



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Ocean Township, New Jersey

the

Beacon

of Orthodoxy and Hellenism

January/February 2024

The Newsletter of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Volume 21 Issue 12

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

CHANGE IN OUR LIVES

In December we celebrated one of the greatest days known to humanity, Christmas. The birth of Christ changed the course of the entire world. Christ birth changed historically how we date the years i.e., B.C. or A.C. As Christians when we read the Old Testament, we read it in the light of the New Testaments. These are but two examples of how Christ impacted the world and changed our lives as Christians today.

However, no one really accepts change easily. Change can affect us, physically, emotionally, and spiritually throughout the course of our lives. As we grow, we all change, affecting every aspect of our lives. In adolescence changes are physical, social, and emotional. As we mature and enter the workplace, we experience change and meet new people. If we choose to marry and become parents, change once again occurs as our focus moves away from ourselves towards our children and their upbringing and family life.

To keep us on track through these different and sometimes difficult stages of change, we must always remember we possess one constant in our lives; that we are Christians called to live Christ-centered lives. The eternal message of the church is "Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Over two thousand years the saints of our church have proven this

time and time again. Through Christ, they endured persecution, torture, and change. Yet remained faithful to the one constant they held on to, Christ Himself!

I ask you to keep Christ in your life this New Year. The cares of this world constantly pull us away from Christ and our involvement in His Church of St. George. You must become an active part in the life of St. George. Seek the Lord's guidance through prayer, worship, service, and fellowship, but most importantly by becoming involved in the life of our church. Thus, following the examples given to us by the saints of the church. It is only with Christ at the center of our lives that we can overcome the changes that we all face. I pray this New Year be blessed for all of you as we continually grow our church through everyone sharing of themselves and participating in the life of St. George and remaining steadfast in the Lord.

Have safe, healthy and Blessed New Year!

+Fr. Andrew Eugenis

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Mon.-Fri. 10-3

Father Andrew's Office Hours

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

Thurs.-Fri.: 9:30 a.m. -1:30 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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MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**AGAPE**

A.H.E.P.A.

Beacon

Bible Study

Caring for God's Creation —

Environmental Stewardship and Protection

Caring for God's Creation —

Environmental Stewardship and Protection

Cemetery

Choir Ministry

Daughters of Penelope

Funeral Ministry

G.O.Y.A.

G.O.Y.A.

Greek School

Greek School

Heritage

Heritage

Iconography

Kali Parea

Mustard Seed Bookstore

Orthodoxy Connect

Orthodoxy Connect

P.T.O.

Philoptochos

Photographers

Photographers

Sharing Our Faith Book Corner

Socialites

Soup Kitchen

Spiritual Enrichment

Spiritual Enrichment

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth

St. George Acolytes

Stewardship

Sunday School

Website Administrator

Young Adult League (YAL)

Youth Advisors

Youth Advisors

Vicki Kamaratos

Dimitris Geaneas

Niki Cronen

Teri Lalli

Stella Fotopoulos

Christina Eliopoulos Barrows

Billy Athans

Claire Chrysanthopoulos

Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush

TBD

George Moutis

Anja Chatzopoulos

Tonia Sum

Maria Magriplis

Demitri Karagias

Peter Psillas

Anne Papageorge

Lela Panas

Faye Pirovolos Deet

Dimitris Geaneas

Thomas Georges

Barbara Panas Kozak

Errie Teevan

Arthur Papaylion

Barbara Terlecsky

TBD

TBD

Soula Tsettos

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Rick Deet

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Dn. Emanuel Tsamas

Dn. Emanuel Tsamas

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Kristen Russo

Barbara Terlecsky

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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 Cronen at nikicronen@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

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](https://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/](https://saintgeorgenj.square.site/)

From the Parish Council...

My fellow St. George Parishioners,

My family and I would like to wish you all a happy and blessed New Year filled with good health, love and peace. Even with the uncertainties in the world the past few months, we have been able to come together as a family and celebrate the beginning of the holiday season - to rejoice and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with an annual Tree and Nativity Lighting.

We kicked off the season with a very special event - Our Tree Lighting. This year we had new co-chairs, George Nicholas and Tom Georges; with their very special elves, Androniki Nicholas and Cathie Georges. They renamed the festive event "Joy to the World." It was a truly a spectacular night for both young and old. Mark calendars for next year's "Joy to the World" that will take place on the weekend after Thanksgiving. Our team is planning for an even bigger and better event. Thank you to everyone for their contributions and especially to our chairs for their ideas and hard work.

As I'm writing this message our Goyans are competing in the playoffs for Volleyball and Basketball. My wife and I attended the basketball game vs. St. George of Trenton in our church gym, and we enjoyed watching our youth in action. It brought back many great memories of when our children played. Goyans, keep up the good work; you always make St. George proud (Go AP Go). Thank you to all the coaches from volleyball and basketball for all the time and talent they give to our youth and our Church.

Those of you who invited our Greek school children and Goyans into your homes for Christmas Caroling, I'm sure you enjoyed their amazing and talented voices. The Christmas caroling brings joy into our homes as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our successful Advent retreat. I know that those who attended were inspired by Dr. Mamalakis, (professor at our Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology). I certainly enjoyed it. Thank you to the chairs and the volunteers and to Dr. Mamalakis.

Our Sunday school Christmas pageant was spectacular. You can see all the hard work that was put into it. What a wonderful job our children and teachers did. Bravo.

I also would like to thank the Philoptochos for producing the St. George Christmas Card. It is always nice to receive a Christmas card from our ministries and parish members.

The Daughters of Penelope held a very successful sold-out Jingo night. We all had a great time, and we supported the good work of the DOP.

Our St. George Greek dance troop will once again compete at FDF (Folk Dance Festival) in Baltimore, MD. The dancers have been practicing, and the dance teachers keep them on their toes. Good luck to our dancers and dance teachers.

Another Greek dance ministry has started for our 4 to 7-year-olds. Thank you to the parents for bringing the children, and, of course, to the dance teachers for taking this on. Perhaps we can also start an adult class. Reach out to me if you are interested.

Also, in January, our Greek school, students, along with students from Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Holmdel, will be going to St. Barbara church in Toms River for the annual Three Hierarchs celebration. The children will recite their poems and enjoy fellowship with our sister churches. Congratulations to our wonderful and dedicated teachers for the beautiful job they do with our children. I also would like to thank the children and the parents for helping our teachers achieve the goals that we All strive for.

