



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Ocean Township, New Jersey

the

Beacon

of Orthodoxy and Hellenism

May / June 2022

The Newsletter of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Volume 21 Issue 5

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

CHRIST IS RISEN!

ENDURANCE

Time does fly by! It is hard to believe that it has been over ten years since we opened the doors to our church here in Ocean and consecrated the church five months ago! It seems like just yesterday! We truly have endured over the years and our church community has grown. Having just celebrated Pascha on April 24th and endured the Great and Holy Lent, I would like to look at endurance in our lives and how we as Christians keep moving toward Our Lord and Savior.

Most of us learn endurance when we play sports. However, education and life in general teaches us about endurance. But how about endurance in the Church? Many of us have endured this last Lent while fasting. Oftentimes, the difference between sainthood and spiritual failure is attributed to the gift of patience, i.e., endurance. The saints fervently prayed and put to good use their struggles. They never ceased to remember the wonderful admonition of St. Paul who wrote, "For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised" (Hebrews 10:36).

Some of us are often quick to abandon commitment to serve Christ at the first sign of trouble. In the great parable of "The Sower and the Seed," Jesus describes various ways people accept and struggle or not to struggle in life. A person may seem to accept God's promise, but he stumbles in his faith when difficulties arise (Matt. 13:20-21). Keep in mind Apostle Paul's warning that "My righteous people will believe and live; but if any of them turns back, I will not be pleased with him. We are not people who turn back and are lost. Instead, we have faith and are saved" (Hebrews 10:38-39).

Our Lord is completely honest with us and does not hide the fact that the way of discipleship can often be the way of suffering. In his invitation to the Apostles, he said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24). With these words, He makes it clear that faith is not a way to avoid suffering, as much as it is a way to endure pain in our lives. For the mature Christian, faith is not an escape from tribulation, but rather a gracious gift that in time of testing; it allows him to continue to trust in the goodness of a loving God.

I know the road has been long for many of us. However, we must continually endure following our Lord if we are to be successful. Pascha is not the end of our endurance, but only the beginning. As we condition ourselves, we follow the example of the disciples in their ministries as we move forward and continue to grow spiritually. Thus, we continue growing our Parish of St. George and its ministries; building up the body of His Church for tomorrow.

Christ Is Risen!

+Fr. Andrew

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Father Andrew's Office Hours

Mon., Tues., & Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wed.: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

If there is no response to your phone call during regular office hours, please leave a message and someone will return your call ASAP. In case of emergency, call the church office for more information.

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Youth Advisors	George Moutis	gmoutis@scinj.com
Youth Advisors	Sophia Lalli	slalli0726@gmail.com

While we cannot be together at St. George we ask that you join us for services via live stream on our website

www.stgeorgeap.org
 or via our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/stgeorgeap.org

You can Light A Candle and Say a Prayer for every service – even when you cannot attend by simply visiting our web page

<https://saintgeorgenj.square.site/>

WEBSITE**Submissions**

If you would like to add an article or flyer to our website, please submit them to Barbara Terlecsky at bterlecsky@aol.com And make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

*Masthead photo by
 Yorgos Sakelaris*

The St. George Beacon of Orthodoxy & Hellenism newsletter is published five times a year. All submissions and pictures will be reviewed prior to printing by the Beacon committee and under the guidance of Father Andrew Eugenis. All articles, flyers and photos must be submitted by email with a contact name and phone number to Niki Piraquive at niki.piraquive@gmail.com. All submissions must be received by the following deadline dates to be considered.

Edition
 January/February
 March/April
 May/June
 August/September/October
 November/December

Deadline
 December 1st
 February 1st
 April 1st
 July 1st
 October 1st

From the Parish Council...

XRISTOS ANESTI! CHRIST IS RISEN!

I pray that the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior finds all of you and your families healthy and safe. Pascha gives us the Light of the Resurrection and through Him, we are rising out of this Pandemic.

On Friday, April 1st, we enjoyed the distinct honor in having His Grace Apostolos of Medeia celebrate The Salutations of Our Virgin Mary. That evening His Grace tonsured Marcelo Felice. Axios! Every time we witness this ceremony, we are humbled and grateful to see our young men being active in our faith. Following The Salutations of Our Virgin Mary, we welcomed Father Evan Armatas from Colorado to begin our two-day Lenten Retreat. Our Lenten Retreat Committee prepared Lenten refreshments which were served in the library following services Friday night and in the Cultural Center on Saturday. Our Lenten Retreat was inspiring to those who attended. Thank you to all those involved in making this successful.

