

SEPTEMBER 2022



Greek Orthodox  
Metropolis of  
New Jersey

## Saint Andrew Family News

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

ICON OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST | SEPT 23  
BLESSING OF THE WATERS AT ASBURY PARK | SEPT 18  
GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST | SEPT 24  
CAR RAFFLE | MERCEDES-BENZ | SEPT 25

# 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**

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

**NJ Metropolis Web: [www.njgoarch.org](http://www.njgoarch.org) G.O. Archdioceses Web: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)**

Father John Theodosion, *Editor in Chief*

## 2022 PARISH COUNCIL

### NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022

Nicholas Monokandilos, *President*

Athena Borzeka, *Vice President*

Peter Petrou, *Treasurer*

Thomas (TJ) Borzeka, *Assistant Treasurer*

Yianni Tsamutalis, *Recording Secretary*

Peter Sedereas, *Corresponding Secretary*

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Steven Mitrakos

Maro Nicolaou Schuster

Nick Pappas

George Papanikolaw

John A. Paxos

Herbert Schuster

Mike Serghiou

Chris Tsamutalis

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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 are accepted **only as electronic files, (via e-mail attachment)**. Pending availability of space and permission from Editor-in-chief, submissions will be in next month's issue.

*Please submit your articles and information on time to*

Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

*Deadline for the **OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE** is September 12<sup>th</sup>*

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

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

# DIVINE SERVICES

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Thursday	1	+BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR   SERVICE TO BE ANNOUNCED
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>
Thursday	8	+THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
Friday	9	HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Sunday before the Holy Cross</b>
Wednesday	14	+EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Friday	16	+ST. EUPHEMIA THE GREAT MARTYR
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Sunday after the Holy Cross</b>   Services will be held at Asbury Park Services will <u>not be held</u> at St. Andrew Church this Sunday
Thursday	22	+ PHOCAS THE MARTYR, BISHOP OF SINOPE* Relics
Friday	23	+CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b>
Monday	26	+FALLING ASLEEP OF JOHN, THE THEOLOGIAN AND EVANGELIST

## OCTOBER

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council</b>
Tuesday	18	ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>   +ST. IAKOVOS THE BROTHER OF THE LORD
Wednesday	26	ST. DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH BEARER
Friday	28	OXI DAY" Greek National Holiday   +HOLY PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>

**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) \**

SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> IS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

# ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ

## ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2022

Πέμπτη	1	ΑΡΧΗ ΤΗΣ ΊΝΔΙΚΤΟΥ / ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΘΑ ΑΝΑΚΙΝΗΘΕΙ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>ΙΒ' Ματθαίου</b>
Πέμπτη	8	+ΤΟ ΓΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
Παρασκευή	9	+ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΝ ΘΕΟΠΑΤΕΡΩΝ ΙΩΑΚΕΙΜ ΚΑΙ ΆΝΝΗΣ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Προ της Υψώσεως</b>
Τετάρτη	14	+ΥΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ
Παρασκευή	16	+ΕΥΘΥΜΙΑΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>18</b>	<i>Μετά την Ύψωσιν</i> Λειτουργία στο ASBURY PARK εορτάζουμε την <i>ΎΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ</i> / Δεν θα έχουμε λειτουργία στον Άγιο Ανδρέα
Πέμπτη	22	+ΦΩΚᾶς ἹΕΡΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ* <i>Λείψανα</i>
Παρασκευή	23	ΣΥΛΛΗΩΙΣ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Α' ΛΟΥΚΑ</b>
Δευτέρα	26	+ΜΕΤΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΥ

## ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΣ

<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Β' Λουκά</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Γ' Λουκά</b>
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Των Αγίων Πατέρων τῆς Ζ' Οἰκ. Συνόδου</b>
Τρίτη	18	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΛΟΥΚΑ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΤΗ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>ΣΤ' Λουκά</b> + ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΘΕΟΥ
Τετάρτη	26	ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΑΣ
Παρασκευή	28	28 <sup>Η</sup> ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ» ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΚΕΠΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
<b>Κυριακή</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Ε' Λουκά</b>

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

### 11<sup>Η</sup> 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.

# Fresh Air

by Fr John Theodosion

Nowadays we hear a lot about clean air and taking care of the environment. This is a really important topic because caring for the earth is our Christian responsibility. It isn't a political issue, but it is a responsibility given to us by God from the time He created humankind. (Genesis 1:26) The idea of breathing dirty air is something that I remember from my childhood. I remember driving past the steel factories spuing smog from their smokestacks in Cleveland and it smelled terrible. As a child I remember making a big fuss and drama in the car because it smelled so bad to me. So, when I go someplace, and the air is fresh and clean it makes an impression on me. I think about how much I appreciate fresh clean air.

When I happen to smell air that is dirty and smokey it is like a cloud that blocks my breathing, my sight, and creates a fog all around me. I can compare it to the spiritual life.

In our spiritual life we can be clouded up with so many cares, problems and worries of everyday life. These cares, problems and worries swirl around in our heads causing us to choke on the difficulties and problems we are dealing with in life. My worries and cares are different than your worries and cares but all of us have something that we are dealing with that causes us concern and weighs us down. But where do we turn for clearing the smog that clouds our ability to deal with the cares, difficulties and problems of life. I think the most important place we can turn to is our Orthodox Faith and the church.



I believe that coming to Church is one of the great gifts our Lord has given us to bring back our busy lives to the fresh air of God's presence in our lives. Our souls hunger and long for His touch in our hearts. We want to live for him, to know him, to lift up our hearts unto our Lord. We dream of being able to drink deeply of his love and filling our souls with his peace. Can you

imagine to have the peace of God which passes all understanding? We wonder if this type of peace can be ours.

In the summer we take vacations from the routine of work, home and our many responsibilities. We need the opportunity to slow down and leave the cares, worries and concerns behind for short while. It is what one author calls sharpening the saw. He says a carpenter who uses a saw over and over again and again eventually causes it to become dull. Taking an opportunity to stop cutting and bring the saw blade to a sharpening stone means it will have to stop cutting for a while, but it also means that it will be more effective when it is sharpened and returns to work. That's what vacation can be for us; an opportunity to rest and recharge so that when we come back to life and work, we can be more effective.

Many of us take a vacation from church and church services during the summer as well. I don't see the benefit to this type of break. The reason I say this is because when we don't come to church and pray this causes us to be farther away from God. It breaks

our prayer routine that creates a stable and a consistent relationship between us and God. It's a relationship that we all need. A relationship that helps us clear the air of our life and to see more clearly how to better live and conduct ourselves.

This fall, many of us are returning to church after being away, in some cases, for months. Some of us have thought of the faith and our church as being an activity like soccer, school, or dance lessons, or piano, in which we take a break during the summer.

But our Orthodox Christian Faith is certainly more than just an activity or something that we take a break from. Our Christian Faith is a way of life; it should be a guiding force in our daily interactions with others. Our Faith and our church should be the place we go to regain spiritual strength; to live our lives in ways that Glorify God. It is a place to get fresh air and clear smog from our head and have the Divine Breath of God within us.

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022

Nicholas Monokandilos  
*President*

Athena Borzeka  
*Vice President*

Peter Petrou  
*Treasurer*

Thomas J. Borzeka  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Peter Sedereas  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Yianni Tsamutalis  
*Recording Secretary*

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George Papanikolaw

John A. Paxos

Maro Nicolaou Schuster

Herbert Schuster

Mike Serghiou

Chris Tsamutalis

Dear fellow Parishioners:

The attached financial summary through July 2022 predictably shows that we are starting to feel the effects of the absence of the cushion afforded by the PPP loans received during the first two years of the pandemic. At the end of July, we barely had enough cash for a single month's worth of bills. As of this writing in mid-August, our cash levels do not even support operations for a single month. A big summer drop-off is normal for us, but church attendance seems much lower this year than in summers past, and we are seeing that in our donation levels.

Unfortunately, our festival net of \$62,000 is almost half of what we normally experienced prior to the pandemic because of reduced visitors and much higher food costs. Our utility expenses are also 25% higher for electric, and 50% higher for gas.

As we get beyond the summer doldrums, please consider resuming your Stewardship commitments. Also consider supporting our upcoming fundraisers: the car raffle, September gyro sale and November 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Thank you.  
  