In February, our Goyans will be going on their annual retreat to Woodloch Lodge in Pennsylvania. Fr. Andrew will lead the retreat along with the Advisors and parents.

Other events include the AHEPA annual dinner dance on February 10 in our Cultural Center and the Apokriatiko Glendi organized by the Greek School and Greek School PTO. Everyone is invited to these events. Keep an eye out for flyers and emails.

Thank you all for your contributions to St. George. We look forward to a wonderful year!

With Love, Peace and our Lord's Blessings,

George Costidis
Your Parish Council President

CALENDAR OF SERVICES

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

January 2024

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 1 | Monday | Circumcision of Jesus Christ/St. Basil the Great |
| 5 | Friday | Eve of Theophany |
| 6 | Saturday | Theophany |
| 7 | Sunday | Synaxis of St. John the Baptist |
| 14 | Sunday | Leavetaking of Theophany |
| 17 | Wednesday | St. Anthony the Great |
| 18 | Thursday | Saints Athanasios & Cyril |
| 21 | Sunday | 14th Sunday of Luke |
| 25 | Thursday | St. Gregory the Theologian |
| 28 | Sunday | 15th Sunday of Luke |
| 30 | Tuesday | Three Hierarchs |

February 2024

| | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 2 | Friday | Entrance of the Lord in the Temple |
| 4 | Sunday | 15th Sunday of Matthew |
| 10 | Saturday | St. Haralambos |
| 11 | Sunday | 16th Sunday of Matthew |
| 18 | Sunday | Sunday of the Canaanite |
| 25 | Sunday | Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee ~ Triodion |
| | Begins | |

March 2024

| | | |
|----|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 | Sunday | Sunday of the Prodigal Son |
| 9 | Saturday | 1st Saturday of Souls |
| 10 | Sunday | Meatfare Sunday (Judgement Sunday) |
| 16 | Saturday | 2nd Saturday of Souls |
| 17 | Sunday | Forgiveness Sunday |
| 20 | Wednesday | 7PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy |
| 22 | Friday | 7PM 1st Salutation Service |
| 23 | Saturday | 3rd Saturday of Souls |
| 24 | Sunday | Sunday of Orthodoxy |
| 25 | Monday | Annunciation of Theotokos |
| 27 | Wednesday | 8:30AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy |
| 29 | Friday | 7PM 2nd Salutation Service |
| 31 | Sunday | St. Gregory of Palamas |

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Baptisms / Chrismations:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| May 20, 2023 | Madison Sophia Cromwell |
| June 17, 2023 | Theo Anastasio Chewey |
| June 17, 2023 | Allison Marie Woods ~ Chrismation |
| July 1, 2023 | Charlotte James Gorhan |
| July 22, 2023 | Christina Emilia Chatzopoulos |
| July 23, 2023 | Natasha Liu (Adult Baptism) |
| August 19, 2023 | Ella Giavana Stavrinou |
| October 1, 2023 | Nina Alene Delopoulos |
| October 7, 2023 | Tedi Angelina Pascarella ~ Chrismation |
| October 15, 2023 | Adeline Mei Bo Liu |
| November 19, 2023 | David James Digiaimo ~ Chrismation |
| November 19, 2023 | Rober Eugene Scheddin ~ Chrismation |
| December 9, 2023 | Nora Lorraine Chambarry Marina Erin Chambarry |
| December 24, 2023 | Leon Singh ~ Adult Baptism |

Weddings

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| May 13, 2023 | Michele L. Paccagnini & Alexander Ballas |
| June 3, 2023 | Alaina Todd & Colin M. King |
| June 10, 2023 | Katerina Parlamas & Joseph Iannacone |
| June 10, 2023 | Angelina Palermo & Yianni Kavarakas |
| September 2, 2023 | Kristina Conery & Vincent Chelli |
| September 3, 2023 | Artemisia S. Mazzini & Michael T. Lino |
| September 29, 2023 | Isabel Budd & George Kavarakas |
| September 30, 2023 | Kelly Dronne & Dimitrios Abadiotakis |
| September 30, 2023 | Kristen A. Lucas & Kieran JP Martin |
| December 30, 2023 | Zoi Hatziminas & David Karbowski |
| March 1, 2024 | Kristina DiNardo & Jonathan Worrall |

Deaths:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| April 8, 2023 | George E. Koch |
| April 8, 2023 | Eleni Mavrogeni |
| April 11, 2023 | Gust S. Kostidakis |
| April 14, 2023 | Georgia Karagias |
| April 18, 2023 | William Kohanik |
| April 23, 2023 | Vasil Shunda |
| July 9, 2023 | Christos Vasilakos |
| August 29, 2023 | Robert Lee Blake, Sr. |
| September 24, 2023 | Alexandra Diglio |
| October 19, 2023 | Harry W. Angeles |

SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

“Cheerful Giving”

Selected excerpts from an article written by Fr. Stavros

The verse “God loves a cheerful giver” has been used in just about every church fundraising campaign, even the ones that seem to put the giver “under compulsion.” We church people I suppose rationalize that maybe with enough arm twisting, people will eventually find the joy of giving. And that is probably not the case.

That having been said, if people are going to give anything, it should be done with joy. If you give a gift to someone for their birthday, it should be with joy. If you give time to your child to play, or to watch his or her sports event, or to help with homework, that “gift” should be with joy. After all, who wants a gift that has been given out of guilt? Can you imagine someone giving you a Christmas present and saying “Merry Christmas! I felt obligated to get you this gift.”

We should be cheerful when giving something away. Because if we truly understood what it means to give, we’d realize that we have nothing to give, but only to give back from what God first gave us. James 1:17 says “For every good endowment and perfect gift is from Above, coming down from the Father of Lights”. This means that every good thing we have comes from God. So, if we have time, that is a gift from God. If we have a talent, that is a gift from God. And if that talent allows us to make money, that is a gift from God. So whether we are giving time, talent or money, we really are giving it back, because all of these things have their origin with God. This includes giving time as a volunteer, or helping a friend, or giving to charity. It’s all really giving back.

