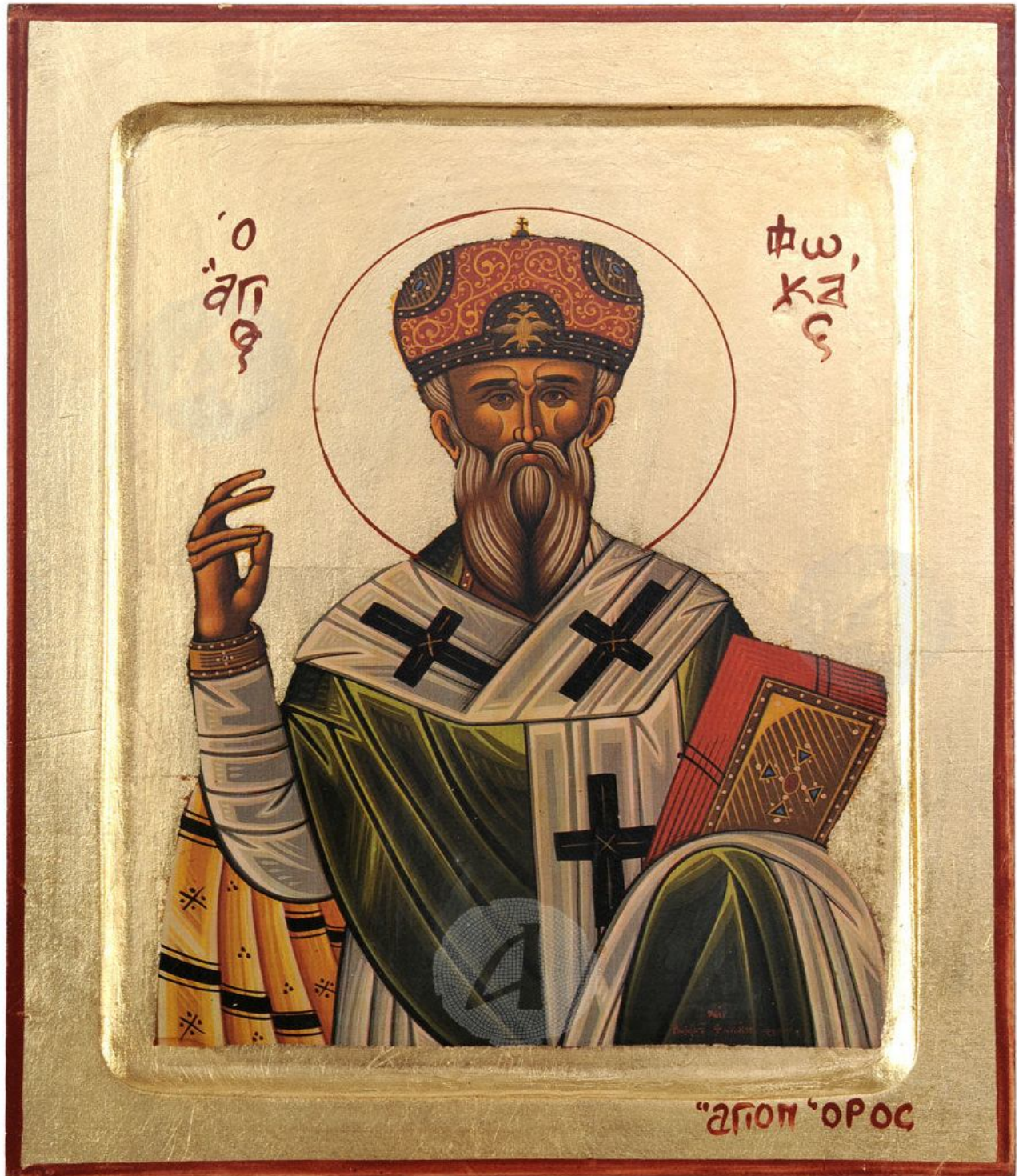


SEPTEMBER 2021



Saint Andrew Family News

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



Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

Icon of St Phocas, the Gardner Bishop of Sinope – September 22

Rummage Sale – September 10 & 11

Gyro & Souvlaki Fest TAKE OUT – September 18 & 19

Mercedes Benz Car Raffle Drawing – September 26

Saint Andrew Family News

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

On Sundays we celebrate

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

For other services please check our website or call the office

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 10am-4pm

☎: 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*

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

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

*Deadline for the **OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE** is September 20th*

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

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DIVINE SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2021

Wednesday 1 +BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

Sunday 5 11th Sunday of Matthew

Wednesday 8 +THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Thursday 9 HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA

Sunday 12 Sunday before the Holy Cross

Tuesday 14 +EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Thursday 16 +ST. EUPHEMIA THE GREAT MARTYR

Sunday 19 Sunday after the Holy Cross

Wednesday 22 + PHOCAS THE MARTYR, BISHOP OF SINOPE* *Relics*

Thursday 23 +CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 26 +FALLING ASLEEP OF JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN AND EVANGELIST

OCTOBER

Sunday 3 2nd Sunday of Luke

Monday 4 +ST. HIEROTHEOS OF ATHENS* *Relics*

Wednesday 6 +ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Sunday 10 3rd Sunday of Luke

Sunday 17 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Monday 18 ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Saturday 23 +ST. IAKOVOS THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

Sunday 24 6th Sunday of Luke

Tuesday 26 ST. DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH BEARER

Thursday 28 OXI DAY" *Greek National Holiday* | +HOLY PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Sunday 31 5th Sunday of Luke

Sundays: Orthros begins @ 8:15AM & Divine Liturgy @ 9:30AM

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

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

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2021

Τετάρτη	1	ΑΡΧΗ τῆς ἸΝΔΙΚΤΟΥ
Κυριακή	5	ΙΑ΄ Ματθαίου
Τετάρτη	8	+ΤΟ ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Πέμπτη	9	+ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΝ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΙΩΑΚΕΙΜ ΚΑΙ ἌΝΝΗΣ
Κυριακή	12	Προ της Ὑψώσεως
Τρίτη	14	+ΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ
Πέμπτη	16	+ΕΥΘΥΜΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ
Κυριακή	19	Μετά την Ὑψωσιν
Τετάρτη	22	+ΦΩΚᾶς ἹΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ* <i>Λείψανα</i>
Πέμπτη	23	ΣΥΛΛΗΩΙΣ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ
Κυριακή	26	+ΜΕΤΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΥ

ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΣ

Κυριακή	3	Β΄ Λουκά
Δευτέρα	4	+ ΙΕΡΟΘΕΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ * <i>Λείψανα</i>
Τετάρτη	6	+ΘΩΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΥ
Κυριακή	10	Γ΄ Λουκά
Κυριακή	17	Των Ἁγίων Πατέρων τῆς Ζ΄ Οἰκ. Συνόδου
Δευτέρα	18	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗ
Σαββάτο	23	+ ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΘΕΟΥ
Κυριακή	24	ΣΤ΄ Λουκά
Τρίτη	26	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΑΣ
Πέμπτη	28	28 ^Η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ» ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΚΕΠΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Κυριακή	10	Ε΄ Λουκά

Την **Κυριακή** – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8.15πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9:30πμ
Τις **καθημερινές** – Ὁρθρος - ώρα 8πμ & Θεία Λειτουργία - ώρα 9.15πμ
(*Ἐχομε τα Λείψανα του Αγίου στην Λειψανοθήκη της εκκλησία μας*)*

Don't Let the World Confuse Your Priorities

by Fr. John Theodosion

I write this as we are approaching the New Ecclesiastical Year and I am thinking about the confusing times we live in. We have so much happening in our lives like taking care of children, or aging relatives, work obligations, various activities, volunteering at church or in town, etc., and of course add to all of this that we are trying to make sense of the whole Coronavirus Pandemic as it seems to invade affect every aspect of life. The only other



event that I can think of that affected us so much was the attacks on September 11, 2001.

