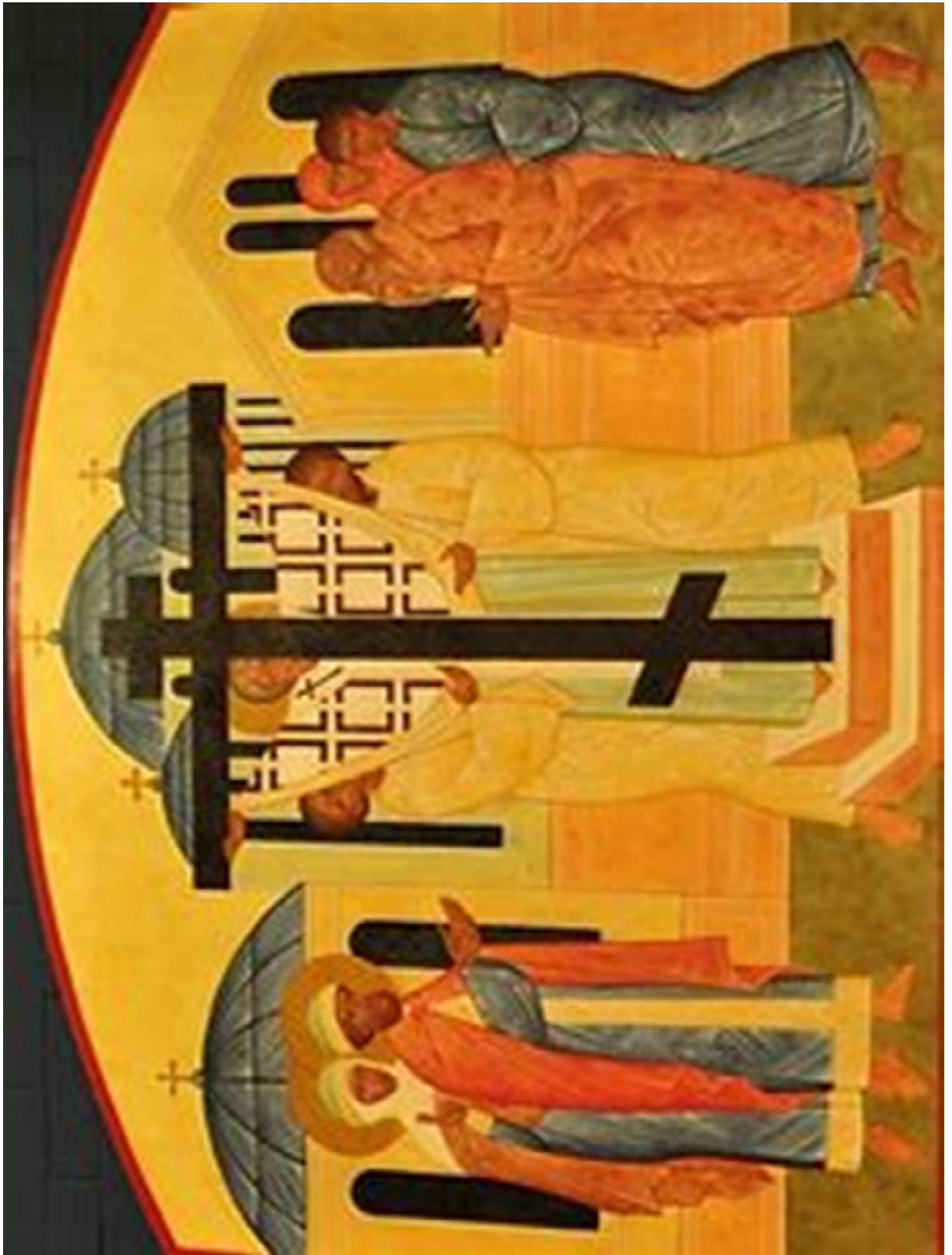


SEPTEMBER 2018



Saint Andrew Family News

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

ICON OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - SEPTEMBER 14TH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS BEGIN - SEPTEMBER 9TH

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE SEPTEMBER - 7TH & 8TH

GYRO & SOUVLAKI TAKEOUT - SEPTEMBER 8TH



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Saint Andrew Family News

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

On Sundays we celebrate

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

For other services please check our website or call the office

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

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

Please submit your articles and information on time to

Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos info@standrewgonj.org

*Deadline for the **OCTOBER 2018 ISSUE** is September 10th*

DIVINE SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2018

Saturday 1 ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

Sunday 2 14th Sunday of Matthew

Saturday 8 THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

**Sunday 9 Sunday before the Holy Cross
HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA |
First Day of Sunday School**

Friday 14 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

**Sunday 16 Sunday After the Holy Cross | ST. EUPHEMIA THE GREAT
MARTYR | Services will be held at Asbury Park St. Andrew
Church will be closed**

Sunday 23 1st Sunday of Luke

Wednesday 26 FALLING ASLEEP OF JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN AND EVANGELIST

Sunday 30 2nd Sunday of Luke

OCTOBER

Thursday 4 ST. HIEROTHEOS OF ATHENS*

Saturday 6 ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Sunday 7 3rd Sunday of Luke

Sunday 14 7th Ecumenical Council

Thursday 18 ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Sunday 21 6th Sunday of Luke

Tuesday 23 ST. IAKOVOS THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

Friday 26 ST. DEMETRIOS THE MYRRHBEARER

**Sunday 28 7th Sunday of Luke | OXI DAY” Greek National Holiday |
HOLY PROTECTION (HAS will be celebrating “OXI” Day)**

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 9TH IS THE 1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School students will attend the Divine Liturgy at 10am, receive Holy Communion, return to their pews for AGIASMO and then proceed to their class.

Ι Ε Ρ Ε Σ Α Κ Ο Λ Ο Υ Θ Ι Ε Σ

Σ Ε Π Τ Ε Μ Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ 2018

Σαββάτο	1	ΑΡΧΗ ΤΗΣ ΊΝΔΙΚΤΟΥ
Κυριακή	2	ΙΑ' Λουκά
Σαββάτο	8	ΤΟ ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Κυριακή	9	Προ της Ύψωσης ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΝ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΙΩΑΚΕΙΜ ΚΑΙ ΆΝΝΗΣ <i>(αρχίζει το Κατηχητικό Σχολείο)</i>
Παρασκευή	14	ΎΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ
Σαββάτο	16	ΕΥΘΥΜΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ
Κυριακή	16	Α Μετά την Ύψωσιν ΕΥΘΥΜΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ <i>Λειτουργία στο ASBURY PARK εορτάζουμε την ΎΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ Δεν θα έχουμε λειτουργία στον Άγιο Ανδρέα</i>
Κυριακή	23	Α' Λουκά
Τετάρτη	26	ΜΕΤΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΥ
Κυριακή	30	Β' Λουκά

Ο Κ Τ Ω Β Ρ Ι Ο Σ

Πέμπτη	4	ΙΕΡΟΘΕΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ *
Σαββάτο	6	ΘΩΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ
Κυριακή	7	Γ' Λουκά
Κυριακή	14	Των Αγ. Πατέρων (Ζ' Οικ. Συν.)
Πέμπτη	18	ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗΣ ΛΟΥΚΑΣ
Κυριακή	21	Σ' Λουκά
Τρίτη	23	ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΘΕΟΥ
Παρασκευή	26	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΑΣ
Κυριακή	28	Ε' Λουκά «28 ^Η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ» ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΚΕΠΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ <i>Ελληνικό Σχολείο θα εορτάσει «28^Η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ» Εθνική Εορτή</i>

Την Κυριακή – Όρθρος - ώρα 8.45πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 10πμ
Τις καθημερινές – Όρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.15πμ

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

9^Η ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΖΕΙ ΤΟ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

Οι μαθητές του Κατηχητικού σχολείου θα έρθουν πρώτα στην Θεία Λειτουργία ώρα 10πμ, μετά την Θεία Κοινωνία θα κάνουμε τον Αγιασμό και θα συνεχίσουμε στις τάξεις τους.

As We Forgive

by Fr. John Theodosion

Jesus told one of the greatest parables on the subject of forgiveness. The story has two main characters: a king and two servants. One servant owed the king a colossal sum – 10,000 Denarii which in today's terms would equal \$10 million. This sum of money would be impossible for an average man to pay back. Yet the man promises, "give me more time and I will pay you everything." The king knew this was impossible, and he took pity on the man and forgave the entire debt. Can you imagine how good the man must have felt not owing anything to the king any longer? Of course, he felt great, but he did not learn from the compassion that the king displayed towards him. When he left the palace and saw a friend who owed him 100 denarii, which is the equivalent of \$500, and he grabbed his friend by the collar and demanded that he pay back the money. The friend went to his knees and begged "give me more time and I will pay you everything." The first man had no mercy and cast his friend into jail until he could pay his debt.

When the king heard this sad story, he became angry and summoned the first servant whose debt he had forgiven. He said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you asked me and you did not have mercy on your friend as I had mercy on you?" Then the king jailed the man until the entire amount was paid off.

I'm sure that as we read this parable many may be thinking, I could never put someone in jail for such a small amount of money. Probably not, but how many times have we wished something bad on



someone who wronged us? Most of us don't realize it but we have our own jails inside each of us. And in some cases more than others, we have many people trapped in these jails. You see, every time someone wrongs us and we refuse to forgive them we place them into our personal little jail. As long as we hold onto the memory of what that person did to us and we refuse to forgive him or her, we keep this person

in that little jail. We also keep inside of us our anger and resentment towards that person, which psychology tells us can be very harmful to us.

It is actually we who become imprisoned by our own anger and resentment because we refuse to forgive them. We deliberately keep them and their offences alive in the jails of our hearts. Instead of forgiving and forgetting, we refuse to forgive and continue to remember all of the hurts done to us. Like the husband who said to his wife: "Why do you keep talking about my mistakes? I thought you had forgiven and forgotten?" "I have forgiven and forgotten," said the wife, I want to make sure you don't forget that I have forgiven and forgotten." This is not true forgiveness. This is merely spreading a rug over the trap door that leads down into the jail.

The Lord taught us to forgive, not only in this parable, but in at least two other important places. First, in the Lord's prayer, where he taught us to pray "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. He also taught "what you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven." This means that if we refuse to forgive others on earth

our heavenly Father will refuse to forgive us on the dread day of Judgement.

Friends, I know how hard forgiveness can be because I have struggled with it myself and keeping a proper perspective will go a long way in helping us in the process of forgiveness. If you find it hard to forgive, consider the mountain of debt that each of us owes to God. Ten times ten million we have affronted God in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, in our lusts, our selfishness, our pride, and our animosities. Yet God, in His great love and mercy, has forgiven us. One person says that every time he finds it hard to forgive someone, he says, "There goes that person who owes me \$25," and as he says this, he reminds himself of the \$10,000,000 debt that God has forgiven him. This, he says makes it easier for him to forgive.

We need to remember that we owe God! We are in debt to Him, and the debt is paid only by extending to one another the forgiveness God has extended to us. There is no other way. Saint Paul says, "As

the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Colossians 3:13) and in another place he says, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Eph 4:32)

We have established that it is hard to forgive, but I would like to close with this story. One saint and nun of the church had bad feelings toward one of the sisters of the monastery. Try as she did, she just could not love her sister as Jesus asked, but she kept praying for grace. One day she realized that an act which might be impossible for her was always possible for the Lord who abided in her. So, she turned to the Lord and said, "I myself cannot love this sister as you love her Lord, but you, living in me, you can love her in and through me." She simply turned over the problem to Jesus and relaxed. She ignored her inadequate feelings. She trusted Jesus to supply the perfect love and forgiveness called for in the gospel. And he did! It is my hope that we can all follow the example of this saint and do the same thing ourselves.