Finally, as Saint Paul states for us in 2 Corinthians 9:6, we will reap what we sow. That is true in farming and it is true in Christianity. The farmer who plants a meager amount of seed will have a meager harvest. This is not profound. It’s common sense. It is the same with us in our journey to salvation. If we spend our life showing mercy, God will show us mercy. If we do not show mercy to others, He will not show us mercy either. If we have been generous in giving, He will be generous in giving to us His mercies and forgiveness. If we have been stingy, then He will be stingy with us as well. In 2 Corinthians 9:11, St. Paul tells us that we will “be enriched in every way for great generosity.” So, let us make giving of anything something that we do cheerfully and with joy, realizing that we have nothing to give, only to give back.

Look for opportunities to give something to someone every day and to do so with cheerfulness and joy!

Stewardship 2023-2024

• A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all the supporting Stewards in 2023. It is your generosity that we have been able to cover our Church’s maintenance and operational expenses during these difficult economic times.

• If you have not pledged or donated for 2023 and would like to be listed as a supporting Steward of St. George in 2023 it is not too late. For your convenience, donations can be made using the QR code on this page, by on line giving at www.stgeorgeap.org or by cash or check.

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

• Regarding Stewardship 2024, our National Stewardship Sunday has been scheduled for January 14. Stewardship envelopes along with the St. George 2024 calendars will arrive at your homes by the time you read this article.

Please continue to attend Church. Nothing can replace being in church, partaking of the sacraments, and worshipping as an Orthodox Christian family.

• 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 2024. We have so many things to be grateful and thankful to our Almighty Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to our Panagia! Let us count our blessings, love each other and adhere to our strong faith. Xronia 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

PS-Please remember the Church in your Will.

908-770-2426/jgeaneas@msn.com

Join our St. George group Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com>



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2024 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Family Last Name _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work at St. George Church for 2024

- ☐ \$10,000 or 12 monthly payments of \$833.34
☐ \$ 7,500 or 12 monthly payments of \$625.00
☐ \$ 5,000 or 12 monthly payments of \$416.67
☐ \$ 3,000 or 12 monthly payments of \$250.00
☐ \$ 1,350 Suggested minimum for Families or 12 monthly payments of \$112.50
☐ \$ 700 Suggested minimum for Seniors and Singles or 12 monthly payments of \$58.34
☐ \$ 120 Suggested minimum for College Students or 12 monthly payments of \$10.00

☐ Other – Please enter total amount of your commitment \$ _____

The above amount will be given: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annual (One time)

Signature _____ Date _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

NEED TO RENEW EVERY YEAR

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) _____

Cardmember'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.

Recurring payments do not renew year to year.

You can now pledge and pay your Stewardship and your regular weekly offerings with the convenience of electronic giving! On our 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 www.stgeorgeap.org ONLINE GIVING. 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 2024. 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, contact the Church Office.

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

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.
 - 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.
 - 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.



Ladies Philoptochos Society

In October, our Philoptochos Chapter held its most successful Luncheon and Gift Auction to date. The theme, "Generations", offered us the opportunity to thank those on whose shoulders we stand. Our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers have nurtured Philoptochos to where it is now – a remarkable national organization of strong and generous women whose mission is to help those who are in need.

More than 300 women from around the state joined us to laugh, meet old and friends, and enjoy a delicious meal at the Sheraton in Eatontown... and many of us won baskets of gifts donated by our generous parish council, our ministries, our parishioners, restaurants and stores and friends and family. Thank you to all who have contributed and who continue to make our Philoptochos a success.

We are more than 140 members strong! We invite you to join us in January for our annual Bunco membership drive to take place in the cultural center on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30pm. Pay your annual membership fee and play for free! We always have a great time. (see flyer for more info)

Also, in January, our annual Vasilopita raised much needed funds for Saint Basil Academy, a Greek Orthodox home for children who need support. Thank you for your generosity.

We close 2023 with the promise of another year of the Make-A-Difference Initiative. We will be giving \$22,000 to local and national charities. These funds come from your support and your contributions. You are a part of Philoptochos and you help us to fulfill our mission!



Saint George Philoptochos Membership Meeting

January 18, 2024

Meeting: 6:30 PM

Play Bunco: 7:30 PM

*Join us for our Membership Bunco Event
Pay your 2024 membership & Play for free
Minimum membership fee: \$30.00*



*email questions to:
Philoptochos.Mail@philoptochosocnjanj.org*



Saint George Philoptochos 2024 Membership

As a member of the Saint George Philoptochos Parish Chapter #1021, you also have membership in both the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos and the National Philoptochos. Due to financial obligations of our Parish Chapter, we ask that you consider pledging an amount equal to or greater than the minimum 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 to operate our philanthropic budget. Please keep that in mind 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.

Philoptochos Membership Form Dues Amount

\$30 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail this form with your membership contribution to: Saint George Philoptochos to:

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, 1033 West Park Avenue, Ocean, NJ 07712

email questions to:
Philoptochos.Mail@philoptochosoceannj.org



Daughters of Penelope



The Aulis Sisters have been kept quite busy. On October 6th, Sisters Karen, Andrea, and Elise supported the Altes Gift Auction, and then on, Sisters Karen, Peggy, and Mary H. attended the Alexander Fashion Show on October 14th. Across the pond Sister Antoinette, our Grand Secretary, attended the DOP European Conference held in London. At our October meeting we were planning many of the events that are up and coming.

On Sunday, October 29th, we held our 17th Pink Coffee Hour. Effie Psomias started organizing this "fight fundraiser" after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and finished up her chemo treatments. It's such a special day for our organization and we are touched at how everybody has helped to make it grow. Your donations have made it possible for us to continually donate to fight for a cure. As an aside, all of the extra desserts were donated to the Chelsea Senior Living Center where our longest standing member Sophie Anest lives. The residents were delighted for all the leftovers.

Later in the evening, Sisters Jacquelyn, Karen, and JoAnn had the honor of attending Demetra 33's (District 6) 35th Anniversary Event. It was a well-attended event held in Brooklyn, NY with good food, good fun, and friendships.

On November 11th, the AHEPA 5th District Cancer Research Foundation celebrated 35 years of advancements in cancer research through philanthropy at its annual gala where they have given away over 1.3 million dollars to date. Sisters Antoinette, Effie, Jacquelyn, Karen, Mary, and Peggy were in attendance with our AHEPA Brothers. We were delighted to be Silver benefactors as well as to donate \$500 in Jaime LeMire's name from our "Read For A Cause".

