



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Ocean Township, New Jersey

the

Beacon

of Orthodoxy and Hellenism

Aug. / Sept. / Oct. 2026

The Newsletter of St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Volume 24 Issue 2

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 Gethemane. 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

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1033 West Park Avenue

Ocean Township, NJ 07712

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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**

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Aris Pavlides

Petros Vlitas

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

Historian

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 Growth

Stewardship

Sunday School

Website Administrator

Youth Advisors

Youth Advisors

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Fr. Andrew Eugenis

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
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/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...

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. George,

As we approach the summer months, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, volunteerism, and prayers throughout the year.

Our annual Greek Festival was truly a remarkable success. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our countless volunteers, ministry leaders, parish organizations, sponsors, and participants, we achieved record-breaking attendance and results on all three days of the festival. This accomplishment belongs to our entire parish family, and I offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed their time, talents, and love to make this event such a tremendous success.

I also wish to congratulate all of our graduates and scholarship recipients. Your hard work, perseverance, and achievements make our parish community proud. We pray that God continues to guide and bless you as you embark on the next chapter of your lives.

A special congratulations goes to our GOYA teams, who represented our parish exceptionally well at this year's Olympics. Your dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship

are a source of pride and inspiration for our entire community.

As summer begins, I pray that God grants each of you a season filled with rest, joy, good health, and cherished time with family and friends.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall as we begin another productive and exciting season ahead. We have many wonderful events, ministries, and opportunities for fellowship and service planned for our community, and I am confident that, together, we will continue to grow in faith and strengthen the bonds that unite us as one parish family.

May our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessions of our patron saint, St. George, continue to bless you and your loved ones.

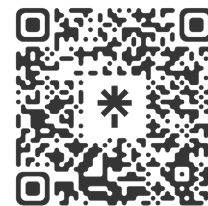
With gratitude and warmest wishes,

Dr. George P. Perentesis
President, Parish Council

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We're excited to share our St. George Linktree with our church family!

This is an easy way to stay connected with everything happening in our community — from worship services and events to ministries, updates, and ways to get involved. We invite you to explore it, share it with family and friends, and help us grow our church community both in person and online. Your likes, shares, and support help spread the word and keep our parish connected.



<https://linktr.ee/stgeorgeap> or scan the QR Code with your cellphone's camera to connect.

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.

August 2026

2	Sunday		9th Sunday of Matthew
3	Monday	7PM	Paraklisis to the Virgin Mary
5	Wednesday	7PM	Vespers of the Transfiguration of the Lord
7	Friday	7PM	Paraklisis to the Virgin Mary
9	Sunday		10th Sunday of Matthew
10	Monday	7PM	Paraklisis to the Virgin Mary
14	Friday	7PM	Vespers/Dormition of the Theotokos (held at Kimissis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church)
15	Saturday		Dormition of the Theotokos
16	Sunday		11th Sunday of Matthew
23	Sunday		12th Sunday of Matthew
29	Saturday		Beheading of St. John the Baptist
30	Sunday		13th Sunday of Matthew

September 2026

6	Sunday		14th Sunday of Matthew
8	Tuesday		Nativity of the Theotokos
13	Sunday		Sunday before Holy Cross
14	Sunday		The Elevation of the Venerable & Life-Giving Cross
20	Sunday		Sunday after Holy Cross at St. George / Blessing of the Waters following at Deal Beach
26	Saturday		Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist & Theologian
27	Sunday		1st Sunday of Luke

October 2026

4	Sunday		2nd Sunday of Luke
11	Sunday		Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council
18	Sunday		St. Luke the Apostle
25	Sunday		6th Sunday of Luke
26	Monday		St. Demetrios (services at St. Demeterios 721 Rahway Avenue, Union, NJ 07083)

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Weddings:

July 5, 2026	Constantina Soukas & Peter Greberis
September 24, 2026	Argetta Poniros & Jonathan Lazo
September 18, 2026	Lexianne Davis & Chris Psomias
October 30, 2026	Alexandria Misthos & Thomas Sciro
November 5, 2026	Joanna Gambino & Alexander Ali
November 6, 2026	Alexandra Thomas & Anthony John Sarci

Baptisms:

June 14, 2026	Michael T. Lino / Chrismation
July 12, 2026	Liana Loren Pecoraro
July 19, 2026	Phoebe Alexopoulos
July 26, 2026	Andreas Adrian Ortiz
August 9, 2026	James Patrick Dooley
August 9, 2026	Parker Alexis Gacos
August 15, 2026	Jonathan Lazo / Adult Baptism
August 30, 2026	Angelica Eugenis
September 5, 2026	Bennett Richard Mangiere
September 6, 2026	Miles Nikolaos Papagiannis
October 3, 2026	Raffael Rosas
October 10, 2026	Stefanos Chelli
November 7, 2026	Hailey Victoria Staub

Deaths:

April 22, 2026	Aristotel Galiatsatos
April 22, 2026	Athan Anest
June 29, 2026	Andrew Andreopoulos

Start eGiving Today!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Your Giving Options:

