

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Ocean Township, New Jersey

the

Beacon

of Orthodoxy and Hellenism

March / April 2026

The Newsletter of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Volume 23 Issue 12

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY TOWARDS GOD AND HIS LOVE

Great and Holy Lent can be a new beginning for each of us. I am often asked what type of fast is prescribed for Lent, or what can I eat or not eat during Lent? I first would like to say that Lent with just fasting is just a forty-day diet. Fasting is only the beginning as it is just a discipline which helps us to control our lives during Lent. The greatest accomplishment we can achieve during Lent is to grow closer to our Lord and Savior and learn to love Him as he loves us. The best example of this love is the way a child loves his parents, unconditionally.

A child once said, "I really love Jesus more than anything in the whole world." In many ways children are more capable of loving God than adults, as they are more trusting and more receptive to God's love. As adults, the secularism of our society along with our own failings, have robbed us of the precious qualities of childhood, making us more self-centered and self-reliant. Unless we train and succeed in battling these forces, we will find the childlike love of God is no longer in our hearts.

Lent affords us the opportunity to rekindle the love we had for God when we were children. What is love? True love is a gift from God; it is the fruit of the Spirit. Without it, our spiritual progress is sluggish and stalled. As adults, we once again must reacquire this love and cultivate it in our hearts. Yet, how can we do this when we

live in a secular society and all of its pressures? We have many examples of individuals who have done just this. The Saints time and time again prove to us how ordinary men, women and children in secular their settings and through their efforts to love God overcame the same self-centeredness and self-reliance which surrounds us today including the many plagues and pandemics that have afflicted the world throughout time.

We must pray and move towards God that He guide us to love Him, for God Himself is love, and He bestows love as a gift of Himself. We cannot manufacture love ourselves; we can only attract it through our efforts, i.e. prayer, fasting, and by participating in the sacramental life of the church and by reading scripture and other spiritual material. If we love God above all, this and this alone will provide the energy and motivation necessary to progress on the path to salvation and follow the road which the Saints of our Church have laid for us.

Please make every effort this Great and Holy Lent to overcome the pressures of society and become childlike once again, as did the saints, and once again open our hearts in a simple and true way to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Take full advantage of Great Lent to get back on track heading toward Our Lord. Through prayer and fasting and the other avenues that the Church offers, become childlike once

again and we will overcome all that distracts us from Christ.

God Bless you and continually strength you as you grow in His love,

+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

fatherandrew@stgeorgeap.org

DEACON

Emanuel Tsarnas

dnemanuel@aol.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Karen Catizone

kcatizone@stgeorgeap.org

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Janice Mannino

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

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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

Youth Advisors

Youth Advisors

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Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas

Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas

Aris Pavlides

Cathie Georges

Barbara Terlecsky

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 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

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...

To the Parish of St. George Greek Orthodox Church,

With gratitude to Almighty God and in obedience to His Holy Church, I respectfully announce the appointment of the new Parish Council Board of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. This appointment has been undertaken with the blessing of His Eminence and in accordance with the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The Parish Council and I accept this responsibility with humility, prayerful discernment, and a deep sense of accountability to Christ, His Church, and the parishioners we serve.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the outgoing Parish Council and administration for their faithful service and dedicated stewardship. I also wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. Spiro Pappas and Mr. George Costidis for their leadership, commitment, and many contributions to the life of our parish. Through their labor, dedication, and love for the Church, they have strengthened the spiritual life, pastoral mission, and everyday needs of St. George, leaving a lasting and positive legacy upon which we are blessed to build upon.

As we assume our duties, we do so in a spirit of continuity and cooperation, mindful of the Apostle's exhortation: "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). The newly appointed Parish Council is committed to working in harmony with our clergy, parish ministries, and faithful stewards, and in respectful cooperation with the Metropolis and Archdiocese, to preserve our sacred traditions, promote unity, and further the mission of the Church.

At this time, I humbly ask the parishioners of St George to join me in fervent prayer for our beloved priest, Father Andrew, as he continues his recovery from illness. We entrust him to the mercy and healing grace of our Lord, praying for strength, peace, and the full restoration of his health. We give thanks for Fr. Andrew's steadfast pastoral care and spiritual leadership.