At our November meeting we installed our new Chapter Secretary, Stephanie Condouris-Kurt. We welcome her to the Executive Board and know she will be a wonderful asset, as her late mother Theodora was a phenomenal Past Chapter President. We also had our yearly District Visitation with a beautiful dinner. A special thank you goes to Entertainment Chair, Donna Karpodinis, for her beautiful decorations to really set the mood. Another special thank you to all of the Sisters for the beautiful spread. We were feasting like queens for sure!

Did you know that the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey are celebrating their 50th Anniversary in February and that many of the original and preceding dancers are Daughters? Since September the Alumni and current dance group have been hard at work practicing, and I promise you, it will be a show to remember. For tickets to the 50th Anniversary Gala to be held at the Pines Manor on February 3, 2024, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HDNJ50thTickets>.

The Joy To The World Christmas tree lighting event was absolutely wonderful. The Sisters served well over 250 s'mores and many of them sang with the choir! It was a fun-filled event attended by so many of our parishioners. We look forward to the next one.

On Saturday, December 2, Aulis held our largest fundraiser of the year, our 6th Annual Christmas JINGO and Gift Auction. We had a record of roughly 300 people from all over New Jersey, Delaware, and New York in attendance! As usual, this event was a smashing success, but it's only because of YOU! Your generosity, your attendance, and your donations helped to make this our best year yet! So thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Happy "October" Birthday to Sisters: DG Karen Pascal, Donna Karpodinis, Pari Harrison, and Pat Scourtsis. Happy "November" Birthday to Sisters: Elise Rogers, Angie Lambrou-Erickson, Mary Green. Happy "December" Birthday to Sisters: Angela Koumoutsos, Mary Giannakopoulos, Antoinette Marousis Zachariades, Bessie Drogaris, Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush, and Irene Glynos. We wish you all many more years of life, health, and happiness.

Congratulations to these members for their many years of service to the Daughters of

Penelope: (October) Colleen Pardenek (2 years), Karen Pascal (36 years), Patricia Vlahos (35 years), (November) Sophie Anest (71 years), Donna Karpodinis (25 years), Athena Loesch (26 years), Stephanie Condouris-Kuhrt (6 years), Stacia Condouris-Strollo (8 years), and (December) Denise Parlamos (34 years).

As our 75th year anniversary approaches in February, we would love to be 75 members strong! All are welcomed. See a current Daughter to get involved. Don't miss out on some of the fun things have been planned for the New Year (Pot Luck & Game Night, Paint & Sip, Floral Arrangement Class, Book Club, etc).

As always, we would like to thank the community for your continued support throughout our almost 75 years, and we look forward to working with you for another 75 more!

To learn more about the Daughters of Penelope, see our calendar, or join, please go to: www.dop195.org.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a safe, happy, healthy, prosperous, and blessed 2024.



October Meeting



Daughters of Penelope



Alexander Fashion Show: Sisters (Top L to R) Karen, Mary H, Peggy.



November District Visitation Meeting



Pink Coffee Hour (L to R) Sisters Tina, Christina, Antonia, Effie B, Penny, Mrs. Psomias, Effie P, Angie, Jacquelyn, and Denise



Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey Practice.



The AHEPA 5th District Cancer Research Foundation Gala with Brother Ahepans.



AGAPE MINISTRIES

*"To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable.
Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless"*

----G.K. Chesterton

AGAPE is Christian love.... In Action It never stops doing good

Vicki Kamaratos - vassilia71@aol.com 732-539-6831

40 Day Blessing:

Baptism:

Wedding:

Colleen Pardenek

Vicki Kamaratos

Donna Karpodinis

Barbara Van Wagner

Antonia Lyons

kalliep19@aol.com

vassilia71@aol.com

donnakarpodinis@gmail.com

barbaravan341@gmail.com

antonia.lyons16@gmail.com

New Hope:

Grief Support Group

Welcome:

St. George Guides:

Faithful Hands:

Knit & Crochet

Hospitality Ministry

Coffee Hour Helpers

Environmental Stewardship

& Protection Ministry

St. George Newlyweds:

Newcomers & Visitors:

Light of Life

Chrismation Ministry

Angela Koumoutsos

Arthur Pappaylion

Bea Paparsenos

fiore88@aol.com

a.pappaylion@gmail.com

beapap@live.com

Vicki Kamaratos

Angela Koumoutsos

Stella Fotopoulos

Christina Barrows

Angela Koumoutsos

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antonia.lyons16@gmail.com

clairechrys1@gmail.com

Join a group or start another. Share what you love to do with others! Visit us at www.stgeorgeap.org/agape

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2024 TO ALL!!!



Faithful Hands



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.





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. Think big!

Our Great “Thomas A. Edison Chapter 287”

• Our Chapter is getting stronger and bigger every month. During our November 13 meeting we initiated 6 Brothers and reinstated 3. We should be very proud that our membership has now increased from 71 Brothers to 80 making us one of the largest Chapters in NJ. (This figure of 80 represents a 38% increase versus the 58 Brothers we had Y-E 2021.) Our goal is 100, as per the challenge given to us by our Chapter Brother and Supreme President Savas Tsivicos at the September meeting. We can get to 100 by reaching two milestones first 90 and then 100 by Y-E 2024. It may be aggressive, but it is attainable with the help and conviction of all the Brothers. Let us remember, the bigger we get, the more we can do for our AHEPA Mission.

• Again, congratulations to our 9 Brothers. The initiated Brothers were: Rick Deet, Manny Fragioudakis, Semos(Chuck) Kostidakis, Ian Lovoulos, Aris Pavlides and Christos Schwarz(son of Brother Michael). Axioi!

The reinstated Brothers were: Louie Koumoutsos, Gus Giannopoulos and Francesco Parliaros. Axioi!

• A check for \$2,000 was presented by our Chapter to The Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation

during its Gala on November 11 at the Pines Manor. The event was to celebrate 35 years of advancements in Cancer Research through Philanthropy. The Foundation was formed in 1988 and since then has awarded \$1.3 million towards a cure for cancer.

• The following Five Fund Raisers have been scheduled:

-Super Bowl Raffle

-AHEPA Annual Dinner Dance---February 10,2024

-Poker Night---February 23,2024

-NCAA March Madness Tournament Raffle

-AHEPA Annual Golf Tournament---June 20, 2024

• Again, I would like to thank our great Executive Board and all the Chairs and Brothers for their leadership and tireless efforts. As an AHEPA family and team we can accomplish everything we set our minds to.

On behalf of the AHEPA Executive Board, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy, Healthy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year 2024.

God bless AHEPA and their Families!

