

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

THE TRADITION OF HOLY WATER (AGIASMOS) IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

As we begin this New Year, I pray it be blessed and a healthy one for you all. In our Orthodox tradition, we continually bless our homes, cars, workplace, ourselves and even the church. How do we receive this blessing? Every New Year the Church blesses water on Epiphany, also called Theophany, on January 6th. We use this Holy Water (Agiasmos) to bless our homes cars, animals, etc. and even drink it. Where and why did this tradition start that we continue to this day?

In early Christianity almost every church had fountains in their courtyards. The water contained in these fountains was always blessed. The faithful were accustomed to using the blessed water for the sanctification of their objects, personal consumption, for purposes of healing, and for symbolic washing of themselves before entering the church.

My former liturgics professor at seminary, Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, spoke to us about one such famous fountain on the grounds of Agia Sophia in Constantinople. On it was an inscription that read the same both forwards and backwards in Greek "Wash your sins, not only your face." It was a common practice in the early Church to have the service of Agiasmos, "The Great Blessing of the Water," at these outdoor fountains. Keeping in mind that the fundamental belief that the whole of God's creation is to be redeemed and glorified and held in awe. In this is way, it is proper to bless our homes, cars, animals, etc., as we do each September at the Blessing of the Waters at the beach front when we celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

It is no coincidence that are own Patriarch has been labeled as the "Green Patriarch" for his stance on environmental issues. The Church throughout time has always upheld the reality that all creation is made by the Lord and therefore blessed by His hand; it's worthy of respect, care and practice of good stewardship. We should always look upon the intricate balance of creation and approach it with thanksgiving.

The purpose of the Sanctification of the Waters is that water in and of itself is the source of life. It sustains, quenches and makes up much of the content of all living tissue and plant life. This was recognized very early on by the Church, and the practice of blessing water is one of the most ancient practices of the Church.

These practices are held on the greatest feast day of the Church calendar, the feast of Holy Theophany, the Baptism of our Lord in the River Jordan. Water is the cleansing agent that washes away our sins through Baptism; it holds great power, and Christ Himself sanctified water through His own blessed Baptism. Let us approach this New Year and these blessed days associated with water and life with love: the love of God's creation, His works, and the love of God Himself, our Creator so we may always be good stewards of the abundant things he has given us, especially water which we often take for granted.

My you all have a Blessed and healthy New Year!

+ Fr. Andrew

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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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Submissions will be reviewed prior to printing by the Bea	acon committe
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You can Light A Candle and an article or flyer to our All articles, flyers and photos must be submouth a contract name and phone number to	
Say a Prayer for every service – website, please submit them with a contact name and phone number to	
even when you cannot attend by to Barbara Terlecsky at the following detector to be considered	
Dienecsky@a01.com	
simply visiting our web page And make sure to follow us Edition Deadline	
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Yiorgos Sakelaris November/December October 1s	st

JAN/FEB 2023- Volume 21 Issue 7

From the Parish Council...

Happy New Year! May the blessings of Our Savior be with you and your loved ones, and may His mercy be upon all of us in this new year.

Despite all of life's challenges and our busy schedules, I am proud to report that our community of St. George continues to support each other. In December, many of our families gathered together for the Christmas Tree and Nativity lighting with Father Andrew leading us in prayer and our St. George Choir singing Greek and American Christmas carols. All enjoyed refreshments prepared by our St. George Ladies Philoptochos. It was a glorious evening to start our Holiday Season!

We appreciate all the time, talents and treasures that our congregants have offered thru the past year. We are so blessed to have a community eager to come together in worship and in giving. We continue to welcome Stewardship and other donations. Please remember, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (Corinthians 9:7).

Spiro P. Pappas

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St. George Parish Council President

As we move toward electronic donations as a more efficient way to manage our expenses, we ask that you consider supporting our church through our Vanco online payment system. Regular recurring donations makes our budgeting easier and allows your donations to continue without interruption. Page 4/The Beacon