Pete Petrou, Treasurer

## St Andrew Financial Summary 2022

	Jan-July	Budget	\$ over Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	274,656.66	271,399.00	3,257.66
EDUCATION/DANCE NET INCOME	9,159.08	-	9,159.08
SUMMER CAMP NET INCOME	-	400.00	(400.00)
FUNDRAISING EVENTS NET INCOME	84,978.44	131,875.00	(46,896.56)
OTHER INCOME	29,874.40	23,912.00	5,962.40
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	398,668.58	427,586.00	(28,917.42)

### EXPENSE

STAFF EXPENSE	185,110.63	219,415.00	(34,304.37)
CAR EXPENSE	7,982.76	7,000.00	982.76
INSURANCE EXPENSE	31,631.30	41,370.00	(9,738.70)
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,687.40	3,890.00	(202.60)
EQUIPMENT	2,145.94	3,500.00	(1,354.06)
BANK CHARGES	2,416.46	4,053.00	(1,636.54)
MORTGAGE PAYMENT (Principal & Interest)	78,006.11	78,006.25	(0.14)
TELEPHONES/INTERNET EXPENSE	3,016.25	3,313.00	(296.75)
ADVERTISING	325.00	875.00	(550.00)
PERMITS	-	300.00	(300.00)
LITURGICAL	-	1,456.00	(1,456.00)
UTILITIES	41,589.89	31,618.00	9,971.89
SUPPLIES & PRINTING EXPENSE	16,487.75	18,010.00	(1,522.25)
BLDG & GROUNDS EXP.	31,940.95	30,074.00	1,866.95
POSTAGE & HANDLING	2,542.27	2,625.00	(82.73)
MINISTRY EXPENSE	52,511.48	52,360.00	151.48
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	1,400.00	3,210.00	(1,810.00)
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	2,810.98	5,000.00	(2,189.02)
TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-
MISC.	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	463,605.17	506,075.25	(42,470.08)
<b>NET CASH RECD (SHORT)</b>	\$ (64,936.59)	\$ (78,489.25)	\$ 13,552.66

### From Operations

<b>Unrestricted Cash 12/31/21</b>	128,022.83
<b>Cash generated (used) this year</b>	(64,936.59)
<b>Cash Balance 7/31/22</b>	63,086.24



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

# SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2022-2023

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome Back to St. Andrew Church!!!

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)***

Church and home go hand in hand. **Share the Experience.** Classes are 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  
Parents for Pre-K3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade please bring snacks

1. REGISTRATION (Complete FAMILY & YOUTH FORM) AGIASMOS and 1<sup>st</sup> Class is on **Sept 11**
2. SUNDAY **SEPT 18** WE WILL NOT HAVE LITURGY AT SAINT ANDREW. (*Metropolis of NJ communication*)
3. OPEN HOUSE OCT 9 – *Meet Teachers and review their Religious Material for the year*

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 to church 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



# GOYA News

Dear GOYAns and Families,

Hello! We hope you are having a great summer so far. We are so excited for our upcoming 2022-2023 GOYA Year. We have already begun planning for a successful year.

**Please note the upcoming events:**

Kick Off Meeting and Pizza Social 9/13/2022 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting Thursday 9/22/2022 6:30 pm

Volleyball/Basketball first game: 9/25/2022

Harvest Dance 9/30/2022

Please use the link below to register. Unfortunately, due to low enrollment and increased fees in all areas, we were barely able to stay afloat last year. Due to an extremely generous donation from the Sedereas family, we were able to run smoothly and participate. If it wasn't for their donation, we would have had to cancel many events. Therefore, after much consideration, we will be increasing our dues. Registration costs \$125 for the first child and \$100 for siblings. Please pay the registration on the [WeShare Link](#). Registration helps subsidize many of our events: Volleyball, Basketball, District and Youth Commission fees, Pizza socials, Mr & Miss GOYA, Religious Retreats, Olympics Snacks, Senior Send Off (just to name a few events).

[https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-20000560?tab=home\\_of St. Andrew GOYA Registration 2022-2023](https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-20000560?tab=home_of_St_Andrew_GOYA_Registration_2022-2023)

Our GOYA apparel store will be opening soon. Please use the link to order.

Thank you,

**GOYA Advisers**

Polymnia Crysler  
Marlena Karipidis  
Roslyn Monokandilos  
Diana Sedereas  
Peter Sedereas

**Executive Board 2022-23**

*President:* Despina  
*VP:* Jonathan and Dora  
*Treasurer:* Peter  
*Recording Secretary:* Ava  
*Corresponding Sec.:* Michael  
*History:* Vageli

**Board Members**

Karmen  
Demi  
Themelis  
Elisabeth

GOYA is a place where you can meet other Greek Orthodox kids your age. It is a place where you can learn and practice your faith while having fun. There is basketball, volleyball, a soccer tournament, a bowling tournament, Indoor and Outdoor Olympics We participate in the Faith Pantry Ministry, BRIDGES (*to help feed the homeless*), and even deliver blankets and sing to our homebound St. Andrew members. This is all an example of some of the ways we help others.

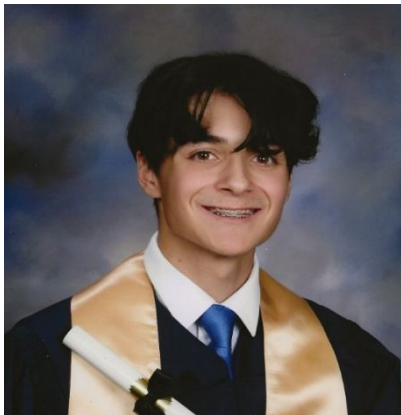
**GOYA is for all children ages 12-18 in grades 7th -12th.** Please note, the child must be in both ears 7th grade *and* 12 years old. We cannot accept 7th graders that are 11 or 6th graders that are 12. If your child is in that age range and is interested in participating in GOYA, please email us at [saintandrewgoya@gmail.com](mailto:saintandrewgoya@gmail.com)

## GRADUATES 2022

**Antoni Bulko** has grown up always being an active member of the St. Andrew's community. From starting off in the HOPE and JOY programs, helping with countless events at the church (especially the ever-popular gyro sales), participating in most GOYA events, and serving in the altar, Antoni is a young man who cherishes his religion and all that St. Andrew's has offered him throughout his life. Antoni is also a Greek school graduate and member of the church's Greek dance group. He could often be found after Sunday school discussing what he learned with his teachers or even with Father John as well. Antoni is a prime example of a young man who holds his spirit and religion very closely to him, and he plans to continue this in his future.



Antoni will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida with a major in software engineering. He will leave his legacy with St. Andrew's through the "Blessing Box" he has built for his Eagle Scout project. Antoni wants to thank St. Andrew's and all its members for being another home and family to him and having such a significant impact on his life. God bless.



**John Karipidis** has been an active member of the Saint Andrew community, participating in Sunday School services, altar boy, decorating the Epitaphios and assembling candles

on Holy Friday and volunteering at the church festival. He has been a member of Saint Andrew

GOYA from 7th through 12th grade, serving on the board as recording secretary, treasurer and vice president. John participated in the GOYA Basketball League, GOYA Soccer Tournament, GOYA Olympics and represented our church as Mr. GOYA. He has also helped prepare food and meals for Bridges Outreach and Faith Kitchen and attended retreats. Sunday School has helped him to connect more to our faith, and what it means to be closer to God. John is graduating from Roxbury High School and will be attending County College of Morris in the fall.

### **Panagiota ("Pola")**

**Katsanos** is the 2021-2022 GOYA Honoree that will attend the *Awards Banquet* in May! Pola is the current GOYA President and has been a member since 2016. Pola has played on the GOYA girls volleyball team for the last 6 years, has been on the board for several years, and consistently



volunteers time at our soup kitchen and church events. Pola was also the 2021-2022 Randolph Miss. GOYA contestant, chosen to represent Randolph at the pageant with several other GOYAns from church's all throughout New Jersey.

Outside of GOYA, Pola attends Randolph High School and will be graduating in June of 2022. Pola will be attending the University of Pittsburgh next year as a member of the Honors College with the pre-med major on track for studies in Pharmaceutical Sciences. She is an active member of her school- on the board for two clubs at her school, member of five national honors societies, and an outside hitter on the Randolph Varsity Volleyball for the past two years.

Pola is excited to represent our amazing Saint Andrew community at the *Awards Banquet* where she will be surrounded by many figures of our church who will be there to support her. Our Greek community is so important to her, so she is so grateful for this amazing event and cannot wait to share her experiences with others!



**Congratulations to all our graduates!**  
May God's graces be with you as you step ahead towards your dreams. The future is all yours now. Go for it! May the Lord bless your steps and watch over you. God has a special plan for each one of you.

My name is **Christopher Zeris** I've been a member of the St. Andrews community for as long as I can remember. As a member, I had much involvement in the clubs and organizations within the community. I have been involved with HOPE, JOY, Sunday school, Greek School and GOYA.

I remember my involvement in the Greek Festival, participating in the Greek Parade, and competing in a lot of athletic events. Together with my twin brother and my colleagues, we earned a lot of awards and medals. Our most recent major achievement is winning the GOYA Soccer Tournament and coming first.

My teachers and my advisors showed me how to help others, compete for a good cause, have fun but also be respectful. These organizations helped me bind closer with the youth members of my church and find friends that I would have for a lifetime.

Currently, I attend Randolph High School and after I graduate, I will continue my studies in Montclair State University majoring in Political Science and Law.

To my friends who I made thru all these organizations, teachers, advisors and especially to Father John, I would like to say THANK you for all the years of fun, goodwill and continuous support.