Dimitris Geaneas-President of AHEPA Thomas A. Edison Chapter 287-Cell Phone 908 770 2426



Our chapter AHEPANS attending the Cancer Research Gala



District 5 AHEPA Cancer Research Gala at Pines Manor. PSP Andrew Zacharides talking to VP Arthur Pappaylion with the director and President Dimitri Geaneas, Treasurer Nick Billows looking on. Our AHEPA Chapter donated \$2,000 towards Cancer Research



Recently new AHEPA members initiated. Brothers; Rick Deet, Manny Fragioudakis, Semos (Chuck) Kostidakis, Ian Lovoulos, Aris Pavlides and Christos Schwarz

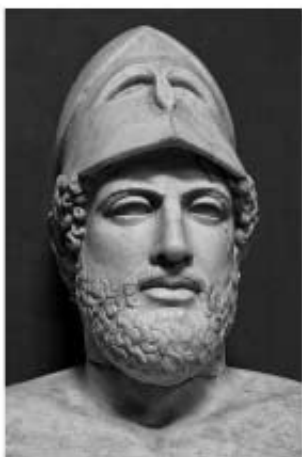


AHEPA Hellenism Series

Hellenism is everywhere we look around us and within us. In this AHEPA article, we will explore the most enduring political dispute in all of Grecian history: Athens vs. Sparta.

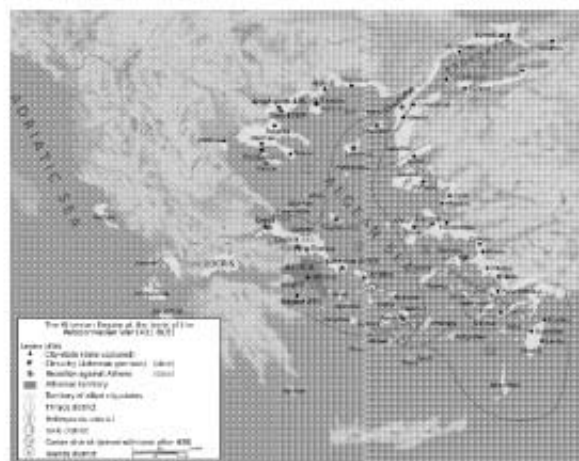
In the annals of ancient Greece, the political landscapes of Sparta and Athens emerged as contrasting ideologies, each leaving an indelible mark on history. Sparta, entrenched in the rugged Peloponnesian terrain, epitomized militarism with an oligarchic system that prioritized military might and stoicism. Athens, in contrast, birthed democracy in the sunlit Attic soil, where citizens actively engaged in decision-making in the bustling Agora.

At the helm of Athens' Golden Age, Pericles envisioned a city as a beacon for the Greek world. His oratory prowess and strategic acumen catapulted Athens into an era of intellectual and artistic excellence, exemplified by the construction of the Parthenon and victory and peace with the Persians.



Sparta adhered staunchly to its militaristic ethos, with dual kingship and a disciplined citizenry. As Athens grew in influence and power through Pericles' creation of the Delian league, they

came into direct contact with the ethos of the Spartans and their allies. This resulted in the Peloponnesian War, a clash of civilizations, that highlighted the tensions between Sparta's martial supremacy and Athens' pursuit of cultural and intellectual distinction.



As the Peloponnesian War raged on, Athens fell victim to a plague, which saw roughly half of its citizens die, Pericles included! Sparta, though triumphant, struggled to extend its dominance, while Athens, humbled and beleaguered but culturally vibrant, retained its legacy. The legacy of Sparta vs Athens resonates through history, reminding us of the enduring impact of ancient Greek heterogeneous political and cultural values.



- □ Brendan Ballintine □



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. On November 4th, our school was recognized in Thessaloniki at the awards ceremony of the competition we participated in last year commemorating the Pontian Genocide. As a reminder, our school participated in a worldwide contest: the 7th International Student Competition: Pontic Hellenism: Memories and Dreams, Past, Present and Future. We submitted a video with our partnering schools from England, Cyprus, and Greece and our video submission won first place! Teachers, Maria Spiridonos and Eleni Tzimopoulou, were able to accept the award on our behalf.

Our students also sang Christmas carols alongside the choir at our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Thanksgiving weekend. We were honored to be included in such a festive celebration with our church community. Our children had a wonderful time participating in all the crafts available to them.

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, recite poems and also perform a short play. 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 Holmdel. Lastly, when we return from Christmas break we will celebrate our annual vasilopita cutting!

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 υποστήριξη του, όπως επίσης και όλες τις οικογένειες που πρόσφεραν ποτά, φαγητά και γλύκα!

Στις 4εις Νοεμβρίου, το σχολείο μας τιμήθηκε με το πρώτο βραβείο στην τελετή απονομής βραβείων του Υπουργείου Παιδείας και Θρησκευμάτων και Αθλητισμού στη Θεσσαλονίκη. Σας υπενθυμίζουμε ότι το σχολείο μας, σε μια ομάδα μαζί με 4 άλλα σχολεία από Ελλάδα, Κύπρο και Αγγλία, έλαβε μέρος στον 7ο Διεθνή Μαθητικό Διαγωνισμό "Ποντιακός Ελληνισμός, μνήμες και όνειρα, παρελθόν, παρόν και μέλλον". Η ομάδα μας πήρε το πρώτο βραβείο στην κατηγορία Ταινίες Τεκμηρίωσης. Οι δασκάλες Μαρία Σπυρίδωνος και Ελένη Τζιμοπούλου παρευρέθηκαν εκ μέρους της ομάδας μας και δέχτηκαν το Βραβείο εκ μέρους μας. Είναι εντυπωσιακό να βλέπουμε τον κόπο και τη δημιουργικότητα των μαθητών και των δασκάλων να αναγνωρίζονται και να ανταμείβονται.

Το Σάββατο 25 Νοεμβρίου, τα παιδιά του σχολείου έλαβαν μέρος στον εορτασμό της εκκλησίας μας και παρέα με τη χορωδία έψαλαν παραδοσιακά κάλαντα. Ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων πρόσφερε χειροτεχνίες στα παιδιά της ενορίας που παρευρέθηκαν. Μετά το διάλειμμα που είχαμε για τη Μέρα των 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.