It is against this backdrop that we enter the New Ecclesiastical Year and I write this letter with concern in my heart. My concern is for the future of Saint Andrew and the salvation of our community members. I feel like our connection to one another and to the community is becoming weakened I had these feelings even before the Coronavirus outbreak happened. I am concerned because I can see the secularization of society and the fact that Sunday is no longer a day dedicated to the Lord. So many activities associated with school and the community at large are being scheduled on Sunday morning and our community members were being pulled in. Or should I say being pulled away from the life of the community. Recently, we added to this situation the

Coronavirus Pandemic which has complicated things even more. Keeping priorities in life straight and not being tempted to be conformed to the standards of this world is a struggle. It seems that the world seemingly penalizes us when we try to follow the teachings of our church. I say seemingly because the so-called punishments of this world cannot compare to the blessings of our Lord's Heavenly Kingdom. Its, hard to stay strong in the face of pressure from

coaches, neighbors, friends, relatives, and even your own children.

As a leader and shepherd of this community, I have a growing concern for the families and parishioners of Saint Andrew that these pressures to alter our priorities are pulling some of us away. Or, the restrictions of the Coronavirus and the fear caused by it, also keep people away.

It is my hope that everyone will consider that all of the activities and pursuits of this present world and even the Coronavirus itself are all temporary. In a year or two, the pandemic will be in the past. It will be something we tell our children and grandchildren about. Activities and hobbies and sports are here to make life interesting and fun or to help us stay healthy while we are here. The only thing that is not temporary is God Himself. Our God and our faith in Him are the only things in this

life that are forever. The purpose of this life on earth is for us to learn to live in a more Christlike way and come closer to God and one another as a community through communal prayer, i.e. sacraments, acts of charity, learning and even socializing. Doing these things together as a church community creates a community of love. A community of love where everyone belongs and shares the love of Christ with those who are in the community and those who are part of the community at large. The actualization of this vision brings the reality of God's Heavenly Kingdom into our everyday lives. Activities and hobbies can be part of our spiritual growth when

kept in proper perspective, but when they take over and interfere with our spiritual life, they become a dangerous impediment to our salvation. The Lord tells us in Matthew chapter 6:33-34, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." So, keep your priorities straight, put God first and seek the righteousness of His Kingdom and be careful not to put faith and trust in the things of this world. This world and all things of this world are only temporary.

Sunday September 12th

.. Paramount Theatre in Asbury Park due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Paramount, which has been closed since the start of the pandemic, will not be reopening in the near future.

Please know that since we are unable to celebrate the Divine Liturgy all together at the Paramount, **all of the parishes will be OPEN that Sunday** and all of our priests are to celebrate Liturgy in their respective parishes. In order to still provide an opportunity for our youth to participate we will still be having the Blessing of the Waters and Diving for the Cross. Therefore, the modified schedule for this year's **Holy Cross Celebration** is as follows:

- 8:30am Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. George in Asbury Park (Ocean)
 - o All youth divers are asked to be in attendance at St. George for the Liturgy
 - o Buses will be available after Divine Liturgy to provide transportation for the Divers to the Asbury Park Beach
- 12:30pm Asbury Park Beach: Trisagion at the Patriarch Athenagoras Statue, Procession to the Water, the Blessing of the Waters, and the Diving for the Cross by the Youth
- Following the diving for the Cross the buses for the Youth will depart back to St. George - *Please note that this year there will be no BBQ following the event.

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

BIG GREEK GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST



GYRO – SOUVLAKI – Greek Deserts & Much More

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choose a date & pick up time

SATURDAY SEPT 18 FROM 11AM-6PM

SUNDAY SEPT 19 FROM 12-5PM

Pick up at Saint Andrew

1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph NJ

Hellenic Afternoon School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families are doing well and enjoyed the summer. We are prepared for a great school year and look forward to seeing everyone in-person. Although we will be in-person and may continue to face some challenges, we will proceed to follow all safety measures according to the New Jersey Department of Health and follow the decisions made by the Randolph School District. In June 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) published “The Road Forward – Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year”, a guidance document to assist New Jersey school districts in planning to provide full-day, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan is aligned with the requirements outlined in the document and includes the school district’s unique and locally developed protocols to ensure our schools reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate staff and students’ unique needs during this unprecedented time. This plan also adheres to all current Executive Orders of the Governor of New Jersey and are subject to change.

We are limiting the amount of people in the building to only staff, students, and volunteers. We will continue to wear masks in the classroom and ask parents to drop off their children at the office entrance. Parents/caregivers shall monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Staff shall conduct a daily health self-screening each day. Students and staff who are sick or exhibiting signs/symptoms of COVID 19 should not report to school.

The HAS program will continue Greek school every Monday and Thursday as each level will continue once a week of two-hour instruction. The HAS program is split into two groups.

- **Group 1** are levels Jr. Pre- K, Pre-K, Kindergarten, level 1, and level 2.
- **Group 2** are levels 3, level 4, level 5, and level 6.
- **Group 1** will meet every **Monday** (starting on Sept. 13) from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.
 - Jr Pre-K Monday (starting on Sept. 13) from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.
- **Group 2** will meet every **Thursday** (starting on Sept. 9) from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

***Additionally**, we are adding an **optional** one-hour conversation class on Monday and Thursday.

- **Group 1** will have a **one-hour conversation** class every **Thursday** from 4:45 to 5:45 PM.
- **Group 2** will have a **one-hour conversation** class every **Monday** from 5:30 PM. to 6:30 PM

<p>*DANCE GROUP 1 (AGES 5 TO 7) AND DANCE GROUP 2 (AGES 8 TO 11). *Greek dance will be every Thursday starting on September 16, 2021. * DANCE GROUP 1 will begin at 5:45 to 6:30 PM * DANCE GROUP 2 will begin at 6:30 to 7:15 PM</p>
--

A reminder to keep and bring back all student’s Greek books from the previous year for use in the upcoming school year. We look forward to seeing our students for another successful school year!

In education,
Vasilia Christodoulou, HAS Teacher, HAS Director of Education
vantonchristo@standrewgonj.com 347-886-6564 (C)

TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE



RAFFLE



**2021 MERCEDES-BENZ
GLC300 W4 SUV – MSRP \$51,615**

**RED METALLIC | ALL-WHEEL DRIVE | REMOTE START
PARKING ASSISTANT | NAVIGATION**

TICKETS \$25 EACH | DRAWING SEPTEMBER 26, 2021, 1PM

To benefit St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869 973.584.0388

Winner need not be present at drawing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

IMAGE FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES ONLY, ACTUAL CAR MAY VARY.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and IOCC Partner to Provide Relief to Greece

August 13, 2021

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, following the launch of a nationwide fundraising campaign, will partner with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) to identify specific needs and distribute the funds that are being collected in order to provide long-term assistance in the wake of the recent catastrophic fires across Greece.

In making the announcement, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America said, "We are grateful to partner with International Orthodox Christian Charities, who has a long history of properly identifying how to best address the needs of those suffering from these catastrophes. Working together, we will offer much needed support to our brothers and sisters in Greece who have lost so much during these past weeks."

Executive Director and CEO of IOCC Constantine Triantafilou stated, "We remain concerned for the people of Greece whose lives are impacted by these recent fires. IOCC is thankful for the leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and for the support of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We look forward to working together to address the mounting needs in the fire-ravaged regions of Greece."

For more information and to donate to the Greece Fires Relief Fund, please visit <https://www.goarch.org/greecefiresdonate>

*International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States of America. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has provided more than \$715 million in humanitarian relief and sustainable development programs in over 60 countries worldwide. Today, IOCC applies its expertise in humanitarian response to natural and manmade crises in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, offering assistance based solely on need.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION



Scan the QR code or visit [goarch.org/greecefiresdonate](https://www.goarch.org/greecefiresdonate) to make your secure online donation



Donate through *your* parish's online giving



Make your check payable to:
"Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America"
Memo: "Greece Fires"

Checks may be mailed to:
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Phone: (212) 570-3500 • Email: archdiocese@goarch.org

The Daughters of Penelope # 250 presents their annual

Fall Fashion Show

Please join us on
Saturday October 16, 2021

11 am – 3 pm

The Meadow Wood Manor
Randolph, NJ

Featuring
Fashions by Beciga of Sparta NJ

Luncheon and designer raffles
To benefit the charitable works* of the Daughters of Penelope

Donation : \$50

*Penelope House Family Violence Center, Limbitless Solutions, Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation, 5th District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation, DOP 5th District Scholarship Fund

For tickets and more information please contact:

Athena Borzeka 201-213-2293 aborzeka@gmail.com

Eleni Boyadjis 609-304-3714 eboyadjis@aol.com



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion
Pastor

SAINT ANDREWS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

2021

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to our new and returning families!