My name is **Elias Zeris**, and I remember being a member of the St. Andrew's community since I was a little boy. As a member, I had much involvement in the clubs and organizations within the community. I have been involved with HOPE, JOY, Sunday school, Greek School, and GOYA.

The St. Andrew's community has given me opportunities to help expand and learn about my religion and Greek culture. Through Clubs and other organizations, I have been able to experience a handful of things that can help me grow as a better person later in the future.

My best memories from St. Andrew are helping out at the Greek Festival, participating in the Greek Parade and competing in the athletic events. I am so proud being a member of the St. Andrew's community. I know that I will cherish all these beautiful experiences for a lifetime. I hope and wish that I will be able to give back to the community and continue to grow as a good Christian.

Currently, I attend Randolph High School and after I graduate, I will continue my studies in Montclair State University majoring in Business Administration.

To my friends who I made thru all these organizations, teachers, advisors and especially to Father John, I would like to say THANK you for all the years of fun, goodwill, and continuous support.

*Metropolis of New Jersey  
Annual Holy Cross Celebration*

*Sunday, September 18, 2022*

Orthros 8:00am

Hierarchical

Divine Liturgy 9:30am

The Great Auditorium

21 Pilgrim Pathway

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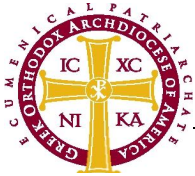
Friday, & Saturday Sept 9 & 10, 9am-6pm

NEW Sunday, September 11, 12noon-4pm

Sponsored by the Saint Andrew Philoptochos

for more information **CONTACT:**

Irene Laoudis [iLaoudis@yahoo.com](mailto:iLaoudis@yahoo.com) or Mary Michailidis [mmichailidis@yahoo.com](mailto:mmichailidis@yahoo.com)



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF  
NEW JERSEY

# SAINT ANDREW GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

---

Rev. John Theodosion  
Pastor

## Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) OPEN HOUSE

Dear parents!

We would like to welcome you to Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS). The teachers, administration, and staff are so excited and look forward to beginning the new school year in learning the Greek language and culture. **The first day of HAS is on September 8, 2022.** The parents and children will meet in **church for AGIASMOS at 4:30 pm**, followed by a **HAS OPEN HOUSE at the Social Hall** to meet with the HAS teachers and the Education committee. All parents are invited who have enrolled and parents who plan to enroll their child. Registration forms will be provided. There will be a brief discussion on the HAS program, as the parents are welcomed to ask any questions. Drinks, snacks, and ice cream will be served! We look forward to seeing you all there!

The Saint Andrew Hellenic Afternoon School (HAS) offers a unique educational program that emphasizes not only the Greek language, but also our Greek history, culture, and the Greek Orthodox religion. In expanding and experiencing these concepts and ideas, the students participate in various schoolwide cultural and religious day presentations and events during the school year, which showcases students' language skills and the ability to engage with the Hellenic culture historical days. The OXI Day, the Three Hierarchs, the Christmas pageant, and the 25<sup>th</sup> of March commemoration are such events the students work hard and proudly perform. Our professional, qualified, and dedicated teachers have many years of experience, and look forward to engaging and teaching your children.

As the Greek school seeks to instill in our students an understanding of the important contribution Greece has made to our western civilization, to our democratic principles, and to the English language. With this understanding of their ethnic background, the Greek School program leads our children to one of the greatest pieces of knowledge, to "Know Thyself". It is our goal that our children appreciate and understand their Greek language and heritage.

The HAS Staff and Education Committee  
**HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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

**HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

Vasilias Christodoulou, *Director*

*TEACHERS:* Haroula Christodoulou, Vasilias Christodoulou, Archontia Fromouzopoulou,  
Effie Kritharis, Yiota Louca, Stacey Papanikolaw, Eleni Zeris

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NICOS NICOLAIDES – THE COSMOPOLITANS**



## CONCEPTION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST (September 23)

### Birth of John the Baptist

#### Story Overview:

A priest and his wife were well beyond the years when it is possible to give birth to a child. The angel, Gabriel, gave Zechariah the incredible news that his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to a son who would become a great preacher. They were to name the baby John.

#### Background Study:

Zechariah and his wife, Elisabeth were Jews who patiently waited for God to rescue and restore his people. Zechariah was a priest and both he and his wife were from the priestly line of Aaron ([Exodus 28:1, 43](#); [1 Chronicles 24:19](#)). Though married for many years, this couple had never been blessed with a child. This would have been both disappointing and humiliating for a Jewish couple of that time.

The priestly groups took turns in temple service. Zechariah's group was serving at this time. Within the group the priests chose lots (similar to drawing straws) to decide who was to perform certain temple duties. In today's story, Zechariah was chosen and he had the honour of burning incense in the temple. While the priest burned incense, he was to pray. The people worshipping outside in the temple court were to pray also. Zechariah was supposed to be alone in the temple. As he prayed, he was suddenly aware of an angel standing near him at the right of the altar. Seeing Zechariah's fright, the angel told him not to fear because his prayer had been heard. His wife would give birth to a son who would be filled with the Holy Spirit. They were to name him John (which means "the Lord is gracious"). The prayers of Zechariah for Israel's salvation were beginning to be answered.

Poor Zechariah. It was too wonderful to believe, and he questioned the angel. ([Luke 1:18-20](#)). For this reason, Zechariah was struck dumb. He left the temple and returned to Elizabeth. She became pregnant.



#### Mary's Visit:

([Luke 1:26-56](#)) During Elizabeth's pregnancy, she was visited by her young cousin, Mary, from Nazareth. When Elizabeth first greeted Mary she felt her own baby inside of her womb "jump." Even her own unborn child recognized that something special was happening with Mary. Young Mary was also pregnant.

It turns out that Zechariah was not the only one who had received a visit from an angel. The angel, Gabriel, had also visited Mary to tell her that she was pregnant with a baby that would be called Jesus. As if a virgin becoming pregnant was not enough, Gabriel also revealed to Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant in her old age. An elderly woman being pregnant also seemed impossible, but the angel had assured Mary that "nothing is impossible with God."

Now, at Elizabeth's house, despite one woman being elderly and the other very young these two women shared a special bond. During Mary's visit, and before she returned to Nazareth, these two women shared about the amazing things that had been happening to them and worshiped God. In these verses we read what is called "Mary's song".

Mary left to return to Nazareth when Elizabeth was nearing her due date.

### John is Born

Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The neighbors had been puzzled by Zechariah's inability to speak and were even more puzzled when Elizabeth wanted to name the child John instead of after his father or a relative. Even though Zechariah was still unable to speak he asked for something to write on and wrote, "His name is John."

Suddenly Zechariah was able to speak and he began to praise God and prophesy. First he praised God for visiting and redeeming his people. Zechariah said that the Messiah was soon to come to bring salvation to His people. Now all the prophecies and covenants would be fulfilled. Zechariah's son, John,

was to be the one who would prepare the way for this Messiah. Later it is Jesus who is revealed to be this Messiah.



## Η ΣΥΛΛΗΨΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ (23 Σεπτεμβρίου).

Ο Ιωάννης ο Πρόδρομος ήταν υιός του ιερέως Ζαχαρίου και της Ελισάβετ. Γεννήθηκε έξη μήνες προτού γεννηθεί ο Χριστός και έγινε Πρόδρομος του Κυρίου και Βαπτιστής Του.

Οι γονείς του Προδρόμου ήσαν ευσεβείς και θεοφοβούμενοι, άλλα άτεκνοι. Ποθούσανε ολόψυχα ν' αποστήσουνε ένα παιδί. Άπειρες και θερμές ήταν οι προσευχές τους στο Θεό, για την εκπλήρωση αυτής της γλυκείας επιθυμίας.

Ο χρόνος όμως κύλησε, χωρίς καμιά θεϊκή απάντηση στο ποθητό τους αίτημα. Ο Ζαχαρίας έκανε πάντοτε την Ιερατική του λειτουργία στο Ναό του Σολομώντος. Σύμφωνα δε με την συνήθεια, που επικρατούσε τότε στο Ιερατείο, ο Ιερέυς ο οποίος

θα προσέφερε θυμίαμα στο θυσιαστήριο των θυμιαμάτων διαλεγόταν με κλήρο.

Μια μέρα, λοιπόν, ο κλήρος έπεσε στον Ιερέα Ζαχαρία. Τότε αυτός προχώρησε μέσα στο Ναό του Κυρίου, για να προσφέρει το θυμίαμα, ενώ πλήθος κόσμου ήταν συγκεντρωμένο και προσευχότανε εκεί έξω από το Θυσιαστήριο.

Την ώρα, όμως που το θυμίαμα άρχισε ν' ανεβαίνει ανάλαφρα και να ευωδιάζει ο Ναός από το άρωμά του ο Ζαχαρίας είδε ένα αστραποβόλο Άγγελο να κάθεται στα δεξιά του Θυσιαστηρίου. Αμέσως τον κατέλαβε ταραχή και τον κυρίεψε ο φόβος.