Text "Give" to 732-641-4217

or

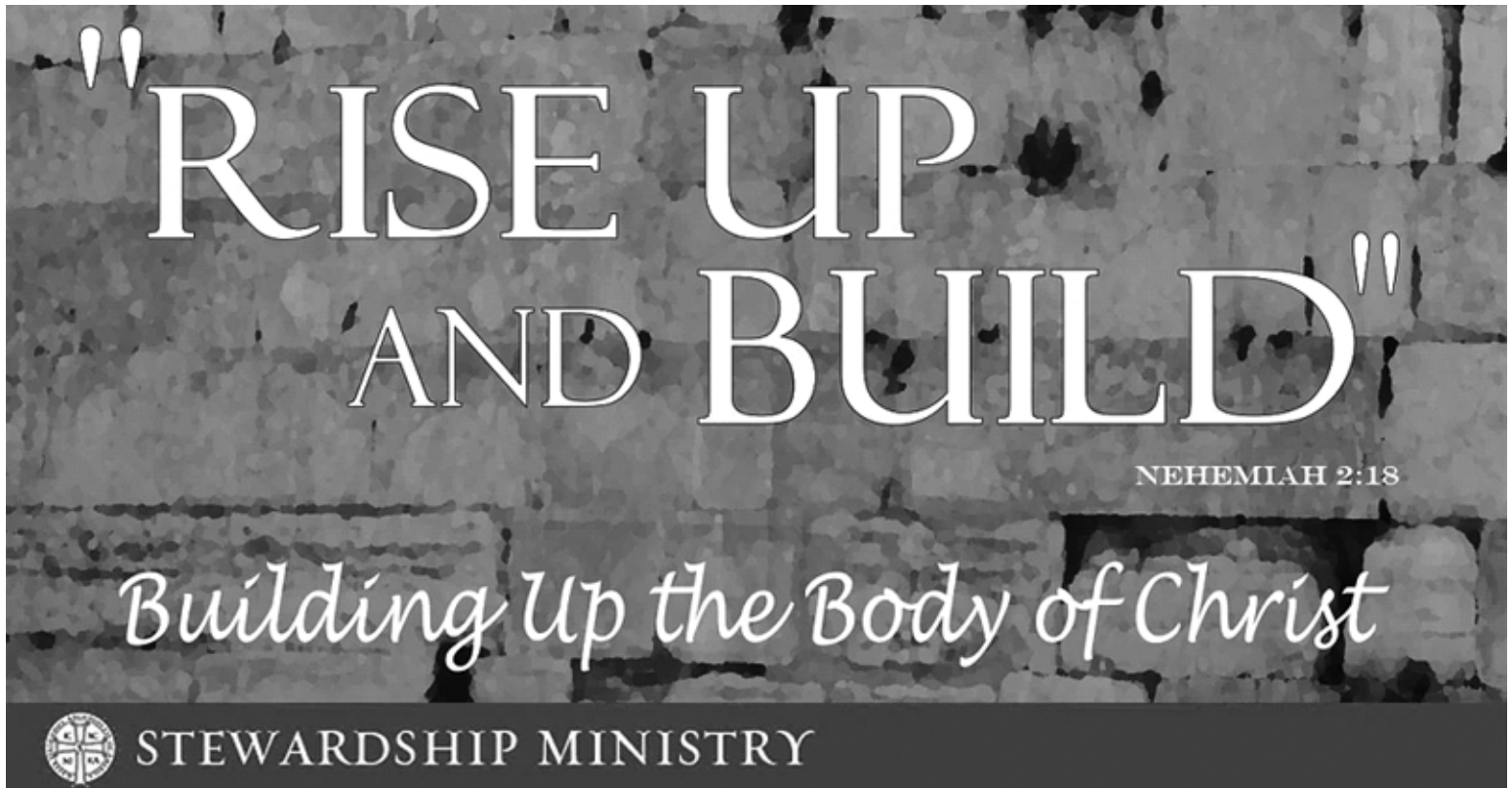
Scan the QR Code



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STEWARDSHIP 2026



Dear St. George Community,

Giving of your time, talents, and treasure to your church is a spiritual endeavor and can bring you closer to God. There are so many reasons to donate and contribute to St. George Church, which is our home away from home and a place where we can leave the earthly worries behind and experience the heavenly things. This article touches upon the most important reason.

Let's face it... we give the most of our time and energy and money to the thing or things and the person or people we care about the most. Right? Well, when Jesus was asked of all the commandments, which is the greatest, He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." This came as a shock to those who heard, and we can all agree that what Jesus said is no easy task. For one thing, how do we love anyone that much when we don't even know him, can't see him or feel him or have a conversation with him? You CAN know God. You CAN have a relationship with HIM and YOU CAN LOVE HIM. Here's how in a nutshell.

First by practicing the 3 pillars and foundational building blocks of our faith... prayer, fasting, and charitable acts. We do these things because Jesus did them and because He told us to. Of course, it gets much more complicated than that, but those are the primary reasons.

Next, by reading the Bible. This should be done regularly with a sincere yearning to allow the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, souls, and minds. Scripture is the divinely inspired Word of God and the more we read it, the better chance we have to get to know Him and get closer to Him.

Then, it is incredibly important to go to church as much as we can. Not just on an occasional Sunday for Divine Liturgy but every Sunday and other days, too. Feast days, matins, vespers... if you look at the church calendar there are services throughout the week and all year round. We are so blessed to have such a magnificent structure adorned with such breathtaking art. The beauty of our church is unparalleled, and I remind myself every time I walk up those steps and through the grand doors. Again, the more you go, the deeper your relationship becomes with God.