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 2023 _____

Jan	1uary 2023 🔔		
1	Sunday		St. Basil the Great
			Circumcision of Jesus Christ
5	Thursday		Eve of Theophany
6	Friday		Theophany
7	Saturday		St. John the Baptist
8	Sunday		Sunday after Theophany
15	•		· · ·
	Sunday		12th Sunday of Luke
17	Tuesday		St. Anthony the Great
18	Wednesday		Saints Athanasios & Cyril
22	Sunday		15th Sunday of Luke
25	Wednesday		St. Gregory the Theologian
29	Sunday		Sunday of the Canaanite
30	Monday		Synaxis of Three Hierarchs
	oruary 2023 –		
2	Thursday		The Presentation of Our Lord
	_		in the Temple
5	Sunday		Sunday of the Publican &
			Pharasee ~ Triodion Begins
10	Friday		St. Haralambos
12	Sunday		Sunday of the Prodigal Son
18	Saturday		1st Saturday of Souls
19	Sunday		Judgment Sunday
25	Saturday		2nd Saturday of Souls
	Sunday		Forgiveness Sunday
20	Canady	4PM	Forgiveness Vespers
	rch 2023 —		
1	Wednesday	7PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
3	Friday	7PM	1st Salutation Service
4	Saturday		3rd Saturday of Souls
5	Sunday		Sunday of Orthodoxy &
	-		Procession of Icons
8	Wednesday	8:30AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
10	Friday	7PM	2nd Salutation Service
12	Sunday		St. Gregory of Palamas
15	Wednesday	7PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
17	Friday	7PM	3rd Salutation Service
17			
10			Sunday of the Holy Cross
19 22	Sunday Wednesday	0.20114	Dro Sanatified Liturau
22	Wednesday	8:30AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
22 24	Wednesday Friday	8:30AM 7PM	4th Salutation Service
22	Wednesday		4th Salutation Service Annunciation of the
22 24	Wednesday Friday		4th Salutation Service Annunciation of the Theotokos
22 24	Wednesday Friday		4th Salutation Service Annunciation of the
22 24 25	Wednesday Friday Saturday		4th Salutation Service Annunciation of the Theotokos
22 24 25 26	Wednesday Friday Saturday Sunday	7PM	4th Salutation Service Annunciation of the Theotokos St. John Climacus

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Baptisms / Chrismations:

October 9, 2022	Frank Lambrinos
October 29, 2022	Demetra Spinnato
December 4, 2022	Alexandros Tsambas
December 18, 2022	Blake Daphne Fischer
January 22, 2023	Mason Alexander Pecoraro

<u>Weddings:</u>

October 1, 2022	Angela Kapaskis & Clayton
	Jahn
October 1, 2022	Maria Tsamutalis & John
	Gagianas
October 8, 2022	Kristen Russo & David
	Russo
November 6, 2022	Arianna Butts & Jonathan
	Scala
November 19, 2022	Anastasia Gregorakis Niko
	Eugenis
December 29, 2022	Tricia Powell & Georgios
	Zotos
January 14, 2023	Suzanne Foster & Aris
	Pavlides
January 15, 2023	Maria J. Rojas & Peter J.
	Schwarz

Deaths:

October 1, 2022	Nancy Witz
November 12, 2022	Steven N. Pappayliou
November 13, 2022	Thomas H. Zachos
November 20, 2022	Maria Petros
December 1, 2022	Antonios Tsougarakis

SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

"What weare and have is our gift from God. What we do with that gift, is our gift to God."

-Fr. Andrew

GIVING THANKS – EUCHARISTIC STEWARDSHIP

by Fr. Jim Kordaris of the Archiodiosece

The Holy Eucharist is called Holy Communion because it unites us as the Body of Christ. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. This is what we do when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy – we are giving thanks. The Eucharist – the sacrament of Holy Communion – is the focus of our parish life. It is through the Eucharist that we take on our true nature as the Church of Jesus Christ. We are transformed from a human community into the Body of Christ.

Stewardship is our response to God's grace and moves us from grace to gratitude. Just as we love because God first loved us (I John 4:14), we give because God first gave to us. The question of the Psalmist "What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits towards me?" (Psalm 116:2), is answered in every liturgy when we pray, "Let us offer ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God."

In his book on the Eucharist, Fr. Alexander Schmemann explains that in the early Church, the Eucharistic sacrifice was offered by all the members of the church. Each person coming to the gathering of the Church brought with them everything they could spare for the needs of the Church. This is the Church that we as Orthodox Christians claim to be.

We read about this in Acts 2: "Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

How many times have you heard people say, "I don't get anything out of liturgy"? The truth is that we don't come to church to get something, but to give ourselves – our whole being --- to God. We have to give ourselves as an offering to God and what we get in return is the presence of Jesus Christ within us. As we come to know Jesus this way, we are drawn into the communion of the Church.