The goal of the Religious Education School is to show our children how to lead Christian lives. The Religious Education teacher supplements and reinforces the work of the priest and the parents in educating the child to know Jesus Christ and His Church. Our first concern is that the child learns about his Saviour, Jesus Christ. Using His teachings as our foundations we bring the child to know and practice his Orthodox faith. Each teacher in the Religious Education School is not only a source of religious information to the child, but also one of the child's prime examples of Christian behavior.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated, conscientious, and responsible group of volunteers who will spend each week preparing a lesson to teach our children on Sunday. However, they can only be with them for a mere one-hour a week. Family involvement is essential to a child's religious growth and development. As parents you can:

- Encourage prompt and regular attendance to Divine Liturgy on Sunday.
- Ask your children what was learned in class and discuss the lesson.
- Show an interest in your children's projects and take-home work.
- Encourage your children to do their assignments and help them if help is needed.
- Worship together as a family even when classes are not in session, it helps the children realize that church worship and Religious Education School go together.

Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life.

(Proverbs 22:6)

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Web: www.standrewgonj.org • E-mail: info@standrewgonj.org

Church and home go hand in hand. **Share the Experience.**

This year we are pleased to continue with our classes as follows:

Divine Liturgy: Parents and children should be in church on time

Altar Boys should be in church 5 minutes before liturgy begins

Students & Teachers will receive Holy Communion and then proceed to their Classes.

Additional information about Services found on our weekly bulletin & web site

Provided below are some important dates to keep in mind:

Classes begin September 26th with a **ST ANDREW FAMILY KICK-OFF CELEBRATION**

Parents for Pre-K3 – 2nd Grade please bring snacks

REGISTRATION (Complete FAMILY & STUDENT FORM) find on Saint Andrew website or weekly ebulletin or contact the church info@standrewgonj.org for Registration Form

SUNDAY SEPT 12TH WE WILL HAVE LITURGY AT SAINT ANDREW.

We will **not** be able to celebrate Divine Liturgy at the Paramount with all the parishes. Our youth will participate in the Blessing of the Waters and Diving for the Cross (see Metropolis of NJ communication)

To maintain an orderly environment for our students, we respectfully ask parents to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Please bring your children on time to church and for class.
- Parents are asked to return upstairs after dropping off students. Please do not linger downstairs or outside the classrooms since this will be a distraction for the classes in session.
- After dismissal, parents of younger children please pick them up directly from their classes.

We want to assure you that the safety of our children is most important to us. Our schools will follow the COVID protocols recommended for the local area and our Metropolis. We thank you for your support and look forward to a successful year!

In the Service of the Lord,

Fr. John Theodosion
Protopresbyter

Maro N. Schuster
Director of Religious Education

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Web: www.standrewgonj.org • E-mail: info@standrewgonj.org

AWARDS BANQUET

*Monday, September 20th, 2021 @ 6:00pm
at "The Venetian" in Garfield, NJ*

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox church will honor only a few of the many hard working and dedicated parishioners of our community.

This year the following faithful Orthodox Christians of our community were chosen for their selfless service to our ministries. They will be honored by our church and will receive an award at the 2021 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention Grand Banquet which will be held at "The Venetian" in Garfield, New Jersey on Monday, September 20th:

Parish Council Honoree **Peter Petrou**, Philoptochos Honoree **Mary Michailidis**, Saint Andrew Community Honoree **John A Paxos**, GOYA Honoree **Andrew Venizelos**, Essential Medical Worker Honoree **Dr. Theodore Markou**, Parent Teachers Organization Honoree **Anastasia Mitrakos**, Oldest Person in the Parish of Saint Andrew Honoree **Hariklia Thomopoulou**.

We would like to thank them all for their services and contributions to the success of our ministries. The Clergy Laity Banquet is open to all who wish to express their gratitude to those who have served in our parish for many years. If you would like to attend this event, please contact the church office for reservations and details ASAP.

KICKOFF CELEBRATION

all children of our community and their families are invited
to a special outdoor celebration to kick off the new year
following church services on
Sunday September 26th.

GOYA September 2021



Saint Andrew GOYA is back for another exciting year.

Last year, The GOYANS said goodbye to the seniors and wished them well for their next stage of life! This year, GOYA has its first meeting in September. New members are welcome to join.

GOYA is open to youth in 7th – 12th grades. We will be discussing our upcoming events, our new season of girl's volleyball and boys' basketball practices and games. Join the teams!

We are looking forward to the celebration of the **Holy Cross Sunday September 12th** where GOYANS dive for the Cross at Asbury Park. Our Senior Divers are John Karapidis and Despina Sedereas. And our Junior Divers are Anthony Mitrakos and Ava Papageorge. We wish them the best and hope they win!

There are many events planned for the 2021/2022 year. Stay tuned for Dates and Events. It is never too late to join! Feel free to email us with any questions at saintandrewgoya@gmail.com

Welcoming our New Board

Pola Katsanos, *President*

John Karapidis & Despina Sedereas,

Vice Presidents

Jonathan Crysler, *Treasurer*

Dora Katsanos, *Secretary*

Vangelis Clapsis, *Executive Board Member*

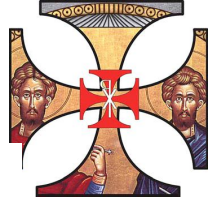




Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of
New Jersey

SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PHILOPTOCHOS



PHILOPTOCHOS MISSION

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

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Fr. John Theodosion

Philoptochos August 2021 Article

Dear Saint Andrew Community,

It is with great excitement I announce that the Saint Andrew Philoptochos is back in-person and back in full action with safety precautions of course. Below please find our schedule for events for the next couple of months as well as the names of the new board members. We welcome all Philoptochos members to attend our meetings and participate in any way you can in the activities.

Our 2nd biggest fundraiser, the Rummage Sale, takes place on Friday, September 10, 2021, and Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Donations are welcome and any sales help those two days would be appreciated. Please contact Irene Laoudis at ilaoudis@yahoo.com

Also save the date for our Tricky Tray which will take place at the Saint Andrew Community Center on Friday November 12th

Thank you for your ongoing support.

God Bless,

Mary Michailidis, President

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Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church

Annual Rummage Sale IS BACK!!!

1447 Sussex Turnpike Randolph, NJ

Friday, September 10, 9-4pm

Saturday, September 11, 9-4pm

Household items, tools, small appliances, artwork, 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

Safety Measures Are Listed Below:

- Masks are mandatory whether vaccinated or not
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Social distancing
- 30 people at a time

Who knows what treasures you may find!

Sponsored by the Saint Andrew Philoptochos

CONTACT: Irene Laoudis iLaoudis@yahoo.com or Mary Michailidis mmichailidis@yahoo.com for more information

Camp Good Shepherd - Aug 15 to 21, 2021

Camp Good Shepherd is the Metropolis youth camp which aims to enrich the lives of its participants with a living, vibrant experience of Greek Orthodox Christianity and a rich, textured immersion..



Camp Saint Andrew - June 28 to July 2, 2021



Camp Saint Andrew 2021 is a wrap! The campers had an amazing time learning about the Seven Sacraments and making new friends. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible!



This summer we were blessed to hold **Camp Saint Andrew June 28-July 2nd** once again. Children ranged in age from 3-11. The focus for the week was the **Seven Sacraments** and becoming reacquainted with attending liturgy. Children received communion, attended liturgy, made Prosforo, participated in a baptism, and Father John even officiated a mock wedding. In addition, lots of fun was had including games, an ice cream party, obstacle course and outside water day! Thank you to all the volunteers and Father John for making this a fun and educational week for our children

Άγιος Φωκάς Ιερομάρτυρας ο Θαυματουργός:

Τι γιορτάζουμε 22 Σεπτεμβρίου

Άγιος Φωκάς Ιερομάρτυρας ο Θαυματουργός: Ο Άγιος Φωκάς έζησε στις αρχές του 2ου αιώνα, κατά τα χρόνια του αυτοκράτορα Τραϊανού (98 - 117). Κατάγονταν από την Σινώπη του Πόντου. Ο πατέρας του Πάμφυλος (ναυπηγός στο επάγγελμα) και η μητέρα του Μαρία, μετέδωσαν από την παιδική του ηλικία τη φλόγα της θερμής και αγνής πίστης τους και την μεγάλη ευσέβειά τους.