By participating in the sacraments, we also experience the essence and nature of God. Most, if not all, of us are baptized and chrismated in the faith. Yet we can still receive Holy Communion, which we believe is the true and real Body and Blood of Christ. When you judge yourself not to be worthy to partake on any given Sunday or feast day, we are essentially denying Christ and telling Him “Nope! Not interested. I have more important things on my mind than to connect with You today.” I am guilty of doing that myself but think about how insulting that can be to God. Confession is known as the forgotten sacrament because most Greek Orthodox Christians have never done it. This is also a sacred mystery of our faith and brings us closer to God. It cleanses our souls and lifts unbearable emotional weight off our conscience. There is nothing to be afraid of, especially with the clergy we have at our church. It’s not just a one-way reciting of all your sins to a priest. It is a mutual conversation with prayer and enlightenment. It’s dialogue with a holy man who by act of God doesn’t even remember what was discussed after the sacrament. It’s another means to an end, which is eternal salvation in heaven with God.

And more to the point, tithing or stewardship or giving of ourselves to the church is another way to build and strengthen your bond with Christ. On this subject, Jesus once condemned the Pharisees for hypocrisy when they religiously gave 10% of their riches to the church but they neglected justice, the Spirit, and the love of God. He said, “You should have practiced the latter without neglecting the former.” In other words, Jesus wants us to concentrate on and practice the most important commandments of LOVE while at the same time tithing to support the church. He wants us to be loving, and fair, and kind and not forget the church.

A wise priest once told me that if we do love God with all our heart, soul, and mind a miracle happens that allows us to love our family, spouse, children, friends, even more than we ever believed was possible. Loving God enhances our love of others. We should care about and love God the most and our conduct should be consistent and reflect that love.

Jesus never told us this would be easy. Saint Augustine wrote that our Lord has one son without sin but never one without suffering. Jesus asked us to pick up our cross and follow him. He led the way. He said this knowing

how heavy His cross was and knowing that ours would be heavy, too. Some are heavier than others.

So this all comes down to priorities. If we don’t identify and schedule our priorities, then someone else will and before you know it, your calendar is filled with other peoples’ priorities. Let’s make Jesus and love our priorities. When we do, loving others and giving to the church and everything else falls into its place.

It takes a lot of money to keep our glorious church open and running. Just like in your home, the church expenses are constantly rising. We had three times the snow removal costs this past winter than what was budgeted. Putting it in perspective, I remember putting a dollar bill in the collection tray back in the 1990s. A cup of coffee was \$2 then. What are we paying for a cup of coffee these days?

Please make any efforts you can to support our church as we are all members of the body of Christ with Him as the head.

In Christ’s Love,

+Father Andrew Eugenis

Stewardship Committee

Aris Pavlides, Chair

Tom Georges

Paul Koutouzakis



Ladies Philoptochos Society

The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society has been hard at work preparing for our Annual Church Festival. Countless hours were spent baking the homemade pastries and treats that everyone looks forward to each year. From mixing and rolling to baking and packaging, it truly was a labor of love. As we often say, the secret ingredient is love. Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our volunteers, this year's bake sale was an overwhelming success—we sold out! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave their time and talents, and a special shout-out to Joe Coviello, who rolled up his sleeves and was a tremendous help throughout the baking process.

We were also proud to honor Elise Rogers as our Mother of the Year. Elise exemplifies faith, service, and dedication to our parish. Whether arranging refreshments for our Tree Lighting Ceremony or co-chairing our annual Philoptochos Luncheon, she generously shares her time and talents with a smile. Congratulations, Elise, on this well-deserved honor, and thank you for all you do for our church family.

At this year's Metropolis Clergy-Laity Convention, we were honored to recognize Andrea Hellinghausen for her outstanding service to our chapter. Andrea is the driving force behind many of our most successful fundraising efforts, including our bake sales and the popular gift basket raffle at our annual luncheon. Her tireless work helps fund the many charitable ministries of our Philoptochos. Congratulations, Andrea, and thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving others.



End of the year dinner

Through our 2026 Make a Difference Initiative, we are blessed to support organizations that make a meaningful impact in our communities, including:

We Are Loved – Providing comfort bags for foster children through local police departments as they transition into new homes. Donated over 30 comfort bags.

ALZNJ Respite Care & Wellness Program – Supporting caregivers of those living with Alzheimer's in memory of Joe Lyons.

Madonna House – Providing car seats and playpens for women and children in need.

Trinity Church, Asbury Park – Assisting with a commercial dishwasher to support its meal program for the homeless.

I Can Make a Difference – Supporting essential services and wellness programs for single-parent families.

LINS Initiative – Helping individuals successfully transition back into the community after incarceration.

These donations reflect the Philoptochos mission of serving those in need with faith, compassion, and love. We are grateful to our members and parishioners whose generosity makes these charitable efforts possible.

We concluded another successful year with our annual dinner at The Breakers in Spring Lake. The evening was filled with delicious food, warm fellowship, and gratitude for another year of faith, friendship, and service. A special thank you to Elise Rogers for organizing this wonderful evening.

