



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Ocean Township, New Jersey

the

Beacon

of Orthodoxy and Hellenism

August / Sept. / Oct. 2025

The Newsletter of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Volume 23 Issue 9

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

In our church we find many cradle orthodox; we were baptized as infants and have grown up in the church and have experienced the different feast/fast periods of the Liturgical Year, yet we may not fully understand the meaning or historical background of the feast or fast we are observing. For the first 15 days of August, we are in a fast period for the preparation of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, (the falling asleep of the Theotokos.)

The first evidence we find of the Feast of the Theotokos dates to the Third Ecumenical Council at Ephesus (431) where the Council confirmed the fifteenth of August to be the “the day of Mary the Mother of God.” However, the feast day was not necessarily devoted to the Dormition of the Theotokos, but to her memory in General. It was not until the end of the Sixth Century that August 15th was established as the Feast of the Dormition by a decree of emperor Mauricius to be observed throughout the

Byzantine Empire. This custom resulted in an indirect outcome of the building of a church at the Theotokos’ grave site at Gesthemane. It was not until the 10th century that a 15-day fasting period began to be observed for the preceding days of the feast.

During this 15-day period the Parakletic Canon or the service of Paraklesis is sung every evening. The service is a supplicatory service addressed to the Mother of God, the Theotokos. It can be held in church, or homes of faithful to invoke divine help through the intercessions of the Theotokos for physical or spiritual illness or personal difficulties. During the service the names of the people for which the Paraklesis is being held are commemorated by the priest. There are two Paraklesis services, or canons dedicated to the Theotokos: the small Parakletic Canon which is called Paraklesis and the Great Parakletic Canon which is longer and usually read in Church. The core of both Canons dates

to the 5th century with the Great Canon belonging to the 13th century written by Theodore II, king of Nicaea. The small Canon is composed by a hymnographer named Theophanes; apart from his name, not much more is known about him.

We must always be reminded, the Theotokos was a human being born into sin as we all are. It was through her devotion and piety that she was chosen by God to bear God the Word, Christ, and bring Him into this world. She is an example for all of us to follow. I pray each of us can take time out of his or her busy schedule to attend at least one or two of the Paraklesis services during the first 15-days of August to praise the Theotokos for her role in the life and salvation of humankind, and also to pray for her intercessory prayers to help and strengthen ourselves and our loved ones as she is the true example to us all!

+ Fr. Andrew Eugenis

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1033 West Park Avenue • Ocean Township, NJ 07712

P: 732-775-2777 | F: 732-775-0109 • Website: www.stgeorgeap.org

PROISTAMENOS

Father Andrew Eugenis
frandrew@stgeorgeap.org

DEACON

Emanuel Tsarnas
dnemanuel@aol.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Karen Catizone
kcatizone@stgeorgeap.org

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Marguerite Iachello
secretary@stgeorgeap.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 10-3

Father Andrew's Office Hours

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.

PARISH COUNCIL**PRESIDENT**

George Costidis

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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

G.O.Y.A.

G.O.Y.A.

Greek Dance

Greek School

Greek School

Heritage

Iconography

Kali Parea

Mustard Seed Bookstore

Orthodoxy Connect

Orthodoxy Connect

P.T.O.

Philoptochos

Photographers

Prosforo Baking

Photographers

Pitsirikia Dance

Seek the Light Book Corner

Scholarships

Socialites

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

Karen Pascal

George Moutis

Lori Billows

Alexandra Thomas

Athena Thomas

Tonia Sum

Maria Magriplis

Peter Psillas

Anne Papageorge

Lela Panas

Faye Pirovolos Deet

Dimitris Geaneas

Thomas Georges

Barbara Panas Kozak

Errie Teevan

Arthur Pappaylion

Claire Chrysanthopoulos

Barbara Terlecsky

Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush

Vicki Kamaratos

Errie Teevan

Barbara Terlecsky

George Perentesis

Lela Panas

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Rick Deet

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas

Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas

Louis Koumoutsos

Spiro Pappas

Cathie Georges

Barbara Terlecsky

Markos Eugenis

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

George Moutis

WEBSITE**Submissions**

If you would like to add an article or flyer to our website, please submit them to

Barbara Terlecsky

And make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

*Masthead photo by
Yiorgos 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](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeap.org)
[/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/>

From the Parish Council...

My Fellow St. George Parishioners,

The summer is here! We've had plenty of rain, making the flowers bloom and the grass green. Our children are out of school and playing outside and on sports teams and traveling, and our families are taking much needed vacations. However, our churches remain open; they do not close for the summer. Our Lord and Savior is here for you, every week, every day and every time you are in need. Whether staying local or traveling around the world, I urge to visit an Orthodox Church, venerate an icon, light a candle and say a prayer. Our Lord is always listening.

These past months have seen a lot of activity in our St. George Community. Congratulations to our Mother of the Year Elayna Pappas. Elayna has served our St. George community proudly, and with devotion. She is a dedicated and active member of Philoptochos and a major part of our baking team. She always steps up wherever there is a need and she does it all with grace and kindness.