Through Holy Communion, we are drawn out of ourselves and embrace the mission of our parish. We carry the fire of God's love within us with the power to renew all things. When we understand the true meaning of the Holy Eucharist, we bridge the gap between liturgy and life, between the love of Jesus on the cross and our daily lives, between our beautiful theology and practical stewardship. As Eucharistic Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God's gift. We offer the world back to God in thanksgiving with the words, "Thine own of Thine own we offer to Thee...."

STEWARDSHIP 2022-2023

A heartfelt <u>**THANK YOU**</u> to all the supporting Stewards in 2022. It is your generosity that we have been able to cover our Church's maintenance and operational expenses during these inflationary economic times.

If you have not pledged or donated for 2022 and would like to be listed as a supporting Steward of St. George in 2022, enclosed for your convenience is a Stewardship Form. In addition, you can also manage your pledge/donation and giving on-line at www.stgeorgeap.org/vanco.

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

<u>Regarding Stewardship 2023</u>, our National Stewardship Sunday has been scheduled for January 15. Stewardship envelopes along with the St. George 2023 calendars will arrive at your homes by the time you read this article.

As we have emerged from the pandemic, this is also the time to re-commit to attending Divine Services. Livestream served its purpose, but nothing can replace being in church, partaking of the sacraments, and worshipping as an Orthodox Christian family. Please start this New Year on the right path and return to regular church attendance.

Please continue to be generous to St. George, its Community and its 40+ Ministries by offering your Time, Talent and Treasure.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy, Healthy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year 2023. We have so many things to be grateful and thankful to our Almighty Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our Panagia! Let us count our blessings, love each other and adhere to our strong faith. XroniaPolla 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 <u>908-770-2426/jgeaneas@msn.com</u> Join our St. George group Facebook page. http://www.facebook.com/groups/stgeorgeap/

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1033 West Park Avenue, Ocean, NJ 07712 PHONE: 732-775-2777 FAX: 732-775-0109
2022 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTFORM
Last NameAre you a new member to St. George YN
First Name Orthodox: YesNo
Cell Phone # []e-mail address:
Occupation
Spouse's First NameOrthodox: YesNo
Cell Phone # []e-mail address:
Occupation
Street Address Home Phone # []
CityStateZip
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 □ \$\$1,200Suggested 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
SignatureDate
CREDIT CARD PAYMENTINFORMATION
I authorize the payment of my pledge, according to the payment plan selected, by the following credit card:
□ VISA / □ MC / □ AMEX #Exp. DateCode
Cardholder's Name as shown on card (Please Print)
Card member's Signature
Giving Online 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".
Let your love jor st. George noe on wen into the ruture by including st. George in your estate running .

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

🔀 Ladies Philoptochos Society

Wishing everyone a blessed 2023!

In November and December we collected socks and gloves for the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission in Asbury Park. Thank you to all who contributed and kept many hands and feet warm this winter.

Special thanks to Elise Rogers for organizing our Wreath and Grave blanket sale.

Our annual Christmas tree lighting on November 26th was spectacular. Kids and adults had a great time.

We had our annual Christmas dinner at the Blue Swan Diner on December 13th. It was a lovely dinner filled with fellowship and great food. This year we delivered 35 poinsettia plants and koulourakia to our homebound. Vasilopita Sunday this year was celebrated on January 8th. Special thanks to Gayle Billows and her crew for organizing this event. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year.

Please join us on January 20th for our general meeting. We will be playing Bunco after the meeting. It is a lot of fun.

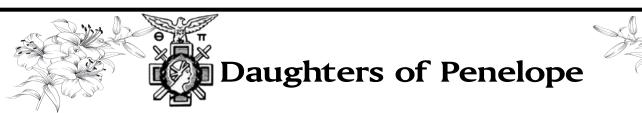












Since the last issue, we continued our new tradition of our DOP Aulis 195 Sister Birthday Celebrations. Happy "October" Birthday to Sisters DG Karen Pascal, Donna Karpodinis, Pari Harrison, Pat Scourtsis, and Dr. ChrysanthePatestsos. We wish you many more years of life.

Additionally we initiated a new member and welcomed an old one. Welcome StamatinaZavolas and hello again Colleen Pardenek! They will both be invaluable to the DOP.