Τα παιδικά χρόνια

Ο Άγιος Φωκάς, από μικρό παιδί εντρυφούσε στην ανάγνωση των Ιερών Γραφών και εκείνο που ιδιαίτερα τον διέκρινε ήταν η θερμή και ειλικρινή αγάπη που είχε προς το Θεό, αλλά και προς τους συνανθρώπους του. Γιατί οδηγό στην αγάπη του αυτή είχε πάντα τα θεόπνευστα λόγια της Αγίας Γραφής, που λέει: «Εκείνος που αγαπά τον αδελφό του, μένει μέσα στο πνευματικό και ηθικό φως. Ενώ εκείνος που μισεί τον αδελφό του, μένει μέσα στο πνευματικό και ηθικό σκοτάδι».

Ο Άγιος Φωκάς, με την αγάπη που τον διέκρινε, διέδιδε τον λόγο του Θεού και της χριστιανικής πίστης στο πλήρωμα της εκκλησίας της Σινώπης και παρηγορούσε με τα λόγια του, όλους τους χριστιανούς που είχαν ανάγκη στήριξης. Οι ευσεβείς χριστιανοί του πρότειναν να γίνει ιερέας, πράγμα που ο Άγιος Φωκάς δέχθηκε.

Αναδείχθηκε Επίσκοπος

Μετά από λίγο καιρό, αναδείχθηκε Επίσκοπος της Σινώπης και ευτύχησε να έχει το χάρισμα της επιτέλεσης θαυμάτων στο όνομα του Τριαδικού Θεού. Κήρυττε άφοβα το Ευαγγέλιο και με τα θαύματα που έκανε, κατόρθωσε να φέρει πολλούς ειδωλολάτρες στην αληθινή πίστη. Ανέπτυξε έντονη ιεραποστολική δραστηριότητα, όχι μόνο στην περιοχή της Επισκοπής του, αλλά και πέρα από

αυτή, γεγονός που δεν πέρασε απαρατήρητο σε κάποιους φανατικούς ειδωλολάτρες.

Καταγγέλθηκε στον έπαρχο της περιοχής Αφρικανό, ο οποίος διέταξε την σύλληψή του, όπως και έγινε. Αφού παρουσιάστηκε μπροστά του, σε ερώτηση που του έγινε, ομολόγησε ότι πιστεύει στον Έναν και μόνο αληθινό Θεό, τον Ιησού Χριστό. Ύστερα από αυτήν του την ομολογία, ο έπαρχος άρχισε να βρίζει τον Χριστό και προσπάθησε να χτυπήσει τον Άγιο Φωκά. Τότε έγινε ένας τρομερός σεισμός και ο έπαρχος έπεσε αμέσως κάτω νεκρός, όπως επίσης και οι στρατιώτες του. Τότε ο Άγιος Φωκάς, μετά από τις παράκληση της γυναίκας του έπαρχου, ανάστησε τον Αφρικανό και τους άντρες του.

Τα βασανιστήρια

Μετά από αυτό το γεγονός οι φανατικοί ειδωλολάτρες γεμάτοι μίσος για αυτή του την πράξη, τον οδήγησαν στον αυτοκράτορα, που περιόδευε εκείνη την εποχή στην επαρχία του Πόντου. Αλλά και μπροστά στον αυτοκράτορα, ο Άγιος Φωκάς ομολόγησε και πάλι την πίστη του στον Θεό. Αμέσως τότε, ο αυτοκράτορας διέταξε να τον βασανίσουν. Πρώτα τον κρέμασαν από ένα ξύλο και του έσκισαν το σώμα με σιδερένια νύχια και μετά τον έριξαν μέσα σε ένα λάκκο με ασβέστη. Ο Άγιος Φωκάς υπέμενε καρτερικά όλα αυτά τα βασανιστήρια και ευλογούσε τους βασανιστές του. Με την δύναμη που του έδινε ο Θεός άντεξε τις δοκιμασίες αυτές και έμεινε σταθερός μέχρι τέλους. Ύστερα, τον έβαλαν σε μια δεξαμενή γεμάτη με βραστό νερό, όπου μετά από θερμή προσευχή στον Θεό, ο Άγιος Φωκάς παρέδωσε το πνεύμα του στον Κύριο. Η Εκκλησία μας εορτάζει και τιμά την ιερά μνήμη του στις 22 Σεπτεμβρίου.

Hieromartyr Phocas, Bishop of Sinope

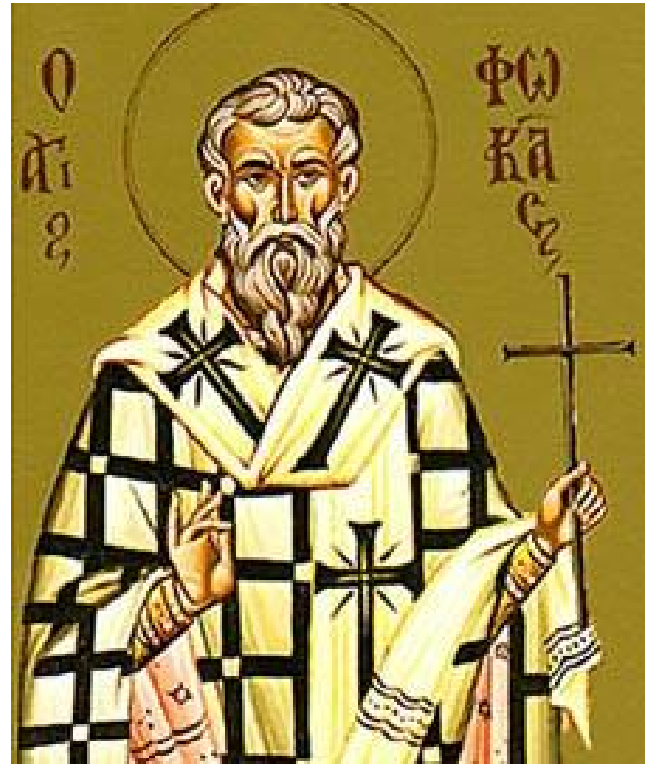
Commemorated on [September 22](#)

The Holy Martyr Phocas the Gardener came from the city of Sinope on the southern shore of the Black Sea. Having a small garden, he lived modestly. He sold what he grew and supported himself on the proceeds. He helped the needy and paid for the housing of vagrants. The Christian piety of the saint had a great influence on other people. Even pagans deferred to him with deep respect. Under his influence they often abandoned their error and accepted the Christian Faith.

The governor of the district, aware that Saint Phocas was spreading Christian teachings, gave orders to find and kill him. The saint himself accidentally came upon those sent after him, and without revealing his name, he courteously received them, fed them and prepared a place for them to spend the night.

At night he went into the garden, then prepared a grave and a place for his burial. He even made arrangements for all his possessions to be distributed to the poor after his death. In the morning Saint Phocas declared to the strangers that it was he for whom they were searching and told them to fulfill the duty entrusted to them. The visitors were distressed, not wanting to kill the kindly saint. They felt honor bound to spare Saint Phocas, but he would not hear of it, and humbly bent his head beneath the sword. After fierce torture they enclosed Saint Phocas in a hot bath, where he died a martyr's death in the year 117.

They buried the holy Martyr Phocas in the grave that he himself had prepared in the garden. The place of his burial was glorified by miracles, and later a church was built there. In the year 404, the relics of the Saint Phocas were transferred to Constantinople (July 22).



An accurate account of the martyr's death was collected by Asterius of Amasea (+ 410). The holy Martyr Phocas is especially venerated as a defender against fires, and by seafarers he is called upon by those traveling by sea.

Troparion

Your holy martyr Phocas, O Lord, / through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. / For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through his intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion

(Podoben: "You sought the heights...") You appeared as a bright star announcing Christ with your radiance, / which is repulsive to this world, O Martyr Phocas; / extinguishing the allure of false gods, / you enlighten the faithful, / always interceding for us all.