Τότε ο Άγγελος με φωνή γλυκιά και καθησυχαστική του είπε. «Μή φοβού Ζαχαρία, διότι είσηκούσθη ή

δέησής σου, καί ἡ γυνή σου Ἐλισάβετ γεννήσει υἱόν σοί».

-Μη φοβάσαι, δηλ. Ζαχαρία. Δεν είναι για να φοβάσαι τούτη τη στιγμή, αλλά για να χაίρεσαι. Μεγάλη είδηση χαράς σου φέρνω: Η παράκληση σου, που έκανες στο Θεό τόσες φορές, εισακούστηκε. Η Ελισάβετ θα σου γεννήσει παιδί και θα το ονομάσεις Ιωάννη.

Ο Ζαχαρίας, όμως, ενώ ακούει αυτά τα ουρανόσταλα λόγια, σκέφτεται την προχωρημένη ηλικία της γυναίκας του και την στειρότητά της. Σκέφτεται και τα δικά του γεράματα και ρωτάει τον Άγγελο με κάποια δυσπιστία:

—Με ποιο τρόπο, με ποιο σημάδι μπορώ να πιστέψω και να βεβαιωθώ αυτό που μου λες; Πώς να το πιστέψω αυτό, αφού κι εγώ είμαι γέροντας και η γυναίκα μου είναι περασμένη στα χρόνια;

Τότε ο Άγγελος του αποκρίθηκε; Εγώ είμαι ο Γαβριήλ. Είμαι ο Αρχάγγελος, που στέκομαι δίπλα στο Θεό για να τον υπηρετώ. Και είμαι

απεσταλμένος του Θεού να σου φέρω αυτές τις χαρούμενες ειδήσεις.

Αφού όμως ζητάς σημάδι, για να πιστέψεις, θα το έχεις. «Ίδου ἔση σιωπῶν καί μή δυνάμενος λαλήσαι». Από χώρα μέχρις ότου γεννηθεί το παιδί, θα είσαι άλαλος και βουβός.

Έπειτα από λίγες μέρες η Ελισάβετ συνέλαβε υιό και ένοιωσε μέσα της να σκιρτάει η ζωή. Πέντε μήνες κρύβει την εγκυμοσύνη της η Ελισάβετ από ντροπή, για την ηλικία που βρίσκεται. Έπειτα όμως φανερώνεται. Καταλαβαίνει, ότι πρέπει να δείξει την χάρη, που της έκανε ο Θεός.

Κι εκεί, που ο κόσμος την συγχαίρει, για το ευχάριστο γεγονός, εκείνη δοξάζει τον Θεό και Τον ευχαριστεί διότι την απάλλαξε από την ντροπή της ατεκνίας. Πρέπει να τονίσουμε εδώ ότι η ατεκνία ήταν ντροπή μεγάλη και όνειδος σκληρό την εποχή εκείνη.

Εις την Σύλληψη του Τιμίου Προδρόμου και Βαπτιστού Ιωάννη 23 Σεπτεμβρίου



*Saint Andrew Family News September 2022*



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**CIGAR NIGHT**  
Wednesday  
9/28/22 @7pm



**Daughters Of Penelope Chapter Alexander #250**



Our **Daughters Of Penelope Chapter Alexander #250** is selling *Raffle Tickets* for \$20. The lucky winner will be awarded a \$2,000 travel voucher for Travel anywhere in the world. It can be used for International or Domestic Travel. The sky is not the limit! You can fly, cruise, board a train or a bus or even drive and stay in the fanciest of hotels. So don't delay!! See any member of our Daughters of Penelope and be that lucky winner! The raffle winner will be chosen during the DOP hosted Coffee Hour and Founders Day celebration on **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Winner need not be present to win!

<p>Daughters of Penelope Alexander Chapter # 250 # 0001</p> <p> <b>Win Two Tickets to Greece ! *</b> <b>*Travel Voucher for \$2,000</b></p> <p>Proceeds to Benefit the Philanthropic Works of the DOP St. Andrew Hall, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869 Drawing: November 20, 2022, 12:30 p.m. Donation: \$20.00 ID# 411-3-30555 LIC# RL- 08-22</p>	<p>DOP Alexander Chapter #250 #0001</p> <p>Win Two Tickets to Greece- \$2,000 Travel Voucher Drawing: November 20, 2022; 12:30 pm</p> <p>NAME _____ Address _____ _____ _____ Phone _____</p>
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## RETURN TO THE IMPOSSIBLE

**September is a time of return.** We are most familiar with going back to school, but for many, it also means going back to work after the summer vacations. Even Church attendance routinely suffers from the lack of worshippers during the summer months. According to the Orthodox Church, the liturgical year begins September 1<sup>st</sup>, although the real liturgical center is always the feast of Christ's Resurrection that establishes the cycle of Orthodox worship. Yet, this sense of return has become a routine for many.



**So - will there be a return?** Will we once again see the Church filled with families eager to learn and worship? We are all aware that Covid has created a new social environment. Covid has created a deep fear in many of us, and it is this fear that has impacted on how we worship. You will recall how Peter, seeing Jesus walking on the water, beckoned Jesus to call him to walk on the water towards Jesus, but Peter's inability to keep his reality from accepting this impossible action caused him to sink. When he cried out to Jesus to save him, Jesus reached to him and said *"Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (Matthew 14:31). Each of lives a reality in which things like walking on water are simply impossible. Faith calls us into a new reality where the impossible ceases to function. Is not the very core of our Orthodox faith the Resurrection? How many people, living with

impossibilities in their reality, haven't tried to "explain" this event in terms of the possible, only to find themselves sinking?

**Covid has certainly provided a great many reasons for leaving the Church but** are we sinking as we lose sight of the Lord calling us to Him in the impossible? The Orthodox Church isn't a place that takes attendance in order to have a

passing grade to get into Heaven. It is a sacred space where God is present to each of us. It is Christ Himself who calls us to Him even when everything we might invent to keep us from drawing near to Him get in the way. After over two long years of exile from the life of the Church, we are called to return. We need spiritual food once again and our wells are drying out of living water.

**Think a moment of an important event about to take place.** Huge crowds gather to eagerly be part of this event. Some wear masks, others don't, and social distancing is impossible. But the urgency of being at such an important event cause many to abandon the fear that can no longer overcome the desire for being at this event. Suppose Christ Himself were to appear at St. Andrew! Who would not want to be there for this unbelievable event? But that's what happens every Sunday - Christ Himself is present in the Eucharist. The Church itself becomes the Kingdom "on earth as it is in Heaven".

You're all familiar with searches for long lost treasures in which the quest to find this treasure becomes a person's single focus. The Bible tells us of a man who sold everything to buy a field that contained a pearl of immeasurable value. One of the biggest reasons for many to simply set Church attendance aside is that the sense of treasure has been lost. There is a routine to our worship service but anyone who exercises knows that the slow addition of a new level of performing this routine brings reward, not doing the same routine. Routine provides each of us with a way to worship creatively each time we participate. What this means is that as we consider returning this Fall, we need to have the purpose for worshipping, for keeping our

eyes on Christ, to save us as we sink from the realities that ask us to accept the impossible for staying away.

**Please come back! Bring your families,** re-engage in the learning Christian education St Andrew offers you and your family, and embrace the event of worship as the event of Christ's presence. Learn what it means to be in His presence as you come before Him in the Eucharist. The world will always try to convince you of the impossible, but with God "all things are possible"! Imagine life with such a promise!

Herbert Schuster

### **BRING THEM TO ME**

**Jesus is concerned about the 5,000 men plus women and children that are with him in the wilderness. His disciples tell him that all they have are five loaves and two small fish that a boy has offered. Jesus' response is the phrase, "Bring them to me." Jesus then takes the loaves, blesses and breaks them, and feeds 5,000 men plus women and children. We also bring what we have to Jesus. We offer bread and wine. He returns it to us as His body and blood in Holy Communion. We offer ourselves and we become the Church, His body on earth.**

**No matter how much we give, He cannot be outdone. Just like the boy who offered the loaves and the fish, if we offer what we have – however great or small our gift – with prayer and humility, God will receive our gifts and multiply them to feed His people.**



## Is It Time To Do Away With Sunday School?

Will our children choose to live as Orthodox Christians?

This is the most pressing question facing the Church today.

Over the years, the conventional path followed to form young people in the Orthodox Faith has included a Sunday school program. Today, it is a given that every parish needs a Sunday school in order to be considered successful. However, as more and more parishes face serious questions about their future, one must ask whether or not Sunday school has served our children well.

The answer to this question goes well beyond money. It should be noted that at no time in history has the Church in America devoted more resources to the education of its youth. A look at available budget data shows that national spending on education for the period of 2005-2016 will top \$8,200,000. Combine that figure with expenditures on youth ministry and family ministry and that figure balloons to an incredible \$17,600,000. Given these figures, you would think that our youth are thriving in the faith. However, this is hardly the case. Recent studies show that 60% of Orthodox college students leave the faith. Meanwhile, as many as 85% of marriages are now of the interfaith variety, with one spouse choosing not to be Orthodox. The reality confronting the Church today is that a family that is united in living the Orthodox faith is far more the exception than the norm. For many youth, Orthodoxy has become just another cafeteria-like choice between one parent's church or the other parent's church.