Left Picture: Sister StamatinaZavolas is initiated by President Patty Vlahos and GT AntoinetteMarousis-Zachariades. Right Picture Aulis 195 celebrates another successful meeting.

On Sunday, October 23rd we held our yearly Pink Coffee Hour. Donations benefited the "Breast Cancer Research Foundation". Thank you to our parish for your generous donations.



Aulis 195 at Pink Coffee Hour Pictured L to R: Patty Vlahos, Effie Psomias, Antonia Lyons, PresbyteraAngela Eugenia, Effie Buludis, and Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush)

November was a very busy month for us. On Saturday, November 5th, several of our Sisters attended the 33rd annual Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. Gala. Three \$12,500 grants were given to Fox Chase, the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and Weill-Cornell to continue their research, and to help find a cure!



Aulis 195 Sisters (L to R: Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades GT, Karen Pascal DG, Patty Vlahos CP, and Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush CVP) attend the Fifth District Cancer Foundation Gala

Saturday, November 12th brought us to 2 BIG Events. A HUGE thank you to our Parishioners for supporting our annual Spanakopita Sale. Sisters Effie Buludis and Colleen Pardenek did a great job collating and doling out those orders!

On the other side of the Community Center, on the same day, Aulis 195 hosted the annual District 5 Workshop. What a beautiful day. Our DG and Sister, Karen Pascal had quite the agenda for us.It was jammed packed with education, food, laughter, and Sisterhood!



We held our first Charity Walk on November 13th. This was an exciting opportunity for all members of our church and our community to walk for a cause and walk for their health. Because of your generous donations, we were able to help Mary's Place, the IOCC, and DOP Charitable Foundations.



Daughters of Penelope cont.



Sisters Patty Vlahos and Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush walked together.

OnNovember14thourchapterhostedourDistrictLodgeOfficers for a delicious and most productive meeting. We heard more about the #PowerofWe and were able to betterunderstandthe mission of District 5. Additionally, a veryHappy "November" Birthday goes out to Sister Mary Greenwho unfortunately wasn't there to celebrate. We wish her health and happiness nonetheless.



Aulis 195 Meeting with our District Lodge

Active meeting

On Saturday, December 3rd, we hosted our annual JINGO event. It was not only SOLD OUT, buta HUGE success! A special thank you to our AHEPAn Brothers for attending. We were so happy to have our "family" with us to join in the festivities.

10 rounds of JINGO were played and the most beautiful gifts were won. So many delicious desserts helped fill our bellies, and many laughs were had with an incredible turn out for our Ugly Sweater Contest. Not to be forgotten was our 50/50



Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades GT and Georgette Boulegeris GP participated in the charity walk from Paris, France! Bonjour Ladies!!!

Raffle, Birthday Raffle, and quite the Gift Auction. It was a memorable event for sure, and we are already looking for ways to make the next one even more thrilling.

A BIG Thank You to everyone who attended, supported, and helped make this years JINGO the success it was. Please consider supporting the small and big businesses that so generously donated to us. They can be found on our Facebook Page: Daughters of Penelope Aulis 195 and will be featured on our new website: www.DOP195.org.

Our Chapter will be celebrating 75 years in February. If you were ever a Daughter of Aulis 195 and have pictures and or stories to share, we would love to have you send them to us. Please email us at: DOP195Events@gmail.com and look for a special event we will host in February.

As always, we are always looking for new Sisters, so please feel free to reach out to a current member to see what we are all about.



Sisters of Aulis 195 before the doors open to the public.



Join a group or start another. Share what you love to do with others!Visit us at <u>www.stgeorgeap.org/agape</u> HAPPYAND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!



Faithful Hands has been meeting every Tuesday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. In the church library. We are currently crocheting and knitting blankets for 40 day baby blessings and blankets for hospitalized children that are distributed by Project Linus.

We welcome any newcomers to join us. It is not necessary to know how to crochet or knit. We will teach you. Most of our participants did not know how to crochet or knit and are now creating beautiful blankets.

Please call Bea Paparsenos for more information at 732-585-3402 or email at beapap@live.com.







ARCHON NEWS

A Monthly Update from The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle Submitted by Archon George Spanos of Camp Hill Pa(Source – archons.org)

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, presented the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to His Beatitude Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, during the annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet held at the New York Hilton Hotel on October 8, 2022.