Looking ahead with faith and trust in God's providence, I remain confident that through prayer, cooperation, and faithfulness, our parish will continue to grow spiritually and communally, "being built up as a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5).

I thank you for your prayers, your trust, and your continued devotion to our holy parish.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

With reverence and obedience in Christ,

Dr. George Perentesis, President

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

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)

Schedule of services may change.

Please look for communication from the office.

March 2026

1	Sunday		Sunday of Orthodoxy
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6	Friday	7:00 PM	2nd Salutation Service
8	Sunday		Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas
11	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
13	Friday	7:00 PM	3rd Salutation Service
15	Sunday		Sunday of the Holy Cross
18	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
20	Friday	7:00 PM	4th Salutation Service
22	Sunday		Sunday of St. John Climacus
25	Wednesday		Annunciation of the Theotokos
27	Friday	7:00 PM	Akathist Hymn
29	Sunday		Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

April 2026

1	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
4	Saturday		Saturday of Lazarus
5	Sunday		Palm Sunday
		7:00 PM	Bridegroom Service
6	Monday	7:00 PM	Bridegroom Service
7	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Bridegroom Service
8	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
		4:00 PM	Holy Unction Service
		7:00 PM	Bridegroom Service (Last Supper) (Unction Administered)
9	Thursday	7:00 AM	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (Unction Administered)
		7:00 PM	Passion Gospels (Unction Administered)
10	Friday	9:00 AM	Royal Hours (Unction Administered)
		4:00 PM	Apokathelosis (Unction Administered)
		7:00 PM	Epitaphios Thrinos (Unction Administered)
11	Saturday	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (Unction Administered)
		11:00 PM	Canon of the Resurrection
12	Sunday	12:00 AM	Great and Holy Pascha
		11:00 AM	AMAGAPE Service
19	Sunday		Sunday of Thomas
22	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Great Vespers for St. George the Great Martyr & Triumphant; Patron Saint of Our Church
23	Thursday		St. George
26	Sunday		Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Baptisms:

January 3, 2026	Iliana Angela Kamaratos
January 4, 2026	Markos George Cano Parlamas
February 15, 2026	Aris Orion Despo

Weddings

February 21, 2026	Marianna Santos & Dylan Perone
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Deaths:

November 14, 2025	Angelo K. Houlis
November 25, 2025	Carol S. Doumas
December 19, 2025	Joseph Michael Lyons



Start eGiving Today!

**St. George Greek
Orthodox Church**

Your Giving Options:

Text "Give" to 732-641-4217

or

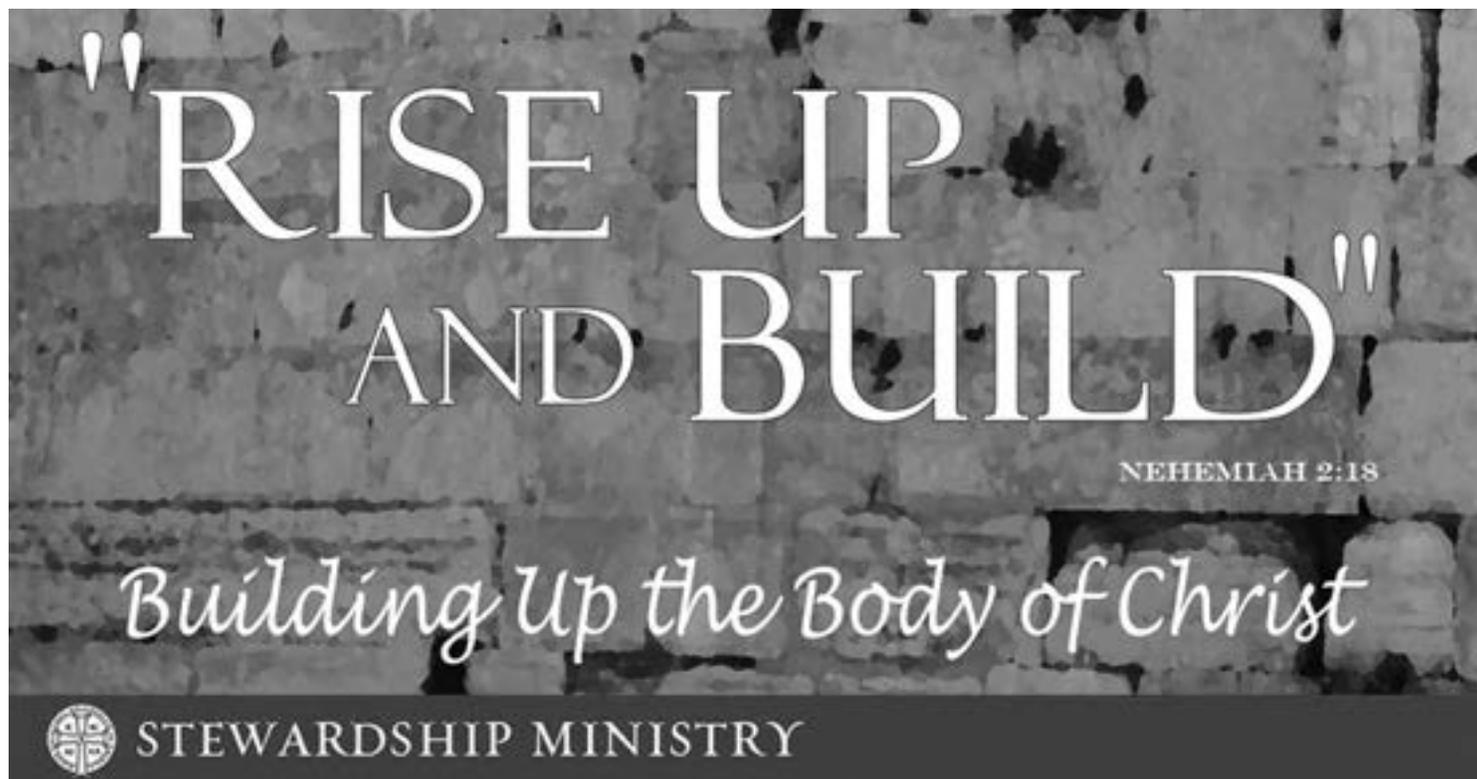
Scan the QR Code



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STEWARDSHIP 2026



Dear St. George Community,

As we journey through the sacred season of Great Lent and prepare our hearts for the joy of Holy Pascha, we are reminded that stewardship is not simply about what we give, but about who we are becoming in Christ. Lent calls us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—each an offering of love and gratitude to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us.

At St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Ocean Township, your faithful stewardship sustains our worship, ministries, outreach, and the spiritual home we cherish together. Through your generosity, we continue to grow as a community rooted in faith, love, and service.

As Pascha approaches, we invite every parishioner and family to prayerfully consider making or renewing your annual stewardship pledge. Your commitment, whether fulfilled weekly, monthly, or annually, helps ensure that our church can continue its mission, meet its

responsibilities, and plan faithfully for the future.

“For God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your continued commitment, prayers, and generosity. Thank you for an amazing 2025 stewardship year! May this Lenten and Paschal season renew your spirit and strengthen our parish family as we prepare to joyfully proclaim together:

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

In Christ’s Love,

+Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Deacon Emanuel Tsarnas

Stewardship Committee

Tom Georges

Paul Koutouzakos

Aris Pavlides

Petro Vlitas

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS, DONATIONS & PAYMENT

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, St. George Greek Orthodox Church is partnering with *ParishSOFT Giving* — the leading electronic giving (eGiving) program for churches all across the country. Through *ParishSOFT Giving* you can make all of your contributions to St. George Greek Orthodox Church automatically from your checking account or credit card, just as you may do now with your mortgage, household bills, and other monthly payments.

ParishSOFT Giving is a convenient option, since you will never have to worry about writing checks or finding envelopes on Sunday morning. eGiving makes Sundays simpler so there's more time to focus on Liturgy, prayers, and God's message that day.

