Join the thousands of professionals and businesses in our network and begin growing sales, driving new client visits and building client retention and name recognition.



800-883-4343



READY.GOV

Don't be afraid...Be Ready



www.PetsforVets.com

ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!

- HUMIDITY & MOLD CONTROL
- NASTY CRAWL SPACES

- WATERPROOFING & FINISHING
- FOUNDATION PROBLEMS

Quality 1st Basement Systems®

NY Lic # 1274423 • NJHIC# 13VH01833300

WET BASEMENT?

Contact us for a FREE ESTIMATE!

866-588-8317

BasementRepairNJ.com

Par-Troy Funeral Home

Ronald DiMaggio, President-Manager, N.J. Lic.#2989

Centrally Located in the Heart of Parsippany

Pre-Arranged Funeral Services Available

95 Parsippany Road, Parsippany

887-3235

Katherine J. —
Licopantis, R.N.

Electrologist

Office Hours
By Appointment

1130 Route 46 West
Parsippany

973-334-1010

Please Continue
To Pray For



World Peace

Anthony A. Boyadjis

Attorney At Law

103 Washington Street
Morristown, NJ 07960

www.boyadjislaw.com

(973) 538-5512

Fax (973) 538-5579

Take care
of one
another.



Top Notch Service and
Timely Repairs on
All Major Appliances

Clean, Courteous and
Highly Professional

See Our Reviews on Angie's List!



973-919-8263

Kienlen
Lattmann



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Christine Hovliaras
Sales Associate

Cell 908-230-8480

Office 973-543-3500

Chovliaras@klsir.com

christinehovliaras.klsir.com

20 East Main Street • Mendham, NJ

Mallory's Army Foundation

BLUE OUT BULLYING



United Together In The Fight Against Bullying ...

Don't Just Teach Kindness ...

BE KINDNESS!

www.MallorysArmy.org

(973) 440-8657

info@mallorysarmy.org

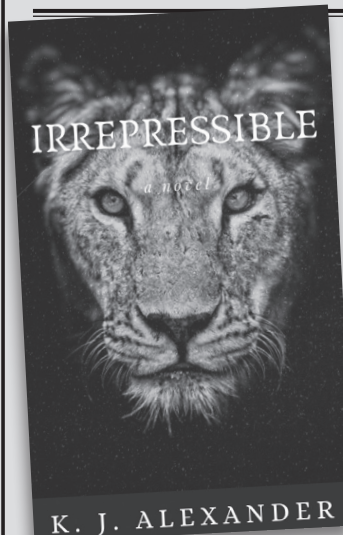


It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message: Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander



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

AVAILABLE NOW!

Scan Here:



Or Visit: <https://amzn.to/322DlqT>

PRIEST

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

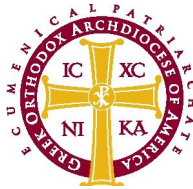
Andrew Venizelos, *GOYA President*

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

Hellenic Dance

GOYA Position Open for *Dance Instructor*

Jr & Sr Groups Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

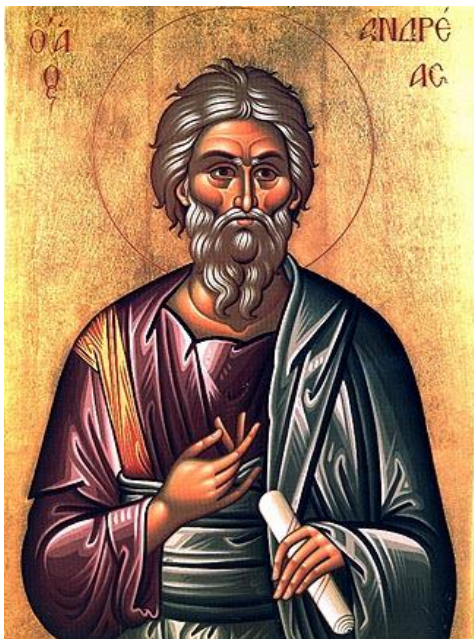
1447 SUSSEX TURNPIKE, RANDOLPH, NJ 07869-1830

info@standrewgonj.org

973-584-0388 phone

973-584-3573 fax

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DOVER, NJ
Permit No. 220



Great Lent is a time for self-examination and self-denial – a time for taking control of our lives and our bodies. The purpose of the fast is to give us a greater awareness of our dependence on God. It is a time to improve ourselves and our relationship with God.

Lent is a time for greater works of mercy and charity for those less fortunate than us. It is a time for visitation of the sick and assistance to the poor, and generally a more joyful relationship with those who are close to us – our family and friends.

Most of all, Lent is a time of joy and a new beginning. We cleanse ourselves –mind, body, and soul– through the physical and spiritual fast, keeping a Christian *attitude* in all that we do. All this is done to prepare us for the Great Feast of Pascha – the Resurrection of Christ.

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.