In a message commemorating the occasion, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stated: "It is worthy and right that the Order of St. Andrew is bestowing the Athenagoras Human Rights Award of 2022 to His Beatitude Theodore, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, in honor of his great contribution to the Church and humankind, as well as his labors in support of the right to religious freedom in Africa, the great continent to which, as His Beatitude our brother says, 'belongs the future.'"

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros stated: "His Beatitude Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, has manifested the very qualities of his Saintly predecessor, the Holy Evangelist Mark. For he has been lion-like in his defense of those who would not only invade and attack his pious flock, but who would disrupt the order of the Church with their innovations."

His Eminence added: "I think it is safe to say that His Beatitude is an admirer of the Slavic tradition; for he has much experience from his time as the Patriarchal Exarch in Odessa. He has had warm relationships with the Ukrainian and Russian Churches. But because of His righteous stance, the Moscow Patriarchate – which is supporting full-on aggression and violence against the Ukrainian People, as well as the illegal seizure of Ukrainian lands by sham elections at gunpoint – has uncanonically invaded the Continent of Africa, which is the complete ecclesiastical domain of the Most Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria."

Accepting the Award, His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore stated: "I mentally accompany Archbishop Iakovos of

North and South America of blessed memory, when he participated in the Selma-Alabama march, shaking the hand of Martin Luther King during the 'Bloody Sunday' of 1965. This event did not only become a cover of 'Life' magazine, but won forever a place in the heart of every anti-racist and progressive person of his time, here in the American continent, which rightfully boasts of democratic and liberal practices, respects the personality of the other, capitalizes on people's skills, appreciates possibilities and cultivates chances to benefit the other regardless of religious, racial, social, educational origins and differences. Archbishop Iakovos did not implement a religious type of activism, but gave meaning to his pastorate here with actions full of humanity, understanding, protest in favor of oppressed African-Americans and by extension all those who are deprived of the basics due to their external or internal differences."

His Beatitude added: "Man throughout history has several times felt that he is a weak, lonely, defenseless being. In order for there to be any form of freedom, rivers of blood were shed, there were conflicts upon conflicts, individuals and peoples fought. The result was not always what was expected. The fact that there are still places around the world where personal or collective rights are violated shows that we have not yet reached the ideal. More efforts are needed toward this end. Recognizing, conceding, exploiting, respecting the rights - especially of the weak – shows love and offers tranquility. Let us hope that our humble words just heard will provoke reflection, suspend fear and banish pain. Please pray that it will be accomplished as soon as possible as I will humbly continue to pray and actually strive hard for it."

During the Athenagoras Award Gala, \$350,000 was raised for the mission activity of the Patriarchate of Alexandria. The Order has established a way for additional donations to be made to the missionary work of the Patriarchate of Alexandria. Visit https://donorbox.org/churchalexandria-missions



AHEPA NEWS CORNER

Thomas A. Edison Chapter, 287 - Ocean, NJ

The Mission of our AHEPA Family is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism.

As the newly elected President of AHEPA Chapter 287, I would like to thank the past President Brother George Perentesis for his service and excellent work during the last two years.

I would also like to thank three Brothers Arthur Pappaylion, George Haloukas and Nick Billows for volunteering to continue as Officers of the Executive Board. With their help and guidance I expect to raise our Chapter to the next level of excellence.

My two major goals as President are; to promote the growth of our Chapter by recruiting new Brothers, and by collaborating with all the Ministries, especially with our Sisters-Daughters of Penelope and Ladies of Philoptochos

In 2022, we celebrated the 100-year anniversary of AHEPA. AHEPA, which stands for American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association, was founded in Atlanta Georgia in the year 1922. It was founded on the principles that undergirded its fight for civil rights and against discrimination, bigotry, and hatred felt at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan.

I encourage all the Greeks, Greek-Americans and most importantly all the Philhellenes to join our proud and historic organization. Not only will we be able to better execute our noble Mission, but at the same time enjoy fellowship and comradery, all while having fun.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the following individuals who were initiated as Brothers of our Chapter by the AHEPA District 5 Lodge on November 14, 2022. These were:

Brother Brendan Ballintine, Brother Robert Erickson, Brother George Lalis and Brother George Sakelaris. AXIOI (Well Worthy/Deserving)! God bless us all, and pray He help us in our endeavors to make our goals and dreams realities.

Wishing you and your families, a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Blessed 2023!