Memorial Day weekend our GOYAns participated in the annual GOYA Olympics at Monmouth University. It was a weekend filled with fun, sports and fellowship. The GOYAs represented St. George admirably and won many medals. Congratulations to the members and to the coaches and advisors.

I would like to thank our Greek School Teachers and Directors Maria Magriplis and Antonia Sum for their dedication to our students, to our program and to perpetuating our Greek language and culture. Registration for next year is coming soon! Please look for Registration dates for next year.

Thank you also to our Sunday School teachers and director Cathie Georges for spearheading our Sunday School program and teaching our children the Greek Orthodox faith.

On Father's Day, our community honored Father of the Year Nick Billows, who is also a dedicated member of our St. George community and an active member of AHEPA. Congratulations Nick.

Our Jersey Shore Greek Festival was held the weekend after Memorial Day and it seems that date is optimum to hold this event while we kick off our summer. Thousands of visitors experienced our hospitality, our delicious food, pastries and drinks. They supported us and even with some rain, they took the time to enjoy our hospitality, see our beautiful church and learn about our faith.

Congratulations also to our graduates who were recognized and honored with scholarships! We are so proud of you!

We should all be proud of our amazing children, performing Greek dancing in beautiful costumes to entertain all. Thank you to our teachers for teaching this important part of being Greek to the next generation - Athena and Alexandra (older groups) and Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush and Markos Eugenis (Pitsirikia group - young ones).

A huge thank you to all of our Chairpeople and to each and everyone who worked one shift or all day. We cannot do this without you! Save the weekend for 2026!

On Sunday, September 28th we will celebrate Holy Cross with the Blessing of the Waters at the Deal Casino Beach Club with His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, followed by a luncheon at our St. George Cultural Center.

Our St. George community is continuing to thrive with its rich Ministries that always welcome new members. Anyone interested in being a part of these groups, please reach out to a Ministry leader and offer your time, talents and treasures. We have a list located on the front of this Beacon or on our Website.

With Love, Peace and our Lord's Blessings, I wish you a happy and safe summer,

George Costidis

Your Parish Council President

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

It is very important that you contact the Church Office at 732-775-2777 with any changes to your contact information. Thank you.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES

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

July 2025

6	Sunday	4th Sunday of Matthew
13	Sunday	Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council
17	Thursday	Holy Great Martyr Marina (Margaret)
20	Sunday	The Glorious Prophet Elias
27	Sunday	Saint Panteleimon the Great Martyr and Healer

August 2025

1	Friday	7PM	Paraklesis Service
3	Sunday		8th Sunday of Matthew
4	Monday	7PM	Paraklesis Service
6	Wednesday		Transfiguration of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
		7PM	Paraklesis Service
8	Friday	7PM	Paraklesis Service
10	Sunday		9th Sunday of Matthew
11	Monday	7PM	Paraklesis Service
13	Wednesday	7PM	Paraklesis Service
14	Thursday	7PM	Vespers of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos & Ever Virgin Mary @ Holmdel Church
15	Friday		Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos & Ever Virgin Mary
17	Sunday		10th Sunday of Matthew
24	Sunday		11th Sunday of Matthew
29	Friday		The Beheading of John the Baptist
31	Sunday		12th Sunday of Matthew

September 2025

1	Monday		Ecclesiastical New Year (Indiction)
7	Sunday		Sunday before Holy Cross
8	Monday		Nativity of the Theotokos
14	Sunday		The Elevation of the Venerable & Life-Giving Cross
21	Sunday		Sunday After Holy Cross
26	Friday		Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist & Theologian
28	Sunday		Blessing of the Waters/Holy Cross Services/1st Sunday of Luke

October 2025

5	Sunday		2nd Sunday of Luke
12	Sunday		Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council
18	Saturday		St. Luke the Apostle
19	Sunday		3rd Sunday of Luke
23	Thursday		St. James the Brother of the Lord
26	Sunday		6th Sunday of Luke and St. Demetrios

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Baptisms:

November 9, 2024	Emanuella Martha Piccolino
November 9, 2024	Elliana Iris Ragan
November 24, 2024	Mark Joseph Waga
December 15, 2024	Jack Daniel Galanakis
December 23, 2024	Sophia Catherine Jones
December 28, 2024	Ella Harper Fischer
January 23, 2025	Josheph Peter Camamis
May 4, 2025	Margo Renee Jahn
June 7, 2025	Zoi Pinelopi Kavarakas
July 5, 2025	Christopher Anesti Mouritzen
July 12, 2025	Niccolo Alexander Scheddin
July 12, 2025	Constantine Joseph Russo
July 19, 2025	Leo Zerriny
July 19, 2025	Noah Zerriny
July 19, 2025	Theo Louis Balekdjian
July 26, 2025	Valentina Katerina Iannacone
August 2, 2025	Theodora Michaela Ieromonahas

Adult Baptisms:

June 29, 2024	Richard Theodore Bianchi
May 10, 2025	Timothy Richard Willey

Chrismations:

May 5, 2024	Andrew Vito Piccolino
June 30, 2024	John Rocco Hoefler
February 16, 2025	Robert James Erickson
June 15, 2025	Sean McKeveny

