



## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

### CHANGE IN OUR LIVES

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

This past year we had elections throughout our country. Some may or may not agree with the results. However, in all of history there has been political disagreements and changes in society, even in the time of Christ; no one really accepts change easily. Change can affect us, physically, emotionally and spiritually throughout the course of our lives. As we grow, we all change, affecting every aspect of our lives. In adolescence changes are physical, social and emotional. As we mature and enter the workplace, we experience change and meet new people. If we choose to marry and become parents, change once again occurs as our focus moves away from ourselves towards our children and their upbringing and family life.

To keep us on track through these different and sometimes difficult stages of change, we must always remember we possess one constant in our lives: that

we are Christians called to live Christ-centered lives. The eternal message of the church is "Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). For over two thousand years the saints of our church have proven this time and time again. Through Christ, they endured persecution, torture and change while yet remaining faithful to the one constant they held onto, Christ Himself!

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

Have safe, healthy and Blessed New Year!

+ Fr. Andrew Eugenis

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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.

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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

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

Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush

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

Barbara Terlecsky

Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush

Vicki Kamaratos

Errie Teevan

Barbara Terlecsky

Lela Panas

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Rick Deet

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas

Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas

Dimitris Geaneas

Cathie Georges

Barbara Terlecsky

Markos Eugenis

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

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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](http://www.stgeorgeap.org)  
 or via our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/stgeorgeap.org](http://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/>

**WEBSITE****Submissions**

If you would like to add an article or flyer to our website, please submit them to Barbara Terlecsky at [bterlecsky@aol.com](mailto:bterlecsky@aol.com)

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](mailto: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

## *From the Parish Council...*

My Dear Fellow St. George Parishioners,

In this glorious season my family and I would like to wish you all a happy and blessed New Year filled with good health, love and peace.

We came together as a family to celebrate and rejoice the birth of our Lord and Savior with our annual Tree and Nativity lighting. I would like to thank the Chairs of the Joy to the World celebration, Tom & Cathy Georges and George & Androniki Nicholas and all the Ministries and Organizations for their support and help. A special thank you to Santa Claus and the Wanamassa firefighters for bringing Santa to our festivities. I'm already looking forward to next year.

Another treat that our community looks forward to is the Christmas caroling by the GOYAnS. Singing these joyous songs in our home is a wonderful tradition to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Advent Retreat was uplifting with our featured speaker Father Barnabas Powell. We thank him for being with us, and for continuing to teach us all so many things. Thank you to Father Barnabas and the retreat committee members for a wonderful day.

I'd like to thank our Philoptochos for producing the annual St. George Christmas Card. I enjoy reading the names in the card which is also a great tradition in our Church. Also, a thank you to the Philoptochos for continuing to offer grave blankets and wreaths to our community. This is such a thoughtful service, and we

appreciate it. And thank you to the GOYA for placing these on the graves of those who have left us.

Again, this year our Greek school students will be celebrating the Three Hierarchs celebration with our sister churches Kimisis Tis Theotokou in Holmdel and St. Barbara Church in Toms River. The celebration will be held at Kimisis Tis Theotokou and all are invited. I'm looking forward to the fellowship we experience and watching all the children recite their poems. Thank you to all our dedicated teachers for continuing this tradition.

Also in January we will hold our Church Glendi Night Saturday January 25th. Once again, it's a BYOB and Potluck for those who are attending. Bring your dancing shoes and your appetites.

In February, our GOYAnS will be going on their annual retreat to Woodloch Lodge in Pennsylvania. Father Andrew will lead the retreat along with the Advisors and Parents. Also in February our PTO will hold the Apokriatiko Glendi and everyone is invited.

Keep an eye out for flyers and emails for more information.

Thank you all for your contributions to St. George,

We look forward to a wonderful year.

With Love, Peace and our Lord's Blessings

George Costidis

Your Parish Council President

## **NOTES FROM THE OFFICE**

When making payments (especially at the end of the year), please reference the year that you are paying.

When scheduling Sacraments with Marguerite, please note that you and your Sponsor must be in good standing with St. George at the time the Sacrament takes place. Please check with the Office and the Office will work with you regarding making payments and updating your Stewardship.

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES

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

### January 2025

1	Wednesday	Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
5	Sunday	Sunday before Epiphany
6	Monday	Feast of Theophany
7	Tuesday	Synaxis of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner
12	Sunday	Sunday after Epiphany
18	Saturday	Saints Athanasios & Cyril of Alexandria
19	Sunday	12th Sunday of Luke
25	Saturday	St. Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople
26	Sunday	15th Sunday of Luke
30	Thursday	Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

### February 2025

2	Sunday	Presentation of our Lord and Savior into the Temple
9	Sunday	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee ~ Triodion Begins
10	Monday	St. Haralambos
16	Sunday	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
22	Saturday	1st Saturday of Souls
23	Sunday	Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