The greatest tragedy in the American Church today is that far too many parishes have alienated our youth by placing nostalgia before

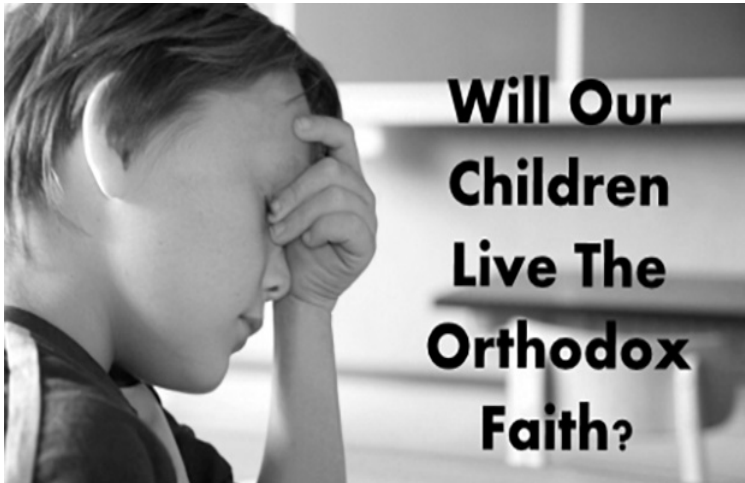
witness to Jesus Christ. Nostalgia can only sustain parishes for so long before demographic collapse sets in. As Orthodoxy comes to grips with this reality, it is evident that Sunday school programs have failed to provide the fundamentals needed to pass on the Orthodox Faith to a new generation. Despite the presence of dedicated volunteers and the best of intentions, change is needed.

Should parishes in America reconsider their Sunday school programs or eliminate them all together?

The answer to this question is a clear and resounding YES!

Today, many parishes have Sunday school programs that undermine the liturgical life of the Church and the unity of the family. The central message of Sunday school today is one of segregation, not integration. Parishes separate children from their families and place them in a classroom so as to teach them facts about the Church. This stunts their ability to experience the Church in all its depth and beauty. It also divides families at a time when they should be together the most – the Divine Liturgy. Sophie Koulomzin points this out clearly in *Our Church and Our Children*. “..the Sunday school movement proved to carry certain dangers within it....The Sunday school replaced the Divine Liturgy, the classroom lesson replaced the Sacrament. Students graduating from Sunday school had not acquired the habit of going to church on Sundays. The life of worship, which is the essence of Orthodoxy, was thus undermined.”

What are some of the signs Sunday school may be undermining the life of worship in a parish? Consider the following:



much like the early disciples did. Orthodoxy is not simply classroom knowledge or ritual knowledge. Understanding the faith is not the equivalent of learning answers to trivia questions. The Church is a way of being that shows us how to be truly human. This cannot be learned in a classroom. It cannot be gleaned from a textbook. And it certainly cannot be passed on through an educational bureaucracy created by paid professionals. Orthodoxy is learned when it is experienced both at Liturgy and through the lives of others who witness to Jesus Christ with humility, compassion, and devotion.

Now that the crisis in Orthodox Sunday schools has been brought forward, here are three ways we can improve the quality of learning in parishes.

**English is Essential:** The complete use of English is essential for a healthy Church life in America. Studies conducted by the Assembly of Bishops in the United States show that the use of English in the liturgy increases attendance and participation at liturgy by as much as 30%. Being able to understand the liturgy matters, especially for young people, converts, and mixed marriages. It is foolish to think we can pass on the experience of the life of the Church to our children if they constantly cannot understand the liturgy because it is in Greek or Ukrainian. A vibrant liturgical life in English is essential in helping our children grow into mature witnesses to the Faith who have a strong understanding of how the Church answers the questions proposed by life. Consistently participating in and understanding the Divine Liturgy is far more enriching than any number of classroom lessons.

**More Mentoring:** Orthodox Christians have mentored one another since the earliest of times. St. Paul's letters are a testimony to such work. Every Orthodox Christian needs a mentor, and every parish needs a mentoring program where healthy Orthodox Christians take up the responsibility of mentoring young people and new

- Students show up late for Divine Liturgy, resulting in little actual time at worship before leaving for class.
- Teachers are often late to Divine Liturgy as well and sometimes even skip liturgy to teach Sunday school.
- Events like ethnic dancing and diocesan basketball tournaments take priority over the worship and witness of the Church.
- Rehearsals and planning for seasonal events like the parish Christmas pageant are held during Divine Liturgy.
- Graduating students lack the habit of attending Church regularly.
- Challenging social and moral questions are avoided for fear of offending people.
- Secular success is celebrated more than Christian witness. Service to the weak and vulnerable is discouraged as vocation or career.
- Teachers frown upon fidelity to the teachings of the Church. Zeal for Orthodoxy is viewed as strange.

There is no question that the above problems exist in a wide variety of parishes across America. If our children are going to choose to live as Orthodox Christians in the years to come, then they certainly deserve to encounter the Church in its fullness,



arrivals. The best way to learn the fundamentals of Orthodox Christianity is to see it lived with joy by others. Imagine if all of the resources spent on Sunday school were dedicated to mentoring programs that formed relationships across generations that helped people grow in hospitality, humility, and service to the weakest among us. Nostalgia-centered parishes would have a very different feel than they do today.

**Servant Leadership:** Nothing undermines the Christian development of our youth more than leaders who do not live the Gospel. Love of power, wealth, and social status are all problems facing the Church. These problems must be overcome by ensuring that all leaders are first and foremost servant leaders who understand that real power in the Church comes from humility and service, not wealth or family legacy. Leadership begins at Liturgy, and Orthodox leaders educate our youth best when they model servant leadership both at Liturgy and outside our Liturgy. A servant role model provides a lifetime of lessons for a young person. These lessons are far more effective at communicating the Faith than any textbook.

Confronting the Sunday school crisis in Orthodox parishes today is no easy task. No doubt much emotion is tied to this issue. However, to ignore the need to change is to risk having our youth live – according to the warning of St. Justin Popovich – “as fireflies in a universe of darkness.” America’s Orthodox youth deserve better than such an impoverished existence.

Living as an Orthodox Christian is not something we inherit through our genes. Orthodox Christianity is a deliberate choice that must be affirmed time and again. It must be renewed day after day. Therefore, the Church must not educate young people based on pre-supposing the Orthodox Faith. The Church must constantly refresh itself and propose the Orthodox Faith time after time. In this way, it can truly live the vision of

St. John Chrysostom, who wrote, “With Christians everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children, and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.”

Our youth are not only part of the Church of the future; they are more importantly part of the Church of today!

*Posted by the Orthodox Christian Network. We welcome a variety of opinions and hope to generate a sustained discussion about a topic of critical importance to the sacred mission of Christ's Church: the religious education of children and teens. Watch for more articles on this pressing issue soon.*



**NATIONAL  
FAITH & BLUE  
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<i>Hosted By:</i>	<i>When &amp; Where:</i>
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## SECULARISM

*Secularism is a very subtle and dangerous enemy. It does not seem like an enemy at all, but rather a way for the church to become in touch with the world.*

**In the 1920's the Orthodox Church of Russia was confronted with a very difficult situation:** whether to tacitly support the Communist government or oppose it. To some Orthodox Christians in Russia the church made the wrong choice and decided that it would not oppose the Communist government even though many of the church's clergy and people were being persecuted and martyred. In response to the official church's compromise Archpriest Victor S. Potapov wrote: *the Church's path like the earthly path of Jesus is not the path of accommodation, but is the way of Golgotha.* A powerful statement! The church cannot and must not in any way compromise (accommodate) her teachings for the sake of her safety. Today, we face a similar and more subtle persecution, a spirit of compromise with our culture and the teachings and philosophy of that culture. As with communism, the church cannot accommodate modern society. We cannot accept everything our culture teaches or accepts as legal. Many things may be deemed legal by society and government but it does not make it moral and right. The church cannot to try to accommodate the culture. The Church of Christ must rise above this and every culture and society and be true to the Gospel. The church works and lives in a particular culture and must relate to that culture, but the church stands outside of the culture because it is not an institution or an organization; it is the Body of Christ. As the church in Russia had to battle to forces of Communism for its very existence, so too does the Church today have to battle a very insidious foe, secularism.