Scheduling recurring gifts provides our parish with consistent support that lets us better plan and budget for programs that allow us to build God's kingdom throughout our community. And eGiving is also cost-effective. Every parishioner using *ParishSOFT* means one less package of envelopes to print and mail out. Not only is that less waste but also a savings for our parish.

I sincerely hope you will set aside 5-10 minutes today to check out our online giving page and sign up for your own online giving account. There are 3 easy methods to access the website.

- Simply visit giving.parishsoft.com/giving/stgeorgeap or
- Text “Give” to 732-641-4217, or
- Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to go directly to our parish's online giving page. From there, you can give a one-time or recurring offering, and set up your account from the “Sign in” tab.

Registering is easy.

Once you are on the *ParishSOFT Giving* site by one of the above methods, go to “**Sign In**”.

Then at the bottom of that page under *Don't have a Giving Account*, Click “**Create One**”

Fill in the requested registration information. Then Click “**Register**”

You will then be prompted to set up your password and receive your 6-digit security code by email or phone text. Once you enter the security code you will be connected to our donation page.

God has blessed us with this technology that makes giving easier for you, and that allows your gift to have an even greater impact for St. George Greek Orthodox Church. I am grateful for your generous support and hope you will join me in enrolling with *ParishSOFT*.





Ladies Philoptochos Society

St. George Philoptochos Begins the New Year with Fellowship and Purpose

The St. George Philoptochos Society joyfully began the new year with meaningful gatherings that brought our community together in faith, fellowship, and philanthropy.

On January 4, Philoptochos hosted our annual Vasilopita Sunday, a cherished tradition that was enjoyed by parishioners of all ages. Following the Divine Liturgy, a lovely luncheon was offered to the community and warmly received by all who attended. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who prepared food, volunteered their time, and generously contributed to the Vasilopita fund. The proceeds from this event went to support our beloved St. Basil Academy as well as youth activities throughout the Metropolis—causes that are close to our hearts and vital to the future of our Church.

On January 22, we held our first general membership meeting of the year, kicking off 2026 with enthusiasm and camaraderie. Members gathered for an evening of martinis and small bites, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. The meeting was well attended, and the excitement for the year ahead was truly uplifting.

We warmly invite all women of the parish to consider joining Philoptochos this year. Together, we do important philanthropic work that makes a meaningful impact not only within our own St. George community, but also beyond it. Along the way, we are blessed with wonderful fellowship, shared purpose, and the gift of lasting friendships.

Continuing our mission of service, on **January 24** a team of mighty women from St. George Philoptochos traveled to **Trinity Church in Asbury Park** to assist with feeding the homeless. The group helped prepare and serve meals to over **100 individuals**, while Trinity Church also provided shelter for those in need over a two-day period. Those being served were kind, gracious, and deeply appreciative of the support they received. This outreach was a humbling

and fulfilling experience for all involved and a powerful reminder of Christ's call to serve others. Thank you Georgia Christodoulou, Anja Chatzopoulos and Allison Woods for answering this call.

We look forward to a year filled with service, compassion, and unity.

◆ Save the Date ◆

Lights. Camera. Glamour.

Join the **St. George Philoptochos Society** for our **2026 Luncheon**, inspired by old Hollywood elegance.

Theme: *Marilyn Monroe – Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend*

November 7, 2026

Spring Lake Manor

A dazzling afternoon for a meaningful cause. More details coming soon!







Saint George Philoptochos 2026 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@philoptochosocceannj.org

Philoptochos Palm Sunday Bake Sale 2026



*Pickup Saturday, April 4
12 noon - 1 pm
Order deadline:
Monday, March 23
Limited Quantities*