Finally, please mark your calendar for our Annual Philoptochos Luncheon on Saturday, November 7. As our largest fundraiser of the year, this event provides critical support for our philanthropic ministries. We hope you will join us for an afternoon of delicious food, wonderful fellowship, exciting prizes, and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.



Assembling pastries for festival"

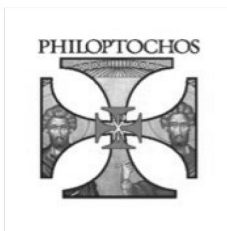


Baklava baking for festival



Baklava baking for festival





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: _____

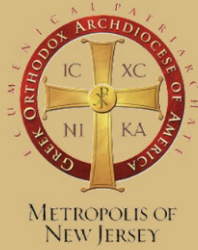
Address _____

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@philoptochosoceannj.org



St. George
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.



ST. GEORGE GREEK SCHOOL CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC YEAR

As another successful scholastic year comes to a close, we reflect with gratitude on a year filled with learning, growth, and celebration. Our students and teachers remained actively engaged both inside and outside the classroom, making this a memorable year for all.

We were delighted to welcome two new teachers this year: Mrs. Cathy, who led our Kindergarten class, and Mrs. Nina, who taught our Level 4 and 5 students. Both have been wonderful additions to our school family, and their dedication, enthusiasm, and genuine love for their students were evident throughout the year.

Our students participated in a variety of educational and cultural programs, including celebrations for OXI Day, Christmas, the Three Hierarchs, Greek Independence Day, and our annual Graduation Program. These events provided meaningful opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of Greek language, history, faith, and traditions.

Our PTO also organized several exciting activities throughout the year, including a trip to New York City to see the Rockettes, our annual Vasilopita cutting, an Apokriatiko celebration, transportation to the Greek Independence Day Parade, and a festive end-of-year celebration featuring an ice cream truck.

This year, we proudly celebrated the graduation of five students: Zorian Benavides, Stephen D'Agnes, Konstandinos Lekkas, Elias Magriplis, and Zoe Zaharatos. These students have been part of the St. George Greek School since 2019, and we commend them for their dedication and perseverance in completing their studies. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

A special congratulations goes to Zorian Benavides, recipient of the Three Hierarchs Excellence Award, presented annually to the student with the highest grade point average. Zorian also successfully completed the Ellinomatheia Examination, achieving outstanding results and demonstrating exceptional proficiency in the Greek language.

As we conclude another rewarding academic year, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our teachers, parents, church leadership, and volunteers for their unwavering

support and commitment to our mission. Together, we continue to nurture a love of the Greek language and culture in the next generation.

We look forward to welcoming our students back in September for another exciting and productive school year. Families interested in registering for the 2026–2027 academic year are encouraged to visit the church website or contact the church office for more information.

We wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and blessed summer.

Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο του Ιερού Ναού Αγίου Γεωργίου ολοκλήρωσε με επιτυχία ακόμη μία σχολική χρονιά

Με την ολοκλήρωση ακόμη μίας επιτυχημένης σχολικής χρονιάς, αναλογιζόμαστε με ευγνωμοσύνη μια χρονιά γεμάτη μάθηση, πρόοδο και όμορφες στιγμές. Οι μαθητές και οι εκπαιδευτικοί μας συμμετείχαν ενεργά τόσο μέσα όσο και έξω από την τάξη, συμβάλλοντας όλοι μαζί στη δημιουργία μιας αξέχαστης χρονιάς.

Με ιδιαίτερη χαρά καλωσορίσαμε φέτος δύο νέες εκπαιδευτικούς στο σχολείο μας: την κυρία Κατερίνα, η οποία ανέλαβε το Νηπιαγωγείο, και την κυρία Νίνα, η οποία δίδαξε τα επίπεδα 4 και 5. Και οι δύο αποτέλεσαν πολύτιμες προσθήκες στο διδακτικό μας προσωπικό, επιδεικνύοντας καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια της χρονιάς αφοσίωση, ενθουσιασμό και ειλικρινή αγάπη για τους μαθητές τους.

Οι μαθητές μας συμμετείχαν σε πληθώρα εκπαιδευτικών και πολιτιστικών εκδηλώσεων, όπως οι εορτασμοί της 28ης Οκτωβρίου, των Χριστουγέννων, των Τριών Ιεραρχών, της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης της 25ης Μαρτίου, καθώς και στην ετήσια τελετή αποφοίτησης. Μέσα από αυτές τις εκδηλώσεις είχαν την ευκαιρία να εμβαθύνουν στη γνώση της ελληνικής γλώσσας, της ιστορίας, της ορθόδοξης πίστης και των παραδόσεών μας.

Ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων (PTO) διοργάνωσε επίσης πολλές όμορφες δραστηριότητες κατά τη διάρκεια της χρονιάς, όπως εκδρομή στη Νέα Υόρκη για την παρακολούθηση της χριστουγεννιάτικης παράστασης των Rockettes, την καθιερωμένη κοπή της Βασιλόπιτας, αποκριάτικη γιορτή, μεταφορά των μαθητών στην παρέλαση για την Ελληνική Ημέρα Ανεξαρτησίας στη Νέα Υόρκη, καθώς και μια χαρούμενη καλοκαιρινή γιορτή λήξης με το πλέον καθιερωμένο παγωτατζίδικο.