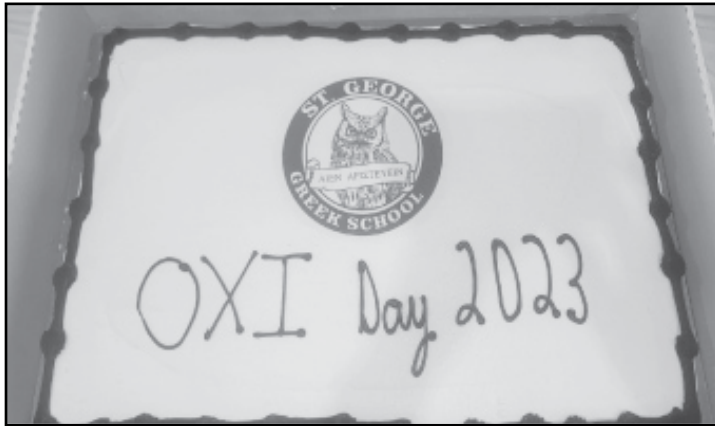
Για το Δεκέμβριο το σχολείο μας ετοίμασε ένα όμορφο και γιορτινό Χριστουγεννιάτικο πρόγραμμα. Το πρόγραμμα έγινε στις 10 Δεκεμβρίου και είχε μεγάλη επιτυχία! Τα παιδιά μας επίσης σκόρπισαν το γιορτινό πνεύμα σε γειτονίες του Ocean Township με τα κάλαντα που τραγουδούν. Τέλος, το Δεκέμβριο ο Σύνδεσμος 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. Η φετινή γιορτή θα γίνει στην ενορία της Αγίας Βαρβάρας.

Continued on next page



A MESSAGE FROM OUR GREEK SCHOOL



Kindergarten students forming lifelong friendships



Christmas caroling at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.



Team directors, Maria Spiridonos and Eleni Tzimopoulou of our partnering schools, accepting the award on behalf of all of us!

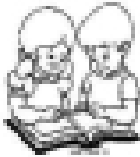


Cousins learn Greek together!



Certificate from the Pontian Genocide Awards in Thessaloniki

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School is off to a great start so far! Thank you to everyone who has participated this year!

We had a great turn out at this year's Joy to the World Tree Lighting event. We are so proud of our teachers, Tom and Cathie Georges and Androniki and George Nicholas for spearheading the event and we want to say a special thank you to Teddy Kavarakas and Dave Russo for helping to supply the wood and Dave for helping to run the craft. Approximately 40 children enjoyed coloring their own Nativity icons that they can now include in their personal icon collections at home. We are looking forward to a wonderful time again next year.

Our Nativity Pageant was a great success and it was so uplifting to see so many of our youth show off their love of Jesus.

The Oratorical Festival is right around the corner. The date of our annual festival will be announced as soon as it is set. Please take a look at the topics below, as well as the link through the QR code below for tips and resources. Students will be working in class to discuss topics throughout the fall and early winter.

All kids three years old and up are welcome to join us Sundays after communion!

Contact Kristen Russo with questions.

JUNIOR TOPICS (Grades 7-9)

TOPIC 1 His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has earned the title of the Green Patriarch, and was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World, for His teachings about humanity's spiritual responsibility for taking care of God's creation — planet earth. His All-Holiness stands on the shoulders of Saints, who taught that the world is a gift from God, and that taking care of His creation is a way to connect with God. Explore and discuss the teachings of His All-Holiness and the Saints on the creation of the world. What are some of our practical responsibilities as stewards of our planet, and how does that enrich our lives as Christians?

TOPIC 2 Many of us have heroes to whom we look up. It may be an older brother or sister, an athlete, or a musician. We have heroes in our religious life, as well as people who inspire us to practice our faith. They teach us, usually by example, how we ought to live as Orthodox Christians. Select a Saint or person who has been the most influential in your spiritual life. Describe the particular and practical ways that influence has taken place.

TOPIC 3 On the Day of Theophany (January 6), we chant, "All those who were baptized in Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). Discuss the meaning of this hymn and the obligations it places upon us as Orthodox Christians.

TOPIC 4 When reading the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32), we learn about the various stages of repentance. What are they? How do they relate to the reversal of the son's journey away from the father? What does the father's reaction upon seeing his son teach us about our relationship to our Father in Heaven?

TOPIC 5 The Orthodox Church has a rich heritage of sacred hymns that "contribute radiant and poetic splendor to Orthodox worship," thus, opening the way to God. Select your favorite Church hymn and talk about how it strengthens your faith.

SENIOR TOPICS (Grades 10-12)

TOPIC 1 Slandered without cause, convicted without a trial, exiled unjustly — this was the life endured by one of the greatest saints of our times — Saint Nektarios of Aegina. Forgiving others who hurt us that deeply and unjustly seems almost impossible. What can we learn from Saint Nektarios, whose life was about forgiving what some might call the impossible?

TOPIC 2 Apostle Paul refers to Adam as the first man, and Christ as the Second Adam. The Fathers of the Church, especially Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, refer to Christ and Panagia as the Second Adam and the Second Eve. Why is the Most Holy Theotokos called the "Second Eve"? And why is Christ called the "Second Adam"? How do Christ and Panagia fulfill and go beyond their prototypes?

TOPIC 3 Christ says, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:1). He also says, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Explore the Orthodox teaching on the Eucharist by reading the prayers of the Divine Liturgy the writings of one or more Church Fathers.

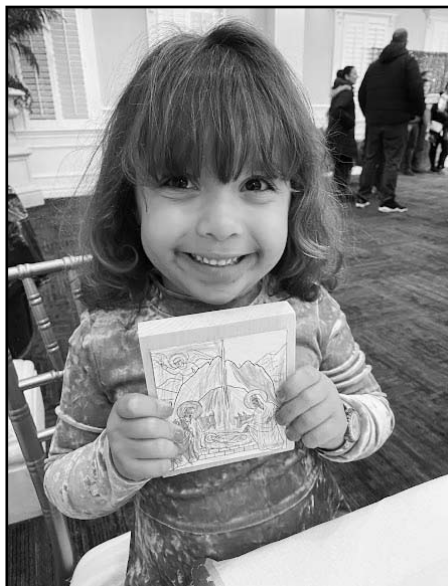
TOPIC 4 The number of natural disasters worldwide continues to increase, resulting in more communities destroyed and more lives lost. How would you respond to someone who questions why God allows natural disasters to happen when we know God can intervene at any moment? If God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving, how can He allow evil things to happen?