SAINT ANDREW PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year Philoptochos invites the High school seniors of our community to apply for a scholarship. Amongst other criteria they are asked to submit an essay explaining how their experiences as a member of the Saint Andrew community have prepared them for their future.

On Sunday June 6th following Liturgy the Philoptochos Scholarships were presented to the following Saint Andrew 2021 recipients. Below are their essays. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we have. We are proud of all our graduates and would like to congratulate them on their accomplishments. May God bless them and guide them.

Andrew Aaron

How has your experience as a member of the St Andrew community prepared you for the future?

My experience as a member of the Saint Andrew Community has prepared me in many ways for the future. Being a member of the Saint Andrew community has taught me many different lessons and given me many opportunities to learn how to be a better person.

One of my first memories of Saint Andrew church is coming to Mazi me tin Mama class and singing the songs with the other children. I still sing those songs to myself and they bring a smile to my face. Sunday School was also a wonderful way to learn more about my faith and God furthermore it was broken down to a child's level so that I could understand God and make a better connection with Him. I was an altar boy, and I held the epitaphio at Easter. My best memories were going to GOYA and being surrounded by kids with the same religion as me. We played basketball and learned sportsmanship together. We competed in plays at Sights and Sounds and laughed and learned more about our heritage and traditions. I made some good friends at Saint Andrew. Friends that I will probably have for life. Friends that may be the godparents of my future children. The Saint Andrew community with the help of Philoptochos allowed us GOYANs to help in the food kitchen and learn what it was like to give back to the community. I also helped give out baskets at the Tricky Tray which all the proceeds went to helping the needy.

The most important way the Saint Andrew Community has prepared me is that going to church at Saint Andrew's made me to connect with God. This connection that I feel when I am in church is a connection that I will want for the rest of my life.

Faith, friends, heritage and helping others are my experience as a member of the Saint Andrew community that have helped me prepare for the future. Knowing who I am, and my background will help me as I take my next step out of my house and into college.





Marina Dorizas

Being a member of the St Andrew community has given me the opportunity to remain in touch with my Hellenic upbringing in both a religious and social way, forming my identity as a young and learning Christian. In GOYA, I have been blessed to have role models to show me how to be a positive influence and member of the community. Being Christian means uniting with others to help them whenever needed. It is never about what you receive but about what you give. What you give to your community, culture, and society. The idea of an alliance is prominent in what I have learned at St Andrew's. Whenever you feel lost or stressed out, there is someone willing to help. In the future, I know

that there will be many times where I am faced with obstacles. The community at St Andrew's has shown me that others are here to help you. To be happy and healthy, it is important to ask for help from trusted individuals. Receiving help is a sign of humility rather than a weakness. Similarly, St Andrew's has taught me that my role is to offer help back to others, whether or not they ask. The perspective should be to help as many people as possible for the sake of helping rather than looking for a reward. What you give is what you will receive in this world. My fellow GOYAnS have shown selflessness and morality which are the basis of my character as a proud Christian.

I have always been very interested in biology. I am in the guaranteed admissions program at the University of Pittsburgh for dental school. The most valuable takeaway from my experiences in this field is that you have to work effectively with people. Being a doctor means that people trust you with personal matters. St Andrew's has directly prepared me for this part of my future. I have developed a relationship of trust with the members of my Greek orthodox community. Being on a board during such a difficult time taught me leadership and communication skills.

My identity is something that I take pride in and it has been heavily shaped by the morals and values at Saint Andrew. As a graduating senior, it is my role to give back to this community for everything they have given to prepare me for a bright future.

Billy Karipidis

The Saint Andrew community is one I will never forget for the rest of my life. Being a part of this community has taught me about our faith, why it is important to help those less fortunate, as well as being fortunate to have made lifelong friendships. This community has definitely shaped and prepared me for what lies ahead in the future by what I have done throughout my time here.

Attending church services, going to Sunday School, and serving in the altar have all helped to teach me about our faith, and to keep our lord in our hearts and home. Being an Orthodox Christian has also instilled in me the importance of helping others less fortunate than ourselves.



The Saint Andrew community has taught me to be selfless. I have made sandwiches and put together care packages at GOYA Bridges events and prepared meals for the Dover Faith Kitchen. I was also

involved in a Special Olympics event held a few years ago where kids throughout our community and others came to our church to play all different types of sports. Volunteering at the Special Olympics event was one that really helped me prepare for the future, because it taught me that you need to see someone not for their disabilities but for the type of person they are.

Being a part of the Saint Andrew GOYA, I have made lifelong friends, learned more about our faith by attending retreats, and participated in both charitable and non-charitable events. I believe all these experiences have helped to shape the person I am today. I have learned more about our faith by attending retreats. GOYA has also taught me to value the ideas of others, be a part of a team, and the importance of helping others.

The Saint Andrew community will always be a part of who I am. It has made a positive impact on my life, and I hope to continue to serve my community in many ways. I believe that being a part of Saint Andrew has been one of the reasons that I would like to continue to serve others by pursuing a career in law.

Andrew Venizelos

Growing up, Saint Andrew was my second home. I've been drawn to the church from a young age. My fondest childhood memories came from Thursday nights: Greek School straight to Greek Dance. From these experiences I have learned my culture and developed into a proud Greek American! I even carry my Greek heritage to school as my entire grade knows that I am Greek. I always find a way to slip in the fact that I am Greek to anyone around me. This strong pride can be traced to my upbringings at the church.



In addition to my proud Greek heritage, I won the lottery by being baptized a Greek Orthodox Christian. Our unique branch of Christianity is so different from the rest, and I absolutely love it. I proudly always wear my cross on the outside of my shirt. Due to my strong faith, I am willing to defend my religion always. One of the biggest takeaways that I have learned from the Saint Andrew community is that I will always have my Saint Andrew family to fall back on. I can always go to the strong-bonded community for help and advice knowing that it will always be right. Their opinions are most valuable to me because I know we both share common beliefs. I love how we give back to one another and help others around us when needed. I will take this mentality to Fordham University and join community service clubs. When I give back, all of my everyday stress is instantly relieved. I enjoy giving back due to my experiences from the church.

I will actively seek out a Greek Orthodox church the second I step onto campus. I will take everything that I have learned and continue to grow my knowledge of my faith; even by taking Orthodox Studies my Junior Year as part of the Theology requirement at Fordham. I would be a completely different person today if it were not for Saint Andrew's. I am forever grateful to everyone at Saint Andrew's and will always keep everyone in my thoughts as I move onto the next level.

I thank God, Father John, my parents and family, my Sunday School teachers, my GOYA advisers, and friends, and of course, the great Saint Andrew community for helping me become the religious man I am today.

PARENTS' CORNER

By Alexandra Protopapas

September - 2021 – Welcome Back!

Welcome back!

Summer was blessed for me! After not seeing many family members and friends for two years, it was nice visiting them in the United States and Greece. I was also blessed that before our trip to Greece, I got to visit my sister in Fort Lauderdale as I had not seen her or my nephew in many years. We were dropping off our dog since we didn't take our Maltipoo, "Mickey", to Greece not knowing what to expect with Covid-19. The stress? Going back to Florida after a trip to Greece for two months! Glad to be home again however! I do hope everyone had a blessed summer, great family and friend connections, and good health throughout!

Many children will be back in school in-person, and some will still be virtual as parents do have the right to keep them home in some school districts. Elementary students in New Jersey will still be required to wear masks as a precaution. Same with some secondary schools. Social distancing also may be a priority and of course cleanliness. Continue to encourage your children to read, ask teachers questions, and reach out when they need assistance. You too, parents! Communicate with the teachers!

Something I repeated in 2019 before restrictions of Covid-19.....

Encourage your children to follow the code of conduct in their school. That includes college dorm life! Just because they are "adults" now, there are still rules. It goes for activities in Greek School, Sunday School, JOY, and GOYA. Encourage regular attendance. If you know your children will be absent, encourage them to ask for the assignments; don't ask for them; teach them responsibility. If they get a low grade for not turning work in – they will know it was their responsibility to ask. Work with their teachers – not against them.

Here again are some tips from the New Jersey Education Association to prepare your children for a safe and successful school year.

"Your child is heading back to school soon. Besides shopping for backpacks and new shoes, what should you be doing to get your child ready? NJEA has tips and advice to help parents prepare their children for a successful school year...