Our rentals in the Gym have exceeded our expectations, and I would like to thank Karen Catizone and George Costidis for all their hard work and time in making this a huge success.

Our caterer is progressing nicely, and his bookings are the highest they have been since he started. We are hearing very positive comments on the events he is catering.

Our Solar Panel project has been completed, and we are beginning to see the financial benefits from this project.

One of our newest organizations, "Caring for God's Creation-Environmental Stewardship and Protection" has planted a butterfly garden located outside between the Church and the Administration

building. It is thriving, and they have also planted a tree to represent Earth Day held on Friday, April 22, 2022. Please stop by and see what a beautiful area these ladies have created for our future.

On April 25th, the Ladies Philoptochos prepared refreshments to be enjoyed after Divine Liturgy, as we celebrated Saint George Day.

This year, April 2022, we celebrated our 10-year Anniversary of our new Church in Ocean, NJ. We are thankful that our mortgage is paid off, the Iconography is complete, and that the Consecration of our St. George was done in record time. I truly hope we are all proud to be a part of the St. George family.

We are waiting for final approvals to proceed on the Cemetery expansion beginning in late May.

Our St. George Festival has been moved to October 14th, 15th, and 16th. Please mark your calendars and tell all your friends. I hope we can all volunteer in some way to make this a huge success.

In closing, I would like to thank ALL our Parishioners who give of their Time, Talents, and Treasures to make our Lenten Season spiritual, inspiring and beautiful. God bless our Saint George Parish Family

Spiro P. Pappas

Saint George Parish Council President

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SERVICES

Orthos begins at 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am
(Unless otherwise noted)

May 2022

1 Sunday	Sunday of Thomas
8 Sunday	Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women
15 Sunday	Sunday of the Paralytic
18 Wednesday	Mid-Pentecost
21 Saturday	Saints Constantine & Helen
22 Sunday	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
29 Sunday	Sunday of the Blind Man

June 2022

1 Wednesday	Apodosis of Pascha
2 Thursday	Holy Ascension
5 Sunday	Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
11 Saturday	Saturday of Souls
12 Sunday	Holy Pentecost
13 Monday	Monday of the Holy Spirit
19 Sunday	Sunday of All Saints
24 Friday	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
26 Sunday	2nd Sunday of Matthew
29 Wednesday	Saints Peter & Paul

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Baptisms:

April 23, 2022	Alex Schobel (Chrismation)
May 1, 2022	Callahan Darcey
May 15, 2022	Steven Robert Poulakos
May 21, 2022	Niko Drouvalakis
May 22, 2022	Suzanne Foster (Chrismation)
May 22, 2022	Navy Grace Leone
June 4, 2022	Andreas Panayiotou-Kawashima
June 4, 2022	Dominic James Galanakis
June 5, 2022	Grace Voula Blake
June 5, 2022	Jacob Skaftouros & Theo Skaftouros
June 19, 2022	Clayton Jahn (Chrismation)
June 25, 2022	Elefteria Thomas

Weddings:

June 19, 2022	Maria Dontas & Peter Paragiannis
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Deaths:

February 14, 2022	Androniki Litsios
February 16, 2022	Agostino Andolino
March 31, 2022	Marios Grivas

SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

“What we are and have is our gift from God. What we do with that gift, is our gift to God.”

-Fr. Andrew

Our Church - Our Spiritual Home

This is Part II of this year's Stewardship theme from the Archdiocese.

- We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body. To be truly a member of the Church as Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.
- “The Church is the unity of all worlds, earthly and heavenly, of angels and men, of the living and the dead.

“...in the Church we live eternal life starting from now. We do not simply await the life to come, but we experience and enjoy it from the present. The Kingdom of God, according to the Fathers, is not life beyond the grave but communion with God....” –Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos

- From our spiritual home we are sent out as “phosphoroi” - bearers of His light in the modern world, setting an example by our mutual understanding and love. As we do so, we pray for each other, listen and learn from each other, disagree respectfully, restore civility, and find a common purpose.
- In our spiritual home, we grow together as we share our spiritual life. We give sacrificially to support our local parish because when we give of our first fruits we set our priorities on God and have a constant reminder that all we are and all we have are His.
- We are stewards of the Gospel and the stewards of our parish. We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as members of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

Stewardship 2022

On February 27, our St. George Church celebrated its annual Stewardship & Parish Ministries Appreciation Sunday at the Cultural Center. Approximately 40 Ministries were represented and over 100 parishioners attended. The event was quite a success full of Christian fellowship and agape. (All the supporting Stewards, leads and helpers, had been previously acknowledged and thanked by Fr. Andrew in Church.)