TOPIC 5 During the Divine Liturgy, before the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, we hear the priest say the following: "Your own of Your own we offer to You, in all and for all." What does this petition mean to you as an Orthodox Christian? Why is it important for us to focus on giving back out of the gifts we have been given by God?

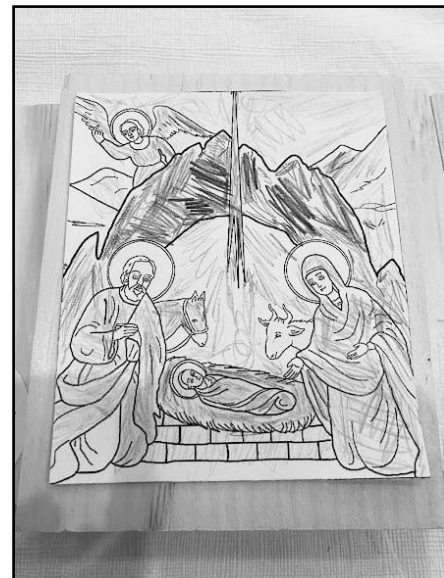
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Evangelos and Theodora hard at work coloring their Nativity icons.



Iliada shows off her carefully colored Nativity icon



A finished Nativity icon



Dave Russo helps a student apply his icon to the piece of wood.



The Preschool and Kindergarten class learned about St. Nicholas and how we can share what we have with those who are less fortunate.



Upcoming Sunday School Events

- 3/24 - Sunday of Orthodoxy – Bring your icon!
- 4/25 - Saturday of Lazarus – Come make palm crosses!
- 5/3 - Holy Friday Retreat
- 12/31 - NYE, no class

Sunday School Website





Happy New Year!

Our GOYANs have been very busy with exciting events befriending other GOYANs, learning about our faith, and bonding through dances and our annual retreat! These months included FDF, a new self defense class, our winter retreat to Woodloch, the Valentine's dance, and presentations about our faith through the MOSAIC group.

The Folk Dance Festival has been eagerly anticipated as the GOYANs have not attended in a couple of years. The GOYA Greek dance group has prepared with long practices in order to perfect the routine shown on stage in the two day event. GOYANs stay together in a hotel in Annapolis, Maryland and enjoy being with each other, getting to experience friendly competition with other Churches.

Our GOYA got to experience a new event this year! A new self defense class allowed for our GOYANs to come together and learn safety, new moves, and gain confidence in our own abilities as we are reminded however that our biggest protection is God through our faith.

The most looked forward to event, our winter retreat, took place at Woodloch Pines, PA. This two day retreat consists of skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, snow tubing, go karting, and a lot of hot chocolate! Our GOYANs enjoy being able to stay in a house together, split up with junior boys, junior girls, senior boys, and senior girls. On Saturday night, our GOYANs go watch the musical that Woodloch provides after a GOYA meeting. On Sunday morning, Father Andrew holds a

Church Service in one of the rooms, allowing everyone to come together and be thankful for this trip.

Our annual Valentines dance took place at St. Anna's in Flemington. Our GOYANs got to dress up in formal attire, and celebrate with other Churches that gathered together. The dance had a lot of music, dancing, and fun, creating a safe space for all GOYANs to come and hangout with one another.

Wrapping up February, our GOYANs presented their faith to the MOSAIC group. GOYANs participating in the group have learned all about other faiths and the importance of diversity. Now, it was our time to present our faith and how we go through our Church services, how we do our cross, what different parts of the Church represent, and how we go about our days being Christ-like. Although we taught others about our faith, we also learned about some things that we had not previously known as well.

I have enjoyed being President, getting to go to all the events and reconnect with everyone through the many different things we had planned. I am thankful for these months and how many places and people I have gotten to know. Our GOYA really is something special.

Your GOYA President,
Sophia Chatzopoulos

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. Please contact Athena Loesch or Anne Papageorge through the Church Office. We thank you for your generosity.

The Saints

| | |
|--|----------|
| St. Pandora - Back Wall Left - | \$10,000 |
| St. Kathryn - Back Wall Left - | \$10,000 |
| St. Irene - Back Wall Left - | \$10,000 |
| St. Cassiani - Back Wall Left - | \$10,000 |
| *S.S. Rafael, Nicholas, Irene - 9/10 of Icon - | \$9,000 |
| Back Wall Right - | \$10,000 |
| St. Gerasimos - Back Wall Right - | \$10,000 |
| St. Elpidosphoros - Back Wall Right - | \$10,000 |
| St. Savva - Back Wall Right - | \$10,000 |
| St. Theodore the Commander | |
| Back Wall Right - | \$10,000 |
| Medallions - Rear Arch Above Choir Loft | |
| Archangel Gabriel - | \$5,000 |
| St. Alexandros - Right - | \$5,000 |
| St. Alexios - Right - | \$5,000 |
| St. Panteleimon - Right - | \$5,000 |
| St. Haralambos - Right - | \$5,000 |
| St. Marina - Left - | \$5,000 |
| St. Kyriaki - Left - | \$5,000 |
| St. Elizabeth - Left - | \$5,000 |
| St. Magdalene - Left - | \$5,000 |
| St. Julia - Left - | \$5,000 |
| St. Christina - Left - | \$5,000 |

In The Altar

| | |
|--|----------|
| Deacon Parmenas - Left Side- | \$3,000 |
| Deacon Prohoros - Right Side- | \$3,000 |
| Diakonikon - Right Side - | \$25,000 |
| Artoforio - Left Side Altar - | \$25,000 |
| Amnos Tou Theou - Center Altar - | \$20,000 |
| Archangel Michael - Left Side - | \$20,000 |
| St. Gregory - Half of Icon - Left Side - | \$7,500 |
| St. Fotios - Half of Icon - Right Side - | \$7,500 |

Church Proper

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Pandokratora (Dome) | |
| Prophets: | |
| Daniel - | \$10,000 |
| Jonah - | \$10,000 |
| Solomon - | \$10,000 |
| Habakkuk - | \$10,000 |
| Gideon - | \$10,000 |
| Zephaniah/Sophonias - | \$10,000 |
| Ekzekiel - | \$10,000 |

List is subject to update

* \$1,000 donation was received for S.S. Rafael, Nicholas and Irene

Following Icons are Available

Contact Fr. Andrew:

Transfiguration - Rear Arch Left

Baptism of Christ - Rear Arch Left

The Dormition of the Theotokos - Rear Arch Right

Christ Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) - Rear Arch Right

Raising of Lazarus - Rear Arch Right

Pentecost - Front Arch Left Solea

Life of St. George Torture - Back Wall



Joy to the World!