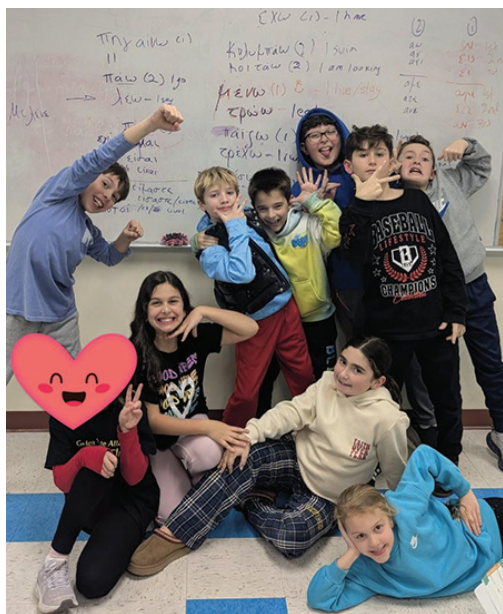
Ιδιαίτερη χαρά και υπερηφάνεια μας γέμισε η αποφοίτηση πέντε μαθητών μας: του Ζόριαν Μπεναβίδης, του Σταύρου Νταγκνίση, του Κωνσταντίνου Λέκκα, του Ηλία Μαγριπλή και της Ζωής Ζαχαράτος. Οι μαθητές αυτοί ξεκίνησαν το ταξίδι τους στο σχολείο μας, από το 2019 και τους συγχαίρουμε θερμά για την αφοσίωση και την επιμονή που επέδειξαν ολοκληρώνοντας με επιτυχία τα μαθήματά τους στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο. Τους ευχόμαστε κάθε επιτυχία στη συνέχεια της πορείας τους και σε κάθε μελλοντικό τους εγχείρημα.

Ιδιαίτερα συγχαρητήρια αξίζουν στον Ζόριαν Μπεναβίδης, ο οποίος τιμήθηκε με το Βραβείο Αριστείας Τριών Ιεραρχών, το οποίο απονέμεται κάθε χρόνο στον μαθητή με τον υψηλότερο μέσο όρο βαθμολογίας. Παράλληλα, ολοκλήρωσε με εξαιρετική επιτυχία τις εξετάσεις Ελληνομάθειας, αποδεικνύοντας το υψηλό επίπεδο γνώσης και άριστης χρήσης της ελληνικής γλώσσας.

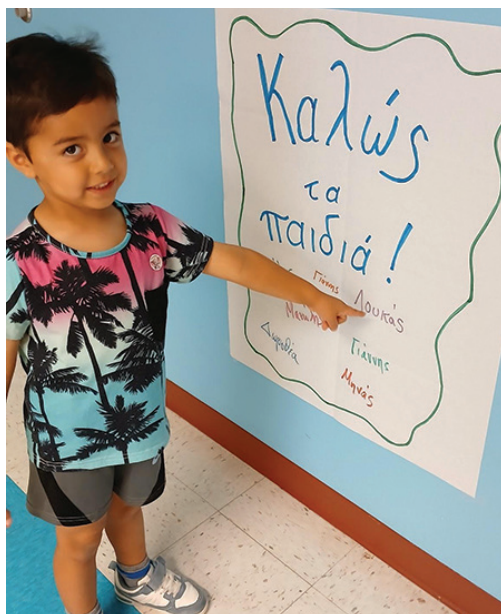
Με την ολοκλήρωση ακόμη μίας δημιουργικής σχολικής χρονιάς, εκφράζουμε τις θερμές μας ευχαριστίες προς τους εκπαιδευτικούς, τους γονείς, την ηγεσία της ενορίας μας και όλους τους εθελοντές για τη διαρκή στήριξη και την πολύτιμη προσφορά τους στο έργο του σχολείου μας. Με τη συνεργασία όλων συνεχίζουμε να καλλιεργούμε στις νεότερες γενιές την αγάπη για την ελληνική γλώσσα, την ιστορία, την πίστη και τον πολιτισμό μας.

Ανυπομονούμε να υποδεχθούμε ξανά τους μαθητές μας τον Σεπτέμβριο για μία ακόμη δημιουργική και παραγωγική σχολική χρονιά. Οι οικογένειες που ενδιαφέρονται να εγγραφούν τα παιδιά τους για το σχολικό έτος 2026–2027 μπορούν να επισκεφθούν την ιστοσελίδα της ενορίας ή να επικοινωνήσουν με το γραφείο της εκκλησίας για περισσότερες πληροφορίες.

Ευχόμαστε σε όλους ένα ασφαλές, ξεκούραστο και ευλογημένο καλοκαίρι!



Level 3 students attempting to hide their homework posted on the board



Luka O'Cone - Pre K



2026 Graduating class with Pre K class



Stephen D'Agnese, Elias Magripis, Chirstos Misthos, Zorian Benavides - 2026 NYC Greek Independence Day Parade



Pre K, learning to spell their name



The busiest time of the year for G.O.Y.A has recently come to an end, and I am sure that it has its bittersweet ending as we say goodbye to 18 seniors. One look at the bulletin board will show you how busy we have been. Highlights were Sights and Sounds and Olympics. We also held the annual spring cemetery cleanup, retreat, and car wash.