The 2018 HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION

of the GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY will take place on

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

ORTHROS @ 8AM - DIVINE LITURGY @ 10AM

The faithful Orthodox Christians of the greater metropolitan area will join

† HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN E V A N G E L O S OF NEW JERSEY

Elevation of the Holy Cross, Blessing of the Waters & Diving for the Cross by our Youth,

Representing St. Andrew GOYA at the Dive will be

Seniors: Maria Kalas & Giorgio Seretis and John Karipidis

Please join the thousands of Orthodox Christians from throughout the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey who will gather for a magnificent day of family worship, prayer & fellowship.

A FAMILY BARBECUE WILL FOLLOW THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION!

When It Rains, It Pours

Emergency Capital Campaign Message

Our Church entrance has been draped with tarps to help redirect the flow of rainwater away from the Church steps. This was necessary to stop water from seeping into our electrical closet and potentially causing catastrophic harm to our electrical system. Snow and ice have also damaged the parking lot, which now has several large potholes and crumbling curbs. Experts have been brought in to assess the damage and to provide competing repair estimates.

Because our “rainy day” reserve cannot absorb repairs of this size, the Parish Council has identified the need to establish an **Emergency Capital Campaign** to raise **\$150K** for the remediation of these critical needs. This campaign was formally approved at the April 17th, 2018 General Assembly meeting.

Our goal is to make these repairs in the fall 2018 -- before the winter season arrives -- in order to prevent further damage. We ask for your timely support to ensure these repairs can move forward. Only through your generosity will St. Andrew have the resources to weather this storm.

We welcome your contributions towards the Emergency Capital Campaign. Please either mail or provide your contributions to the Church Office.

God bless you, and thank you for your continued support.

In Christ,

Fr. John Theodosion, *Parish Priest*

Steve Mitrakos, *Parish Council President*

Μήνυμα Άμεσης Εξεύρεσης Κεφαλαίου

Η είσοδος της Εκκλησίας μας έχει σκεπαστεί με μουσαμάδες μήπως κρατήσουν το νερό της βροχής μακριά από τα σκαλιά της Εκκλησίας. Ήταν απαραίτητο να γίνει αυτό για να αποτραπεί η διαρροή του νερού στο χώρο με τα ηλεκτρικά, όπου υπήρχε κίνδυνος τα νερά να προκαλέσουν καταστροφική βλάβη στο ηλεκτρικό μας σύστημα. Επίσης το χιόνι και ο πάγος έκαναν ζημιά στο χώρο στάθμευσης και υπάρχουν αρκετές μεγάλες λακκούβες και κατεστραμμένα κράσπεδα. Φέραμε ειδικούς για να εκτιμήσουν τη ζημιά και να δώσουν ανταγωνιστικές προσφορές για το κόστος των επιδιορθώσεων.

Επειδή το αποθεματικό μας για έκτακτες ανάγκες δεν μπορεί να καλύψει επισκευές τέτοιου μεγέθους, το Συμβούλιο της Ενορίας μας εκτίμησε ότι είναι ανάγκη να καθιερώσουμε μία **Επείγουσα Εκστρατεία Εξεύρεσης Κεφαλαίου** με σκοπό να μαζέψουμε **\$150,000** για την αποκατάσταση αυτών των επειγόντων αναγκών. Η εκστρατεία αυτή επίσημα εγκρίθηκε στην Γενική Συνέλευση της 17^{ης} Απριλίου 2018.

Στόχος μας είναι να γίνουν αυτές οι επισκευές το φθινόπωρο του 2018 – πριν αρχίσει ο χειμώνας- με σκοπό να αποτρέψουμε περαιτέρω ζημιά. Ζητούμε την έγκαιρη υποστήριξή σας ώστε να είμαστε βέβαιοι ότι θα προχωρήσουν οι επισκευές. Μόνο με τη γενναιοδωρία σας θα καταφέρει ο Άγιος Ανδρέας να αντιμετωπίσει αυτή την καταιγίδα.

Οι συνεισφορές σας προς την Εκστρατεία Επείγουσας Εξεύρεσης Κεφαλαίου είναι ευπρόσδεκτες. Σας παρακαλούμε είτε να ταχυδρομήσετε ή να φέρετε οι ίδιοι τις συνεισφορές σας στο Γραφείο της Εκκλησίας.

Να έχετε την ευλογία του Θεού, και σας ευχαριστούμε για τη διαρκή υποστήριξή σας.

Εν Χριστώ

π. Ιωάννης Θεοδοσίου, *Ιερέυς του Ναού*

Σωτήρης Μητράκος, *Πρόεδρος Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου*

Dormition of the Theotokos 2018

My Beloved,

On the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos we find both a time for mourning and a time for celebration. We, of course, mourn the falling asleep of the Theotokos, the one who bore God. It would also be appropriate, however, to celebrate this day since, in the Dormition of the Theotokos, we gain an advocate before her Son and our God. She stands above all of the other saints of the Church since she, as the Mother of God, is also our common Mother. She protects us in times of danger, comforts us in times of grief, and guides us throughout the course of our lives to the ineffable glory of her Son, our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

There are few words in language sweeter than that of “mother”. Sweeter yet is this word when we think of the Mother of God as our common mother. Unlike all other mothers, whose children are limited to a certain number, the Panagia takes us all under her shelter as our mother. She did this as a response to a request of God who wanted to bring order back to the human race. From the moment humanity disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, it distanced itself from His love and from His mercy, choosing instead a road separate from God and, ultimately, a road that led to death. Man had freely chosen to distance himself from God who respected the freedom of man and since God respected man’s freedom, He did not force man to do otherwise since He did not want to intervene in a way that would abolish the freedom of humanity. He only wanted to intervene by utilizing the freedom of humanity which was accomplished in the person of the Panagia.

She did not have to do this, but in her unflinching and limitless love for God, she gave her unequivocal “yes” to the Lord when she said, “Behold, the handmaiden of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” (Lk. 1:38). It was this answer to the Lord that opened the possibility for humanity to be saved through the Son of God who would be born of the Theotokos. It was through her free and willing decision that the curse of humanity started to reverse thus opening the Gates of Paradise to us all. So bountiful was her love for the Lord that she brought forth God in the flesh! It is for this reason we chant, “In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life” (from the Apolytikion of the Dormition) since, as our loving Mother, she now stands as a continuous intercessor for our souls before the judgement seat of Christ.

It is the example of the Panagia for which we should strive for all the days of our lives because she shows us faith, dedication, and love for God and for our neighbors. She shows us how trusting in the Lord translates to an abundance of spiritual gifts. And she shows us how even the seemingly impossible becomes possible through God. It is my fervent prayer that we all become imitators of the holiness, faith, and love of the Panagia so that we too may experience the Kingdom to come. Praying that the Theotokos guards and guides you each and every day of your lives, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S

Metropolitan of New Jersey

«Τῆ ἐνδόξῳ κοιμήσει Σου οὐρανοὶ ἐπαγάλλονται καὶ ἀγγέλων γέγηθε τὰ στρατεύματα, πᾶσα ἡ γῆ δὲ εὐφραίνεται» (Στιχηρὸ προσόμοιο αἰῶν)

Αγαπητοὶ ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφοί,

Μὲ ἀνεκλάλητη χαρὰ καὶ λαμπρότητα ὀλόκληρος ὁ ὀρθόδοξος χριστιανικὸς κόσμος, ὡς τὰ πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης, πανηγυρίζει σήμερα τὴν ἐνδοξο Κοίμησι τῆς Θεοτόκου καὶ τῆ Μετάστασὶ Τῆς στὸν οὐρανό, στήν αἰώνια Βασιλεία καὶ δόξα. Ἄνθρωποι καὶ Ἄγγελοι συγχαίρουν καὶ συναγάλλονται. Οἱ πάντες Τὴν μακαρίζουν, Τὴν ἀνυμνοῦν καὶ Τὴν δοξάζουν, ὅπως τὸ ἐπισημαίνει πολὺ ὥραϊα ἓνα τροπάριο τῆς ἑορτῆς: «Τῆ ἐνδόξῳ κοιμήσει σου οὐρανοὶ ἐπαγάλλονται καὶ ἀγγέλων γέγηθε τὰ στρατεύματα, πᾶσα ἡ γῆ δὲ εὐφραίνεται».

Εὐφραινόμαστε καὶ πανηγυρίζουμε, διότι δὲν ἔχουμε θάνατο, ἀλλὰ «Κοίμησι» καὶ «Μετάστασι». Στὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Θεοτόκου ἡ ἔννοια τοῦ θανάτου, ὅπως τὸν γεύθηκαν καὶ ἐξακολουθοῦν νὰ τὸν γεύονται οἱ γενεές τῶν ἀνθρώπων, δὲν ὑφίσταται. Ἡ Παναγία μας μεταφέρεται διὰ μέσου τοῦ θανάτου Τῆς πρὸς τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ καὶ ὁ τάφος Τῆς εἶναι κενός, ἄδειος, καθὼς τὸ πανάγιο σῶμα Τῆς γιὰ λίγο μόνο παρέμεινε στὸν τάφο καὶ κατόπιν ἀκολούθησε τὴν ψυχὴ Τῆς στοὺς οὐρανοὺς. Ὁ τάφος καὶ ὁ θάνατος δὲν μπόρεσαν νὰ κρατήσουν τὸ πάνσεπτο σῶμα Τῆς, πού ἐγινε δοχεῖο τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ πηγὴ τῆς ζωῆς, ὅπως ἀναφέρεται στὸ Κοντάκι τῆς ἡμέρας: «Τάφος καὶ νέκρωσις οὐκ ἐκράτησεν». Τὸ ἀδειανὸ θεομητορικὸ μνήμα ἀποτελεῖ τὴ μεγαλύτερη διαβεβαίωσι ὅτι ὁ τάφος δὲν σκεπάζει τὴν ἀνθρώπινη ὑπαρξὴ γιὰ πάντα καὶ μᾶς κάνει νὰ δοῦμε τὸν θάνατο ὅπως ὁ πατριάρχης Ἰακώβ, σάν μία σκάλα πού πατάει σταθερὰ στὸν ἀνοιχτὸ τάφο καὶ φτάνει στὸν οὐρανό. Τὸ μνήμα γίνεται κλίμαξ «ἢ μεταγούσα τοὺς ἐκ γῆς πρὸς οὐρανόν».

Ἡ Παναγία μας ὅμως, μὲ τὴν Κοίμησι καὶ τὴν Μετάστασὶ τῆς, δὲν ἐγκατέλειψε τὴ γῆ καὶ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Στὸ ἀπολυτικίον τῆς ἑορτῆς ψάλλουμε: «ἐν τῆ κοιμήσει τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες, Θεοτόκε». Εἶναι πάντα κοντὰ μας, δίπλα μας. Ἀφουγκράζεται τὸν πόνο μας, γνωρίζει τὰ προβλήματά μας, βλέπει τὴν ἀγωνία καὶ τὸν ἀγῶνα μας. Τρέχει γιὰ νὰ μᾶς βοηθήσει. Ἐνδιαφέρεται γιὰ μᾶς, τὰ παιδιά τῆς. Πρεσβεύει γιὰ ὅλους μας. Εἶναι «πρεσβεία θερμὴ καὶ τεῖχος ἀπροσμάχητον», ὅπως ψάλλαμε τὶς προηγούμενες μέρες στὶς Παρακλήσεις πρὸς τιμὴν Τῆς. Κι ἐμεῖς ἀπὸ τὴ μεριά μας, καλοῦμαστε νὰ αὐξήσουμε τὴν ἀγάπη, τὴν προσευχὴ καὶ τὴν ἀφοσίωσὴ μας πρὸς τὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Μητέρας τῆς ζωῆς, ὥστε μὲ παρηγορία νὰ ἐπικαλούμαστε τὸ πανάγιο ὄνομα Τῆς, ἐκζητώντας τὴ μεσιτεία Τῆς πρὸς τὸν Κύριο τῆς δόξης.

Ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί:

Ὡς Ἐπίσκοπος καὶ Ποιμενάρχης τῆς τοπικῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Νέας Ἱερσῆς, εὐχομαι ὀλόθερμα σὲ ὅλους ἐσᾶς, καὶ στὸν καθένα ξεχωριστὰ, ἡ Παναγία μας νὰ εἶναι προστάτης καὶ βοηθός, στήριγμα καὶ ὁδηγός, στὸ πνευματικὸ ταξίδι πρὸς τὴ Βασιλεία τῶν Οὐρανῶν. Νὰ σκέπει καὶ νὰ προστατεύει τὶς οἰκογένειές σας, τὸ ἑλληνορθόδοξο Ἔθνος μας καὶ τὴ φιλόθεη Ὁμογένειά μας καὶ νὰ εἶστε βέβαιοι ὅτι ὡς «ἐλέους πηγὴ» θὰ πρεσβεύει στὸν παντοκράτορα Υἱὸ Τῆς γιὰ μᾶς· γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία μας, γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου.

Χρόνια πολλὰ κι εὐλογημένα!

Διάπυρος πρὸς τὴν Ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκο καὶ
Μητέρα τοῦ Φωτός εὐχέτης

Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ

† Ὁ Νέας Ἱερσῆς ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

THE MEANING OF BASIL AT THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

When I was a child, I would frequently visit my grandmother (Yiayia) and grandfather (Papou) who lived in a small town east of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They had a large yard with a view of the Monongahela River. The climate created the perfect conditions to grow a beautiful garden every summer.

My papou grew tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and cucumbers, from what I remember. He also planted a few large basil plants, or “Vasiliko” (Greek), every year. My yiayia loved basil. She would frequently pick a stem and smell it, over and over, sometimes finally placing it to rest behind her earlobe. I imagine she found the scent comforting, as if it reminded her of her homeland in Chios, Greece. I have strong memories of my yiayia and her love of basil.

For the past several years, I have planted a small basil plant at the start of summer. I place it near my house so I can tend to it easily. If it does not rain on a given day, I give it a good drink of water. I trim the stems to help it grow large. My husband is a beekeeper, and his bees are attracted to the white flowers that bloom at the top of the stems. This summer, I gave both my daughter and son their own basil plant to grow. It feels like an act of faith for me to tend to my basil.

When September 14 draws near, I say a prayer and remove many stems from my basil plant. I place



them in a container filled with water and transport it to my church. Presbytera places the stems around the icons, or Father gives basil to the parishioners at the end of service.

I was curious to find out what was the true significance of basil in this holiday of September 14. I researched and found that the Empress Helene discovered the Cross in 326 A.D. in the place where Jesus had been crucified. At that same place was the flowering basil plant, which she

named “Vasiliko”, meaning “of the King.” This is what ties basil to the Elevation of the Cross, the holiday we celebrate on September 14.

The story also goes that when the Empress Helene looked under the basil, there were two other crosses as well. Those crosses were used in the crucifixion of the two thieves on either side of Christ. The Empress needed to figure out which cross was the true Cross of Christ. In order to do this, a sick woman was brought to kiss each of the three crosses. When she kissed the True Cross, she was made well immediately.

Now when you see fresh basil, remember this story and its significance to the Elevation of the Cross. This has given even more meaning to my task of planting and nurturing my yearly basil. Thank you, Yiayia, for demonstrating to me at an early age your love for this beautiful and blessed plant.

By Joanne Jamis Cain in [The Sounding Blog](#) | Sep 13, 2017 · Comment(s) · Tags: [Basil](#), [Cross](#), [Elevation](#), [Exaltation](#)
| Posted by the Orthodox Christian Network. You can find the Orthodox Christian Network

Ο ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΤΙΜΙΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ. ΛΑΪΚΟΣ ΘΡΥΛΟΣ.



Όλοι γνωρίζουμε πως τον Χριστό μας τον σταύρωσαν. Τον κάρφωσαν δηλαδή πάνω σ' ένα ξύλινο σταυρό, κι εκεί ξεψύχησε.

Τον ξύλινο σταυρό οι Χριστιανοί τον έθαψαν βαθιά στο χώμα για να μην τον βρουν οι ειδωλολάτρες και τον μολύνουν. Έτσι ο Τίμιος Σταυρός έμεινε χρόνια πολλά θαμμένος μέσα στη γη.

Όταν έπειτα από καιρό επικράτησε ο Χριστιανισμός, η Αγία Ελένη αποφάσισε να βρει και να ξεθάψει τον Τίμιο Σταυρό και να τον στήσει μέσα στην εκκλησία στα Ιεροσόλυμα για να τον προσκυνούν οι Χριστιανοί. Πήγε λοιπόν η ίδια στα Ιεροσόλυμα και ζήτησε να μάθει σε ποιο μέρος ήταν θαμμένος ο Σταυρός.

Όμως κανένας Χριστιανός δεν ήξερε να της πει. Εκείνοι που πριν από πολλά χρόνια τον είχαν θάψει βαθιά στο χώμα, είχαν πια πεθάνει. Έβαλε λοιπόν η Αγία Ελένη χιλιάδες εργάτες κι άρχισαν να σκάβουν όλα τα χωράφια εκεί γύρω.

Είχε ακλόνητη πίστη πως κάπου θα τον έβρισκε. Πολλούς μήνες δούλευαν οι εργάτες χωρίς αποτέλεσμα. Κάποια μέρα, καθώς η Αγία Ελένη

βάδιζε μέσα σ' ένα χωράφι, πάτησε ένα χορτάρι και αμέσως μια γλυκιά μυρωδιά γέμισε τον αέρα.

«Τι ωραία μυρωδιά είναι αυτή», είπε από μέσα της η Αγία Ελένη.

Από που να χύνεται αυτή η γλυκιά μοσχοβολιά;»

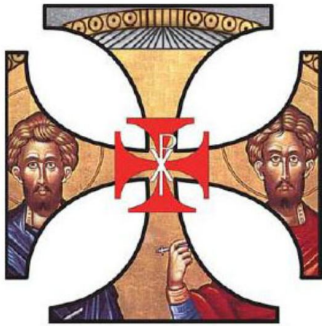
Καθώς κοίταξε γύρω της έσκυψε κι έκοψε ένα κλαδάκι απ' το φυτό που πάτησε, το μύρισε και τότε κατάλαβε πως το χορτάρι εκείνο ήταν που σκορπούσε την γλυκιά ευωδιά.

Μεμιάς ο νους της φωτίστηκε, φώναξε έναν εργάτη και του είπε να σκάψει σ' εκείνο το μέρος.

Σε λίγο, τι θαύμα! Ο εργάτης βρήκε εκεί τον Τίμιο Σταυρό όπου επάνω ξεψύχησε ο Χριστός μας.

Από εκείνη τη στιγμή, το μυρωδάτο αυτό φυτό λέγεται βασιλικός, γιατί φύτευσε στο σημείο που ήταν θαμμένος ο Σταυρός, όπου είχε σταυρωθεί ο βασιλιάς του κόσμου. Γι' αυτό μοιράζουν βασιλικό στις εκκλησίες στη γιορτή της Ύψωσης του Τιμίου Σταυρού, στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου.

SAINT ANDREW PHILOPTOCHOS SEPTEMBER 2018



How was YOUR summer?

Welcome to another busy Philoptochos year! We hope everyone had a relaxing summer and are now ready to join us in our fall activities.

The mission of the Philoptochos did not take a summer vacation. Once again, this was a summer of providing for those in need, providing care and comfort and working to alleviate hunger in our local communities.



In May we held our annual Tricky Tray which was a smashing success! Thanks to your generosity and support our net income was well over the budgeted amount of \$10,000. Some of the proceeds have already been disbursed to Philoptochos charities. From these funds we have been able to support the Market Street Mission annual backpack project by donating money towards the purchase of much-needed school supplies for students whose families are unable to do so. We supported a Social Service case, assisting with funeral expenses for a beavered family and of course we contributed relief efforts for the devastated areas in Greece affected by the recent fires.

In July Philoptochos members Petra Knox, Eleni Constantinides, Maro Schuster and Marina Venizelos attended the bi-annual Clergy-Laity in Boston, Massachusetts. One of the prevailing themes was an update on our Feed the Hungry initiative which had begun three years ago. You will recall that each chapter was presented with a national challenge of providing 250,000 meals by the 2016 Convention. By July 2016 all chapters together provided 764,285 meals – far exceeding our National goal. I am pleased to report from 2017 through to July 1, 2018 Philoptochos chapters provided **1,343,734** meals. The New Jersey Metropolis provided **71,824** of those meals! A

sincere thank you to all who helped us do our part to continue and meet the challenge of providing for those in food-need.

We continued our 4th Saturday of the month service to the Faith Kitchen in Dover. Philoptochos, Parish Council and the Daughters of Penelope/AHEPA hosted and many parishioners volunteered their time to prepare and serve nutritious hot meals to the clients of the Faith Kitchen. All told, we served over 240 people and provided take-home meals to that many as well. We also provided peanut butter and jelly sandwiches so that the clients had a Sunday meal. Additionally we were asked to prepare meals for Family Promise families for two days in August, a testament to the excellent and tasty meals we provide. We thank the Festival Committee who graciously offered us moussaka and pastitsio for the Family Promise meals, entrees not often served at Family Promise. We extend a heartfelt and sincere thank all who contributed to, participated in and supported our Feed the Hungry ministry throughout the summer.

Our schedule for the fall days of service at Faith Kitchen are:

September – Philoptochos

October – GOYA

November - Daughters of Penelope/AHEPA

December - Philoptochos

With your help and continued support the St. Andrew community will continue to feed the hungry in as many ways possible.

Your St. Andrew Philoptochos is refreshed and ready to go into a Fall full of activities. We do what we do because it is our mission and our responsibility. But we cannot do this alone. We will continue to reach out to you and hope you will

become partners in our mission to end the suffering of those in need. We look forward to having you a part of all our upcoming events.

So how was *your* summer? Welcome back to another busy Philoptochos year!

Petra Knox,
President of St. Andrew Philoptochos



Saint Andrew Church Annual Rummage Sale

1447 Sussex Turnpike Randolph, NJ

September 7th & 8th

Friday & Saturday from 9am to 4pm

Household items, tools, small appliances, art work, bedding, pet items, clothing, shoes, handbags, electronics, office items, kitchen items, holiday items, home decor, costume jewelry, books & other media, furniture, sports equipment, children's clothing, toys, games and baby items and much, much more. Who knows what treasures you may find!

Sponsored by the Saint Andrew Philoptochos
CONTACT petraknox@aol.com for more information

GYRO & Souvlaki TAKEOUT

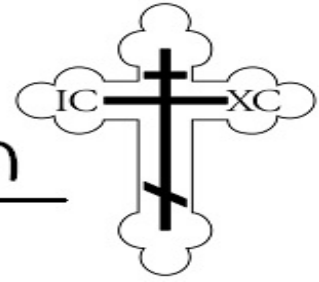
Saturday, September 8th

11am – 4pm



Religious Education

Meet the Directors

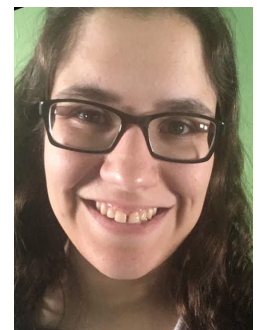


Vickie Geannakakes has been a Religious Education Teacher for 9 years and is currently teaching the 3rd grade. She greatly enjoys being a Religious Education teacher because, as she teaches and plans, she is also continuously learning. Meeting the students and their families is also an important aspect. Vickie and her family have been a part of the St. Andrew community for over 30 years. She is a member of Philoptochos and also volunteers at the festival yearly. In her daily life, she is a teacher and library media specialist in Hanover Township.