Weddings

January 23, 2025	Irene Koumantaris & August Galifi
March 2, 2025	Victoria Wells & Nicholas Kapsalis
June 7, 2025	Kayla Madoff & William Fraumeni, Jr.
June 21, 2025	Alyssa Bistromovich & Paul Preidel
September 6, 2025	Nicole Demos & David Rehe
September 26, 2025	Stella Psomias & Cole Weber
September 27, 2025	Margo Costidis & Timothy Willey
September 28, 2025	Afrodite Emporelli & Anastasios Fotinos
October 4, 2025	Sabrina Arbes & Craig Kaminski
October 5, 2025	Joan Marie Scheidt & Richard Theodore Bianchi

Deaths:

December 5, 2024	Emanuel Placakis
December 15, 2024	Athena Hadjimarkos
December 26, 2024	Paula Perentesis
January 20, 2025	Christine Tassakis
February 15, 2025	Georgia Poulos
March 1, 2025	George Constantinou
March 12, 2025	Chrisoula A. Lambrakis
March 16, 2025	Irina Vernikova
March 29, 2025	Nicholas Sekera
April 19, 2025	Pangiota (Penny) Vitorioulis
April 28, 2025	Chris Paul Christopher
May 11, 2025	Evangelia Sotiriou
June 2, 2025	William Goutos
June 27, 2025	Evelyn Ivaliotis
July 9, 2025	Thomas B. Moriates

STEWARDSHIP 2025



St. George Community,

As we embrace the warmth and beauty of summer, we are reminded of the abundance and grace that God showers upon us during this vibrant season. Nature blooms, families gather, and we often find a slower rhythm that allows us to reflect and renew.

This is also a wonderful time to turn our hearts toward the Theotokos, ever Virgin Mary, who models for us a life of faithful stewardship. Just as Mary said “yes” to God with humility and trust, we are invited to say “yes” each day—to care for His creation, to serve others, and to nurture our spiritual lives.

The Theotokos example encourages us to offer ourselves generously, not only in our prayers but in our actions. Whether through our time, talents, or treasures, summer offers many opportunities to live out our faith in simple, meaningful ways.

“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.”

— 2 Corinthians 9:7

May this season be a time of grace, rest, and renewal, guided always by the loving presence of our Blessed Mother.

Thank you to all our stewards that sustain our beloved St. George Church in the summer months, and all year long.

If you haven’t yet made the commitment, scan the QR code below or reach out to the church office.

In Christ’s love, Stewardship Committee

+ Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Deacon Emanuel Tsarnas

Thomas Georges

Louis Koumoutsos

Spiro Pappas

John Pardenek

Aris Pavlides



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1033 WEST PARK AVENUE, OCEAN, NEW JERSEY 07712 PHONE: 732-775-2777 / FAX: 732-775-0109

EMAIL: KCatizone@stgeorgeap.org

2025 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 2025

- ☐ \$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

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 2025. 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".*



Saint George Philoptochos 2025 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



Ladies Philoptochos Society

The St. George Philoptochos proudly concludes another successful year and looks forward with enthusiasm to all that lies ahead in the coming year.

Introducing the 2025–2027 Philoptochos Board Members:

Errie Teevan – President

Elise Rogers – Vice President

Andrea Hellinghausen – Second Vice President

Antonia Lyons – Correspondence Secretary

Georgia Vlitras-Recording Secretary

Elayna Pappas - Treasurer

Athena Loesch – Assistant Treasurer

Marissa Costidis - Advisor

Ellen Coviello

Gayle Billows

Georgia Christodoulou

Bessie Drogaris

Pandora Jacoubs

Demetra Petrantis

Stephanie Conduris-Kuhrt

Rula Casey

Tina Marie Vlitras

Deirdre Kosmas

We welcome your ideas, energy, and support. If you're interested in getting involved or have suggestions for strengthening our mission, please feel free to reach out to any board member.

We are proud to share that Rula Casey was honored with the Philoptochos Award at this year's Annual Clergy-Laity Conference. This well-deserved recognition celebrates Rula's unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and generous heart. Her quiet strength and selfless devotion to the mission of Philoptochos embody the very spirit of our philanthropic ministry. Congratulations, Rula! Your service continues to inspire us all and reminds us of the profound impact one dedicated individual can have on an entire community.

St. George Philoptochos celebrated the end of the year with a lovely dinner at Charley's Ocean Bar & Grill in Long Branch. It was a wonderful evening filled with fellowship, laughter, and delicious food. Special thanks to Bessie Drogaris for organizing the event and for the thoughtful goodie bags that added a perfect finishing touch.

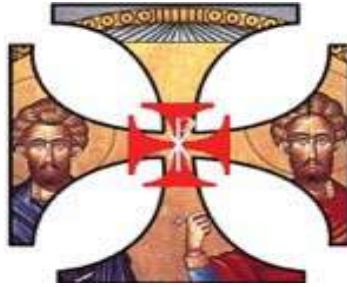
Channel your inner Audrey Hepburn, don your pearls, and join us for *Luncheon at Tiffany's*! Our much-anticipated annual luncheon and gift auction promises an afternoon of timeless elegance, fabulous prizes, and unforgettable moments. You won't want to miss it!