As we all know our Stewardship and its Ministries are the backbone of our St. George. Your ongoing support and generosity is needed in order to continue to flourish as a Church and as a Christian Orthodox Community.

As mentioned in the past, the cost to operate St. George and cover its expenses is \$2,200 per day regardless if it is open or closed. If you have not pledged for 2022, please fill out the enclosed Stewardship Form and try to donate from your heart and to the best of your ability. Thank you!

“Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly, nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
(II Corinthians 9:7)

In addition, please try to connect with relatives and friends who have abstained from coming to Church and kindly urge them to return to the House of God and to experience God's Hospitality. Inviting Him to your home and showing your hospitality via live streaming is not the same as being present in our Spiritual Home, our Church. (Please see Part II above from the Archdiocese.)

May we all have enjoyed the resurrection of our Almighty Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and keep that resurrection live in our minds every day as an opportunity and reminder to re-new/resurrect our own lives.

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet he shall live:” John 11:25

Lastly, let us try to serve Him on a daily basis as if every day was our last day on earth. Let us count our blessings, love each other and adhere to our strong faith. Hronia Polla kai Kala me Ygeia kai Eftyxia!

May God bless us all and keep us healthy and safe!

In God's Service,
Dimitris Geaneas-Stewardship Chairman
908-770-2426/jgeaneas@msn.com

Join our St. George group Facebook page.
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/stgeorgeap/>

Please update your contact information by filling out a Stewardship Form or by contacting the Office.

WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A STEWARD OF ST. GEORGE

Parishioners sometimes ask why it's necessary to become a Steward of St. George and submit an annual pledge form. By coming to Church and making an annual and weekly donations, some feel they've met their obligation. While donating funds is one aspect of Stewardship, being a true Steward involves so much more. It involves:

- **Transcendence:** Knowing and experiencing God's presence through prayer and participating in the liturgies and sacraments.
- **Significance:** Having a sense of purpose to do something meaningful in service to our fellow man. To "give back" to God some of the blessings we received from Him through service to others
- **Fellowship:** Connecting with others in meaningful relationships based on shared beliefs and values

Your Church, St. George, offers you a way to know God, gain Significance and enjoy Fellowship by:

- Administering to the spiritual needs of our community and offers ways to participate in the worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through liturgies, and sacraments (baptisms, weddings, funerals) and ministries that promote understanding our faith.
 - o Spiritual Enrichment, Circle of Faith, Sunday School, Mustard Seed Book Store, a Monthly Book Reading Session, a Special Monthly Saturday Vespers, Adult Education Classes, Fellowship in Prayer, Weekly Bible Study, Fellowship and Agape(Love), Moral Support
- Addressing the cultural and social needs of our community through ministries that bring us together to serve and enjoy each other.
 - o Philoptochos, GOYA, The Agape Ministries (Hospitality, Baby Blankets, Weddings), Greek School, Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor), Kali Parea, St. George Socialites, Annual Festival, Taste of the Shore, Green Stewardship, Social Activities, AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope

Being a Steward of St. George, and submitting an annual pledge form, is an act of faith and commitment to our Church.

- The annual pledge form makes you think about your Church and re-examine your commitment to St. George – How important is the Church to me? What can I do to help our Church fulfill the needs of our community?
- Your financial commitment helps St. George offer the many spiritual, religious, cultural and social services our community wants and needs
- It enables you to have an active voice in the affairs of the Parish by participating in Parish Assemblies, voting on issues critical to the future of the Church and selecting the leadership of our community
- The pledge form provides information on our community's size and needs, helping the Parish Council to ensure critical needs are met and resources are available

The Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee want you to participate fully in the life of St. George. There is no minimum Stewardship pledge. Give from your heart and to the best of your ability.