Harriet Karkanias has been a member of the St. Andrew community for 16 years. She is one of the coordinators for our HOPE/JOY program, and has volunteered to join the Directors of Sunday School. She was previously a Sunday School teacher during and after college at St. Catherine & George in Astoria, NY. She is stay-at-home mom to her four children, but used to work as a civil engineer. Her favorite part of the Religious Education program is watching the children make the connection between what they are learning in class and their participation in these lessons as part of our Church Liturgy or Feast Days. She is hoping to help expand our Religious Education program and build a cohesive program that connects to our community at St. Andrew.

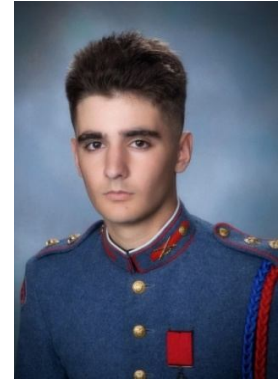
Rachel Lopardo has been a member of St. Andrew since her baptism twenty-three years ago. She began helping her mom with the Pre-K 3 class when she was in fourth grade, and has been co-teaching the class for eight years. Her favorite part about being a Religious Education teacher is seeing the children take pride in their faith and making the connection between what we are learning in class and what they are seeing in church and at home. Besides volunteering at the festival, she is a Pre-K teacher in Montville. She is looking forward to helping the children in the Religious Education program become active members of the church community.



Maro Nicolaou Schuster has been a Religious Education Teacher for 39 years and is loving every year! Her favorite part of being one of our teachers is the fact that teaching the Old and New Testament is very exciting for the 6th graders. The curriculum sets the foundation of understanding of who Christ our Lord is. She has been a member of the St. Andrew community for 34 years, and is also a member of the Parish Council, the treasurer for Philoptochos, and the co-chair of the dessert booth for the festival. She is a Sr. VP Marketing & Sales at PDS Life Sciences Inc. and enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, gardening, and reading. She looks forward to continuing to grow in her faith.

Alexander Barnes

Alexander graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, PA, with the rank of First Lieutenant. He spent four years giving up his summer vacations in order to earn higher ranks and various awards for excellence. Over the years, he has earned Best New Cadet, the Arguello medal for Best Junior NCO, the Judge medal for Best Officer in the Corps, the Anthony Wayne Legion Guard - Best 10% of the Corps, highest ranking cadet in the Company, Commanding Officer of E-Battery, and the American Legion Award. Alexander's leadership has helped earn E-Battery the Best Company Award three years in a row after a dry spell of at least 10 years.



Several of Alexander's teachers nominated him as the sole Valley Forge participant in the National Youth Leadership Forum for National Security—Diplomacy, Intelligence, Defense—in Washington, DC. For six days, Alexander joined other high school students from around the country for this extraordinary opportunity to learn how America monitors potential threats, prepares for crisis, and plans for peace. This program gave Alexander an insider's look at potential career paths and allowed him to put everything he learned into practice in a challenging, hands-on simulation. He also enjoyed exclusive access to government agencies and one-on-one interactions with industry professionals. Alexander was elected by his peers to take on the role of the 4-Star Commander of US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) during this time.

Alexander played lacrosse both at school and on club teams over the years. As goalie, he guided his team to many victories. He also helped recruit/train a backup goalie for Valley Forge.

Alexander has been an active member of our St. Andrew Community. He served as an altar boy since the age of eight and continued to serve whenever he was home from school. While at school however, he served as an acolyte at Valley Forge chapel services but also attended services and some GOYA outings at St. Luke in Broomall, PA. He has helped at the St. Andrew festival each year as well.



Christos Caminis

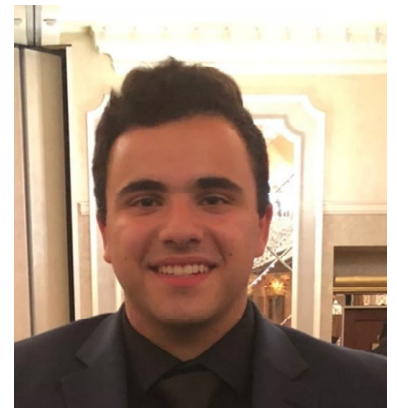
Christos graduated from South Kent School in Connecticut. During high school, he participated in Big Brother/Big Sister mentorship program, peer leader, PLAC (leadership program for incoming students). He was also on the honor roll, played varsity ice hockey at Parsippany Hills in grade 9-11. He was the assistant captain as a sophomore and a captain as a junior. Christos spent his senior year as a at South Kent School and played on Selects Academy U18.

Besides being active in his school, he was also active in our St. Andrew Community. He participated in HOPE, JOY, and GOYA. He also participated in the GOYA Olympics, Sunday School, and Greek School.

He plans on playing ice hockey next year for the Skipjacks Hockey program in York, Pennsylvania. His plan is to play a few years of junior Hockey to possibly get on a Division one college hockey team.

George Clapsis

George Clapsis is a very active young man. He has participated in a variety of activities including, volunteer firefighter in Budd Lake, President of Saint Andrew Randolph, working with back stage crews for drama shows, dancing at the Greek festivals, his dancing talent is recognized by many who pay him and/or his parents



compliments on his performance. George has an outgoing personality which is welcomed by all who know him. His positive outlook kicks in when he encounters someone feeling out of sorts. He tends to listen and motivate them. To say George is a positive and helpful young man is an understatement. He can be seen continually helping where ever he is needed. An example of George's energy is evident during the Greek festival, George is a conscientious student who has good study habits which have earned him a place on the Honor Roll. Overall, George is a very positive, motivated and well-rounded young man and will be attending Community College of Morris CCM in the fall.



Achilles Dabrowski

Achilles attended Morris Hills High School for the Math and Science Program. He is the Morris Hills High School Class of 2018 Valedictorian. He was also a member of the National English Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Science Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the Social Studies Honor Society. In addition to those honors, Achilles also was the winner of the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award and the winner of the US Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award. He also received the Math and Science Magnet Program Distinguished Scholar and was an AP Scholar with Distinction. He was selected by the American Legion Post 344 to be a delegate at American Legion Boys State – a one week program where students are separated into cities to plan a government. Achilles became the City Administrator “mayor”. His political aspirations continued as he was selected to be a member of Congressmen Rodney Frelinghuysen Youth Advisory Council, where he met with various political leaders. He then was nominated to be in Model Congress –a national organization – where he was elected Party Leader and Party Whip. There he learned a great deal about civics. To wrap his political tutelage, he was a member of the JSA (Junior State of America). They were the 2nd Morris Hills chapter to pass a bill through Winter Congress. Besides his academic and political achievements, Achilles also participated in marching band. He was the Low Brass section leader as well as the Woodwind section leader.

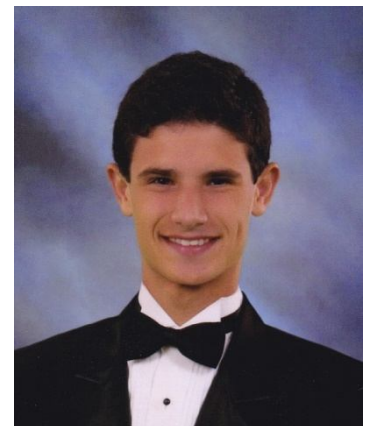
Achilles also was an active member of our St Andrew Community. He participated in many GOYA events. For example, he was a Sights & Sounds instrument soloist, a member of the band since 7th grade, and personally arranged and wrote all the music for this year's performance. Achilles is a Greek School graduate. He also often volunteered at the Greek Festival.

He will be attending Duke University and majoring in computer science. He would also like to pursue an MBA and work in the R&D department of a major tech firm. One day he would like to rise to a senior executive position. Later in life, he would like to hold at least a local political office.

Charles Donati

Charles attended Sparta High School. He has had successfully balanced his academic, athletic, and social activities. He has lettered in cross country running, winter/indoor track, and track and field. His senior year, he also qualified for semifinals for the long jump. Charles received two track scholarships: Special Recognition Scholarship and the Dave Karlberg Memorial Fund.

In addition, Charles has been an active member of the St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Youth Association (GOYA) and participated in various activities such as Greek Dance, Sights and Sounds (also including Band and Play), and Olympics. While in GOYA, he volunteered at various church fundraisers, such as the festival, as well as



national non-profit organizations, such as Bridges, which included going to Newark to feed the homeless. He has also participated in Nursing Home visits and Christmas caroling both of which were extremely rewarding.

Charles will be attending East Stroudsburg University (ESU) and majoring in Exercise Science. He would like to pursue a career that allows him to use my interests in science and athletics.



Peter Dorizas

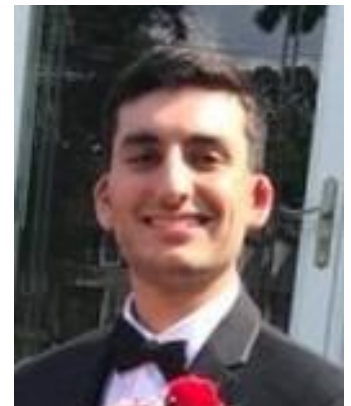
Peter graduated from Randolph High School. Throughout his high school years, he was on the honor roll. He was a member of the National Honor Society and Science Honor Society. Peter was also active in the Future Medical Leaders of America, Key Club, and Bridges. He was chosen for a leadership/citizenship award by his teachers. From his early years, Peter has played basketball and baseball for club teams. Because of his love of sports, Peter enjoyed coaching and being an umpire/referee for recreation sports. He especially enjoyed coaching baseball for children with special needs in the Challenger League.

In addition to being active in his high school, Peter is also active in the St. Andrew Community. He was in the MAZI class, HOPE, JOY, GOYA Hellenic Afternoon School, and Sunday School. While being a member of the GOYA, Peter played basketball.

Peter will be attending Rutgers Engineering School where his major will be biomedical engineering. He hopes to further his education and become an orthopedist.

Evan Floris

Evan graduated from Randolph High School. Evan was on Honor Roll & Principal Honor Roll during his years at RHS. He was a member of the Mass Media Club & was VP during his senior year. He was a member of the Cross Country team in the fall and Spring Track. He was awarded with "Most Improved Runner" during his senior year. In addition, he was part of the morning announcements, and was on "RamTV" every morning.



Evan was a part of the St. Andrews Community. As a young boy he was part of the MAZI class, HOPE, JOY, GOYA, and Sunday School. During GOYA, he served food at the interfaith Food Kitchen in Dover, volunteered to make sandwiches for the Bridges Outreach program & many other activities. In addition, he was a member of the St. Andrew GOYA basketball team.

In the fall, Evan will be attending Montclair State University, where he will be majoring in Film, along with minoring in Marketing.



Kassandra Ibrahim

Kassandra attended Hunterdon Central Regional High School. She is an honors gifted and talented art student. She was a member of the National Honor Society, RHO Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, honor roll all four years, and received the Hunterdon Central Praise Referral. Kassandra also held many leadership rolls in her high school. She was a peer educator for the Hunterdon Central Teen Prevention Education Program. She also held leadership positions in the student council as well as the French Club. Likewise, she volunteered with the Key Club and the Dominican Republic Relief Organization.

Besides being actively involved in her high school, Cassandra was also an active member in our St Andrew Community. She held many leadership positions in GOYA: historian, corresponding secretary, senior advisory board member. She was a Miss GOYA runner up, participated and received many awards in Sights and Sounds. She volunteered with Bridges Outreach Inc, the Greek Festival, St. Basil Walk-A-thon, sung carols to various parishioners, and served food at the Interfaith Food Kitchen in Dover. She also participated in GOYA Greek dancing and various sports. Cassandra was also a youth teacher assistant for Sunday School.