Philoptochos Member Rula Casey Honored by our St. George Chapter at the Metropolis of NJ Clergy Laity ~ Plaque Presented to Rula by our St. George Clergy Father Andrew Eugenis & Deacon Emanuel Tsarnas at the Philoptochos End of Year 2025 Dinner on Tuesday, June 10 at Charley's Ocean Bar & Grill in Long Branch



Philoptochos End of Year Dinner 2025 ~ Tuesday, June 10 ~ Charley's Ocean Bar & Grill in Long Branch. Attendees enjoyed delicious food & wonderful fellowship!!!



St. George Greek Orthodox Church
 Ladies Philoptochos Society
 1033 West Park Avenue Ocean NJ 07712
 732.775.2777

Dear Philoptochos Members and Saint George Parishioners,

It is with great pleasure that I share the exciting news that this year, Philoptochos will be hosting our **Annual Fall Luncheon on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at the Grand Marquis, [1550 Route 9 South, Old Bridge, New Jersey, 08857](#)**. As you may know, this is our largest fundraising event and allows us to **perform our philanthropic mission to help those in need and to** meet our National and Metropolis obligations. We hope you will consider supporting our efforts.

Included below is a list of items we will strive to acquire for our On-Premise Gift Auction. Additionally, ***all monetary donations and gifts from businesses you regularly frequent are welcomed and appreciated.*** Your donations will support our society's philanthropic mission and help many organizations and individuals who are in need.

- Tickets to events: Concerts, theater, sports, winery, etc.
- Travel: Timeshare trips, overnight hotel reservations, flight vouchers, etc.
- Designer fashions: handbags, accessories, etc.
- Fine jewelry
- Electronics: Apple products, Bluetooth speaker system, etc.
- Services: Gift cards for beauty, landscaping, etc.
- Outdoor and household products

Attached to this email is a solicitation letter for businesses you frequent. We encourage you to share this letter with anyone who may be interested in donating to our auction. **All gifts should be brought to the St. George Church Philoptochos Room, with the name of the person donating the gift included (there is a log in the room so you can write your name and donation).** Should it be necessary for your donation to be picked up, please contact me directly so that pickup can be arranged: stephaniekuhrt@aol.com or (732)822-5260.

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With gratitude and appreciation for your continued support,

Stephanie Condouris-Kuhrt, On-Premise Auction Chair

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ST. GEORGE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
OF OCEAN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

SAVE THE DATE!

Luncheon at Tiffany's

ANNUAL LUNCHEON
& GIFT AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

*Grand Marquis
Old Bridge, New Jersey*



FATHER OF THE YEAR 2025
NICK BILLOWS



Brother Nick Billows, assistant treasurer of our AHEPA chapter 287 was selected as the Father of the year for 2025. Well deserved for his dedication to church and family. Standing is Father Andrew with Nick Billows and his family.

MOTHER OF THE YEAR 2025 ELAYNA ARBES PAPPAS

It is a joy and a true privilege to honor a woman who represents the very heart of our church and our Philoptochos Society—our beloved Elayna Pappas, this year's Mother of the Year.

Many of us know Elayna as a quiet, steady presence—always there, always dependable, always serving. But let me take a moment to share just how deeply her roots run in this community.

Elayna was born at Fitken Hospital right here in New Jersey. She is the youngest child of John and Athanasia Arbes and has two older brothers Peter and Spiros. She was baptized in this church and later married here, surrounded by the same faith and community that shaped her upbringing. From the beginning, she was taught that the church wasn't just a place to visit on Sundays—it was the very center of life and family. That value was passed down to her from her parents, who were early and devoted supporters of this parish. Their legacy lives on in her every act of service.

She met her husband, Spiro in 1961, and in 1983, they were married—marking the beginning of a life together built on love, faith, and deep commitment to family and community. Together, they raised two wonderful children, Dean and Alexandra, and just last year her daughter married her wonderful husband Keith right here at our church—a proud and joyful moment for all of us who know and love her.

But what makes Elayna such an integral part of our lives is not just her history, but the way she shows up—day after day, year after year.

She is the face of our Philoptochos Society—not because she seeks recognition, but because she has become the one we turn to. Whether it's planning an event, preparing meals for a fundraiser, supporting a family in need, or simply offering a warm smile and a thoughtful word, Elayna leads with grace, strength, and a heart full of love.

She is kind, generous and always willing to work. She has done it all. She thinks of others before herself and is tireless. She really doesn't stop. She is working the ovens when we are baking from 8am until the last koulouri, paximadi or whatever pastry we are baking is finished. Then she whips out the swifter and begins cleaning.

She is the person we all look to when we're not sure how something is going to get done—because if Elayna is involved, you know it will not only get done, it will be done beautifully and with care.

Her loyalty, compassion, and faith shine through everything she does. She is truly a servant in the most Christ-like sense: not loud, not showy, but deeply, sincerely committed to loving others through action. She has taught us all, by example, what it means to be a Christian woman in service of her church, her family, and her community.

Elayna, on behalf of your sisters in Philoptochos, and everyone who has been lucky enough to serve alongside you: thank you. You inspire us, you lift us, and you remind us what it means to live a life of purpose and grace.

We are so proud to honor you today as Mother of the Year—a title that reflects not just the love you give your family, but the love you've given this entire church family.