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1033 WEST PARK AVENUE, OCEAN, NJ 07712 PHONE: 732-775-2777 FAX: 732-775-0109

2022 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Last Name _____ Are you a new member to St. George Y _____ N _____

First Name _____ Orthodox: Yes _____ No _____

Cell Phone # [] _____ e-mail address: _____

Occupation _____

Spouse's First Name _____ Orthodox: Yes _____ No _____

Cell Phone # [] _____ e-mail address: _____

Occupation _____

Street Address _____ Home Phone # [] _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Children's Name(s) & Birthdates(s) _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work at St. George Church for 2022

- ☐ \$ _____ \$10,000 ☐ \$ _____ \$1,200 --- *Suggested minimum for Families*
- ☐ \$ _____ \$7,500 ☐ \$ _____ \$ 650 ---- *Suggested minimum for Seniors and Singles*
- ☐ \$ _____ \$5,000 ☐ \$ _____ \$ 100 ---- *Suggested minimum pledge for College Students*
- ☐ \$ _____ \$3,000 ☐ \$ _____ Other ----- *(Please enter Total Amount of your commitment)*

The above amount will be given: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annually

Signature _____ Date _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

I authorize the payment of my pledge, according to the payment plan selected, by the following credit card:

☐ VISA / ☐ MC / ☐ AMEX # _____ Exp. Date _____ Code _____

Cardholder's Name as shown on card (Please Print) _____

Card member's Signature _____



ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF GIVING ONLINE!!

Please note that you must fill out a form and/or enter your pledge on Vanco every year.

You can now pledge and pay your Stewardship and your regular weekly offerings with the convenience of electronic giving! On our new Vanco system, Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Credit & Debit Card Giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card. Go to <http://stgeorgeap.org/vanco>. In addition, Vanco offers Give Plus Text and Give Plus Mobile. You can easily set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

For your convenience, the use of Vanco online payment system is now available for 2022. If you are unfamiliar with Vanco, please contact the Church Office if you need assistance setting up payments.

To transfer shares of a stock or bonds toward your Stewardship, please contact the Church Office.

"Let your Love for St. George live on well into the Future by including St. George in your Estate Planning".

Thank you for your support of our St. George Greek Orthodox Church. God bless you and stay safe.



Ladies Philoptochos Society

XristosAnesti! Christ is Risen!

We have been exceptionally busy these last few months. During our March meeting we had a Koliva workshop. Thank you to our president Marissa Costidis for organizing and teaching us how to make Koliva for our dearly departed. Father Andrew explained to us the meaning of Koliva, and described the Saturday of Souls. After preparing the Koliva we took our individual trays into church for the last Saturday of Souls service the following morning.

Seventy – two College Care packages were mailed to our college kids in March. We mailed a pair of socks, gum, ION chocolate (thank you Mr.Moutis), popcorn, Chapstick and candy. If you would like your college student to receive a package next year please see Claire Chrysanthopoulos.

In March we also held a Diaper and Wipes Drive. Thank you to everyone who generously donated these items that were delivered to Pinwheel Place in Eatontown, a crisis nursery whose focus is to protect children and to offer safe and supportive solutions for families in need.

Every day during Lent we sent out an Act of Kindness via email, Facebook and Instagram. We did this in conjunction with our

YAL group (Krissy Conery, Niki Cronen, and Sophia Lalli). The email included an act of kindness and a Bible reading. Thank you for all the positive feedback we received.

During our April meeting we had a Fasolada dinner that included a Lenten recipe exchange. It was a lot of fun. Thank you to the Blue Swan Diner for their generous donation. It was delicious. Special thanks to Deirdre Kosmas who always, with her special touch, makes everything so beautiful.

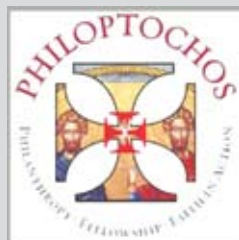
We also delivered 35 Pascha baskets to our homebound. Thank you to the Greek Store who every year donate a tsoureki and other goodies that we include in our baskets.

Special thanks to Gayle Billows and Dee Petrantis for organizing the dyeing of almost 500 red eggs on Holy Thursday that are distributed at the Anastasi.

We would also like to thank everyone who generously helped with our Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale. It was a huge success. We especially thank bakers, sellers, shoppers, buyers, and drivers. There are so many people that make this fundraiser possible.



Saint George Philoptochos



Chapter 1021

2022 MEMBERSHIP

As a member of the St. George Philoptochos Parish Chapter, you also retain membership in both the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos and the National Philoptochos.