Dimitris Geaneas

President of AHEPA Chapter 287, Cell phone 908 770 2426

PS- Regarding our events and fund raisers, the Community will hear from us in the coming months.





Our Ahepa chapter just initiated four new members to our chapter at a recent meeting. They are. L-R; George Lalis, George Sakalaris, Robert Erickson and Brandan Ballintine.

On October 30th our Ahepa chapter sponsored a Souvlaki take out lunch. Pictured here are our members cooking the souvlaki. The event was very successful.





The NJ District Governor with Savas Kyriacou and Executive Board standing with members of the District Lodge

New Coffee Hour Sponsor Protocol

- Please call the office (contact Karen or Marguerite 732-775-2777) whenever making any arrangements. Please do not call Hospitality directly.
- Sponsorship of a coffee hour, other than a 40-Day Memorial, will be for the regular coffee hour. Families are welcome to supplement the regular coffee hour or bring ALL the items, plattered and ready for presentation. Donations are always welcome. Families bringing in items must notify the office regarding items being brought in to avoid food being wasted.
- Hospitality will only reserve and prepare tables for 40-Day Memorials due to staffing. All arrangements must be made by contacting the office first.
- Kolyva may be provided by Mrs. Papanikolaou (through the office)

OR

• Families may make their own kolyva, BUT MUST adhere to the following if making their own kolyva:

The family must notify the office that they are making their own koliva;

The family must bring a large mixing bowl and mixing spoons;

The family must bring cups/sleeves and spoons; and It would be appreciated if the family appoints someone to come to the Cultural Center to assist in kolyva-mixing and distribution.

Thank you for your cooperation and generosity to the St. George Community



A MESSAGE FROM OUR GREEK SCHOOL

Our students and teachers had a very busy fall! We began the school year almost immediately rehearsing for our first program celebrating OXI Day. Our students did a wonderful job reciting poems, presenting the importance of October 28th, and singing patriotic songs. Following the program, our PTO hosted a delicious dinner reception for all and we are always thankful for their support. This year we will be dedicating our programs to someone special as a way to commemorate everyone's hard work. Our OXI Day program was dedicated to all the Greek school parents for their sacrifice in ensuring that their children are successful. And for their support and words of encouragement to our wonderful teachers and program.

Following our Thanksgiving break, our parents came in for parent-teacher conferences. These short conferences ensure that we work together to keep kids on track in their studies and are an important piece to each child's success in Greek school.

We are busy preparing for our upcoming Christmas program, where children will sing lots of festive Christmas songs and also perform two short plays. We will Christmas carol in the nearby neighborhoods of Ocean Township and PTO will continue selling vasilopites from the monastery.

Our future events include the Three Hierarchs reception with the students of Saint Barbara of Toms River and our annual vasilopita cutting!



Michail Magriplis, Grade 6, presenting Greece's involvement in WWII



Cake donated by the Lambrou Family for the PTO reception.

Οι μαθητές και οι δασκάλες μας είχαν ένα πολυάσχολο τρίμηνο στην αρχή της σχολικής χρονιάς! Με το ξεκίνημα του σχολείου άρχισαν και οι προετοιμασίες για τον εορτασμό της 28ης Οκτωβρίου. Τα παιδιά μας, πρόσφεραν ένα υπέροχο πρόγραμμα στους παρευρισκόμενους με τραγούδια, ποιήματα και παρουσιάσεις. Μετά τη γιορτή, ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων παραχώρησε ένα δείπνο στους καλεσμένους σαν καλωσόρισμα στη νέα σχολική χρονιά. Ευχαριστούμε πολύ το Σύνδεσμο για τη συνεχή υποστήριξή του, όπως επίσης και όλες τις οικογένειες που πρόσφεραν ποτά, φαγητά και γλύκα! Φέτος αποφασίσαμε πως κάθε σχολικό πρόγραμμα θα είναι αφιερωμένο σε κάποιον. Αφιερώσαμε λοιπόν τη γιορτή της 28ης στους γονείς του σχολείου μας, που χωρίς αμφιβολία μας στηρίζουν αφάνταστα.

Μετά το διάλειμμα που είχαμε για τη Μέρα Ευχαριστιών, οι δασκάλες μας είχαν συσκέψεις με τους γονείς των μαθητών μας. Η επιτυχία των παιδιών στο σχολείο εξαρτάται από την προσπάθεια όλων, μαθητών, δασκάλων, και γονέων. Για αυτό εκτιμάται πάρα πολύ τη συμπαράσταση που δείχνουν όλοι οι γονείς προς το σχολείο μας.