Congratulations, our dear friend Elayna, this is your day to shine. You make everyone else shine and are always in the background. We are honored to call you our friend and sister.

You are cherished more than you know.





Daughters of Penelope Membership Application

1909 Q Street, NW, Suite 500 | Tel: 202.234.9741 | Fax: 202.483.6983 | Email: dophq@ahepa.org



I hereby wish to: ☐ Join as a **NEW MEMBER** (proceed to 1, 4, 5) ☐ **Reinstate** (proceed to 1, 2, 4, 5) ☐ **Transfer** (proceed to 1, 3, 4, 5)

Chapter #: _____ **District #:** _____ **Located in (city):** _____ **State/Province:** _____

Revised January 2023

1. Please fill out completely:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Prov.: _____ Zip / Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
 Res. Tel: (____) _____ Bus. Tel: (____) _____ Mobile: (____) _____
 Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Religious Affiliate: _____
 I am a citizen of (check one): ☐ USA ☐ Canada ☐ Europe ☐ Australia

2. For those members **REINSTATING** only:

National ID Number: _____ Date Initiated: _____ Previous Chapter/District #: _____
 I hereby apply for **REINSTATEMENT** of my membership into Chapter # _____, District # _____
 I hereby certify that I have paid my last dues up to (date): _____ to Chapter #: _____, District #:

3. For those members **TRANSFERRING** only:

National ID Number: _____ Date Initiated: _____
 I hereby apply for **TRANSFER** my membership **FROM** Chapter # _____, District # _____ **TO** Chapter # _____, District # _____
 I hereby certify that I have paid my last dues up to (date): _____ to Chapter #: _____, District #:

4. Membership Dues: (does not include the chapter's portion)

New Member: \$40 Annual Per Capita + \$15 Initiation Fee = **\$55 Total in USD**

Reinstating Member: \$40 Annual Per Capita + \$15 Reinstatement Fee = **\$55 Total in USD**

Transferring Member: Transfer fee of \$5 is retained by the Chapter

5. Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member in our organization!

Member Endorsement:

Being mindful of our duties and obligations to the Daughters of Penelope, and as members in Good Standing, we hereby endorse this Applicant and recommend that she be admitted into the Daughters of Penelope; and vouch for her good character, sincerity of purpose, and worthiness of the privilege to be a member.

1st Endorser Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

2nd Endorser Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Certification to be filled in by the Chapter:

I hereby certify that the Applicant, _____, was duly initiated / reinstated / transferred into Chapter # _____, District # _____, located in (city) _____, (State/Prov.) _____, on (month/day/year) _____.

Signature of Chapter Secretary and/or President: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Date: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____

PLEASE REMIT ORIGINAL FORM TO HQ AND KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR CHAPTER FILES



Daughters of Penelope



The Sisters of Aulis 195 have been busy since we kicked off the New Year. We hosted our annual Vasilopita bread cutting baked by Grand Vice President Antoinette. We had the pleasure of attending the D5 Salute to Women Event. In March we hosted a "Trivia Night" and one of our Sisters even attended the Northern Lights Zone Conference in Toronto. We continued our annual Fasolatha Soup giveaway and fed 300 parishioners! Several Sisters attended Greek flag raising events held locally and in New Jersey. Sisters marched in both the New York and Philadelphia parades for Greek Independence day. Several members also attended a screening for the movie

"Here's Yianni" at the Garden State Film Festival. We baked sweet treats and served up Frappes at our annual Church Festival. This half of the year, aside from National obligations, donations were made to Into The Light, the IOCC, our wonderful St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Huntington's Disease, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in New Jersey. We also helped to sponsor our GOYAns attending the National AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament. We finished strong by holding our End of the Year Dinner where we installed our new officers, we attended the D5 Spring Luncheon and the District Convention where we celebrated the success of all our Sisters in the Order. Overall we initiated 7 new members and had 1 reinstatement this past year.

We've been planning for our 2025-2026 DOP year, and we would love for you to join us. Fill out an application and send it to: daughtersofpenelope195@gmail.com. We ask you to do what you can, when you can, with no pressure. Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 8th. We ask members to arrive by 6:45pm. We will have light snacks and wine to celebrate the new DOP year! New this year, bring a check to our September meeting to pay your 2026 dues (early) to be entered into a drawing for FREE dues for 2027. A 2nd drawing will be drawn for a Daughters of Penelope Tumbler.