Due to the financial obligations of our Parish Chapter, we ask that you consider pledging an amount equal to or greater than the minimum suggested of \$30.

Dues Breakdown:

\$15 of your dues is sent to National Philoptochos and **\$8** is sent to the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos to fulfill our organizational commitments. The balance of your dues is what our local chapter counts on in order to operate our philanthropic budget. Please remember this when pledging.

Types of Membership:

The National Philoptochos by-laws state that there are three types of membership in a Parish Chapter.

Full Membership: Women of the Greek Orthodox faith that are 18 years of age or older.

Associate & Supporting Membership: A non-Greek Orthodox woman married to a Greek Orthodox shall be eligible for Associate Membership. Men of Orthodox faith may be supporting members without the right to vote.

Honorary Membership: Honorary membership may be bestowed upon any person who has distinguished herself by service to the Ladies Philoptochos.

PHILOTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form and return with your membership contribution to:

St. George Philoptochos Society
1033 West Park Avenue, Ocean, NJ 07712

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

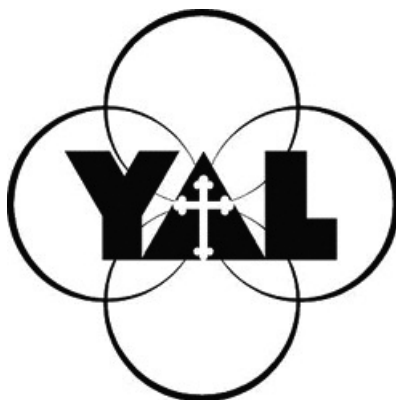
Telephone: _____

Email: _____

DUES AMOUNT

\$30 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____
(Minimum)

Type of Membership: _____



XristosAnesti!

YAL was active this past Lenten season. We had a wonderful gathering following the Lenten Retreat with food, fellowship, and discussion. We also had the blessing to collaborate with Philoptochos for “Acts of Kindness- Your Journey Through Lent”.

Upcoming Event -We will be gathering again on May 21st in Sea Bright on the beach for fellowship and fun! All are welcome!

As a region, YAL initiatives are growing, along with plans to gather as a larger group. There are several upcoming events on a larger scale. These will provide opportunities to gather with young adults from other parishes in our area!

Glory to God for many blessings!

Anyone with interest in joining our group, learning more about regional initiatives, or attending our events, please email us at jerseyshoreyal@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!

OUR NEW ORTHODOXY MINISTRY

“CONNECT”

(Connect with the Outside and Reconnect within the Community)

Purpose: Spread Christian Orthodoxy

Vision:

- 1) Build St. George and its Community into Beacons of Orthodoxy.
- 2) Grow our St. George Orthodox Community by increasing Church membership; attract new members (within and outside), and bring back and sustain existing members.

Mission: (What do we do? What makes us different? How we plan to achieve the Vision?)

What do we do?

- Create and nurture a Christian Orthodox environment (“not just talking the talk, but walking the talk”).
- Welcome, Welcome and Welcome everyone including visitors and guests (“treat them as they were your long lost relatives”).
- Use social media, phone calls and mailing campaigns to reach out within and outside our Community. (As per Fr. Andrew, if each St. George family brought in a new member, our church membership would double.)
- Start with a mail campaign to reach out to 4,000 families (including the 600 families in our current distribution list).

What makes us different?

Our St. George Church and its Community offer a wide array of services, both spiritual and social, like no other Church.

These are: A Special Vespers every 4-6 Weeks, Learning Orthodoxy/Adult Education Classes, Promotion of our Ancient Faith (the “Church of the Apostles”), a weekly Bible Study, a monthly Book Reading Session, Fellowship in Prayer, Spiritual Enrichment Sessions after Divine Liturgy, Fellowship and Agape (Love), a Circle of Faith (with daily scriptures), Moral Support (No One Should Ever Feel Alone), Mustard Seed Bookstore, Socialites, Coffee Hour, Multiple Ministries, Green Stewardship, Social Activities (chess, backgammon, ping pong, monthly outings and picnics, etc.)

How we plan to achieve the Vision?