The church of the Holy Trinity in Wilmington, Delaware hosted this year's Sights and Sounds; gratefully, we left with many winners. Our English play *The Songs we Carry* written and directed by Mrs. Barbara Panas Kozak won first place, the group song *Shiloh* won second, and religious singing won third, all led by Markos Eugenis. Our Greek folk dance group won 3rd place with our dances from *Zakynthos* all led by Alex and Athena Thomas. Our band won second place, with them playing "Buddy Holly" by Weezer. Among our soloists and duets, we had 7 first place winners, 5 second place winners, and 2 third place winners at the end of the competition. Congratulations to everyone that participated!

Each year, GOYAns help prepare for the Palm Sunday service, by helping to make the palms for the church service at our spring retreat. This year, we had Fr. Symeon Williams spoke with us and answered questions we had about our faith, to allow us a better understanding of our church's history. In relation to the spring retreat, Holy Saturday, our GOYAns participated in the annual 30-Hour Famine, where we helped clean the church for the Anastasi service and also raised awareness for the children across the world that may suffer from malnutrition and starvation.

G.O.Y.A Prom invites sophomores, juniors, and seniors in G.O.Y.A to spend time together dancing. This year, our GOYAns traveled to the church of St. George in Trenton for an "Under the Aegean Sea" themed G.O.Y.A Prom.

As we always do, we had an amazing showing at this year's Olympics. The first Olympics event of the year was the Soccer Olympics, where we sent our girls soccer team to compete. With their hard work and determination, they were able to win second place this year! At the Indoor Olympics, GOYAns participate in events like badminton, spikeball, and video games like Just Dance or FIFA. This year, our

GOYAns won 2nd place in senior girls backgammon, 2nd place in senior boys badminton, and 3rd place in senior boys and junior girls table tennis. Finally, our GOYAns attended the Outdoor Olympics at Monmouth University. Outdoor Olympics is a statewide event that showcases GOYAns athletic abilities like playing volleyball, swimming, running, and field events. Although we had to move the Olympics inside because of the rain, we still left with many awards. Our GOYAns won 9 first place, 4 second place, and 6 third place medals over all between individual running, relays, and swimming. After the Olympics, we went back to our church to have a party, celebrating our 18 seniors that are graduating this year, and all the accomplishments of our GOYAns that won at the Olympics.

Although we will miss our graduates, we look forward to welcoming our new 7th grade members. I hope everyone has a great summer, and I am so excited to start my term in the fall and for a great next year in G.O.Y.A. Hope to see everyone at the Fall Kickoff on Friday, August 28th.

Your fall-term GOYA President,

Irene Venetis







Daughters of Penelope

Aulis #195 of the Daughters of Penelope has had a busy season filled with sisterhood, celebration, leadership, and service.

On Saturday, April 18th, Sisters Joanna Drosos, Stathia Marousis, Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush, Karen Pascal, and Grand President Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades attended the annual Spring Luncheon held at Fox Hollow Golf Club in Branchburg, New Jersey. It was a beautiful day of fellowship, where sisters gathered to celebrate sisterhood and share the many wonderful accomplishments of each chapter.

At our May 11th meeting, Aulis 195 elected its new officers. Congratulations to President Karen Pascal, Vice President Suzanne Pavlides, Recording Secretary Lori Billows, Corresponding Secretary Mary Hadjiyerou, and Treasurer Effie Buludis. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to a wonderful year ahead under their leadership.

On Saturday, June 6th, we were blessed to gather in Wildwood for the District Convention. Grand President Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades attended along with Sisters Suzanne Pavlides and Helene Zimnes. It was a proud day for Aulis 195, as Nicholas Billows, son of Lori Billows, and George Marousis-Bush, son of Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush, were both awarded the Daughters of Penelope Fifth District Education Foundation Scholarship.

We were also thrilled to celebrate Sister Denise Parlamas, who was nominated as Chapter Penelope of the Year and selected as District 5 Penelope of the Year. Her application

will now move forward to National, and we are so proud of this well-deserved recognition. Sister Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush was also nominated and elected to the position of District Marshal. Axios to all!

On Friday, June 12th, the Aulis Sisters held a Disco Membership Party. Several sisters attended, along with new prospective members, for an evening of dancing, fun, fellowship, and sisterhood. It was a blast from the past with costumes, 70's food, and 70's decorations. Thank you to our Disco Committee, Joanna Drosos, Mary Hadjiyerou, Suzanne Pavlides, and Helene Zimnes for putting this fun event together. During the event, we also installed our newly elected officers.

On Sunday, June 28th, we celebrated Scholarship Sunday by awarding four scholarships to Nicholas Billows, son of Lori Billows; Julia Imbro, daughter of Lisa Imbro; Chloe Kostidakis, daughter of Lisa Kostidakis; and George Marousis-Bush, son of Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush. We congratulate these deserving students and wish them continued success in their educational journeys.

Aulis 195 looks forward to attending the National Convention in Philadelphia during the last week of July. We also wish Sister Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades the very best of luck as she runs for a second term as Grand President. We are incredibly proud of all she has accomplished during her first term and are grateful for her continued leadership and dedication.