Save the date for some upcoming Daughters of Penelope events:

Chapter Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025

Past District Governor Testimonial Dinner for Eleni Boyadjis:
Sunday, September 28, 2025, 1pm-4pm

District Workshop: Saturday, October 4, 2025, 9am-3pm

Fundraiser Event (for Altes #163): Thursday, October 9, 2025

Fundraiser Event (for Randolph #250): Saturday, October 11, 2025, 11am-3pm

Chapter Meeting: Monday, October 13, 2025

Breast Cancer Coffee Hour: Sunday, October 19, 2025

Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Foundation Gala: Saturday, November 8, 2025

Chapter Meeting, District Lodge Visitation: November 10, 2025

Set Up for JINGO: Friday, December 5, 2025

JINGO (Chapter Fundraiser): Saturday, December 6, 2025

***Chapter Christmas Dinner:** Monday, December 8, 2025

Chapter Meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026

Chapter Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026

District Event (Festival of Tables) Saturday, March 7, 2026

Chapter Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2026

Zone 1 Conference (We are hosting): Saturday, March 21, 2026

***Chapter Meeting:** Monday, April 20, 2026 (due to Easter)

***Chapter Meeting:** Monday, May 18, 2026 (due to Clergy Laity Awards)

***Chapter End of the Year Dinner:** Monday, June 8, 2026

**Subject to change*

Thank you to the St. George Community. We appreciate and value you for your continued support of our chapter. Follow us on Facebook (Daughters of Penelope Aulis195) and Instagram (@dop195). To learn more about the Daughters of Penelope, see our calendar, or to join, please go to: www.dop195.org.



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*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched
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---Helen Keller

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40 Day Blessing:

Baptism:

Wedding:

Welcome:

Faithful Hands:

Knit & Crochet

Coffee Hour Ministry:

Coffee Hour Helpers

**Environmental Stewardship
& Protection Ministry**

St. George Newlyweds:

Newcomers & Visitors:

Light of Life

Chrismation Ministry

Colleen Pardenek

Krissy Conery Chelli

Vicki Kamaratos

Barbara Van Wagner

Victoria Murphy

Sherine Grossenbacher

Angela Koumoutsos

Bea Paparsenos

Vicki Kamaratos

Angela Koumoutsos

Stella Fotopoulos

Christina Barrows

Angela Koumoutsos

Antonia Lyons

Claire Chrysanthopoulos

Join a group or start another. Share what you love to do with others!

Visit us at www.stgeorgeap.org/agape



Faithful Hands



Join us! Faithful Hands meets every Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the church library. We are currently crocheting and knitting lap blankets for the residents of St. Michael's Home for the Aged in Yonkers, NY. We hope to complete over 50 blankets which we will deliver to the residents in the Spring.

We welcome all newcomers. No need to know how to crochet or knit. We will teach you! Wool and patterns are also provided. Contact: Bea Paparsenos at beapap@live or 732-585-3402.





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 AHEPA Chapter 287

- Our Great Chapter continues to grow with more and more people interested in joining us. It should be noted that the next initiation has been scheduled for November 10. In the interim, everyone is welcome to join us as non-initiated members. Currently, we are the third largest Chapter in District 5. Our goal through 2026 is to increase our Membership by at least 20% over our current base of 110 Brothers. The same increase of 20% applies to Revenue. In the last couple of years, our Revenue has increased from the low \$20k to the mid-\$30k level (\$36k to be exact).
- I am proud to announce that through the efforts of our current Treasurer Paul Kalamaras a Fidelity Scholarship Fund has been established with a balance of \$10,880 as of this writing. This is only the beginning. Details will follow.
- As of September 1, 2025, the Board of Trustees (BOT for short) will consist of the following. FYI, the top 4 positions were nominated and elected by the membership according to the National AHEPA rules. The Assistants (3) and the Advisor (1) were appointed by the President.

President- Dimitris Geaneas

Vice President- George Sakelaris

Assistant Vice President- Arthur Pappaylion

Secretary- Nikos Vloyanetes

Assistant Secretary- George Haloukas

Treasurer- Aris Pavlides

Assistant Treasurer- Paul Kalamaras

Top Advisor- Nick Billows

What a Great Group! Nothing can stop us from accomplishing great things for the love of the Order of AHEPA, as long as we are united towards a common cause and our Mission.

- Our Annual Golf Tournament on June 9 at the Hominy Hill in Colts Neck was a success with 63 Golfers participating. A special Thank You to Brother George Perentesis and his Committee for their tireless efforts.
- I am also delighted to announce that our Brother George Perentesis has been



Brother George Perentesis, newly appointed Lieutenant Governor along with other members of the AHEPA District Lodge of New Jersey.

elevated to the position of Lieutenant Governor of District 5. AXIOS!

- Congratulations to the following Chapter 287 Scholarship recipients:

Elias Lambrinos

Marika Kostidakis

Adrienne Billows

Ian Lalis

- Congratulations to the following recipients of District 5 Scholarships, a record for our Chapter:

Adrienne Billows

Vas Fay

Elias Lambrinos

- Xronia Polla and Congratulations to Brother Arthur Pappaylion who will be completing 61 years on November 10 as an AHEPAN. AXIOS!

- The District 5 Convention this year took place in Fort Lee on June 20-21, and was attended by the BOT.

- The AHEPA Supreme Convention this year will be in Orlando on July 21-26.

- Congratulations to our HHT (Hellenic History Tournament) Team for advancing to the National Finals on July 25 in Orlando. The team consists of:

George Marousis-Bush

Tony Gemelos

Charlie Marousis-Bush

Honorary mention for their efforts go to:

Cassandra Kelesidis

Niko Sakelaris

Mihalis Magriplis

- The Testimonial Dinner for our Supreme President Savas Tsivicos has been set for Saturday December 20th at the Greycliff Manor in Moonachie, NJ. Details will follow.

- New Year's Eve Party- December 31st- Chaired by Brothers George Moutis and George Sakelaris.