- *“Plan a route - If your child walks or bikes to school walk the route and emphasize safety.*
- *Visit the school - Try to meet the teacher too! Request a virtual visit if you wish.*
- *Set goals with your child - Create frequent rewards for success.*
- *Make a schedule - Set aside time each day for studying, reading, and playing*
- *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 skills. Practice neat handwriting.*
- *Create excitement - Shop together for clothes and school supplies to get in the school spirit.*
- *Remember, your attitude is contagious - Get excited about new teachers, friends, and opportunities and your child will too!”*

There is so much to be grateful for. You are reading this! That means like me, we can do this! Prayer, hope, love for family got us through these last two years with some stress and new experiences but we made it! Let's concentrate on our children. Be aware of any changes when they come home from school. Keep communication open especially with your children who may be away from home in college or in the armed services.

This month's **Table Prayer Guide** is from **The Church of the Home – “Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home”** by Rev. Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris

The most influential school in the world is not Oxford or Harvard or the Sorbonne or Yale or Cambridge. It is the home. The question is not, “Is there a school under your roof?” The real question is, “How good is the school under your roof?” What are you teaching? If the one hour a week spent in Church and Church School is to be effective, it must be supplemented in the greatest of all schools, the home, by dedicated Christian parents who, by family discussions, family prayer, a special family evening, family Bible reading, family devotions at the supper table, will give their children the greatest gift possible: the knowledge of the One, True God Christ Jesus Who will walk with them through life, strengthen them, heal them, guide them, and give meaning to their life, grant the peace of God and lead them ultimately to life eternal.”

With my husband Mike, and son Nicholas, we wish a great school year for your children, love, peace, and serenity throughout the year!

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)

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Orthodox Observer

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine Update

For the Twentieth Anniversary of September 11th, we will have the exterior of the Church finished. At this solemn observance, St Nicholas will be set aglow for the first time on the eve of 9/11, as the sun sets shining light into the darkness.

For updates, please visit the official St. Nicholas website at www.stnicholaswtc.org #stnicholas #rebuildmychurch



SAINT NICHOLAS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH & NATIONAL SHRINE

AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

“THE LIGHT SHINES ON IN THE DARKNESS”



Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This year, on September 11th, we will observe the Twentieth Anniversary of the tragic day we call 9/11. It is a solemn day for our Nation and for the world, particularly in light of recent events in Afghanistan. It is worth remembering that the first commemoration of America’s military response to 9/11, America’s Response Monument (DE OPPRESSO LIBER [Latin for “from oppressed to free”], the motto of US Special Forces) sits in Liberty Park across from the Shrine. Most poignantly, it is sited directly above what was 155 Cedar Street, the location of the beloved little church that was destroyed when the South Tower collapsed. This confluence of events – the Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11 and the withdrawal of America from her longest conflict, make the significance of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine all the more meaningful, as we will be present on the eve of September 11th to offer our memorial prayers for all who perished that day, and in the subsequent decades as a result of those terrible attacks.

On September 10th, this twentieth year from 9/11, we will illuminate the rebuilt Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine from within for the very first time. As the sun sets and the day begins (as it says in Genesis 1:5: "AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY"), we will shine the light of Christ, the light of our Orthodox Christian Faith, the Light that never can be overcome by darkness. And thus, we shall commence the ministry of love, of healing, of reconciliation, and of peace at Ground Zero.

Our place at Ground Zero, a place that was filled with death and destruction twenty years ago, is called to become all those virtues I just enumerated above, and more. Our ministry is a sacred duty that we have for all people who come to the rebuilt World Trade Center. We are the only religious space in the complex, and our Church and National Shrine will hold an awesome responsibility to provide the missing element of faith in the new reality of Ground Zero.

The light that will shine forth that night and every night to come will bear witness to the love of God for all people, as it is so truly said, "it is far better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." The darkness that enveloped New York City that fateful day was fueled by the spiritual darkness that comes from hatred and ignorance. But one candle can dissipate the gloom, as we Orthodox Christians know so well on the Holy Night of Pascha. We pass the light to one another, as we sing: ***"Come receive the Light from the Unwaning Light, and glorify Christ Who is risen from the dead!"***

This is now the mission of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine. To proclaim that Christ is the Light of the world, and to share that light with all people. What a unique privilege to do so in this place, the epicenter of 21st Century history! And what an awesome responsibility!

May Christ, Who is the True Light Who came into the world, make all of us worthy to be this light, even as we light the candle of love that is our Saint Nicholas National Shrine. May the memory of all who perished on 9/11, and all whose lives ended as a result of that day, be eternal.

With Love and Blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ,

†*Ὁ Ἀμερικᾶς Ἐπίσκοπος*
†ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Interview With ukrinform.ua

"I am going to Kyiv with a message of love and unity, a prayer for all who live in Ukraine."

[Below is a translation of an interview that His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gave to ukrinform.ua. The original interview in Ukrainian can be found at

<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-society/3301395-jogo-vsesvatist-varfolomij-arhiepiskop-konstantinopola-novogo-rima-i-vselenskij-patriarh.html>]

20 August 2021

His Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch will arrive in Ukraine tonight. This is his third visit to our country. His Holiness visited Odessa in September 1997 and Kyiv in July 2008, but this visit is special in that it is the first since the Orthodox Church of Ukraine received autocephaly and coincides with the 30th anniversary of our independence.

In this exclusive interview, His Holiness, Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome spoke to Ukrinform about the formation of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, its development and growing strength, about efforts by outside forces, responses, and related challenges, and about the pandemic and the Mother Church's stance towards vaccination.

THE MOTHER-CHURCH HAS FELT CONCERN FOR THE UKRAINIAN CHURCH FOR A THOUSAND YEARS

- Your Holiness, your first visit to Ukraine since the Orthodox Church of Ukraine received the Tomos of Autocephaly begins today. What is the program and what are the expectations from this visit?

- First of all, I would like to note that I am visiting Ukraine at the invitation of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky to take part in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and to share the joy of the Ukrainian people on this occasion. I also received an official invitation from His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany of Kyiv and All Ukraine. I am convinced that I will rejoice in the progress of the newly created Orthodox Church of Ukraine. The Mother Church of Constantinople, from which more than 1,000 years ago your ancestors were baptized into Christianity at the request of St. Volodymyr, has never ceased to show interest in and concern for all of you and your local Church. Relations between Constantinople and Kyiv have remained strong and unshakable for ten centuries, and today they are more relevant than ever. I want to convey through this interview a message of love and unity to the clergy, faithful, and all brothers and sisters in Ukraine, who I look forward to meeting in person.



THE CHURCH CANNOT BE TERRORIZED; LIES AND DEFAMATION STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH

- Your Holiness, we are grateful to you for your attention, support, and care for the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Are you satisfied with its progress and current development? What advice would you give to strengthen the Orthodox Church of Ukraine?

- We are very pleased with everything that has been achieved in the Orthodox Church of Ukraine from the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly to the present day. We are proud of the ministry and testimony of this Church, without hiding the fact that it has become the object of ruthless acts of defamation and lies by certain circles that do not want there to be an Orthodox Church in Ukraine independent from external influences.

The Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, also experiences everything that the Orthodox Church of Ukraine suffers from. Unfortunately, some people seem to be accustomed to lying and committing religious abuses, thinking that in this way they are intimidating the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the local autocephalous churches, and the newly formed Orthodox Church of Ukraine. However, Christianity cannot be threatened. The church cannot be terrorized. Lying and defamation

do not upset us; to the contrary, they strengthen our faith in the canons, traditions, and Truth of the Church. His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphany of Kyiv is a prudent primate who knows how to manage church affairs effectively and in the spirit of the canonical tradition of Orthodoxy. We trust him and have optimistic hope for the future of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. I urge him to continue to follow the straight path, the one that leads to education of the faithful and to unity.