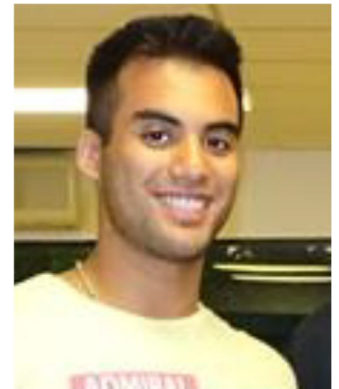
She will be attending Fordham University in the fall. She looks forward to a double major in Psychology and Art History with minors in Orthodox Studies and Religious Studies. She is interested in various occupations in both of those fields such as Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Art Curation. In addition to her traditional academic studies, she is intrigued by the art of Greek Orthodox iconography.

Peter Mitrakos

Peter is an honor roll student, a member of the Student Council for three years, involved in many sport teams and clubs. He received a 1420 on his SAT.

Peter was also very active in our Saint Andrew community. He participated in GOYA basketball and Olympics since the 7th grade. He attended many dances, retreats, and most the GOYA activities. He was an altar boy since 8 years old and has attended church regularly since he was a baby. He was a member of the Greek Dance group until his freshman year. He was also a graduate from the Hellenic After School program (Greek School).

Peter plans on attending Seton Hall University and majoring in business marketing.



Stamatina Moskonas

Stamatina (Tina) attends Walkill Valley Regional High School. She was inducted in the National Honor Society and National English Honor Society. She is active involved in her high school's Health Science Society as an aid to the school's sport trainer. Tina was also part of the school's student council. She has passed two Rutgers Medical courses in preparation for her future speech pathology profession. In addition, she became certified as an Emergency Medical Responder for her town's First Aid Squad.

Besides being active in her high school, Tina was extremely active in our St. Andrew Community. She was involved in JOY and GOYA. She was a Greek Dancer from the young JOY age into her GOYA years. Tina volunteered at the Greek Festival, GOYA annual bridges, IOCC Hurricane relief. She went Christmas Caroling with GOYA and participated in many church holiday preparations. Tina also participated in the Oratorical Festival. She plans on attending Seton Hall University to become a Speech Language Pathologist.

Hariklia Papayianis

Hariklia graduated from Randolph High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society, received an academic award for American Sign Language and volunteered the last three years at St. Barnabas and Brightview nursing home. During her senior year, Hariklia was able to shadow OTs in Randolph elementary schools. In addition to being active in her high school, she was also active in our St. Andrew community. She was in the Mazi class, HOPE, JOY, GOYA. She was on the GOYA board for two years. Likewise, she organized the toy drive for St.



Barnabas. She played volleyball, Greek Dance, and participated in Greek and Sunday School. Hariklia will be going to the University of Scranton, for Occupational Therapy. Her goal is to be able to help people so they are able to live their best life.



Anna Xhumba

Anna graduation from Randolph High School. She played lacrosse and ice hockey in school.

She was active in GOYA and will miss St. Andrew and the family that comes along with it. She will be attending University of Pittsburgh where she will be studying to be a pediatrician.

“Sunday School has taught me to always believe in myself and my faith, which is something I will be bringing along to college with me.”

Eleni Zois

Eleni attended Parsippany Hills High School. She was a member of PLAC (peer leadership, student council, and participated in volleyball. Eleni was also active in our St. Andrew Community. She began Greek School in her preschool years and proudly graduated from the program. She was active in GOYA participating in food drives and various volunteer events. In addition she was a Greek Dancer from 7th through 10th grade. Eleni also worked with our youth as an assistant Sunday School teacher. She will be attending the University of Tampa and will pursue a nursing degree.



CONNECT CONFERENCE

A young adult conference, called the Connect Conference that will bring together young Orthodox Christians to know, grow and go in their faith, much the same way the YAL conferences did for us 35 years ago. The conference will be held **October 5-7 in Atlanta.**

“You get more of what you pay attention to.” This is one of the principles on which the Connect Conference is built. Instead of focusing on the 60-80% of young adults who leave the Church after high school, we’ve chosen to focus on the 20-40% who stay, trusting that with God’s grace and blessing, we’ll get more of what we pay attention to.

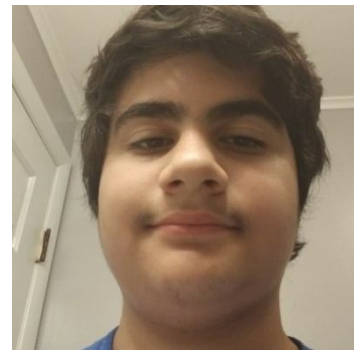


If you want to read still more about the conference, please check out our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or these articles on LinkedIn: [Ex Nihilo](#), [Millennial Magic](#), and [Did it all Start with Generosity?](#) Or contact us at info@connectorthodoxy.org.

The Hellenic Afternoon School Graduation Program was held on June 14th, 2018.
6th GRADE TEACHER Mrs. Amalia Armenakis Δασκάλα 6^{ης} Τάξης κυρία Αμαλία Αρμενάκη
The following students have graduated the Hellenic Afternoon School of Saint Andrew

Evangelos Clapsis | Ευάγγελος Κλάψης

Γεια σας! Το όνομά μου είναι Βαγγέλης Κλάψης. Έρχομαι στο Ελληνικό σχολείο για έξι ολόκληρα χρόνια. Έμαθα να μιλώ Ελληνικά, να μιλώ με τους φίλους μου, τα ξαδέλφια μου την όμορφη γλώσσα. Όταν πάω στην Ελλάδα, θα μπορώ να παραγγέλω το φαγητό μου, να πάω να δω τα αρχαία μνημεία. Αυτό θα με κάνει υπερήφανο. Θέλω να ευχαριστήσω την μαμά μου που με έφερε στο Ελληνικό σχολείο. Γιατί εδώ γνώρισα τους φίλους μου, έμαθα την ιστορία μας. Αντίο δασκάλες μου! Αντίο Ελληνικό σχολείο!



Alexander Dorizas | Αλέξανδρος Δόριζας

Γεια σας! Το όνομά μου είναι Αλέξανδρος Δόριζας και είμαι υπερήφανος που είμαι Ελληνο – Αμερικανός. Ο πατέρας μου γεννήθηκε στην Κεφαλλονιά και οι γονείς της μητέρας μου γεννήθηκαν στην Άνδρο και Ήπειρο. Κάθε καλοκαίρι το περνώ στην Ελλάδα και ελπίζω να πηγαίνω και τα παιδιά μου μια μέρα.

Το να είμαι Έλληνας είναι ένα μέρος από τις ρίζες μου και το ποιός είμαι. Η Ελληνική μου κληρονομιά φαίνεται σε όλα τα κομμάτια της ζωής μου. Η θρησκεία μου, οι παραδόσεις και τα φαγητά που τρώω. Είναι κάτι που ελπίζω να το περάσω και να το συνεχίσω με την οικογένειά μου.

Για να είμαι ειλικρινής, δεν ερχόμουν πάντα με χαρά στο Ελληνικό σχολείο. Θα προτιμούσα να παίζω μπέιζμπολ και να είμαι με τους φίλους μου. Ξέρω ότι μια μέρα θα ευχαριστώ τη μαμά μου που φρόντισε να τελειώσω το σχολείο.

Χάρη στο Ελληνικό σχολείο, απέκτησα τη γνώση της Ελληνικής γλώσσας, των εθίμων και της ιστορίας της. Ευχαριστώ τους γονείς μου, και όλες τις δασκάλες που είχα όλα αυτά τα χρόνια, και τον Πατέρα Ιωάννη για με τις γνώσεις τους, την υποστήριξη και την καθοδήγησή τους όλα τα χρόνια του Ελληνικού σχολείου.

Theodora Katsanos | Θεοδώρα Κατσάνου

Με λένε Θεοδώρα Κατσάνου. Φέτος τελειώνω το Ελληνικό σχολείο. Είναι δύσκολο να πιστέψω πως πέρασαν επτά χρόνια στο Ελληνικό σχολείο! Έμαθα την Ελληνική γλώσσα, την Ιστορία μας, τον Πολιτισμό μας. Έμαθα για τα ήθη και τα έθιμά μας, για τη θρησκεία μας. Έμαθα τραγούδια, προσευχές. Γνώρισα και έκανα παρέα με πολλά Ελληνόπουλα. Θα είναι φίλοι μου για όλη μου τη ζωή.

Θέλω να ευχαριστήσω την οικογένειά μου και όλες τις δασκάλες που με δίδαξαν όλα αυτά τα χρόνια. Πάντα θα τις θυμάμαι με αγάπη. Εύχομαι σε όλα τα παιδιά καλή τύχη στη ζωή τους. Αντίο αγαπημένο μου σχολείο!



Demetrios Seretis | Δημήτριος Σερέτης

Καλησπέρα σας, Λέγομαι Δημήτρης Σερέτης και είμαι μαθητής της 6^{ης} τάξης του Ελληνικού σχολείου του Αγίου Ανδρέα, στο Ράντολφ στην Νέα Υερσέη.

Πέρασα σ' αυτό το σχολείο 7 ολόκληρα χρόνια. Εδώ έμαθα την Ελληνική γλώσσα και τον Ελληνικό πολιτισμό, την ιστορία του τόπου μας που με έκανε να νιώθω κάθε φορά και πιο υπερήφανο για την καταγωγή μου.

Θέλω να ευχαριστήσω μέσα από την καρδιά μου την μητέρα μου που με έφερε στο σχολείο. Επίσης ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ στις δασκάλες του Ελληνικού σχολείου. Για άλλη μια φορά μας βοήθησαν να μάθουμε όσο πιο πολλά μπορούμε για την πατρίδα μας.

Όμως το μεγαλύτερο ευχαριστώ το χρωστάω στη γιαγιά μου Σουλτάνα Σερέτη που είχε την υπομονή να με βοηθά με τις εργασίες μου.

Στο μέλλον θα προσπαθήσω να κρατηθώ κοντά στον Ελληνισμό και να μην ξεχάσω όσα έμαθα σε αυτό το σχολείο. Αντίο Ελληνικό Σχολείο! Αντίο δασκάλες μου! Και δεν ξεχνώ ότι είμαι Έλληνας. Ζήτω η Ελλάδα!



It's all Greek



The basic purpose of the Greek School is to systematically and methodically teach the Greek language so that our children are able to read, write, understand, speak Greek, and express their thoughts in writing with precision. The successful operation of the Greek School is based upon the determination, organization and teaching methods of experienced and enthusiastic teachers.

In conjunction with these goals, the teaching of the Greek language is closely linked with the cultural and religious teachings of our ethnic group. The teaching of our history, our traditions, our folksongs and dances, our customs and our religion serve as a means of strengthening our children's awareness of, and respect for, their religious and ethnic heritage. Moreover, their esteem for the moral and ethnic values of their ancestors will help them form a strong Hellenic Christian character.

The ultimate goal is to motivate our children to maintain and promote the values they have received from their parents and ancestors, and to keep them close to their fellow Greeks, to Hellenism and to our Greek Orthodox Faith.