<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># Ordered</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Baked Goods</u>			
Baklava	\$12.00	_____	_____
Koulourakia	\$12.00	_____	_____
Paximadia	\$12.00	_____	_____
Kourambiedes w/Almonds	\$12.00	_____	_____
Kourambiedes w/o nuts	\$12.00	_____	_____
***Amigdalota (gluten free) items	\$14.00	_____	_____
<u>Frozen Items</u>			
Loukaniko	\$10.00	_____	_____
Spanakopita Tray	\$24.00	_____	_____
Pastichio Tray	\$32.00	_____	_____
Galaktobouriko Tray	\$23.00	_____	_____
Moussaka Tray	\$40.00	_____	_____
Keftedakia (Greek Meatballs)	\$15.00	_____	_____
Appetizers	\$20.00	_____	_____
(12 x Tyropita & 12 x Spanakopita)			
Tsoureki Loaf - small	\$15.00	_____	_____
Tsoureki Loaf - large	\$20.00	_____	_____
<u>New Frozen Items</u> (Pan edge to edge 6 1/2 inches x 9 inches)			
Tiropita	\$10.00	_____	_____
Spanakopita	\$10.00	_____	_____
3 piece Tiropita	\$10.00	_____	_____
3 piece Spanakopita	\$10.00	_____	_____
Vasi's Chicken (3 piece)	\$11.00	_____	_____
(Chicken Breastt, Kaseri, tomatoes, sauteed onions, bechame in phyllo)			
Horiatiki Shrimp (3 piece)	\$15.00	_____	_____
(Shrimp, tomatoes, onions, wine, olive oil & goat cheese in phyllo)			
Galaktobouriko (3 piece)	\$15.00	_____	_____

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail form with your check payable to St. George Philoptochos to Andrea Hellinghausen 478 Driscoll Dr.,
Brick, NJ 08724

For additional questions, call Andrea: (732) 998-7758 or email: philoptochos.mail@philoptochosocannj.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Registration



Our annual Nativity Pageant was once again a truly beautiful and inspiring celebration this year. We are grateful to our students and their families for their dedication to Sunday School and for the love and enthusiasm they bring through their participation. A heartfelt thank-you to our devoted Sunday School staff and our amazing Choir, whose time, talent, and commitment make the success of this cherished tradition possible year after year.

Sunday of Orthodoxy is on March 1st this year! Don't forget to bring your favorite icon to church to celebrate the restoration of icons into the church.

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Participation 2026

Every Sunday School Student is encouraged to participate in the Oratorical Festival.

Senior Division - 10,11,12th Grades

Junior Division - 7,8,9th Grades

Participate in the Presentation on March 1st for a chance to win a \$100 Gift Card or \$50 Gift card to runner-up. Select any one of the 2026 Oratorical Prompts and topics can be found at www.goarch.org/oratorical and on the Sunday School bulletin board.

After the Saturday of Lazarus Liturgy on April 4th, the whole community is welcome to join us in making palm crosses for Palm Sunday. This is a great community bonding activity for members of all ages. Cross-making is a wonderful tradition of our Church that is important to pass on to the next generation.

Our annual **Holy Friday Retreat** for K-5th grade will be held on April 10th. More information will be available closer to the day of the event. Sixth graders are welcome to come help!

Never too late to sign up for Sunday School. All children are welcome to join us Sundays after communion! Any questions please contact, Cathie Georges Sunday School Director - 732-642-1791



Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus from the Pageant! Great job!



Superior Drumming!



Wonderful Pageant Wisemen!



Sunday School Students enjoying the Environmental Fair - Thank you to Ms. Stella for being a co-chair of this great event.



Beautiful Pageant Angels!



Nativity Pageant Narrators, Beautifully Sharing the Story of Christ's Birth!



Fun time by all at the Fair!



These past few months, G.O.Y.A. has been packed with so much fun, excitement, and memories. In December, our Volleyball and Basketball seasons came to an end at Playoffs. We started the holiday season caroling to people and families part of our St. George community, putting a smile on everyone's face. We also attended the Christmas Dance hosted by St. Nicholas, Constantine, and Helen in Roseland.

In January, Christian Koutouzakis, a senior, represented our community during the Theophany Celebration and Cross Dive hosted by St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy. Thank you, Christian, for your participation! We also had George Marousis-Bush, also a senior, and his team, Charlie Marousis-Bush and Tony Gamelos, represented us at the Hellenic History Tournament in Cherry Hill. They ended in third place! Way to go!