If you would like to learn more about the Daughters of Penelope, please speak with one of our sisters or visit dop195.org or daughtersofpenelope.org.





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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.



MOTHER OF THE YEAR 2026



Today, on this special Mother's Day celebration, we honor my sister Elise Rogers as our Philoptochos Mother of the Year. Elise's life has been built on faith, family, service, and love.

Elise was born and raised in New York City. She is the oldest child of Anastasia and John Michaelides and I am her younger sister.

She was surrounded from an early age by the importance of education, faith, and hard work. Her spiritual journey began at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church where she was baptized by Father Psillas. She attended The Cathedral School, where our mother served as principal, continuing on to the Chapin School and eventually Monmouth University. Her commitment to learning would eventually become not just a career but a calling.

Following in our mother's footsteps, Elise has dedicated her life to helping children learn and succeed. This year marks her 47th year in Special Education. Beginning as a classroom teacher, later becoming an administrator,



and now serving as a learning consultant in Marlboro. She has spent nearly five decades advocating for students and families and has touched countless lives in the process.

Yet even with all those professional accomplishments, her greatest pride has always been her family. At just sixteen years old, she met the love of her life, Lee- better known to many of us as Buddy- on a blind date. What began as a teenage romance grew into a lifelong partnership. After dating for six years, they were married at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, and this August they will celebrate an incredible 46 years of marriage.

She is the loving mother of Stacy and Amanda, and the proud grandmother of Ryan, Bryce, Hope, and Brayden- four grandchildren who are truly the joy of her life and who happily keep both her and Buddy very busy every single day.



Elise's compassion and dedication is also exemplified through her commitment to the church. Over the years she became Treasurer and later President of the Greek School PTO, taught Sunday School, and created St. George's Vacation Bible School Program. Elise has also served as president of Philoptochos for five years and vice president for the last three. She is one of the hardest working women on our board and approaches every responsibility with grace.

So much of what our community enjoys has Elise's hands and heart behind it. Elise has organized the beautiful flowers the mothers will receive today, the basil we use for holy cross, as well as the christmas wreaths and grave blankets we bring to the cemetery each year. She does all of this quietly without complaint and always with the spirit of love and service. Elise truly does it all.

Today we celebrate not only all that she has done, but who Elise is: a woman of compassion, faith, strength, and unwavering love.

Happy Mother's Day and may God continue to bless her and her beautiful family for many years to come.



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”

- I am proud to claim that as a Chapter we have proven repeatedly that we are a great Chapter not only by our size, the number of Brothers, but also by what we do to meet our Mission and conduct ourselves in an atmosphere of good Fellowship and Christian Virtues.
- The District 5 Convention has been scheduled for June 5-7 in Wildwood, NJ (after the due date of June 1 for this report to the Beacon). At that convention, it is anticipated that Brother George Perentesis (currently also the PC President) will be elevated to the position of District Governor. AXIOS!

In addition, it is rumored that one of our Chapter Brothers will be the recipient of an award by the District.

- AHEPA District 5 Scholarship Awards 2025-2026. A historic and proud day for our Chapter and our Church! I have just been notified that the top three recipients are from our Chapter. The three in alphabetical order are:

Nicholas Billows (son of Greg & Lori Billows)

Petros Kiafoulis (son of Efthymios & Katerina)

Melanie Sum (daughter of Keith & Antonia)

God Bless them and the parents who raised them. What an honor to our Chapter and Church! Bravo!

- AHEPA National Sunday on May 17 was celebrated in all its splendor as it should be; reading of the letter from the Archbishop by our Fr. Rubis, a Trisagion for the 6 Brothers recently departed and all past ones, presentations consisting of the AHEPA of the Year plus 7 Certificates of Appreciation and lastly, followed by AHEPA Coffee Hour, a rich buffet and cutting of an AHEPA cake. Thank you, Angela!

Congratulations to Brother Peter M. Venetis for being selected as AHEPA of the Year 2025-2026. The award was presented to him by our PSP Brother Savas C. Tsivicos. Well deserved. AXIOS!

In addition, Congratulations to a very special group of 7 who were the recipients of Certificates of Appreciation for their past and present support of AHEPA. AXIES and AXIOI!

Sister DOP Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush (“Never says No”)

Karen Catizone (“Always says Yes”, “Always Helps” when dealing with issues, especially the Township)

Angela Koumoutsos (“The Queen of Hospitality and Coffee Hour, a Great Greeter”)

Mario Magriples (“Most Generous”, Owner of Blue Swan and Charley’s Ocean Grill in Long Branch)

Eric Rouskas (“Provider and Donor of Food to Monthly AHEPA Meetings”, Owner of Greek Spot in Manalapan and partner at Red Bank and Eatontown.)

Tonia Tsiandi Sum (“Organizer of the Annual NYC Greek Independence Day Parade, Synonymous with Hellenism”)

Peter (Petros) Thomas (“Beautifies the AHEPA Room” and Takes Care of it”)

- A big Thank you to the Chairmen of Super Bowl and March Madness, Brothers Kosta Linardakis and Aris Papageorge. Also, need to thank Brother Kosta and a few other Brothers for helping the Church during Palm Sunday and Mother’s Day along with Brother Mario Magriples, and also having Chaired the Souvlaki Fest on April 19 after a pause of three years. God Bless!