By creating the right Christian culture (under “What do we do?”) and by continuing to provide the services as listed above (“What makes us different?”), and with the help of everyone in our Community under the guidance of our Spiritual Leader Fr. Andrew, our Vision will become a reality. **“Build it and they will come”-Field of Dreams**

SAVE THE DATE



GREEK FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 14TH, 15TH, AND 16TH



An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

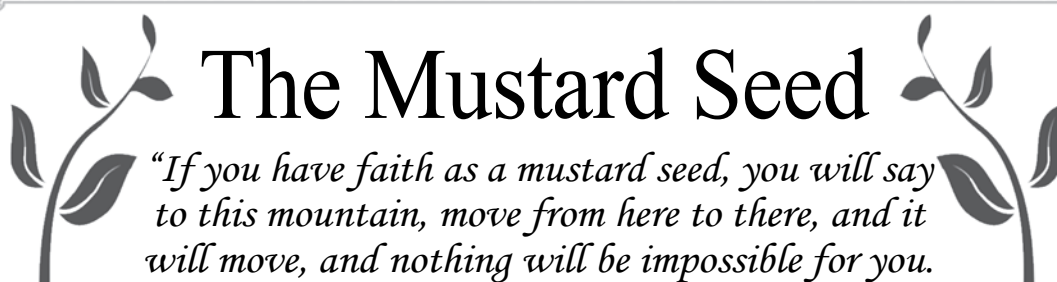
Every Tuesday - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Interactive discussion and review via zoom

May 3rd - Jude
May 10th - 1 Peter
May 17th - 2 Peter

May 24th - TBD
May 31st - TBD
June - TBD

*TBD - To Be Determined

Contact Teri Lalli: lalliptds@gmail.com



The Mustard Seed

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AHEPA NEWS CORNER

Thomas A. Edison Chapter, 287 – Ocean, NJ

I hope you all had a wonderful and blessed PASCHA, and I pray that you and your families are well and healthy. To the winners of our Super Bowl and NCAA pools, CONGRATULATION! Please don't forget us next year.

As Summer approaches, we plan an exciting season for AHEPA including several events for our community and membership. Here are just a few events coming up this year.

On Sunday May 15, 2022, AHEPA will sponsor coffee hour following church in honor of AHEPA Sunday. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions or wish to sign onto a great organization please contact us before, during or after the coffee hour. The following week we will have our Souvlaki fundraiser on May 22, 2022 that supports our scholarship fund. In June we will be giving out our AHEPA scholarships for 2022 in church after the service.

There are still programs to take advantage of listed on the AHEPA National website. The district meeting is in Holmdel Kimissis Church this year, June 24 thru 26; please take advantage of this and participate. The National Convention follows in Disney World, Orlando, FL, from the 18 to 23 of July. This year is the 100th year celebration of AHEPA. Please see the website for details about this very exciting and fun event.

With so many events going on this spring and early summer, we moved our golf outing to the end of Summer/early Fall. We also will try and plan a larger event which will be more exciting and hopefully entice you to bring family and friends. Of course all members of the community are welcome; this event is for everyone. We will send out the date soon for the Golf event and you can "Save the Date."

In the Fall and Winter months our Chapter plans include another Souvlaki fund raiser and our 2nd Annual extravaganza. Stay tuned for details.

If you are interested in joining AHEPA please contact us. May 15th on AHEPA Sunday would be a perfect time for this. We are always available!

I will close by saying "thank you to all the AHEPAN's in our chapter." Without all your help and participation none of this is possible. The brothers in our chapter have truly elevated us to a new level of brotherhood and philanthropy. We have and will continue to contribute to our church, our ministries and to several other charitable organizations.

I would like to wish you all a Happy and Enjoyable Summer ahead.

God bless you all

George Perentesis, President

AHEPA Chapter 287



On Monday, March 14th, our AHEPA chapter was pleased to host the NJ District 5 Lodge to our meeting. Pictured are the District officers along with our President and new Warden, George Perentesis sitting on the right. Our NJ District 5 Lodge was voted the Best Lodge of AHEPA at the recent AHEPA National Convention in Athens, Greece. Holding the plaque is Brother Robert Fourniadis, our District Governor sitting in the front row.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR GREEK SCHOOL

The Greek School continues to be busy! Our March 25th program was well attended by our parishioners. We thank you all for your support as it helps to show our children how their hard work is appreciated by all. Our students did a beautiful job reciting their poems and singing traditional songs under the guidance of Mrs. Alexandra Wright. We would like to especially thank Mr. Evangelos Syrepisios, a former Evzona for the Greek National Guard, for coming to our school and showing our older boys how to properly march for the parade. He was patient with our students and explained how to march and the symbolism behind all the moves.