Oh come let us adore Him! The parish of St. George was thrilled to kick off the Nativity season with our annual “Joy to the World” Tree Lighting and Christmas Celebration in November. It was a ministry-wide, multi-generational event featuring the lighting of the Nativity and Christmas Tree followed by the singing of carols by the Choir, and the children of the Greek and Sunday schools. There was a surprise visit from Santa Claus riding in a classic fire truck escorted by the Wanamassa Fire Department and their fleet of trucks with bells and sirens. Everyone was then welcomed in the cultural center for desserts, arts & crafts and of course pictures with Saint Nicholas himself!



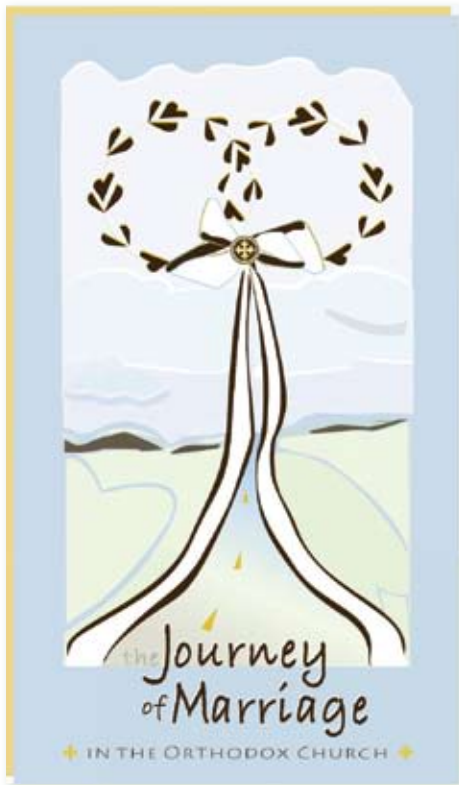
Warm and bright was the theme of the night with our brothers of AHEPA providing toasty firepits, Philoptochos, Daughters of Penelope and the GOYA serving yummy treats of hot chocolate, cookies, donuts, gooey s'mores, warm pretzels and popcorn. The Greek School and Sunday School kept little hands busy with make your own ornaments and icons. Young ones even had a chance to write a letter to Santa. A special thank you to Father Andrew, Deacon Manny, the Parish council, emcee Paul Koutouzakis and chairs George & Androniki Nicholas and Tom & Cathie Georges.

During the forty-day fast period leading up to the Nativity, we prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As part of this preparation and celebration, we invite all to share in the **joy, hope, love and peace** of Jesus Christ. Just as the angels sing “Oh Come, Emmanuel”, so does the St. George community proclaim for all to hear!



Oh Come, oh Ye Faithful!

- □Brendan Ballintine □
- Photo credit: Vicky Alexandros



preparing for:
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written by
Fr. Charles Joanides & Dr. Philip Mamalakis

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- ✠ Establish good patterns for relating to one another
- ✠ Get to know more about each other
- ✠ And learn specific strategies to help you live happily ever after!

For more Information Please Contact
Angela Koumoutsos: fiore88@aol.com



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An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom

January 9th, 16th, and 23rd

Luke Chapters 11-14

7pm-8pm

Feb 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th

Luke Chapters 15-18

Every Tuesday, 7 pm - 8 pm

No Bible Study December 26th & January 2nd

To Join, Please

Contact Teri Lalli: lalliptds@gmail.com

for Zoom ID/Password



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Matthew 17:20

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The St. George Socialites on two of their recent trips to the St. Nicholas Shrine and the Holy Protection Monastery of the Theotokos.



Veterans celebrating on Veterans Day



Pictures of present and past veterans from our church family that have served our country



Christmas tree lighting ceremony with Santa on steps of our church



St. George Choir & Greek school kids sing on steps of our church

Lenten Retreat and Luncheon



Guest Speaker:

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
Encouraging Faith
In One Another

Saturday, April 13

St. George Cultural Center

9:30 - 12:00 (Morning session)

12:00 - 1:00 (Lunch)

1:00 - 2:30 (Afternoon session)

2:30 - 3:30 (Q&A and Meet & Greet)

Father Stavros Akrotirianakis has served in the Orthodox Church as a deacon, a youth director and was ordained to the priesthood in 1998. He graduated from Whittier College with a degree in history and graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in 1998 with a masters in Divinity. He is currently serving at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, Florida. He has previously served parishes in Enfield, CT and Asheville, NC. He has more than doubled the size of our parish in 18 years, from 220 families to 450 at present. He has been writing a daily reflection called the "The Prayer Team" since February 2015, which is emailed to over 4,000 people each day and is also available on several platforms. These reflections have also resulted in the publication of 9 books, some of which are: "The Heart of Encouragement: 176 Reflections to Build You Up and Empower You to Build Up Others." and "The Road Back to Christ: Reflections on Lent, Holy Week and the Resurrection"

SPACE IS LIMITED AND RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

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For more information email antonia.lyons16@gmail.com

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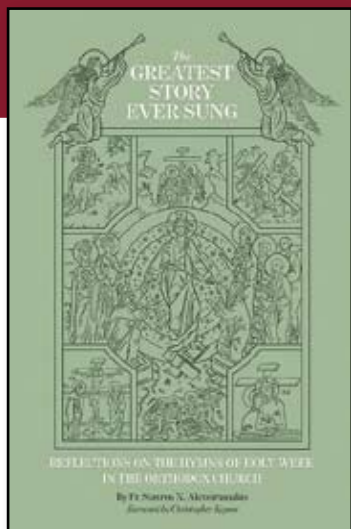
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**St. George Church Spiritual Enrichment presents
Seek the Light Book Corner Ministry**

Discussion on
Monday, January 29th at 6PM
The Greatest Story Ever Sung
by **Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis**
Facilitator: Errie Teevan

Book discussion “in person” in the St. George Library. Each session focuses on a single book to enlighten our community in the Orthodox Faith.

Book is available in the St. George Mustard Seed Book Store.

Please submit book suggestions & questions to:

Errie Teevan - errie.teevan@gmail.com

Vicki Kamaratos - vassilia71@aol.com • Barbara Terlecsky - beterlecsky@aol.com