We recently returned from our annual Woodloch trip. After slowly arriving Friday night, we were able to check into our houses, eat dinner, and hang out. Saturday morning, some G.O.Y.Ans woke up early to get onto the Ski Big Bear mountain, where they are able to go down the slopes together with their friends. Those who didn't go on the mountain got to sleep in a little longer and enjoy the resort. Woodloch has lots to offer, like go-karts, a shooting range, ice skating, indoor basketball, and so many more activities. That evening, we all gathered back together for Mr. Moutis's religious retreat, where we learned about a princess in Saudi Arabia who was arrested for practicing her religion. Afterwards, we were able to watch Woodloch's "Party in the USA" show, where the staff put on a wonderful performance singing iconic American songs and honoring our military and sports teams. On Sunday, we woke up for Ms. Kathy's small service before going to breakfast and packing our cars. As a senior, this was my last Woodloch trip, along with 9 others. I wanted to thank Mrs. Lori Billows for organizing such an amazing trip for our G.O.Y.A. every year. Woodloch has given me

many memories, and I'm grateful for all the hard work and efforts but into giving us this experience.

In the rest of February, we look forward to our G.O.Y.A. Super Bowl Party. Families can come enjoy the game, hang out, and have a great time with us all. We also have the Valentine's Day Dance hosted by Kimisis Tis Theotokou in Holmdel this year. A few of our G.O.Y.Ans will be representing us at MDF this month as well. Good Luck to them!

In March, we have the Oratorical Festival. G.O.Y.Ans are given topics to write about depending on what division they are in, senior or junior. They then have the option to present their article to a set of judges who will decide on a junior and a senior to move on to the next level, where they will compete against other churches in the metropolis. Soon after, we have another cemetery cleanup and then Sights and Sounds in Delaware Valley. We are preparing an English play, a group song, a liturgical song, American dance, Greek dance, Greek Dance duets, and a band as our group sound participation. There will also be some solos, as well as lots of sights.

In April, we will start our preparation for Pascha, and some G.O.Y.Ans will participate in the 30 Hour Famine, raising money for the World Vision organization. G.O.Y.A. prom will also take place this month in Trenton, and we will also be attending the New York City Greek Independence Day Parade to represent our church's youth group.

As we head into more fun, we hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays with their family and friends. If there are any questions about events or G.O.Y.A. business, please feel free to reach out to me, any advisor, or a mentor.

Your G.O.Y.A. President,

Melanie Sum



G.O.Y.A. Volleyball Team at Playoffs



G.O.Y.A. Christmas Dance



G.O.Y.A. Christmas Caroling



G.O.Y.A. Our Woodloch group this year



G.O.Y.A. Christmas Dance



Daughters of Penelope

Daughters of Penelope Aulis Chapter Shares a Season of Service, Sisterhood, and Celebration

Aulis 195 closed out 2025 with a season full of generosity, sisterhood, and celebration. In December, we hosted our most successful fundraiser of the year: Christmas Jingo & Gift Auction. A heartfelt thank you to Committee Chairs Effie Psomias and Denise Parlamas for their leadership, and to committee members Patty Vlahos, Robin Papagiannis, and Andrea Hellenhausen for all their hard work and dedication.

Our chapter also proudly sponsored a family selected through the Community Hope Foundation, with Sister and Grand President Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades taking on the special task of shopping to help make their holiday brighter.

We wrapped up the year with a festive Christmas Party at the Greek Spot, then welcomed 2026 at the AHEPA Thomas Edison 287 New Year's Party. At our January meeting, we were delighted to welcome our newest Sister, Annie Fay, and celebrated with champagne.

Thanks to your continued support, we were also able to contribute funds to help alleviate some church expenses. We now look forward to hosting the Zone I Conference, welcoming sisters from New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and beyond.

As always, thank you for supporting the Daughters of Penelope. Interested in joining? Please speak with a current member or visit daughtersofpenelope.org.