We have completed our second session of advanced and first session of beginner's level of adult Greek classes. Our adult students have shown progress and have become a lovely group. We will resume with another round of classes after Easter.

We look forward to many end of the year events. Our PTO hosted a bowling day for our families which provided a great time for students to bond without the pressure of schoolwork. PTO will also host our annual lenten breakfast and palm making on Saturday, April 16th. We look forward to our end of the year program which will take place on Sunday, June 12th. Join us as we say

farewell to our graduating students and we celebrate the beginning of summer!



Mr. Syrepisios showing the boys how to do the changing of the guard.



Our students reciting the National Anthem

Το Ελληνικό μας σχολείο συνεχίζει δυναμικά το έργο του. Πολλοί από τους ενορίτες και μέλη της εκκλησιαστικής επιτροπής μας τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους στην Εθνική Γιορτή της 25ης Μαρτίου. Η παρουσία τους ευχαρίστησε και ενθάρρυνε όλους τους μαθητές μας. Οι μαθητές αφηγήθηκαν ποιήματα και τραγούδησαν παραδοσιακά τραγούδια για την ημέρα ανεξαρτησίας και τον Ευαγγελισμό της Θεοτόκου. Ευχαριστούμε ιδιαίτερα την κυρία Αλεξάνδρα Ράιτ που βοήθησε όλους τους μαθητές με τα τραγούδια. Θέλουμε επίσης να εκφράσουμε την ιδιαίτερη εκτίμηση και ευχαρίστησή μας προς τον κύριο Ευάγγελο Συρεπίσιο, έναν πρώην εύζωνα, που έμαθε στα αγόρια της 5ης και 6ης τάξης τον βηματισμό των ευζώνων, και με τη σειρά τους τα αγόρια έκαναν μία συμβολική αλλαγή φρουράς μπροστά στο μνημείο του αγνώστου Στρατιώτη.

Στα τέλη Μαρτίου και αρχές Απριλίου συμπληρώθηκε άλλος ένα κύκλος Ελληνικών μαθημάτων για ενήλικες. Οι μαθητές που έχουμε στα δύο τμήματα είναι πολύ αφοσιωμένοι στο να μάθουν την Ελληνική γλώσσα και είναι μοναδική η προσέγγισή τους προς τη γλώσσα μας. Η σειράς μαθημάτων θα ξεκινήσουν και πάλι μετά το Πάσχα.

Ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων οργάνωσε ένα απογευματινό bowling για τους μικρούς μαθητές μας, και τα παιδιά πέρασαν καταπληκτικά, όπως επίσης και οι γονείς μαζί! Ο Σύνδεσμος θα χορηγήσει και το ετήσιο πρόγευμα το Σάββατο του Λαζάρου, 16 Απριλίου, όπου οι μαθητές και άλλα μέλη της ενορίας μας θα φτιάξουν τα βάρια.



Η τελική γιορτή και αποφοίτηση του σχολείου μας θα είναι την Κυριακή 12 Ιουνίου. Ελπίζουμε ότι θα μας τιμήσετε με την παρουσία σας να αποχαιρετήσουμε τους αποφοίτους μας, την Αντωνία Παπαγεωργίου, την Ευδοξία Παραγιουδάκη, και τον Γιώργο Κόζακ.

Maria Lambrinos and Antonia Tsiandi-Sum



Preparing for our program by "planting" 201 Greek flags.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has had a busy spring filled with lots of exciting events. It was wonderful to come back together to celebrate Sunday of Orthodoxy all together and carry our icons proudly around our church. On March 19th we also had our St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Nicolas Karavakas, Alexander Georges, and Melanie Sum all did excellent jobs in preparing and presenting their speeches. Nicolas and Alexander represented St. George on April 2nd at the district festival with Nicolas moving on to the Diocese level on May 14. We are all so proud of them! Thank you also to our judges, Anna Panayioutou, Alexander Schobel, and Mina Koustouzakis for judging and a big thank you to Paul Koustouzakis for organizing and MC'ing the event once again. Another special thanks goes out to Anna Panayioutou, again, for her work with the children of Sunday School as a representative of the Care of Creation Ministry and her amazing lessons with all age groups to learn about ways we are called to care for this wonderful world that God has given us. Our students were fully engaged, seeing how we can all grow useful plants at home from fruits and vegetables we all have in our kitchen, learning about the history of Earth Day, and hearing the words of our own Green Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. Keep an eye out for information regarding Vacation Bible School and other events, and always, you can reach out to Kristen Russo (kristen.et.cline@gmail.com) with any questions.