**Secularism is a very subtle and dangerous enemy.** It does not seem like an enemy at all, but rather a way for the church to become in touch with the world. Metropolitan Hierotheos (Vlachos) of Nafpaktos, Greece writes: *Secularism is the loss of*



*the true life of the Church, the alienation of Church members from the genuine Church spirit.* He goes on to say that secularism began when the persecution of Christians ceased and Christianity became the state religion in the 4th Century. It became very easy to become a Christian, there was no longer a threat to life, Christianity became vogue. Because it was vogue and expected, it became to take on a more worldly character. Christianity became more lax, and the people and clergy, became secular. The way people related within the church and in society was based not so much on the Gospel of our Lord but on worldly expectations. Metropolitan Hierotheos explains that the purpose of the Church is to cure humanity from his/her spiritual illness, to restore to mankind the ability to know and experience God. This is what the Church is supposed to do for its followers. Through the practice of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, participation in the mysteries (sacraments) of the Church, the nous—the heart of man—becomes whole. The nous (the place where we encounter God within our hearts) becomes cured through purification, illumination and divinization (or deification, becoming godlike). *An organized Church is one that cures man. Its existence is demonstrated by success in the therapy of the darkened nous. Secularism in the Church is directly related to the loss of the Church's true objective. A*

*Church...which does not cure man but is concerned with other matters, is a secularized Church.*

**How does a Church become secularized?** It is, if you will, a mindset, a way of seeing the mission and nature of the Church. Metropolitan Hierotheos gives illustrations of a secularized Church: When the Church deals with ideas rather than life; when the Church involves herself in social and philosophical systems; *when the Church is occupied with human thought and abstract ideals*, rather than curing the faithful. The Church becomes secularized *when it is degraded to a social organization*. If people of the Church *dismiss the prophetic and sanctifying role of the Church* and see the Church as a *mere decorative element*, then the Church has become secular. Thus, if the Church does not heal and cure the souls of her people it is secular. If we, her followers do not use the cures and healings of the Church to heal and save our souls, we are succumbing to secularism. The fault rests not with the Church but with us; we simply have to utilize the healing mysteries (sacraments) of Confession and Communion.

**As Greek Orthodox Christians living in America, we are under a great deal of stress.** I do not mean the stress of life and the economy, though this is real. I am referring to the stress of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. We must try to the best of our ability to live the life in Christ, to battle secularism, and heal our souls. We are not alone, there are many examples of people who have done this, simple Christians who have lived in the world and have not compromised their faith. Use their example.

**In the words of St Paul: *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...***(Hebrews 12:1). If you look at the history of the Church you will see that God has raised up holy men and women to illumine and guide us. Just during the past 150 years alone we have thousands of such witnesses. The many martyrs under communism and saints like Nektarios

and Methodia of Kimolos; and holy and illumined teachers such as Joseph the Hesychast, Paisios, and Porphyrios. They, by no means accepted the way of the world as their standard of life; nor did they accommodate themselves to the world. They followed and lived the way of life of our Holy Orthodox Faith; they cured their nous, became holy and now have become as beacons guiding us to the one who gives us life, our Lord Christ came into the world so that we might have life and have it more abundantly (cf. John 10:10). As Orthodox Christians to live our lives more abundantly means that we are in communion, connected with Christ. It means that we know Him and experience Him. It means that we live our life as our Lord instructs us and as the Church guides us. *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth* (1 John 3:18). Put your faith into practice.

**Though we live in the world and are called** upon by our Lord to serve His people living in the world we are not to be of the world. The Church impacts the world through holiness, not through social statements or political position papers. Again, in the words of the Bishop of Nafpaktos: *The Church should enter the world to transform it rather than the world entering the Church to secularize it*. It is through the witness of the people of faith of our Church, the holy men and women whom we call saints that the Church is able to continue the mission of Christ, to see His work manifest. These people have lived the opposite of secular lives; they have been healed and have become holy through God's grace. As we emulate these people, as we embrace the way of truth; we become healed and cured. Our hearts are purified, illumined and we experience God, and thus we become holy. We are all called to do this. It is the secular mind that says this is only for the clergy or for monks or that these are the ways of the past. Holiness, our living in communion with Christ; living for Him and in Him, is our path to salvation.

**MEDITATIONS** • July 1, 2022

• AUTHOR: Rev Fr Thomas Zaferes

<https://sanfran.goarch.org/news/meditations>

## OBITS & FUNERALS - ΝΕΚΡΟΛΟΓΙΑ & ΚΗΔΕΙΕΣ

**Christos Neroutsos** passed peacefully on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at the age of 91 in his home surrounded by his family as he wished. Christos was born in a small horio (village) Kallidromos, Lamia, Greece to Yeoryios and Afrodite Neroutsos on October 08, 1930. He was the second youngest amongst his six siblings. They grew up in a two room home with very little. Their faith and love in God kept them all safe and warm in their loving, yet small environment. At that time, he was one of the few from his horio to pursue an education. Due to his poverty, he took his education very seriously. He grasped every lesson quickly and cherished his second hand books. All his knowledge did not go for granted. Due to illiteracy at that time, many went to him for assistance which he welcomed. ....



In 1957, he married Theodora Souliotis and later had his two beautiful daughters, Afrodite and Triandafilia (Rose). After struggling for several years he had the opportunity to join his sister, Eleni, in the US. Eleni, her husband, Christos Pappas, and her two daughters, Koula and Maria embraced and helped him and his family.

Christos would walk in his second hand suit and church shoes to his first job at Picture Frame in Dover. Within his first few weeks of working, he saw several pieces of wood be thrown away. He realized the machine was at fault. He asked his manager if he could attempt to fix the issue. His manager was impressed that a new employee, who spoke absolutely no English, cared enough to take this upon himself in order to cut his costs and build more revenue. Little did his manager know where Christos came from, nothing was thrown away it was always fixed! He continued his factory work at Pon Fire Hose in Kenville. Again, never wanting anything to go to waste, all the hose that were not up to proper length requirements were thrown away. The wheels started turning in his head, and thought these can be useful for irrigating the fields in his village and that is where they were sent! His final job was at Homet in Rockaway where he retired.

Throughout his time working the factories, he never missed his responsibilities with his church. He chanted in the first tiny Greek Orthodox Church in Dover where he met Pater Konstadinos Tsigas. They were amongst the founders of today's St Andrews Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph. He was appointed as head Byzantine Chanter. He worked tirelessly with Pater Tsigas to perfect each sermon. He continued chanting with our present priest, Father John Theodosian. He enjoyed seeing all the pews filled with all of his beloved faithful parishioners. He was always thankful for those who passed and acknowledged his presence. He chanted until his legs no longer carried his weight.

As he became more comfortable in his surroundings, he decided to go after his dreams. He bought a home in the US, he expanded his childhood 2 room home in his horio into a beautiful villa, assisted in many ways with the church he grew up in, and finally built a larger beach home to fit his growing family.

His biggest accomplishment was not becoming rich or having a big fancy title, it was his family. What made Christos light up is having all of his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren surrounding him in one room. He was the most gentle, loving, calming soul and this drew many towards him. He was always thankful that God blessed him throughout his life. This showed upon his passing during our blessed holy week.

Christos was survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Theodora, two daughters Afrodite and Dimosthenis Paxos , Rose and George Tzouvaras, grandchildren Ioannis and Dimitra Paxos, Kristina and Jimmy Kourgelis, Theodora Tzouvaras, Krissoula Tzouvaras, great grandchildren, Angeliki Kourgelis, Yianni Kourgelis, and Despina Paxos. Also his sisters, Athena Sousoni, Eleni Pappas and his many beloved family members here and in Greece.

**Visitation** was held at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph NJ on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. **The Funeral Service** for the repose of his soul was also at Saint Andrew on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am. **Internment** followed at the Locust Hill Cemetery in Dover NJ.



**Philip E. Pappadopoulos** was born December 8, 1959 in Dover NJ. He passed away on April 21, 2022, in Allen TX. Phil's greatest passions were his family, his granddaughter Katherine, and his love of the Boston Red Sox.

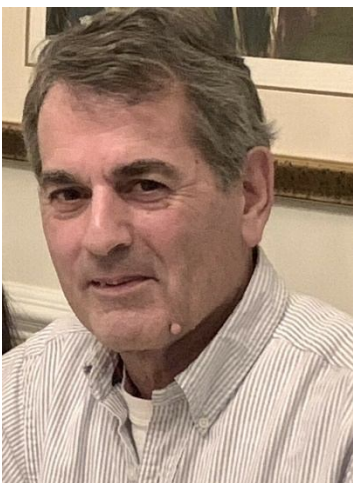
Phil met the love of his life, Kathy, through their time in the GOYA. They were married on May 5, 1984, at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ, where he also served on the Parish Council in 1998.

Phil loved his family and was dedicated to doing anything he could for them, including coaching and being involved with team sports for Tim, and going to any craft show or on any shopping trip Kathy wanted. He never missed an important event or milestone in their lives.

He spent many years as an active member of his church and was involved in several different ministries. He was a Parish Council President, GOYA youth administrator, and GOYA basketball coach. He was the current President of the AHEPA Dallas Chapter 20.