- The Annual NYC Greek Independence Day on April 26 was a huge success with more than 100 people participating. The two buses donated by our Chapter were full. Thirteen Brothers and their families paraded through 5th Avenue and made our Chapter proud. Thank you to Antonia Sum for organizing it and to Brother George Nicholas for negotiating and reserving the buses. Plans for next year are under way.

- Charities and Church Organizations we have supported and we should be proud : The District 5 Cancer Research Foundation, Holy Cross Seminary, Fulfill Monmouth County, Journey to Greece, GOYA, Saint George Festival, Metropolis' Music and Dance Festival, St. Basil's Academy, NJ Hellenic Dancers, Tunnel to Towers, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Fire Relief Fund of California, North Carolina Hurricane Relief Fund, South Jersey Rescue Mission (now Market Street Mission), Philoptochos, Daughters of Penelope, the Church's Journal the Beacon, Mother's Day and the Annual NYC Greek Independence Day Parade.
- Just a reminder from the AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis that the AHEPA Constitution states that all 2026 dues must be sent to AHEPA headquarters by March 31, 2026, to keep your membership active and to be considered a member in Good Standing.
- 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. Everything is doable!

God Bless AHEPA and their Families!

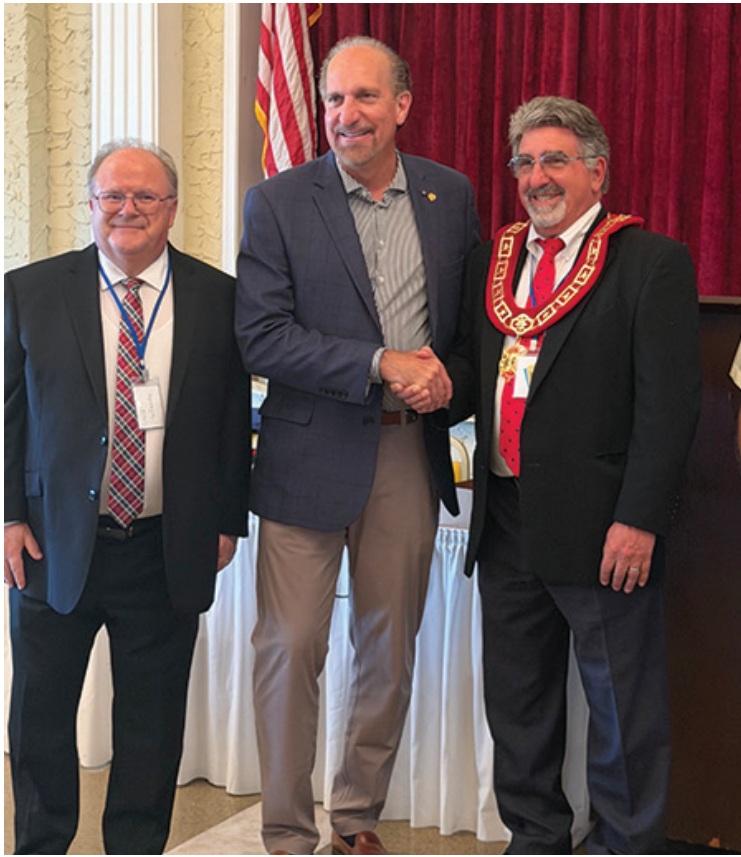
Dimitris Geaneas-President of AHEPA Thomas A. Edison Chapter 287-Cell Phone 908 770 2426



Nicholas Billows is shown here receiving the District Scholarship from the AHEPA and the Daughters. We had 3 students from our church receiving scholarships out of 18 given by the district.



Our AHEPA supported high school graduates on Sunday. June 28, 2026 with Scholarships



George Perentesis was elected the new District 5 Governor of New Jersey and Delaware at the AHEPA Convention in Wildwood, NJ. Many chapters from the entire state attended for meeting and a Grand Ball in the evening. Here we have the Vice Supreme President and the past District Governor congratulating George.



On AHEPA Sunday, Peter Venetis was awarded the "AHEPAN of the Year" for 2026 by the Thomas A Edison Chapter 287 of AHEPA by PSP Savas Tsvicos and President Dimitri Geaneas



Arthur Pappaylion from the Thomas A Edison Chapter 287 was elected the AHEPAN of the year at the recent AHEPA Convention in Wildwood, NJ. Arthur has served over 62 years as an AHEPAN and Past President of his chapter.



On AHEPA Sunday President Dimitri Geaneas awarded 6 members of our community for their dedication and commitment to our church community and to our AHEPA. Each one in their own way have stood out making our Church Community something to be proud of.





An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom



**No Bible Study
August and September**

**Wisdom of Sirach
October 6th - Chapters 38 & 39
October 27th - Chapters 40 & 41**

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Matthew 17:20

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ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

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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. Marina - Left -	\$5,000
St. Elizabeth - Left -	\$5,000
St. Magdalene - Left -	\$5,000
St. Julia - 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 - Partial Sponsorship -	\$19,500
St. Fotios - Half of Icon - Right Side -	\$7,500

Church Proper

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

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

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

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