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fr. John Theodosion, Athena Borzeka, Maria Galvin, Keith Marin, Salomi Massaras

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MS ATHENA BORZEKA

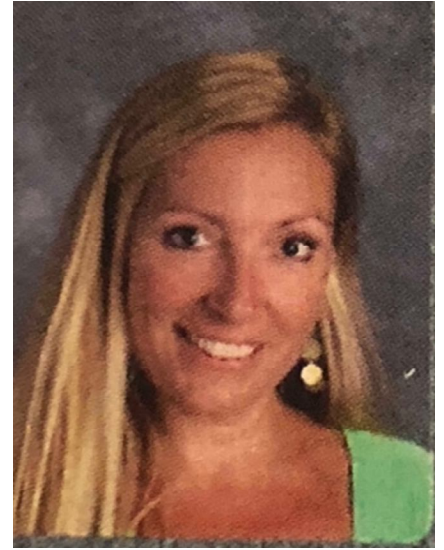
Athena has been a lifelong member of St. Andrew Church. She grew up involved in the Sunday School Program, the Greek School program and GOYA. Throughout her life she has served the church in many different capacities. In addition to spending time as a Sunday School teacher, GOYA Advisor and Dance Instructor she has actively volunteered for the Festival and is currently a member of the Parish Council, Philoptochos and Vice President of the Daughters of Penelope. Athena believes in the importance of preserving the Greek Orthodox faith and Community through education and service within the Church. Athena has enjoyed a 20+ year career in education. She has been employed as a special education teacher, guidance counselor and is currently the Director of Student Services & Special Education at the Morris County School of Technology. She is looking forward to bringing her experience and knowledge to the education committee to enhance the Greek school program.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE MRS MARIA (KELLY) GALVIN

Maria Galvin is a lifelong member of St. Andrew's. She has served her church as a Sunday School teacher, director of Camp St. Andrew, a member of both Philoptochos and Daughters of Penelope, as well as the PTA liaison on the Education Committee.

Maria holds a bachelors and masters degree in elementary education and has been teaching elementary school for 19 years. She currently teaches fifth grade at Alexander Hamilton School in Morristown. In addition, Maria coaches cheerleading, teaches dance, chess, and Harry Potter reading classes, as well as tutors students in various subjects. Her educational philosophy is to create students who are lifelong learners in a nurturing and positive environment



EDUCATION COMMITTEE, DIRECTOR & JR. PRE-K MRS. SALOMI MASSARAS κ^α Σαλώμη Μασσάρας



I have served as HAS and dance program Director at St. Andrew for the last 5 years. I am a certified teacher, supervisor, and principal and received my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the College of St. Elizabeth. Prior to that, I completed my Bachelors in Music Therapy at Montclair State University and worked as a music therapist for over 20 years. I am also currently employed as a tutor for children and adolescents at a behavioral health care facility and teach private piano and voice lessons.

I grew up at St. Andrew and participated in Greek School, Greek Dance, GOYA, and choir as I young child. I strive to advance an educational curriculum and program that meets the needs of the current student body. I enjoy teaching children of all ages and believe in emphasizing a strong foundation in both academic and spiritual learning. My goals include incorporating music into the Greek school program and working with the educational committee, parents, and teaching staff to create a productive and positive learning experience for all our students.

My other interests include working with Philoptochos, singing in several community choirs, and traveling. I have been married for the past 24 years to my husband Aristotle and we have a cat named Chopin.

6th GRADE MRS AMALIA ARMENAKIS κ^α Αμαλία Αρμενάκη

I have been teaching as a Greek Orthodox School Teacher for over 32 years. I have taught all grades from first through eighth. I have prepared dozens of students for the Regents and Elinomathia examinations. All of my students have passed the regents year after year. At St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton, I created the 7th and 8th grades. I have been honored by the Archdiocese for my committed Greek School services. I have been selected by the Archdiocese as a proctor for the regent exams. I hold a Bachelors of Science degree in Microbiology from Greece. This is my seventh year teaching at St. Andrew, and look forward to working with the children of this parish.



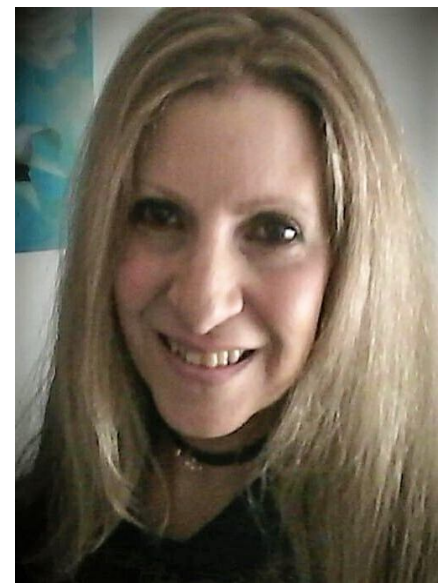
5th GRADE MRS HELEN ZERIS κ^α Ελένη Ζερη



My name is Eleni Zeris and together with my wonderful husband (Stamatis) and our three beautiful kids (Amalia, Christopher, Elias), we reside in Randolph, NJ. I was born and raised in Athens, Greece. When I was living in Greece, I graduated high school with Honors and I studied the Italian language. I also was employed in the Marketing Department of Citibank, that specialized in promotions and credit cards. When I came to the United States, I furthered my education and received my degree in Computer Science. I then started working in the Marketing Department of DISHNETWORK. My department was the Greek International Channels, ANTENNA TV, MEGA COSMOS and ERT sat. I came back to the work force after a six year break raising my kids, by joining the Special Education department of the Morris School District. The last 2 years, I joined the Special Education Department of the Morris County Vocational School in Denville (VOTECH). I have been a Greek School Teacher for the last 10 years. I am very proud to be able to teach the kids who were not born and raised in Greece, the Greek language and the Greek customs. Besides being a Greek school teacher, I am on the PTA board, I am a member of the Daughters of Penelope, member of the Philoptochos, I help out with Goya and I love being an active member of St. Andrew's church. In addition, I have been the recipient of the Morris County Council Education Members award, as a supporter of "Friends of Public Education".

4th GRADE MRS MARIA KIRITSIS κ^α Μαρία Κυρίτζ

My name is **Maria Kiritsis**, I was born in NJ but when I was ten years old, my family and I moved to Athens, Greece. I graduated from the University of Athens and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Greek and English Philology and Literature. I first started teaching English as a second language at private schools, at the age of 18 when I was still a university student, where I taught all age groups including adults. In 1995 I started working in Greek public Elementary Schools and High Schools where I taught English, Greek, History and Sociology. From 1998 to 2012, I was a teacher at the 4th High School (Λύκειο) of Nikaia, Piraeus. At the same time I also worked at the University of Athens for the Language Department, as an assessor for the Language certificate "Κρατικό Πιστοποιητικό Γλωσσομάθειας" (2003-2012).



I am married to Dimitri and blessed with three children, Anastasia, Angelo, Klelia and a grand-daughter Nefeli Maria. We moved back to NJ five years ago and I am currently working at Fotia Restaurant.

It is really a pleasure and I feel blessed to be teaching 4th Grade at The Hellenic Afternoon School. I encourage my students to speak Greek and we also focus on reading and writing, while they also learn about the Greek history, mythology, traditions and our religion through story books, DVDs, puzzles, songs and games.

3RD GRADE MRS HAROULA CHRISTODOULOU κ^α Χαρούλα Χριστοδούλου



Ονομάζομαι **Χαρούλα Χριστοδούλου** και είμαι μέλος της κοινότητας του Αγίου Ανδρέα για 25 χρόνια. Κατάγομαι από την αγαπημένη και πολύπαθη Κύπρο και έχω τέσσερα παιδιά τα οποία είναι απόφοιτοι του ελληνικού απογευματινού σχολείου. Έχω αποφοιτήσει από τη Φυσικομαθηματική Σχολή του

Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών, από το Ελληνικό Κέντρο Παραγωγικότητας όπου παρακολούθησα με επιτυχία το διετές πρόγραμμα "Προγραμματισμός και Ανάλυση

Ηλεκτρονικών Υπολογιστών" και έλαβα το σχετικό δίπλωμα. Επίσης παρακολούθησα με επιτυχία σεμινάρια του Ελληνικού Στατιστικού Ινστιτούτου με θέμα "Δειγματοληψία-Δημοσκόπηση" και έτυχα του σχετικού διπλώματος. Είχα την τιμή να εργαστώ σαν δικαστική υπάλληλος στο Πρωτοδικείο Αθηνών και κατόπιν στον Άρειο Πάγο που είναι το

Ανώτατο Δικαστήριο της χώρας. Επίσης εργάστηκα σαν αναπληρώτρια καθηγήτρια σε Γυμνάσιο και Λύκειο της ιδιαίτερης πατρίδας μου και όλα αυτά τα χρόνια παρέδιδα ιδιαίτερα μαθήματα σε μαθητές Δημοτικού, Γυμνασίου, Λυκείου και Κολλεγίου. Τα τελευταία χρόνια εδω στην νέα πατρίδα εργάστηκα σαν δασκάλα στον παιδικό σταθμό- Day Care "Discovery Years" και σαν γραμματέας στην εξαγωγική εταιρεία " Discovery Scientific " . Τα τελευταία δυόμισι χρόνια διδάσκω στο Ελληνικό σχολείο της κοινότητας μας. Σας ευχαριστώ.

2ND GRADE MRS STACEY PAPANIKOLAW κ^α Αναστασία Παπανικολάου

My name is **Anastasia (Stacey) Papanikolaw** and I am a native of Piraeus, Greece. My family and I have been active members of the St. Andrew community since 1984. My husband George has served on the Parish Council and has been a GOYA advisor. I have two daughters, Chrysanthi and Vasiliki. Chrysanthi teaches high school Language Arts in the Berds Township school district and has a master's degree in School Counseling. Vasiliki is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and works in Manhattan at the Hospital for Special Surgery.

Before joining the St. Andrew community, I lived in Westchester, NY. After receiving my certification from Teft Business College, I worked at St. John's Riverside Hospital as a Medical Records Technician. At the Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, I served as a Sunday School teacher and was a member of the parish choir. In addition, I earned my Certificate for Excellence in Hellenic Studies from the Greek Government.

In the St. Andrew community, I have been teaching in the Hellenic Afternoon School for 23 years, and I also served as a Sunday School teacher. I have taught at a private language school, where my students ranged in age from kindergarten to the adult level. Teaching the Greek language has been such a rewarding experience for me. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to share my love for our Hellenic language, faith, culture and heritage with my students.



1st GRADE MRS EFFIE KRITHARIS κ^α Ευστρατία Κριθάρη



My name is Efstratia (Effie) Kritharis and I was born and raised in Limnos Greece.

I got my diploma for Computer programming at Doxiadis College. I also studied economics in Athens and English language at the Hellenic American Institute. I tutored in Greece for elementary school kids and also taught Sunday school there.

I worked in Athens for 4 years as a secretary in an import/export company Noratex.

After I met my husband, Kosta, I moved to the US and have been living in Morris County for 26 years. We have 2 daughters, Athina and Amalia.

Here I worked in Apple Montessori School as a teacher's assistant and I love working with kids. Before becoming a teacher for the Greek school I was a teacher's aide for first grade Greek School at St. Andrew.

I am very happy to be part of this great Hellenic afternoon school program and I hope with God's help to be able to pass my love for the Greek language to your children.

KINDERGARTEN MS VASILIA CHRISTODOULOU κ^α Βασιλεία Χριστοδούλου

Vasilias Christodoulou is the Kindergarten teacher in St. Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School. She has always had a passion to teach and is very excited to be a part of the St. Andrew Greek community. It is important to her to create a safe and comfortable learning environment in the classroom where she applies her teaching experiences and love of the Greek language. Her students will feel welcomed as they look forward to engaging in learning the Greek language and Greek culture. Vasilias began her career as an Elementary School teacher in 1999 in New York City. Vasilias has taught the Greek language to adults and children during her years obtaining her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She has attended a Greek Parochial school in New York City from kindergarten to 8th grade in which she obtained a Greek Regents certificate in the Greek language.



Vasilias is a resident of Randolph Township and has one 11-year-old son who attends St. Andrew's Greek Afternoon School, Sunday school, and many varied activities St. Andrew provides. Currently, Vasilias is a graduate student obtaining her secondary education degree in English and plans thereafter to pursue a doctorate in Special Education. Teaching is a challenging and rewarding profession. She believes all children are unique and they all learn differently, but what they have in common is their natural curiosity and an innate ability to learn. In bringing out students individual learning styles and spark their curiosity will motivate them and engage to learn in their best abilities. It is important parents and teachers communicate and collaborate to enhance the student's learning as we begin a successful school year.