- Lastly, I will be remiss not to thank our great Board of Trustees 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.

God bless AHEPA and their Families!

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



AHEPA NEWS CORNER

Thomas A. Edison Chapter, 287 – Ocean, NJ



Our Chapter 287 attended the District 5 Convention. While there three of our Ahepa students received the high District 5 Scholarships Awards during the luncheon. George Perentesis was honored in being the next lieutenant governor. Pictured is Arthur Pappaylion congratulating Brother George Perentesis on his new position



Brother Aris Papageorge was chosen by his chapter 287, as the AHEPAN of the year for 2025. Pictured also is the National Supreme President, Brother Savas Tsivicos who came to visit his AHEPAN chapter 287



Members of our AHEPA chapter met at Charley's Bar & Grill to celebrate the end of the year dinner. Members and their wives attended. Good food and camaraderie with our members was just right. President Dimitri spoke and Brother Arthur presented an award for his time and dedication to our chapter.



The National Supreme President of Ahepa Savas Tsivicos along with Congressman Frank Pallone paid a visit to our Festival. In the middle is the Vice President Arthur Pappaylion of our local chapter 287 in attendance.



On Sunday, June 22, our AHEPA Chapter 287 distributed scholarships to our high school graduates in church.





AHEPA NEWS CORNER

Thomas A. Edison Chapter, 287 – Ocean, NJ



AHEPA Golf Tournament

Our Annual AHEPA Golf Tournament sponsored by our Thomas Edison Chapter 287 took place on June 9th. It was a great success under Brother George Perentesis chairmanship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are excited to announce the first annual **Sunday School Kick-Off Picnic on Sunday, September 7th, immediately following Divine Liturgy!** We invite all families, friends, and parishioners to join us for an afternoon of fellowship, fun, food, and faith as we mark the beginning of another year of spiritual growth and learning for our children.

Don't forget to bring your backpacks for Father Andrew's annual Blessing of the Backpacks!

The Kick-Off Picnic is an opportunity to welcome new students, reconnect with familiar faces, and meet our outstanding Sunday School teachers and volunteers, who continue to dedicate their time and talents to this important ministry year after year! Thank you to all our wonderful teachers as they play a vital role in guiding our youth and teaching them to grow in our Orthodox Christian faith.

We are also proud to take this opportunity to **congratulate our high school graduates from the Class of 2025.** As a ministry, we are immensely proud of their accomplishments and pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen them in their future endeavors—whether in college, the workforce, or other paths. Graduates, we encourage you to remain connected to your Church as you take this next step. Axios!



Mark your calendars for the Sunday School Kick-Off Picnic on Sunday, September 7th. Bring a side dish to share and be on the lookout for a sign-up genius link that will be emailed as we get closer to the date. Spread the word, invite your loved ones, and prepare for a wonderful Sunday School year rooted in Christ's Love!

Registration for Sunday School will also be available during the picnic, so we encourage all families to attend and sign-up for the new year. You can also use the QR code below.

As we look forward to the new Sunday School year, we invite all families to commit themselves to bringing their children regularly to church and to Sunday School. Let us work together to ensure our children are nurtured in the Orthodox faith.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 7th, and come ready to celebrate, reconnect, and be renewed in spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Hope you all enjoy a healthy and safe summer and hope to see you at the picnic!

In Christ's Service,

The St. George Sunday School Team,

Cathie Georges, Director – 732-642-1791

Upcoming Sunday School Events



9/7 - Kick-Off Picnic - Blessing of Backpacks! Bring a dish to share!

9/14 - First day of Sunday School!

9/28 - Holy Cross - No Sunday School



**St. George Sunday School
QR Codes
2025-2026**

Website



Calendar



Registration



Questions Contact Cathie Georges: 732-642-1791

GOYA

Our 2024-2025 GOYA year has now come to an end, and what a year we had. We've had so many events that we have practiced for and participated in, our main events being Sights and Sounds and the GOYA Olympics. Other spring activities have included our annual spring Cemetery Cleanup, Spring retreat, and Spring Car Wash. Along with GOYA Prom, Hellenic History Tournament, Indoor Olympics, and the Soccer Tournament.

Sights and Sounds includes churches from the Delaware-Valley Metropolis who perform dances, songs, acts, and more that they have been practicing for months. We also submit pieces of art and literature. We won first place for our group song and also for our play; we placed 3rd for our American group dance. We had many wins in the individual and group art and music categories as well. Overall, our GOYANs left Sights and Sounds with a sense of pride for all of our accomplishments that we worked so hard to achieve.

Our GOYA retreats help us to bond and become closer together as brothers and sisters while also learning more about our faith and strengthening our relationship with God. Highlights included folding palm leaves into crosses for the Palm Sunday service. We learned about Into the Light, which is Artemis and Sophia Mazzini's foundation, and they spoke to us about ending the stigma about talking about mental health challenges.

GOYA Prom was such a fun way to celebrate our older GOYANs and to spend time together while dancing. The Piscataway GOYA hosted this event at the Kefi Ballroom in New Brunswick. It was an amazing way of bringing the GOYANs from sophomore-seniors throughout the Metropolis for a night of dancing and a good time.