Phil is survived by his wife Katherine, his son Timothy (Amanda), his granddaughter Katherine, and his mother-in-law Panayiota Kouyialis. He is also survived by his sister Marina (Vasilios) Staikos, his brothers-in-law Peter (Ingrid) and Nicholas Kouyialis; and his nephews Alexander, Efthimios and Odysseas Staikos; and Nicholas (Samantha), Alexander and Patrick Kouyialis. He is preceded in death by his parents, Efthimios and Anna Pappadopoulos; his father-in-law Kypros Kouyialis; and his sister-in-law Donna Kouyialis.

**Funeral Service** was held at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas, TX on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am, Burial was at the Restland Memorial Cemetery in Dallas TX



**Douglas Peter Rauch, Jr., age 70**, passed away quietly at home from cancer on May 20, 2022, in the company of his loving wife, Helen and sister in law Sula. Doug was born on August 15, 1951 to parents Rosalie Sturiale and Douglas Peter (Pete) Rauch Sr., in Teaneck, NJ. Doug grew up in Upper Saddle River, NJ, and graduated from Northern Highlands Regional High School in 1969, where he excelled at soccer. He graduated with an architecture degree from Syracuse University in 1973. Over the years, Doug lived in various locations, including Syracuse, Sugar Loaf, Tuxedo Park, and Budd Lake. For many years Doug & Helen used their many artistic and business talents to run their construction company, HDR Inc.

Doug was an avid tennis enthusiast as well as a proficient downhill skier. He loved music and wrote poetry and his life's work "The Book of Life". He was the composer and orchestrator of many songs related to celebrating family and love and also authored many children's books.

Doug is survived by his beloved wife Helen, son Jon Michael, daughter Jaime Nicole, sister Diane, and brothers Brian and Steve, as well as many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews, extended and friends.

**A visitation** was on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, from 4:00 PM to 8:00PM, at Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph (tuttlefh.com). **A Funeral Service** for the repose of his soul was Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 10:00 AM at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph NJ. **Interment** followed at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.

From one of Doug's poems: "Life is to be. The absence of life Is yet to be. The end of life Is To be again."

**Bill (William) Stavrakis**, passed away on 5/25 unexpectedly in his residence in Hillsborough NJ. Bill who was known to many as “Meech” was born August 21st 1961 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

After graduating from Chatham Township High School, Bill started his career as an entrepreneur. Bill and his brother Nick founded Obsessions Niteclub in Randolph NJ. Obsessions was one of the most successful and longest running operations in New Jersey. Bill was a force of nature, determined to provide for his family and give them the life he felt they deserved. Bill’s family meant more to him than anything else in the world, something he often vocalized. He was unendingly proud of his three children, James, Anthony, and Michael. Bill dedicated his life to supporting his family beyond expectation.



Bill had many passions, the first as a youth lacrosse coach. Bill served the Hillsborough Lacrosse community for over 10 years where most of many of his relationships were cultivated. Bill was also deeply passionate about his work in the food & restaurant industry, where he was known for his hard work ethic. Bill was always the hardest worker in the room. When he wasn’t home, he could be often be found in local restaurants, with his favorite clients, or on his boat on the Jersey Shore. Anyone who knew Bill knew that he was the most loving father, brother and son a family could ask for. Bill had heart of gold. Bill was predeceased by his loving parents, Margarita & James Stavrakis. He is survived by his three sons, his loving brother Nick, and his nephews, Nicholas and Mathew.

A **funeral service** for the repose of his soul was held on Friday, June 3rd, at 10:00AM in Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ . **Burial** follow edat Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover, NJ. **Visiting** for relatives and friends was on Thursday, June 2nd, from 4 - 8pm in the Hillsborough Funeral Home, 796 US Hwy 206, Hillsborough, NJ 08844.



**Spyridoula Papadoulos**, 90, passed away peacefully on May 31, 2022 in Dover, NJ, surrounded by loved ones. She was born April 14, 1932, in Eleftheriani, Greece to Thoma and Efthimia (Pittas) Pexos. She is predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Demetrios, daughter, Zoe Paleocostas, son-in-law, Vasilios Paleocostas, and brother, Gregory Pexos.

Spyridoula immigrated with her family from Greece to the United States in 1966. With only an elementary school education, cut short by WWII, Spyridoula worked for Howmet Aerospace Corporation for 10+ years. She and her husband worked tirelessly to provide for their family, finally moving them into their first home at Maple Avenue some years later.

Further establishing Dover roots, they moved from Maple Ave to East MacFarlan Street, where Spyridoula spent her time as a homemaker, creating a legacy of family holidays, dinners, and unconditional love that has only grown stronger through generations. The definition of a true matriarch, Spyridoula was a humble and hardworking woman of few, but wise words. She enjoyed the simple things in life, like spending her time with family, visiting with her old village friends, and cooking delicious meals. Her greatest joy in life was loving and taking care of her beautiful grandchildren.

Spyridoula is survived by her daughter, Efthimia Gizas and husband Constantinos. Her 7 grandchildren and their spouses: Angie, Billy, and Dimitri, Steven (wife Ashley), Vicky (husband Billy), Sandy, and Dimitri (wife Dana). And her beloved 7 great grandchildren: Christiana, Adriana, Loula, Zoe, Demi, Alexander, and Mila.

**Wake services** were held on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph, NJ. **A Funeral service** for the repose of her soul was on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph, NJ. **Burial** at Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover NJ.

**Spiridoula Papayianis** of Dover, NJ, passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at the age of 88.

Spiridoula was born in Eleftheriani Greece. Her parents were Taxiarchis Seretis and Maria Siamas. Her mother passed away when she was 9. She met her father for the first time when she immigrated to the US in 1952. She then married Harilaos Papayianis on Christmas Day in 1959.

Spiridoula was a loving and feisty little Greek lady. Her early life was torn by war and poverty. Her father worked in the US and sent money back for their family in Greece. She probably never even saw her parents together. In spite of all these hardships, she still had strong family values. Her children and grandkids were her pride and joy. Spiridoula will always be remembered for her cooking, her garden and her love of family.



Spiridoula is survived by her son Tim, his wife Christina and their children Angela, Harrison and Alexa; her son Tom, his wife Angela and their children Hariklia and Michael; and her son Frank, his wife Monica and their children Antonios and Harry. Spiridoula's husband, Harilaos passed away in December 1989.

**Visitation** were on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 4:00-8:00 PM at the Tuttle Funeral Home, 272 Route 10 West, Randolph, NJ. **The Funeral Service** for the repose of her soul was held on Thursday, June 23, 2022, 10:00 AM at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ. **Interment** followed at Locust Hill Cemetery, Dover, NJ.



**Alexios Lambos, 85**, of Rockaway Twp, passed away on Saturday July 23, 2022, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born in Diasellaki Greece and moved with his wife to the US in 1958 and lived in Jersey City before moving to Rockaway in 2004. He is predeceased by his wife Olga; survived by daughter Angela Nicolaou and her husband Antonis; son Arestides and his wife Michele; grandchildren Olga and Haralambos (Harry) Nicolaou, and Alexios and Athena Lambos.

**Visitation** was held on Friday, July 29, 2022, 4-8PM at Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph. **Funeral Service** for the repose of his soul was held on Saturday, July 30, 2022, 9AM at Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. **Interment** followed at Locust Hill Cemetery.



**Michael N. Protopapas** passed away while on vacation with his wife Alexandra in Kárpáthos, Greece on July 17th. He leaves behind his wife Alexandra of 49 years, his loving son Nicholas, his sister Penelope Logothetou of Rhodes, Greece, and many more family & friends in Greece and the United States. He was buried in Apéri, Kárpáthos. May God rest his soul and his memory be eternal. Sincerest condolences to his family.



#### PASSING OF OUR DEAR COUSIN MICHAEL N. PROTOPAPPAS

The Velivasakis, the Mercers and the Protopapas families are in deep mourning! We are devastated by the sudden loss of our dear cousin Michael N. Protopapas of Parsippany, NJ, who passed suddenly while on vacation in his beloved island of Karpathos.

Besides being a dear cousin and a friend, Michael was truly a magnificent and humble person, a great family-man, an accomplished professional in the Financial and Life Insurance sectors and one fierce debater of politics both here and his native Greece!

Besides his noteworthy attributes however, Michael was a very humble and a private person, and one great cook of some superb Greek dishes, which he was especially proud to share with family and friends. Furthermore, he was at ease with his compatriots, friends, and family, and loved to spend summers in Karpathos, fraternizing with his childhood friends and endlessly arguing with his political antagonists!

But life dealt some very difficult cards, turns and twists to Michael and his family, with the sudden and premature loss of their beloved daughter Niki a few years ago, which loss had left an indelible mark on Michael, that I for one could see drawn on his face ever since! The only bittersweet consolation might be that Nikki and he are now reunited once again in Eternity! A couple of weeks ago, right before they left for their annual vacation to Karpathos, we had gone out to dinner and celebrated our respective wedding anniversaries and had a great time together! Little did we know that would be the last time we would see Michael! As now he is no more!