PRE- KINDERGARTEN MRS PANAYIOTA LOUCA κ^α Παναγιώτα Λουκά



My name is **Yiota Louca**, and I was born on the beautiful island of Cyprus! I have been a member of the St. Andrew Community since 1976. Initially, I lived in Morristown where I attended my Junior and Senior years at Morristown High School. I received my bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. I reside in Randolph with my husband, Antony, and my five lovely children: Katerina, Andreas, Demetri, Nicole and Alexia.

I worked for AT&T/Lucent International for 17 years where I held the position of an Account Support Manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. For the last 16 years I have been employed by The Randolph Board of Education where I have worked in a Kindergarten classroom and I am currently working with Special Needs Children, ages 3-5 years old.

Within the St. Andrew community, I was on the PTA board and taught Sunday School. Currently, I am a member of Philoptochos, the Daughters of Penelope, and I am an advisor for the St. Andrew Youth Group (GOYA).

In the past two years I have had the pleasure of teaching Greek School. I taught Jr. Pre-K and I am currently teaching the Pre-K class. I love teaching our native language and Greek Heritage and look forward to teaching this year again where I will continue incorporating fun and hands-on lessons for the youth of our church. Thank You!

MAZI ME TI Mama-Thaskala MRS MARIA PALLIS κ^α Μαρία Πάλης

Maria (Petrou) Pallis was born in Wayne, NJ, and was raised in West Milford as a first generation Cypriot from Avgorou and Gerrolakkos, Cyprus. She Grew up attending St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wycoff, but became a member at St. Andrew, during her junior year of high school where she was a member of GOYA and dance group. She met her husband George Pallis at the St. Andrew Greek Festival in 1996 whom she later married on September 26th, 2009.

Maria graduated from William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ with degrees in both Broadcast Journalism, and English Literature. She Interned and was later hired at CBS 4 Local News in New York for 2 years. She is a freelance television producer for a Greek television production company called Ellopia USA, from 2003-present. Her accomplishments include 3 nationally recognized Telly awards, and a documentary that she has worked on had been nominated for an Oscar. While freelancing, Maria worked as an elementary school teacher at St. Michael School in Newark, NJ. She taught 1st and 5th grade for 8 years, but decided to be a stay at home mother for her now 4 year old son Evangelos (Evan). Maria has dedicated over 10 years volunteering as a youth ice hockey coach. She was an advisor for the St. Andrew HOPE playgroup, and now currently teaches the MAZI ME tin Mama class. Maria Joined the PTA board in 2016, and now serves as president.



HOPE & JOY

WELCOME BACK to another year of HOPE & JOY! We hope everyone has had a blessed summer and is ready for a new year of fellowship, service and fun!

In June, we celebrated our end of the year at Land of Make Believe. Everyone had an amazing time. The weather was fantastic and we enjoyed all that was offered.

Our previous JOY group has a new NAME and email address! We are now HOPE & JOY. HOPE is Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education, which encompasses grades K through 2 and JOY is Junior Orthodox Youth and it encompasses grades 3 through 6. Our new email address is: hopejoystandrews@gmail.com. We are using this for any/all correspondence

moving forward.

Everything else has remained the same! Lynn Axiotes will be in charge of HOPE and Harriet Karkanias will be in charge of JOY. All of our monthly activities are open to our members and their families (unless otherwise noted.) We will still have one meeting per month and one activity per month.

We have many activities



scheduled for this coming year and hope that you can make it to all of them! Our first meeting is on Sunday, September 16th, directly following Sunday School. Please make sure to fill out a HOPE/JOY Registration form prior to (or at) the meeting. Meeting rooms will be announced and posted on our HOPE/JOY Bulletin Board in the Social Hall, as well as on the St. Andrew PTA Facebook page.

We look forward to another BLESSED year of HOPE & JOY!!!!

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD IN GRADES K-6?

Yes?

Then consider joining HOPE & JOY. HOPE (Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education) and JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) is a fellowship group for these ages. We have one meeting per month and one activity per month.





The group is split into 2 - the HOPE is grades K-2, and the JOY is grades 3-6. HOPE is run by Lynn Axiotes and JOY is run by Harriet Karkanias. Meetings are held on Sundays after Sunday School and Liturgy (12:15pm-1pm) - child only, no parents.

Activities are typically held on Saturdays once a month from 4pm-6pm (unless otherwise noted). Our calendar of activities is posted in the Social Hall on our HOPE/JOY Bulletin Board.

Take a peek when you are at coffee hour!

For more information on JOY or any of our upcoming events/activities, please contact HOPE & JOY of St. Andrews: hopejoystandrews@gmail.com



GOYA Kickoff September 2018

The GOYA season has officially started. I would first like to introduce myself, Constantine Sedereas, as this year's 2018-19 GOYA President. Working alongside me will be: Vice Presidents Maria Kalas, Alexia Louca, Secretaries John Karapidis and Lia Zois, Treasurer Andrew Venizelos, and Board Member Phil Christodoulou. I am very excited to work alongside my peers and to ensure that the members of Saint Andrew GOYA will have fun along with acting as a family while promoting our faith and Hellenic culture. This year our goal as a GOYA is to establish a culture with as much participation as possible and to be all inclusive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Kickoff meeting- will be held on **Thursday September 13th** in the social hall. It is very important for all members and their parents to attend because we will discuss the 2018-19 Events and Activities.
- The DIVING OF THE HOLY CROSS- on Sunday **September 16th** in Asbury Park. Representing St.



Andrew GOYA will be senior divers Maria Kalas and Giorgio Seretis, along with junior diver John Karipidis

- Harvest Dance- **September 28th** at St. George in Trenton
- First Basketball and Volleyball games- **September 30th** , home against Fairview GOYA
- Mr./Miss GOYA- **October 7th**, representing Saint Andrew GOYA will be Phil Christodoulou Maria Kalas

Finally, we would like to congratulate the graduating seniors on a great six years and wishing them the best of luck in college. A big thank you to our advisors Peter Sedereas, Doniki Ibrahim, Yiota Louca, and Marina Venizelos for their patience, dedication and support. We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Ibrahim for her past 6 years of devotion to our St. Andrew GOYA. We would also like to welcome Mrs. Polymnia Crysler as our new advisor. We look forward to an exciting GOYA year with all our Saint Andrew family.





Room for Agape

a voice for our seniors September 2018

Welcome back for a new fiscal year of adventure and spiritual enrichment, arms wide open for a warm heart-felt embrace! I hope everybody got their batteries recharged over the summer and are ready to work in behalf of our beloved Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, all over again.



Overwhelmed sometimes by unprecedented struggle, challenge, and change in our everyday lives, I thought it would be helpful to review what our Creator gave us as a heritage and source of endless strength far more precious than gold (element, Au): *the Awe*. May all of us press straight forward with a *new clear* vision, eyes now wide open to the priceless wonder of His Grace.

St Paul addressed the above issue in his first letter to the Corinthians (3:16): “Know you not that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of Christ dwells in you?” John also bore witness of Jesus’ graphic words regarding “the temple” in John 2:19-21. Jesus is a truly *personal* Savior for each of us, teaching and guiding us every moment day and night. He abides in us as a precious place and shows us more and more when we’ve proven to Him that we know how to work with what He’s already made known so far. His lessons are not easy unless willing to follow closely – as if in step and part of our actual heartbeats.

The thought occurred to me in the form of a challenge: “Prove Me now,” saith the Lord (Malachi 3:10). None of us (except for a gifted few) would have ever learned how to swim if we didn’t trust the one offering instruction as providing a trustworthy example. Likewise, with the needy Israelites, God wasn’t asking for *everything* in this particular example – just a portion that would do them no harm yet strengthen a sense of trust.

Jesus, above all, had to trust the powers of His Father in order to come to earth and offer Himself as a living sacrifice in a graphic way: to reveal the meaning of trust. It was like, in a small way, the trust of a toddler standing at the top of a staircase and suddenly shouting at its parent many steps down as tossing body and soul toward their arms

on sudden impulse: “catch me!” *Innocent trust, based on pure love, somehow works!* That’s the Spirit; the wonder is how it manages to bind bodies together like magnets – heart to heart, of one mind. “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 2:5). Look it up; read on; let the Holy Spirit teach you; discover the *wonder* of God’s Grace in word - inwardly!

We can only be toddlers for so long before we want to feed ourselves. Children declare their “independence” long before able to actually support themselves as the world defines it. Actually, only God knows how to do it right: through obedience to His truly super *natural* laws, proven to work reliably, time and time again. Yes, life goes on.

Now I share a little secret that isn’t one at all. Discovering the actual structure of our Faith is like being an inquisitive kid. Ah, the *Wonder* of fooling around – just guessing! Oh, the pain of suffering consequence, often delayed. All of us were one of those - once - although we don’t remember what it was like to be an explorer long before learning how to use words to ask - or even read for that matter – much less learn unforgettable lessons. We are at the mercy of our parent examples, memory serving us one way or the other – even as a void.

One of them happens to be a force of habit that cannot be denied. It is brought to light for life as the art (and reason) of give and take – or balance in trade: the neutralizer, and peacemaker. It reveals itself as purely natural: some are born givers and others are takers. Reason takes over at a certain point – and consequence, if you please. Takers know only to take (for-getters never enough) and givers know only to give (forgivers no matter what). If there are no givers around, takers become at a

definite loss – and start taking from each other – resentfully. If they keep trying to take more anyway, they become suckers – vacuous – empty – until nothing at all. As for givers in the midst of dedicated takers, they just have to wait a while and time will eventually fill them in. Life goes on; generations succeed one another as a present, renewed.

I would dare say that perhaps the greatest gift as aging, next to life itself, is a grandchild – better still, a Great grandchild – for then we finally realize how much fun we had at one time – and can *still* have – if only to get the *Wonder* back as a gift from God to our now wiser being – worn out. And even feel young again – momentarily (until reality sets in, bones ache, and heart leaps as trying to keep up with “Summa Zoomer, the gee whiz kid”.)

Regardless of how old or worn we may be, it’s never too late to be a learner again. This is especially true as realizing how wise God actually

was (and is) – and mindfully disciplined with foresight and all – as creating us in His image and likeness in the first place. And then adding a touch of wonder by giving us the gift of the **Living Word** so we could understand His mind for work – eventually.

May God richly bless and keep our family of Saint Andrew as we learn and practice the art of give, take, and sharing for the sake and well-being of wholeness according to God’s wondrous Mind to work for Life, eternal.

Tuesday Luncheons @11:30am – 2018

Sept. 18– Bingo

Oct. 16 – TRIP to Atlantic City by bus/Leaving early!

Nov. 20– Police chief w/safety suggestions

Dec. 18– Christmas party at Red Hut

Maryann Brinkley (973-442-3011) and Betty Kelly (973-704-3077) co-chairs

PARENTS’CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

Schools Open September 2018!

Wow! What a summer! I was in Greece and I loved seeing parents interact with their children! I am sure many parents traveled, sent their children to camp, summer school for some, spent quality time with them at home, etc. etc. etc. Now is the time to fill book bags, meet and greet teachers, peers, making new friends, getting into a routine that involves more structure than the summer did. How do we encourage our children to get back into a routine of GOYA, Greek School, Sunday School, regular school, and all those activities? Who needs Jesus’ and Panagia’s help? The parents do first! What can we do to help our kids get into a schedule? These are valuable tips that I re-state every September because we forget that schedules change and we begin a new phase. Be aware that if you are dealing with special needs children, they will welcome their school structure, but for some they are scared of meeting new friends and during

the next 10 months they will be stepping again into a new environment.

Below are some tips for parents from professional educators and I have added a few tips of my own with an asterisk * related to our Greek Orthodox faith. Congratulations! You got through the summer. Now more work begins!

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Plan a route: If your child walks or bikes to school, walk the route and emphasize safety. *Encourage your child to say a prayer and maybe place a “filakto” or little icon in their book bag.