Our GOYA proudly sent two teams to the Hellenic History Tournament, hosted by the Cherry Hill AHEPA. One of our teams won 1st place and is going to the finals for the tournament in Disney World on July 25th. Best wishes to them!!

We had a great showing across the Olympics events. At the Indoor Olympics, GOYANs compete in games like chess, table tennis, badminton, and video games such as Mario Kart and Just Dance. We won 1st place in boys table tennis, 2nd place in boys' badminton, and 3rd place in girls table tennis. The next Olympic event was the Soccer Olympics. Both our boys and girls' teams played tremendously, and our girls team won 3rd place leaving them proud of their hard work and accomplishment. Finally, our GOYANs attended the GOYA Olympics at Monmouth University. The GOYA Olympics is a massive statewide event for all the GOYAs in our Metropolis with events that include running, volleyball, swimming, and field events like shot-put or long jump. This year we were very proud of our GOYANs for winning 19 individual and group track and swimming events. After the Olympics we went back to the church for an afterparty where the GOYANs spent time together and remarking on our accomplishments from that weekend.

Although we'll miss our graduates, I am looking forward to our next year of GOYA to start soon and to spend time with my fellow GOYANs. I hope everyone has a great summer and I am so excited to start my term in the fall and for our future events. Hope to see everyone at the Fall Kickoff on August 31st.

Your next GOYA President,
Irene Venetis





An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom

August 5 - Amos Chapters 4-5

August 12 - Amos Chapters 6-7

August 19 - Amos Chapters 8-9

August 26 - Micah Chapters 1-3

September 2 - Micah Chapters 4-6

September 9, 16, 23 - NO BIBLE STUDY

September 30 - Joel Chapters 1-3

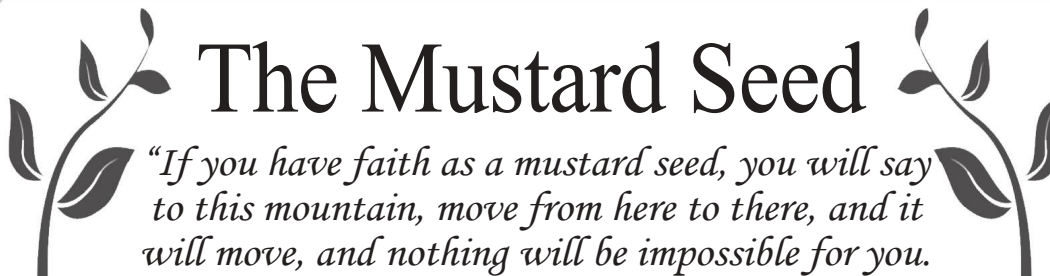
October 7 - Joel Chapters 4-5 and Obadiah

October 14 - Nahum Chapters 1-3

October 21 - Habakkuk Chapters 1-3

October 28 - Zephaniah Chapters 1-3

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

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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. 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 - Right of Choir Loft	\$10,000
St. Irene - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000
St. Cassiani - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000
*S.S. Rafael, Nicholas, Irene - Partial Sponsorship	
Back Wall Right - Left of Choir Loft	\$9,000
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
St. Gerasimos - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
St. Elpidosphoros - 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 -Partial Sponsorship	\$4,500
St. Haralambos - Right -	\$5,000
St. Marina - 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. 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

Christ Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) -

Rear Arch Right

Pentecost - Front Arch Left Solea

Life of St. George Torture - Back Wall



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SEPTEMBER**SEPTEMBER 14**

“Is This Trip Really
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“What is the Orthodox
Church?”

SEPTEMBER 21

“When Did Orthodoxy
Begin?”
“Characteristics of
Orthodox Christianity”

OCTOBER**OCTOBER 5**

“Mindset Matters”
“A Healing Purpose”

OCTOBER 12

“Truth and Tradition”
“How Do I Understand the Bible”

OCTOBER 19

“When We Say God Part 1”
“When We Say God Part 2”

OCTOBER 26

“God With Us”
“Our Ultimate Purpose”

NOVEMBER**NOVEMBER 2**

“Salvation as Participation”
“Orthodox Worship”

NOVEMBER 9

“A Beautiful Rhythm”
“The Journey Continues”

What is A Journey to Fullness?

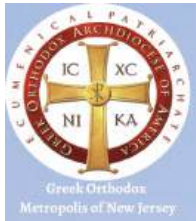
A Journey to Fullness is an Orthodox Christian video series that will help Christians learn more about the depth and beauty of the Orthodox Christian faith. The Journey to Fullness video series was created by Father Barnabas Powell, a convert to the Orthodox Faith. The series consists of 16 videos that provide an introduction to the fullness of our Ancient Christian Faith.



Fr. Barnabas Powell

A JOURNEY TO FULLNESS

Introduction to
Orthodox Christianity
Video Series



Metropolis of New Jersey Annual Holy Cross Celebration Celebrated by His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey Sunday, September 28, 2025



SAVE THE DATE

Advent Retreat & Luncheon

Father Haralambos Fox
Saturday, November 15

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*The Scholarship Committee
for St George meeting
to review procedures for
evaluating students qualified
for scholarships for college.*



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