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



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--Aesop

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Krissey Conery Chelli

Baptism:

Vicki Kamaratos

Wedding:

Barbara Van Wagner
Victoria Murphy
Sherine Grossenbacher

Welcome:

Angela Koumoutsos

Faithful Hands:

Bea Paparsenos

Knit & Crochet

Coffee Hour Ministry:

Vicki Kamaratos

Coffee Hour Helpers

Angela Koumoutsos

**Environmental Stewardship
& Protection Ministry**

Stella Fotopoulos

Christina Barrows

St. George Newlyweds:

Angela Koumoutsos

Newcomers & Visitors:

Antonia Lyons

Light of Life

Claire Chrysanthopoulos

Chrismation Ministry

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

Visit us at www.stgeorgeap.org/agape

BLESSED LENT AND THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

Christina Eliopoulos and Stella Fotopoulos chaired today a symposium that featured environmental tools that help the environment and ways we can learn information about it. A big success for our community's involvement in helping this endeavor.





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Greek Orthodox Church
Ocean Township, NJ

Project Sam

A Special Needs Orthodox Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, seeking to reconnect people with special needs to the Orthodox Faith.

If you would like further information or if you have family or friends that can benefit from this support group, please reach out to Errie Teevan at 732-241-0091 or Errie.teevan@gmail.com

Our priority is to embrace this exceptional community of individuals.





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 membership is now 117. In the last two years our Chapter was unfortunate to lose 4 Brothers who deceased. On the bright side, the following 5 Brothers were initiated at our monthly meeting on December 8th:

Peter Billows (son of Brother Nick)
 Efthymios Kiafoulis
 Michael Leontakis
 James Loizos
 Ken Marr Jr.

Congratulations and welcome to our Chapter. AXIOI!

We should all be proud to be the third largest Chapter and growing among the 19 Chapters on District 5. Our goal in 2026 is to increase membership by 5-10 Brothers and attendance at our monthly meetings to 35+ Brothers. For the latter, we will need all the brothers to help by promoting it. In addition, we should focus on **two major Fundraisers** for the calendar year and not dilute our efforts with small ones. Details of our Goals & Objectives for 2026 will be outlined separately outside of this article.

- The Testimonial of Past Supreme President and Brother of our Chapter Savas C. Tsivicos at the Graycliff Manor on December 27 was well attended by 170 to 200 people from multiple Chapters and Government dignitaries. AXIOS! Our Chapter President, as the first greeter of the ceremony, presented the Honoree with a plaque, a banner, a bottle of Macallan, a cigar, and a bouquet of flowers for wife Maria.
- Our New Year’s Eve Party on December 31 at the Cultural Center was a huge success of good fellowship, friendship, fun, laughter and dance. It can be viewed as a family affair which brought together parents and grandparents closer to their children and grandchildren. The event was attended by 80 adults and 50 children.

Based on the great time people had, we hope that they reach out to the community and get more people to attend this year’s Eve. Congratulations to the two Chairmen Brothers George Sakelaris and George Moutis.

- Our Chapter will be helping our Church by donating toward alleviating unexpected costs which were not budgeted for the Music Dance Festival (MDF).
- Brothers Aris Papageorge and Kostas Linardakis will be Chairing our next Fundraiser this year which is Super Bowl 50/50 and NCAA March Madness Raffles. Thank you!
- The Hellenic History Turnament (HHT) this year is on January 24. The Team representing our AHEPA Chapter will consist of George Marousis-Bush, Tony Gemelos and Charlie Marousis-Bush. Wishing them the best of luck and to enjoy the journey regardless of the outcome. The coordinator is Brother Aris Papageorge.
- Through the efforts of Brother Treasurer Aris Pavlides our monthly meeting for January 14 took place at the Blue Swan. It was well attended by 25 Brothers who enjoyed fellowship, camaraderie and good food. We also toasted the new year with Champagne.
- Our Fidelity Scholarship Endowment Fund Chaired by Brother Paul Kalamaras is doing very well and growing.
- Lastly, I would like to thank our great Board of Trustees (BOT) and all the Committee Chairs and Brothers for their leadership and continuing efforts. **As a united AHEPA family and Chapter 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-Cell Phone 908 770 2426



President Dimitri Geaneas and Vice President George Sakelaris discussed the recent New Years Eve fundraiser with the brothers of our chapter.