Visit the school: Try to meet the teacher too! *Don’t forget to talk to the Sunday and Greek School teacher, and HOPE, JOY & GOYA advisors.

Set goals with your child: Create frequent rewards for success.

Make a schedule: Set aside time each day for studying, reading and playing. *Pray together.

Go to bed: Sleep patterns change slowly. Get your child back to a regular schedule.

Shake off the cobwebs: Read a book together. Review last year's math and reading skills. Practice neat handwriting.

Create excitement: Shop together for clothes and school supplies to get in the school spirit.

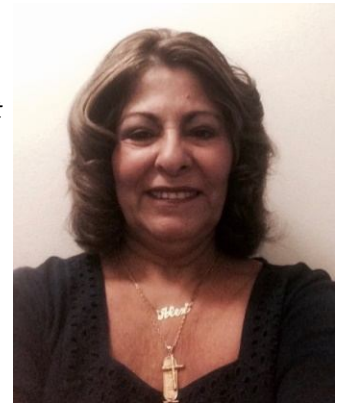
This month's **Table Prayer Guide** is from **"DAILY PRAYERS: A CHILD'S MORNING PRAYER"**

Lord Jesus, thank you for the bright sunshine of a new day. As you made the sun to rise in the heavens, so come to shine in my life today. For You are the Light in the world. Guide me, direct me, lead me that I may do Your holy will and please You in all that I do this day. Bless my parents, my teachers, and all who care for me. Amen".

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

alexproto@optonline.net

Have a great month! | Alexandra Protopapas Med | Certified Teacher of the Handicapped & Social Sciences
Teacher at Educational Services Commission of Morris County, Parsippany Schools, St. Elizabeth's Academy in Convent Station, & Abundant Life Schools. |(Information, Teaching, Tutoring, Counseling, Homebound Instruction.)



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BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

NATANIEL NOLBERTO NARANJOS son of Kevin Naranjo and Stephanie Nicole Bixler of Denville, NJ was baptized on May 26, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **NATHANIEL – ΝΑΘΑΝΑΗΛ**. Godfather was Alexander James Bixler.

VAN LOUIS TUBBS son of Jeremy Wayne Tubbs and Elaine Zoe Laskos of Myrtle Beach, SC was baptized on June 10, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **EVANGELOS ELIAS – ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ**. Godmother was Olivia Altman.

ELLI KATHERINE PITTAS SZELAG daughter of Adam Joseph Szelag and Despina Deborah Pittas of Randolph, NJ was baptized on June 10, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **ELLI – ΕΛΛΗ**. Godmother was Maria Irizarry.

NATANEEL EMMANUEL STEFANAKIS son of Emmanuel George Stefanakis and Sarah Goldman of Randolph NJ was baptized on June 24, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **NATHANAEL- ΝΑΘΑΝΑΗΛ**. Godmother was Eleni Stamaterakis.

THEODORE JAMES PLENDELEITH son of Travis Plenderleith and Anna Markouris of Morristown, NJ was baptized on June 30, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **THEODORE – ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ**. Godfather was Antoni Bulko.

SUNNY FAYE HUNSICKER daughter of Kyle John Hunsicker and Kayla Paskas of Lafayette, NJ was baptized on July 8, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **FOTINI – ΦΩΤΕΙΝΗ**. Godmother was Erica Potosky.

CHRISTOS EVANGELOS TSATSOS son of Adam Christos Tsatsos and Theodora N. Tzima of Greenwood Lake NY was baptized on July 22, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **CHRISTOS – ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ** Godfather was Stefanaos Diamantis.

PAUL JOSEPH WESTBERG son of Kenneth Paul Westberg and Stamatia Pavlakos of Flanders, NJ was baptized on August 11, 2018 according to the rites of our faith and given the name **PAUL – ΠΑΥΛΟΣ**. Godmother was Marissa Pallis.

CHRISMATION - ΧΡΙΣΜΑ

Vanessa Encarnacion entered into the Orthodox faith on June 9th 2018 by rites of Chrismation, Sponsor was Jenny Dorizas.

Stephanie Eastlake entered into the Orthodox faith on July 8th 2018 by rites of Chrismation. Sponsor Katrina (Geannakopoulos) Prisco.

FUNERAL – ΚΗΔΕΙΑ *Correction*

+**Louis Demakos**, of Morris Plains NJ passed away on April 11, 2018. Louis was the father of Eleni Demakos, Demetra (Jeff) Laino, Potoula Gieger. He was predeceased by his wife Athanasia in 1991. A Funeral Service was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church on Monday, April 16th

May his memory be eternal. Αιωνία η μνήμη αυτού.

WEDDINGS – ΓΑΜΟΙ

On May 20th, 2018 at 3:00pm **Andreas Tsamis** of Rockaway, NJ wed **Konstantina Zarkadas** of Dover, NJ. Sponsor was Mari Bellini, witness was George Stoumbos.

On June 9th 2018 at 12:00pm **Kenneth Paul Wesberg** of Flanders, NJ wed **Stamatia Pavlakos** of Flanders, NJ. Sponsor was Marissa Pallis, witness was Bashira Asfour.

On June 9, 2018 at 3:00 pm **Athanasios S. Kolovos** of Morristown, NJ wed **Kathryn C. Minter** of Morristown, NJ. Sponsor was Irene Hopka, witness was John Hopka.

On June 16th 2018 at 4:00pm **George Felix Casares** of Hackettstown, NJ wed **Alexsandra Nicole Hayter** of Hackettstown, NJ. Sponsor was Rebecca Haytere, witness was Larry Hayter.

On July 8, 2018 at 3pm **David L. Ruiz** Morristown, NJ wed **Mary Kathleen Sakacs** of Morristown, NJ. Sponsor was Eleni Stone, witness was Oscar Ruiz.

Congratulations to all! Συγχαρητήρια σε όλους

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ST. ANDREW CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **Sundays** after Holy Communion

GOYA Games **Sundays** @2-8pm

PILLOW MINISTRY TBA ON A **Monday** @11am

BAKING GROUP **Tuesdays** @9am

GOYA Volleyball **Tuesdays** @6-10pm

KNITTING GROUP **Wednesdays** @10am -2pm

GOYA Basketball **Wednesdays** @6-10pm

Hellenic Afternoon School **Thursdays** @4:30pm

JR Greek Dancing **Thursdays** @6:30pm

GOYA Greek Dancing **Thursdays** @7pm

YOUTH GROUPS

LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROUP for children not attending Kindergarten

HOPE HELLENIC ORTHODOX PRIMARY EDUCATION grades K-2 in public schools

JOY JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH grades 3-6 in public schools

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS SEPTEMBER: 9/2 PHILOPTOCHOS
9/9 PTA, 9/16 AT ASBURY PARK, 9/23 DOP, 9/30 GOYA

9/3 LABOR DAY

9/4 @7pm Sunday School Staff Meeting

9/6 @4:30pm HAS Teachers' Meeting

9/7 & 9/8 @9am-4pm Rummage Sale

9/8 @3PM WEDDING of Eastlake & Geannakopoulos

9/9 @11:15am AGIASMOS for Sunday school & all educators (*Religious, Greek, Public schools*)

9/9 First Day of Sunday School

9/13 @4:30pm AGIASMOS for HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL followed by 1st day of classes

9/13 @7pm GOYA Kick Off Meeting

9/15 @3PM BAPTISM

9/16 Services will be held at Asbury Park
No Service at St. Andrew

9/18 @11:30am Agape Luncheon 3rd Tuesday

9/20 @6:30PM 1st Day of GREEK DANCE Jr & GOYA

9/20 @7:30pm Parish Council Monthly Meeting

9/22 Faith Kitchen / Philoptochos chairs

9/23 @12:15pm HOPE/JOY Monthly Meeting

9/25-12/5 @7-9pm Adult Greek Language Class
Tuesdays cost \$300

9/25 @7pm Philoptochos Meeting 4th Tuesday

9/26 @7:30-8:30pm Adult Greek Dance *10 weeks on Wednesdays \$125*

9/29 @10 AM WEDDING ROSE & MOSHEN

9/29 @12PM BAPTISM

9/29 JOY Activity "Apple Picking"

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS OCTOBER: 10/7 PHILOPTOCHOS
10/14 PTA, 10/21 DOP, 10/28 GOYA

10/5-10/7 CONNECT CONFERENCE in Atlanta GA more info on: website, FB or info@connectorthodoxy.org

10/7 @12:30pm Project Mexico Presentation

10/20 HOPE/JOY Activity "Turtleback Zoo"

10/27 Faith Kitchen – GOYA

10/27 HOPE/JOY/PTA Activity "Trunk or Treat"

10/28 HAS OXI Day HAS Program

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NOVEMBER: 11/4 PHILOPTOCHOS
11/11 PTA, 11/18 DOP, 11/25 GOYA

11/2 @8am -4pm Lifeline Screening Pre-registration is required call 888-653-6450

11/17 JOY Activity /Sterling Hill Mine

11/18 @1:30PM BAPTISM

11/22 Thanksgiving Day

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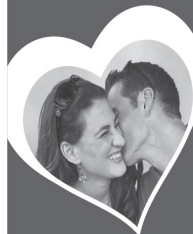
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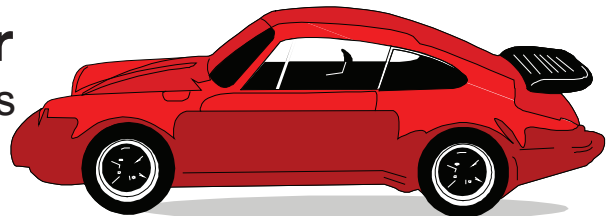
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Salomi Massaras salomi@optonline.net

HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

M I N I S T R I E S & O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

Ladies Philoptochos Society: Petra Knox, *President*

Coffee Hour *need facilitator*

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

AHEPA: TJ Borzeka, *President*

Daughters of Penelope: Athena Borzeka, *President*

PTA: Maria Pallis, *President*

Little Angels Playgroup: Maria Pallis

HOPE & JOY: Harriet Karkanias, Lynn Axiotes

GOYA: Constantine Sedereas, *President*

GOYA ADVISORS:

Polymnia Crysler, Yiota Louca, Peter Sedereas, Marina Venizelos

HELLENIC DANCE

GOYA INSTRUCTOR: Tanya De Boer

JUNIOR GROUP INSTRUCTOR: Angelo Gergatsoulis



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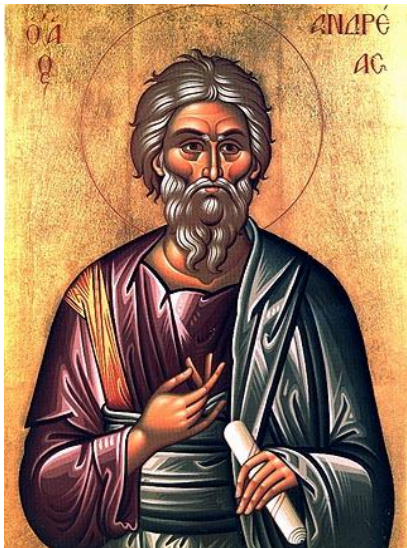
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The Meaning of Life.....

What is Life? It is a gift from God that is given to us in order to purify our souls from sin and to prepare ourselves, through Christ, to receive eternal life. What is Man? A being created through the limitless love of God and to whom God gave the choice between holiness and (spiritual) death.

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

HYMN OF THE APOSTLE ST. ANDREW

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

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ

Ως των Αποστόλων πρωτόκλητος,
και του κορυφαίου αυτάδελφος,
τον Δεσπότην των όλων Ανδρέα ικέτευε,
ειρήνην τη οικουμένη δωρήσασθαι,
και ταις ψυχαίς ημών το μέγα έλεο

The Saint Andrew Vision Statement

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