THOSE WHO DOUBT THE CANONICITY OF THE AUTOCEPHALY OF THE OCU ARE NOT GUIDED BY ECCLESIASTICAL CRITERIA

- *What would you say to the brothers and sisters of the Moscow Patriarchate who are convinced that the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine is "uncanonical" or "defective"*

- The problem with such people is that it is difficult for them to recognize reality, or that they refuse to recognize it. They are also ignorant of what autocephaly means, of its history and canonical practice. The Russian Church, to which they aspire to belong, received its autocephalous and patriarchal statuses from the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Why then do they not want to acknowledge that the same canonical justification of autocephaly which was validly applied to grant autocephaly and patriarchal status to the Russian Orthodox and other Orthodox Churches by the Ecumenical Patriarchate is in the same way valid for the Orthodox Church of Ukraine? The intercession of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is not uncanonical, rather it is their questioning of this intercession which is uncanonical. Clearly, they are not at all interested in canonical order, because in this instance they are clearly weighing the interests of foreign powers over ecclesiastical criteria.

REFUSAL OF VACCINATION IS NOT BASED ON THEOLOGICAL OR SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS

- *The world community is actively fighting the coronavirus. In the Orthodox world, there are those who oppose vaccination, wearing masks, and maintaining social distance. What is the attitude of the Mother Church towards vaccination? Were you and those around you vaccinated?*

- The current great crisis in the field of healthcare affects Orthodox Christians along with all of humankind. Of course, we are being criticized for dealing with and fighting against the pandemic by supporting the development of useful vaccines and other countermeasures. *However, the refusal of vaccination and other protective*

measures is irrational and unjustified by theological or scientific criteria. I have said from the beginning that the pandemic threatens our faithful, but not our faith. It is a fact that a large number of believers who refused protective measures have become victims of this virus. That is why it is unacceptable in the face of so many victims and so much suffering to deny the existence of a pandemic, to regard it as created by someone, or to spread conspiracy theories. Unfortunately, this attitude shows indifference to others. However, anything that contradicts the commandment to love one's neighbor cannot be the will of God. The Church of Constantinople encourages the faithful to consult with their doctors and to vaccinate according to their instructions. Naturally, all of us at the Phanar, including myself, have been vaccinated.

SCIENCE IS A BLESSING FROM GOD, BECAUSE IT SERVES HUMANITY

- *The Coronavirus has caused a large number of deaths. Suddenly, many of us have experienced the sudden illness or loss of loved ones. What do you advise to elevate us morally? What are the best means to support ourselves and our families?*

- This is not the first time the Church has faced a pandemic. And each time the answer was prayer and observance of directed countermeasures. Today, science is proving that it can find solutions quickly and efficiently. Of course, there are limitations to scientific knowledge; but, because science serves humanity, it is a blessing from God. We gratefully accept this divine gift. Therefore, we are grateful to the scientists who have so quickly developed vaccines that protect us from the complications of the coronavirus. Moreover, we thank the doctors and other health professionals around the world who work daily to save people and fight Covid-19. I know that the doctors and other medical professionals in Ukraine are also doing their utmost to save patients. We greet them, bless them, and assure them that they are in our prayers, asking our Savior Christ to sustain their efforts. We also pray daily that God will give peace to the souls of the victims of this pandemic and comfort to their families.....

Olga Budnik, Istanbul-Ankara.

BAPTISMS – ΒΑΠΤΙΣΙΣ

ADELLA MARIE VAKAR, daughter Emil Vakar and Marlee Rose Mengel of Bridgewater NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday May 30th, 2021 and given the name **MARIE – ΜΑΡΙΑ**. Godmother was Anna Zavros.

STELLA CAROLINE GEANNAKOPOULOS, daughter of Christopher Geannakopoulos and Stephanie Eastlake of Morristown NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday June 5th 2021 and given the name **STYLIANI – ΣΤΥΛΙΑΝΗ**. Godmother was Katrina Geannakopoulos.

ANDREAS VAIOS JELIS, son of John Jelis and Stala Michael of Wharton NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday June 12th, 2021 and given the name **ANDREAS – ΑΝΔΡΕΑΣ**. Godparents were Elias Jelis and Christina Antoniou.

JOSEPH MARIOS BOLTON, son Daniel Paul Bolton and Christina Maria Constantinides of Orlando FL was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Saturday July 17th, 2021 and given the name **JOSEPH – ΙΩΣΗΦ**. Godmother was Alexie McDonnell.

KEIRA MAY GRAMMATIKOS, daughter of Andrew Grammatikos and Kelly Anne Loughlin of Morristown NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday August 1st, 2021 and given the name **KYRIAKE – ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ**. Godmother was Kristie Grammatikos.

ANNA ROBYN KALLOPOULOS daughter of Thomas Kallopoloulos and Danielle Robyn Holzlein of Sparta, NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday August 15th, 2021 and given the name **ANASTASIA – ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ**. Godparents were Valerie and Timothy Doherty.

SHANE ALEXANDER ARAPS, son Frank Thomas Araps and Nicole Dominique Montecer of Mountain Lakes NJ was Baptized and Chrismated according to the rites of our church on Sunday August 22nd, 2021 and given the name **ALEXANDER – ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ**. Godmother were Christina Mary Araps, and Godfather was Rafail Zoulis.

WEDDINGS – ΓΑΜΟΙ

Anthony Thomas Pilovsky and **Victoria Maria Stamoutsos** of New Providence, NJ were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on **May 8th, 2021** at 2:00pm by the Rev. Fr. John Theodosion the sponsor being Angelica and Demetri Demopoulos, witness being Maria Stamoutsos.

William Henry Wendt Jr. and **Anastasia Francis Castorina** of Morristown, NJ were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on **June 27th, 2021** at 12:30pm by the Rev. Fr. John Theodosion the sponsor being Yotta Vlastakis, witness being Thomas Castorina.

Stefan Herbert Schuster and **Melanie Corrin Schorr** of Boonton, NJ were joined in Holy Matrimony according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on **July 17th, 2021** at 3:00pm by the Rev. Fr. John Theodosion the sponsor being George Mammagakis , witness being Kristian Schuster LaSpada.

Congratulations to all!

OBITS & FUNERALS – ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

+**Alexandra Bisk**, 87, of Long Valley, NJ passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 30, 2021, at her home with her loving family by her side, holding both her hands. Please see below funeral arrangements for the repose of her soul. Our sincerest condolences to her family and may her memory be eternal.



Alexandra was born on November 20, 1933, in Sina Lakonias, Greece to the late Constantine and Metaxia Floros. She came to the United States when she was just 16 years old with her beloved sister Patty and created an extraordinary life for herself. She lived in a variety of places including Albuquerque NM, Erie PA, Chicago IL, Cleveland OH, and finally in New Jersey which she called home for most of her life.

She met her husband, Euripides also known as Robert or “Rip,” at a Greek dance. He was the love of her life until the end. They were true soul mates and did everything together. With their three young children in tow, Alexandra and Rip moved to New Jersey to take over Mangels Chocolate Shop in Chester. For 33 years, the couple delighted residents with their confections and warm personalities.

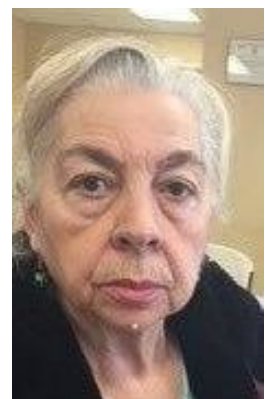
Alexandra was an extremely hard worker, kind, generous, warm, funny, and *very* fashionable. To meet her, was to love her. Her greatest passion in life was her family, especially being a grandmother. Everyone related or not warmly referred to her as “Yia Yia.”

Alexandra is survived by her three daughters, Joyce Twilley and husband Ed, Michelle Bauer, and Lisa Bisk; five cherished grandchildren, Lindsey, Jade, Kate, Sam, and Olivia; four siblings, Anastasia, Nafsika, Takis, and Liako; and by many other loving family members and friends. She was predeceased by her parents, and by her sister, Patty.

Visitation was held on Friday, June 4, 2021, from 10 am – 12 pm at the William J. Leber Funeral Home Chester, NJ. **The Funeral Service** for the repose of her soul was on Friday June 4, 2021, at 12:30 pm at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church at 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ.

+**Peter John Morogeorges**, age 54 of East Stroudsburg, PA passed away on June 29, 2021 in his home. He was born on August 8th 1966 in Dover NJ. His parents were John and Anastasia (Nikolis) Morogeorges. He was a long-time member of Saint Andrew and more recently a member of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Stroudsburg PA. Peter John is also predeceased by his sister Tula Morogeorges. His surviving relative is his cousin Harriet Chresomales. A funeral service was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ on Saturday July 3rd 2021 at 9:00am, Interment followed at Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover NJ. Our sincerest condolences to his family. May his memory be eternal.