Για το Δεκέμβριο το σχολείο μας ετοίμασε ένα όμορφο και γιορτινό Χριστουγεννιάτικο πρόγραμμα. Το πρόγραμμα έγινε στις 11 Δεκεμβρίου και είχε μεγάλη επιτυχία! Τα παιδιά μας επίσεις σκόρπισαν το γιορτινό πνεύμα σε γειτονιές του Ocean Township με τα κάλαντα που τραγούδησαν. Τέλος, το Δεκέμβριο ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων πούλησε νόστιμες Βασιλόπιτες από το μοναστήρι της Αγίας Σκέπης.

Για τον Ιανουάριο το σχολείο μας θα ετοιμάσει άλλη μία γιορτή προς τιμήν των Τριών Ιεραρχών και της γιορτή των Γραμμάτων. Σε αυτή τη γιορτή θα έχουμε την ευκαιρία να φιλοξενήσουμε και το Ελληνικό Σχολείο της Αγίας Βαρβάρας του Toms River.



Our students singing "Koroido Mussolini"



Thank you to all of our new and returning families. We've had a great fall getting back into the swing of things with everyone and learning about Christ's love as a family.

We were also very excited to get back to our true annual Sunday School Nativity Pageant this Christmas and it was truly a blessing to see so many smiling faces together in joy celebrating the birth of Christ.

Our 7-12th grade Oratorical Festival will be held early during the new year. We can't wait to hear all the participants' wonderful speeches. Sunday School teachers will be providing more details as they are available. Please check out the Sunday School website for more information.

Contact Kristen Russo with questions.

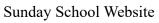


Sunday School Nativity 2022

Upcoming Sunday School Events

1/1 Happy New Year (no class)3/5 Bring your Icons (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

Keep an eye and an ear out for Oratorical Festival Information for this spring. Visit the Oratorical Page of the Sunday School website for topics, tips and resources.





Check out our website for general and Oratorical Information tinyurl.com/StGSundaySchool2022





Happy New Year!

During this upcoming year, our Saint George GOYA has a lot happening including events, retreats, and dances. All of our GOYANs look forward to these events as they are excited to spend time with their friends, learn about their faith, and develop new memories together.

In January, our GOYA meets every Thursday in order to prepare for our sights and sounds festival as well as indoor olympics. Our GOYAns meet in the ahepa room and make crafts, play pingpong, chess, and other board games. We also enjoy dinner together. These "GOYA hangouts" are a great experience for our GOYAns to hangout together and get a head start on the competitive and fun sights and sounds festival and indoor olympics. Later in the month, our Church also gets the opportunity to present our faith through MOSAIC. MOSAIC is a group that meets once a month on Sundays and it consists of many different faiths. Each Sunday, a different faith presents their values, beliefs, and religious ideas. Due to COVID, meetings were held virtually for the last two years. This year, MOSAIC is in person which is a very exciting gift for all of the presenters. Our presenters would explain our Church, culture, and beliefs to people of other faiths.

In February, our GOYA and families join together for our annual winter retreat. This retreat is held at Woodloch Pines and consists of many different activities for GOYAns to bond together and spend the weekend with each other. At Woodloch, activities include snow tubing, skiing, gingerbread house making, ice skating, go karting, and so much more! Saturday night, all the GOYAns meet together from their busy, activity filled day and watch a theatrical show that Woodloch displays. Sunday morning, Father Andrew performs liturgy at Woodloch Pines and teaches us about what goes on behind the altar, which many of us don't get to see. This retreat is a great way to meet new people and have a great time all together. February also involves our Valentines dance. This year, it will be held in Holmdel. The dances are a fun and amazing way to bond with people outside of our Saint George GOYA. The non-stop dancing, laughing, and singing burns everyone out by the end of the night.

Both January and February are activity filled months that our GOYA participates in. These activities allow for a closer connection with our faith, our fellow GOYAns, and God. We are so blessed to have these amazing activities as it allows for all of us to grow close to what truly matters in our lives.

Thank you, Sophia Chatzopoulos, GOYA president



Time, Talent, Treasure

Stewardship Sunday January 15th

Our Stewardship theme for 2023 is Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship. As true stewards of the Body of Christ, we understand the power of our Stewardship to revitalize the Church.



Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

• Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.

If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.

• Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

• Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!

Gathering families,

Connecting generations.



ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

NIVERSAL

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

- Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- Enter your church code nj167
- Enter your church password photos
- Click on the Enter button
- Click on the desired photography date
- Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
- Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment

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ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

Below is a list of available icons. We ask those of you who have pledged to fulfill your pledge, and those of you who have not yet contributed to join us. In addition, the Gold Leaf Program or any donation you would like to offer to the Community Icon are available. You can use the form below to contribute. We thank you for your generosity.

The Saints		Raising of Lazarus - Rear Arch Right	
St. Athena Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Pentecost - Front Arch Left Solea	
St. Pandora - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Life of St. George Torture - Back Wall	
St. Kathryn - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	In The Altar	
St. Irene - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Deacon Parmenas - Left Side-	\$3,000
St. Paraskevi - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Deacon Prohoros - Right Side-	\$3,000
St. Cassiani - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Diakonikon - Right Side -	\$25,000
S.S. Rafael, Nicholas, Irene -		Artoforio Amnos Tou Theou - Center Altar -	\$25,000
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Archangel Michael - Left Side -	\$20,000
St. Gerasimos -Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	St. Gregory - Half of Icon - Left Side -	\$7,500
St. Elpidophoros -Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	St. Fotios - Half of Icon - Right Side -	\$7,500
St. Savva - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Church Proper	
St. Theodore the Commender		Pandokratora (Dome)	
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Prophets:	
Virgin Mary Passion - Front Left Solea	\$12,500	Daniel -	\$10,000
Medallions - Rear Arch Above Choir Loft		Jonah -	\$10,000
Christ the Creator - Center -	\$5,000	Solomon -	\$10,000
St. Alexandros - Right -	\$5,000	Habakkuk -	\$10,000
St. Dionysios - Right -	\$5,000	Gideon -	\$10,000
St. Alexios - Right -	\$5,000	Zephaniah/Sophonias -	\$10,000
St. Panteleimon - Right -	\$5,000	Ekzekiel -	\$10,000
St. Haralambos - Right -	\$5,000	Chapel	
St. Marina - Left -	\$5,000	Ekonostasi Icons	
St. Kyriaki - Left -	\$5,000	Christ - \$2,500	
St. Elizabeth - Left -	\$5,000	St. John the Baptist -	\$2,500
St. Magdalene - Left -	\$5,000	Archangel Gabriel -	\$2,500
St. Julia - Left -	\$5,000	Archangel Michael -	\$2,500
St. Christina - Left -	\$5,000		
St. Efthimios - Center -	\$6,000		
St. Fotios - Center -	\$6,000	List is subject to update if Icons and	·e
Following Icons are Available		sold after this publication.	
Contact Fr. Andrew:			
Transfiguration - Rear Arch Left			
Baptism of Christ - Rear Arch Left			
The Presentation of our Lord - Rear Arch Le	ft		
The Dormition of the Theotokos - Rear Arch	Right		
Christ Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunda	y) - Rear		
Arch Right			



An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom



Gospel of Matthew - Starting with Chapter 15 January & February Every Tuesday, 7 pm - 8 pm

To Join, Please Contact Teri Lalli: lalliptds@gmail.com for Zoom ID/Password



The Mustard Seed 🛶

"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 17:20

Orthodox Bibles * Adult/Children's Books * Icons - various sizes * Stephana * Prayer Corner - Vigil Lamps, Censors, Charcoal, Incense * Liturgical and Other Service Books * Prayer Books * Prayer Bracelets * Andidoron Handsewn Bags * Cards * Jewelry * Scripture Tea Towels * Many more gifts and items * Come See!

Open during Church Office Hours and following Sunday Liturgy

Icons Orders - no time-sensitive requests please Contact Faye Pirovolos Deet BOOKS, ICONS, AND MORE COME AND SEE WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU!

Lenten Retreat and Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE

March 10-11, 2023



Guest Speaker:

Fr. Apostolos Hill

Friday, March 10 7:00 PM Salutations to the Virgin Mary

Saturday, March 11 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lenten Retreat & Lunch

Enjoy Lunch & the Retreat with Us!

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 1033 West Park Avenue • 732-775-2777



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Thank you to everyone who came out to participate in, help out, and celebrate with us as we brought the annual Nativity Pageant back to our St. George Community.