Our AHEPA Chapter 287, along with our District 5 Officers and members of the AHEPA National Supreme officers attended the testimonial at the Gray Cliff Manor. Our President Dimitri Geaneas presented Savas Tsvikos a plaque from our chapter and banner for this occasion.



An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom

- March 3rd - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 3 - 5**
- March 10th - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 6 - 7**
- March 17th - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 8 - 10**
- March 24th - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 11 - 13**
- March 31st - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 14 - 16**

April 7th - No Bible Study - Holy Week

- April 14th - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 17 - 19**
- April 21st - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 20 - 22**
- April 28th - Wisdom of Sirach, Chapters 23 - 25**

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



The Mustard Seed

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

Matthew 17:20

Orthodox Bibles * Adult/Children's Books * Icons - various sizes *
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Contact Faye Pirovolos Deet

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YOU!



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	
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

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

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

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

 *Faithful Hands* 

Faithful Hands recently brought 36 handmade lap blankets to The Chelsea, an assisted living facility in Shrewsbury and home to our parishioner Sophie Anest. Our group visited with Sophie and her caregiver Manoni Roros and the residents as they chose their blankets. They were so appreciative of our visit and the blankets. The staff was very gracious and thanked us for visiting.

Faithful Hands continues to meet every Tuesday from 3 to 5 in the library. All are welcome. It is not necessary to know how to knit or crochet. We will teach you! Please contact Bea Paparsenos 732.585.3402 or beapap@live.com for more information.



 *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.



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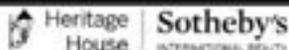
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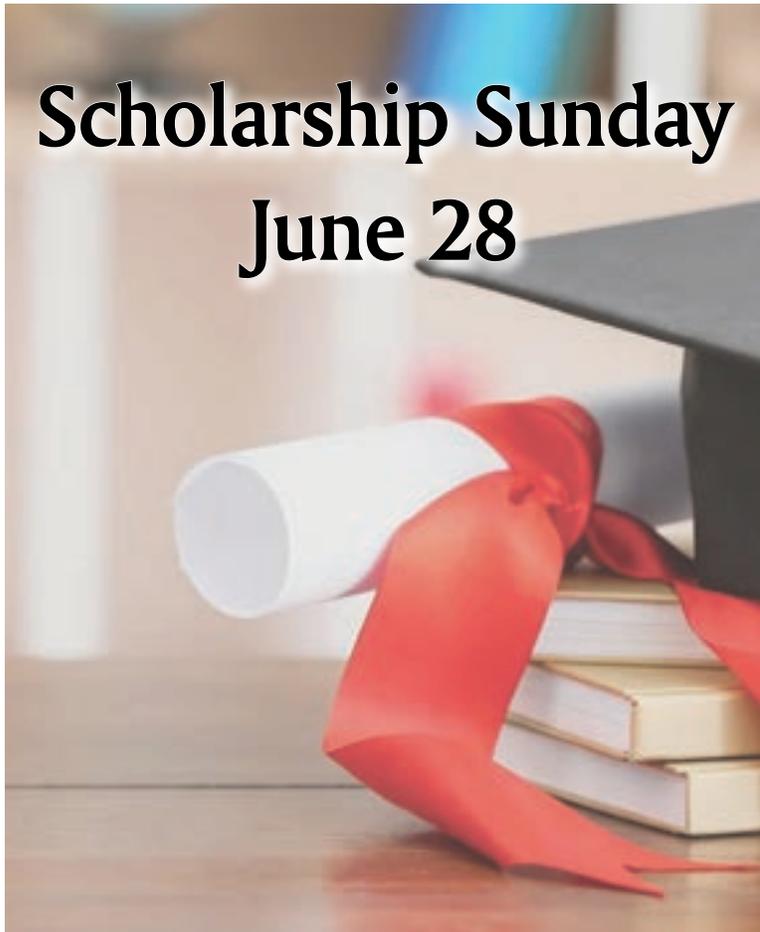
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June 28

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May 29, 30 & 31

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on the grounds of the
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