+**Stavroula (Julie) Rallis**, of Dover NJ age 82 joined the Lord on Friday, July 23rd. Stavroula was born on March 30, 1939 in Sparta Greece. She was predeceased by her husband Constantine. Julie is survived by her loving children, Anastasios and Georgia. A funeral service was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ on Friday, July 30th at 11:30am, The viewing at the church prior to the service from 11am-11:30am. Interment followed at Restland Memorial Home, East Hanover, NJ. Our sincerest condolences to her family. May her memory be eternal.





+Athanasios Siamas of Plataniti Nafpaktias Greece Age 94, passed away on July 25, 2021, in Athens, Greece. He is pre-deceased by his wife Efstathia Panagiotopoulou. Athanasios AKA Tommy lived a long a wonderful life under his own terms. He was born on October 20, 1927, in Eleftherini a remote village of NAFPAKTOS. His parents were Theodoros Siamas and Vasiliki (aka Belfo) Arvanites. He was One of nine children pre-deceased by: Violeta, Konstantinos, Nikolaos, Chrisoula, Polycarpus, survived by: Christos, Dimitrios and George. He is also survived by his three children Vasiliki (Kiriacos) Petrakos, of Ledgewood New Jersey, Georgia (the late Demetrios) Stavropoulos of Athens, Greece, and Theodore (Nicole) Siamas of Randolph, New Jersey, six grandchildren: Angie, Alexia, Vasili, Stephanie, Athan, Eugenia, and ten great-grandchildren: Antoni, Jeremiah, Victoria, Effie, Nicolette, Nicoletta, Alexander, Tommy, Chrisanthi and Orianthi. The funeral service for the blessed repose of his soul was held on Tuesday, July 27th at 11:30 am at the church of ZODOCHOU PIGHIS in ANO PLATANITI, ANTIRIO, GREECE. May his memory be eternal.

Donations Received +In Memory of:

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Chrysanthe Borzeka

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+Styliani & Gerasimos Economo
Marion Economo

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+Katie Sedereas
Peter Theodorakos

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Peter & Irene Petrou
Sophia Gatanas
Christina Minakakis
Angelica & Stephen Makrinos
Angeliki Brouard
Peter Theodorakos

+Athanasios Siamas
Reta Matthews
Dimitrios & Haroula Drosos
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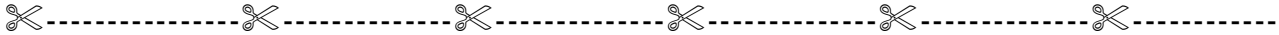
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Please pray for the Health of _____ in the prayers of the Divine Liturgy.
Kindly accept this HONOR GIFT for the occasion of:

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sundays after Holy Communion

PILLOW MINISTRY 1ST & 2ND MONDAY 11am

BAKING GROUP Tuesdays 9am

KNITTING GROUP 2ND & 4TH Wednesday 10am -2pm

Hellenic Afternoon School

Mondays or Thursdays 4:30pm

Greek Dancing Thursdays

Group 1 @5:45 & Group 2 @6:30pm

GOYA Greek Dancing Mondays 7pm

8/28 FAITH KITCHEN - DOP/AHEPA

8/28 @12PM BAPTISM BERMUDEZ_PETRAKOS

9/5 SUN @1:30PM WEDDING MARIN_ROSENGARTH

9/6 LABOR DAY

9/9 @ 4:30PM GROUP 2 L3-L6 GREEK SCHOOL AGIASMOS

9/10 & 9/11 FRI & SAT RUMMAGE SALE

9/11 @11AM BAPTISM DELIS

9/11 @12:30PM BAPTISM (2) /CHRISMATION

9/12 BLESSING OF THE WATERS AND DIVING FOR THE CROSS

9/13 @ 4:30PM GROUP 1 JPK-L2 GREEK SCHOOL AGIASMOS

9/16 @ 5:45 Greek Dance Groups 1 &

9/16 @6:30pm Greek Dance Group 2

9/18 & 9/19 SAT & SUN GYRO FEST

9/20 @6:30PM CLERGY LAITY BANQUET THE VENETIAN GARFIELD

9/20 @ 7:00pm GOYA Dance starts

9/25 FAITH KITCHEN - PARISH COUNCIL

9/26 SUNDAY SCHOOL AGIASMOS – KICK OFF

9/26 @1PM MERCEDES BENZ CAR RAFFLE DRAWING

10/2 @11AM BAPTISM MOSHEN

10/3 @ 1PM BAPTISM

10/4-10/18 at 11am Pillow Ministry

10/10 Mr. & Miss GOYA /HANOVER MANOR 4PM

10/12-10/15 Natl. Clergy Retreat San Antonio TX

10/13-10/27 @10am Knitting Group Meets

10/16 DOP FASHION SHOW / MEADOW WOOD MANOR 11AM

10/16 1PM BAPTISM (2)

10/16 @2:30PM BAPTISM

10/23@11AM BAPTISM (2)

10/31 OXI DAY CELEBRATION HAS

11/7 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE

11/12 @6PM TRICKY TRAY / PHILOPTOCHOS

11/22 @7PM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11/25 THANKSGIVING

11/27 FAITH KITCHEN – PHILOPTOCHOS

11/29 MONDAY GREAT VESPERS/REFRESHMENTS

11/30 SAINT ANDREW DAY LUNCHEON/PHILOPTOCHOS



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) _____

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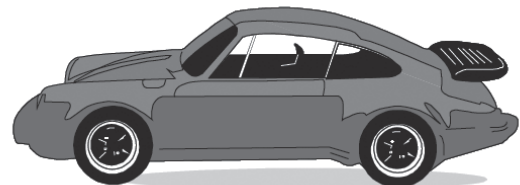
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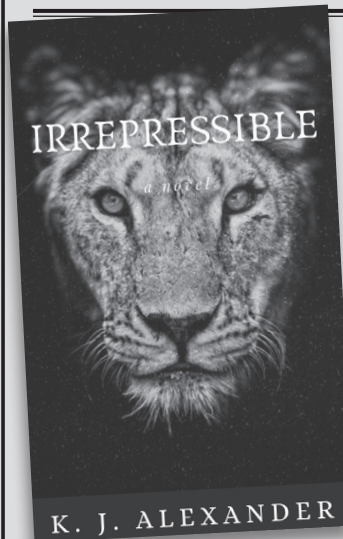


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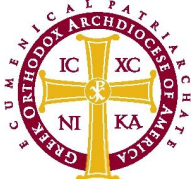
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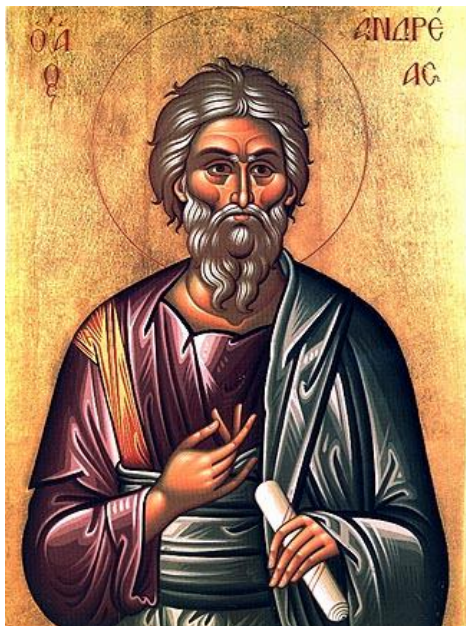
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For us Christians, life on this earth is a school in which we learn how to secure for ourselves immortality and eternal life. For of what benefit is this life, if we cannot attain to eternity within it? But for a man to be resurrected with Christ, a man must first die with Him and live the life of Christ as his own.

If he does this, then on the Day of Resurrection he may say, along with St. Gregory the Theologian:

‘Yesterday I was crucified with Christ, today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him, today I am given life with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him, today I rise with Him.’”

Sentenced to immortality: A Paschal Homily by St. Justin Popovic of Serbia

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

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και του κορυφαίου ατάδελφος,
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.