A big thank you to the participants, judges, and organizers of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.



Sunday School students participated in the Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession commemorating the decision to bring icons back into Orthodox religious practices.



1st-6th grade students learn about the environment and how we can help protect all that God has given us.



Pre-K and Kindergarten students learn about God's creation through stories and hands on activities.



1st-6th grade students painting clam shells to adorn our butterfly garden on the East side of the Church as you enter the adjoining hallway. Don't forget to go see them as the weather improves!





Dear St. George Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These last few months of the 2022 GOYA year have been some of the most eventful we have ever had! We've become closer as friends, members of the church, and Goyans, but even more importantly, closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the warm weather comes, Goya becomes packed with some of the most anticipated events of the whole GOYA year.

Our GOYA attended the long-awaited Sights and Sounds competition in Westfield, New Jersey. Our church was very successful as we were blessed to win 3rd place in group choral speaking and 2nd place in dramatic pair, as well as having many winners in individual sights categories! Westfield is one of two Sights and Sounds competitions for our GOYA, and as of this writing, we are preparing for our second competition which will be held at St. Luke's in Broomall, PA. Our GOYA will also be attending the indoor soccer tournament on May 14th. There will be both a boys and girls team. The GOYA Olympics, held Memorial Day weekend at Monmouth University, is one of GOYA's most loved and exciting traditions. The youth of each church in our Metropolis compete in various events like swimming, volleyball, and track and field. We are excited for the outcome and hope to see you all there cheering on "AP!" The Brain Olympics, founded by Demetra Giannakopoulos, is being planned for the fall. We are very excited to have a new activity brought to our church where Goyans can show their smarts!

We will also be continuing the tradition of the annual 30 Hour Famine program. This event gives Goyans the opportunity to raise money and awareness for world hunger. This year, we will also be raising money to help the innocent people affected by the war in Ukraine. During the 30 Hour Famine, the Goyans fast from eating anything for an entire 30 hours before finally receiving Holy Communion at the Resurrection Divine Liturgy.

A new and exciting event that is starting this year is the GOYA Prom, chaired by Marilena Iosofides! This will be a Metropolis event complete with formal attire, catering, and amazing music, and hosted by our very own parish on June 4th. The GOYA prom is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors in GOYA. It is shaping up to be one of the highlights of our year. The Yiayia and Pappou project is in full swing and brightens the lives of not only the elderly members of our community, but elder members of different churches all over America! Founder of the Yiayia and Pappou project, Rafaella Lambrinos, should be very proud of the accomplishment she has achieved and the lives she is affecting. Please reach out to either Rafaella Lambrinos or George Moutis to be part of this special program. Another one of our flourishing programs is the GOYA mentor program, where a senior Goyan is paired with a junior Goyan. They become friends with them while the seniors mentor them with any help they might need. GOYA will also be holding a car wash fundraiser on May 22nd. Considering the success of the last car wash, we have high hopes for this fundraiser!

To conclude, we as a GOYA would like to give a special thanks to all of our advisors who have helped GOYA. They put all their effort into every event throughout these busy months. We are also very proud of everyone who has worked so hard and attended Sights and Sounds. I would like to thank the advisors who have worked so hard to get us where we are. They focused on teaching us and guiding us through the different Sounds we worked tirelessly to practice and perform. Thank you to the community, parents, and members of our church for your continuous support of our GOYA. I would like to thank Father Andrew and Presbytera Angela for continuously being there for us and putting GOYA first and looking out for us and helping us grow not only as people but as children of God.

Alexandra Patestos

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4/17 Orthodoxy in America

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5/22 Conclusion and Round Up



Nicholas C. Ruvelas
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Thomas A. Edison Chapter #287 Scholarships

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All applicants' families must be Members in Good Standing of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Ocean Township, N.J. In order to be considered, this application and all other requested documentation must be completed and returned to the St. George Church office by **Sunday, May 15th, 2022.**

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