Instead of more words however, which at times cannot accurately express the magnitude of the loss, I would like to send him off to the long trip to Eternity with a Cretan mandinada, especially since he was a Cretan γαμπρός after all, which in many ways describes Michael and his many interests in life rather well. «Πολύπλευρος και μερακλίδικος ήταν ο καιρός σου, χαίρεται δά η Καρπαθιώτικη η Γη, που αγκάλιασε κορμί νεκρού, σαν το δικό σου». Bon Voyage my dear friend and cousin Michael...! We will all miss you. May you Rest In Peace and your Memory be Eternal.

*(Written by Emmanuel Velivasakis, first cousin of Alexandra Protopapas)*

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***May their Memory be eternal! Αιώνια η μνήμη αυτών***

## ***DONATIONS RECEIVE IN HONOR OF:***

**Nick, Cindy & Alexandra Gakos**

*for their dear friendship and involvement in the community Mark & Nancy Liff*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Sundays **after Holy Communion**

**PILLOW & KNITTING** 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY 11AM

**BAKING GROUP** Tuesdays **9am**

**Hellenic Afternoon School** Thu **4:30pm**

**Greek Dancing** Thu Grp 1 @**6:30** & Grp 2 @**7:15pm**

**GOYA Greek Dancing** Thursdays @**8:00pm**

**LAP** TB Determined

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN SEPTEMBER:** 9/4 PHILOPTOCHOS

9/11 PTA 9/18 **ASBURY PARK**, 9/25 GOYA

9/3 FAITH KITCHEN – PC HOSTING (*RESCHEDULED 9/24*)

9/8 @**4:30PM HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL AGIASMOS**

**9/9 - 9/11 RUMMAGE SALE**

9/10 @**11AM 2 BAPTISMS**

9/11 **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHOOL AGIASMOS**

9/12 @**7:30PM** PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

9/13 @**7PM** GOYA KICK OFF MEETING AND PIZZA SOCIAL

9/15 **GREEK DANCE IN SOCIAL HALL | ANGELO GERGATSOU LIS**  
GROUP 1 @**6:30PM** | GRP 2@**7:15PM** | **GOYA DANCE @ 8PM**

9/17 SCA MEDIEVAL EVENT AT SAINT ANDREW

9/18 Asbury Park Beach: Services and the Diving for the Cross by the Youth *no services at Saint Andrew*

9/22 @**6:30PM** GOYA MONTHLY MEETING

**9/24 @11-6PM GYRO & SOUVLAKI FEST**

9/25 @**1PM CAR RAFFLE DRAWING**

9/25 @**1:30PM BAPTISM**

9/26 @**7:30PM** STEWARDSHIP MEETING

9/27 @**7PM** PHILOPTOCHOS MONTHLY MEETING

9/28 AHEPA CIGAR NIGHT AT THE MEADOWOOD @**7PM**

9/30 @**4PM WEDDING APRILIANI & JANULIS**

9/30 GOYA HARVEST DANCE/ KICK OFF IN WESTFIELD @**7PM**

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN OCTOBER:** 10/2 PHILOPTOCHOS

10/9 PTA, 10/16 DOP, 10/23 GOYA, 10/30 BAKALIKO

10/3-10/6 CLERGY FAMILY RETREAT

10/7 @**4-8PM** NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE AT ST ANDREW *SEE FLYER*

**10/8 @11AM BAPTISM**

10/9 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE

10/9 MR & MS. GOYA TB DETERMINED

10/14 @**4PM WEDDING**

10/21-23 YAL RETREAT OCT 21-23

10/22 FAITH KITCHEN- GOYA HOSTING

10/23 @**1PM BAPTISM**

10/30 HAS **OXI Day 28<sup>TH</sup>** – Poems in Church

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS IN NOVEMBER:** 11/6 PHILOPTOCHOS

11/13 PTA, 11/20 DOP, 11/27 GOYA

11/4 LIFELINE SCREENING 8AM-4PM AT ST ANDREW

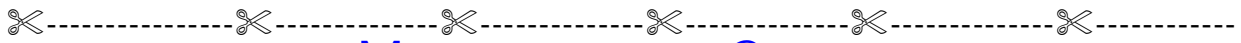
11/5 MARKET STREET MISSION COAT GIVEAWAY @**10AM**

11/6 @**2PM WEDDING**

**11/13 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA AT THE MEADOWOOD**

11/20 BIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUNDAY AT 12PM

11/20 DOP FOUNDERS DAY & TRAVEL RAFFLE DRAWING



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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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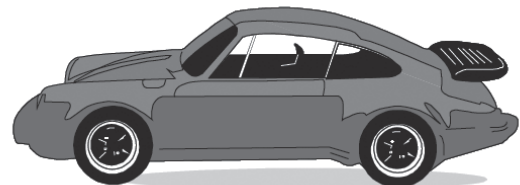
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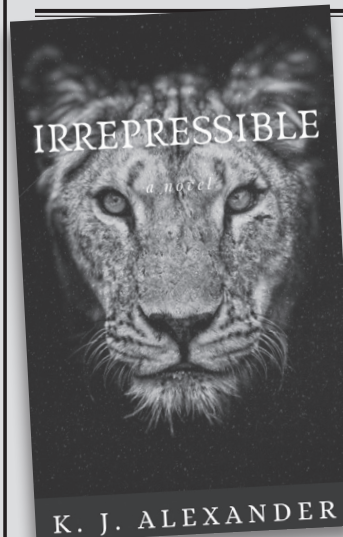
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## **OFFICE STAFF**

**Office Manager**, Vasiliki (Bessie) Petrakos [info@standrewgonj.org](mailto:info@standrewgonj.org)

**Financial Administrator**, Cathy Barrett [fin@standrewgonj.org](mailto:fin@standrewgonj.org)

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Georgia Haglund, *Chairperson*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORS**

Maro Nicolaou Schuster

## **BYZANTINE CHANTERS/CHOIR**

Panayiotis Fotinis, *Chanter*

Salomi Massaras, *Choir Director*

## **HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Fr. John Theodosion, Athena Borzeka, Vasilgia Christodoulou,  
Maria Galvin, Maria Pallis

## **HELLENIC AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

Vasilgia Christodoulou, *Director*

*TEACHERS:* Haroula Christodoulou, Vasilgia Christodoulou, Archontia  
Fromouzopoulou, Effie Kritharis, Yiota Louca, Stacey Papanikolaw, Eleni Zeris

## **MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS**

**Ladies Philoptochos Society:** Mary Michailidis, *President*

**Knitting, Crocheting & Pillow Ministries:** Ellen Manetas

**Bakaliko:** Maria Stamoutsos

**Coffee Hour:** Irene Laoudis

**Agape Group:** Betty Kelly

**AHEPA:** TJ Borzeka, *President*

**Daughters of Penelope:** Eleni Boyadjis, *President*

**PTA:** Maria Pallis, *President*

**Little Angels Playgroup (LAP):** Athina Vella

**HOPE & JOY:** Dina Aspromatis

## **GOYA**

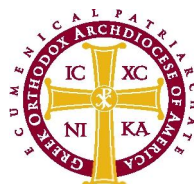
Despina Sedereas, *GOYA President*

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

## **Hellenic Dance**

**GOYA** Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*

**Jr & Sr Groups** Angelo Gergatsoulis, *Instructor*



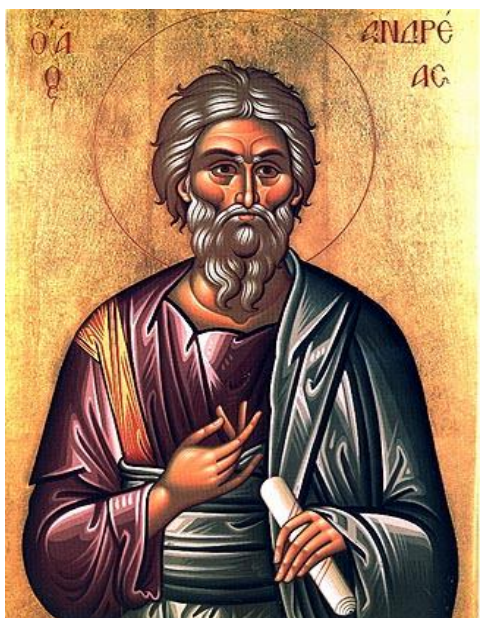
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#### HYMN OF THE APOSTLE ST. ANDREW

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.

**By this My Father is glorified, That you bear much fruit."**

John 15:8

#### ARE YOU BEARING FRUIT?

We all know the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand in the wilderness --- there was no food, except for one boy who had five loaves and two fish – not much when you consider 5000 men. But Jesus blessed the loaves, multiplied them and used them to feed the 5000.

That boy did his best with what he had. And Jesus used it to perform a beautiful miracle.

Just like the boy who offered his five loaves and two fish, we offer what we have – however great or small our gift. If we do this prayerfully and in humility, God will take our gifts and multiply them in order to feed His people.

#### 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.