### March 2025

1	Saturday	2nd Saturday of Souls
2	Sunday	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)
5	Wednesday	7PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7	Friday	7PM 1st Salutation Service
8	Saturday	3rd Saturday of Souls
9	Sunday	Sunday of Orthodoxy
12	Wednesday	8:30AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
14	Friday	7PM 2nd Salutation Service
16	Sunday	Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas
19	Wednesday	7PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
21	Friday	7PM 3rd Salutation Service
23	Sunday	Sunday of the Holy Cross
25	Tuesday	8:30AM Annunciation of the Theotokos
26	Wednesday	8:30AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
28	Friday	7PM 4th Salutation Service
30	Sunday	Sunday of St. John Climacus

## RECENT SACRAMENTS

### Baptisms:

July 20, 2024	Laurel Anne Crane
August 3, 2024	Piper Alexandra Fini
September 7, 2024	Yianna Katsigiorgis
October 6, 2024	Zafeira Theresa Parliaros
October 12, 2024	Aletheia Selene London
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

### Adult Baptisms:

June 29, 2024	Richard Theodore Bianchi
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### Chrismations:

May 5, 2024	Andrew Vito Piccolino
June 30, 2024	John Rocco Hoefler

### Weddings

May 25, 2024	Marian Andrea Maddela & George Parlamas
July 12, 2024	Stamatia Tina Nikitopoulos & Michael Logan Staub
October 5, 2024	Rachel Haber & Peter Eugenis
October 13, 2024	Georgia Efthimiou & Mark Ragan
October 19, 2024	Cassandra Oresko & Travis Ghaner
November 2, 2024	Alexandra Sophia Pappas & Keith Corkery
March 2, 2025	Victoria Wells & Nicholas Kapsalis

### Deaths:

June 2, 2024	Domna Poulos
June 18, 2024	John T. Galanakis
July 5, 2024	Florence M. Kouveliotes
July 5, 2024	Nicholas George Lorriss
July 13, 2024	Stella Kacandes
July 17, 2024	Stella Gealoris
July 25, 2024	Dimitra B. Milanos
July 31, 2024	Peter Kokidis
September 17, 2024	Nicholas Anthony Tsarouhas
September 21, 2024	Theodore G. Bradshaw
September 29, 2024	Myrtle Stavres
November 8, 2024	Dorothy Dimtsios
November 16, 2024	Pandelis Hadgisilianakis
November 22, 2024	Paulina Chugranis
December 5, 2024	Emanuel Placakis
December 15, 2024	Athena Hadjimarkos

# SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

*“What we are is our gift from God. What we do with that gift, is our gift to God.”*

*Fr. Andrew*

## “Stewardship of Work”

*Selected excerpts from an article written  
by Fr. Jim Kordaris*

**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....”** Colossians 3:23

In the second chapter of the Old Testament Book of Genesis we read, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15). God put man in the garden to work. It is part of God’s plan for us that we work. In Exodus we read, “Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest....” The world has changed, very few of us are called to work the land, and our work week may not be six days, yet we are created and called by God to work, and we can serve him through our work.

Some are blessed to follow a career path to a life’s work bringing satisfaction. Others may work in a position that may not appear to be spiritually or emotionally fulfilling. In whatever type of work we find ourselves, our work can become sacred when we dedicate it to God. In the words of Mother Theresa, “Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we do, but how much love we put into it.”

Life on earth is a gift. The work we do is also a gift if we see it as an opportunity to serve God and others. Saint Paul instructs us, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....” (Colossians 3:23). When we see our work in this way, we are able to become Christian stewards of our work.

Stewardship of work teaches us that we don’t own our work, our position, our title. We are only stewards of a position for a period of time. We are responsible to fulfill our duties and also to prepare it for the person that will follow us in that position. We may also have the opportunity to mentor the person that will assume our position when we move on, empowering them to apply their particular gifts and talents to take the position to the next level.

In times of trouble or worry, especially over our career, we call upon God to strengthen us, to provide opportunity and to bring us success. When we achieve some measure of worldly success, it is easy to say to ourselves as we read in the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy (8:17), “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But the next verse quickly reminds us, “Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what it left after everything else has been taken care of.

## Stewardship 2024-2025

• A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all the supporting Stewards in 2024. It is because of your generosity that we have been able to cover our Church’s maintenance and operational expenses during these difficult economic times.

• If you have not pledged or donated for 2024 and would like to be listed as a supporting Steward of St. George in 2024 it is not too late. Please help us meet our Stewardship goal of \$400,000 for 2024. As of this writing we are behind, but optimistic it will be met. For your convenience, donations can be made using the QR code on this page, by on line giving at [www.stgeorgeap.org](http://www.stgeorgeap.org) or by cash or check.

• Regarding Stewardship 2025, our National Stewardship Sunday has been scheduled for January 12. Stewardship envelopes will arrive at your homes by the time you read this article. Please continue to attend Church. Nothing can replace being in church, partaking of the sacraments, and worshipping as an Orthodox Christian family

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

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee (John Pardenek, Tom Georges and Aris Pavlides) I would like to wish you and your families a Happy, Healthy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year 2025. We have so many things to be grateful and thankful to our Almighty Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to our Panagia! Let us count our blessings, love each other and adhere to our strong faith. Xronia Polla kai Kala me Ygeia kai Eftyxia!

May God bless us all and keep us healthy and safe! **Today is a Gift!** Let us try to serve Him as if every day was our last day on earth.

In God’s Service,

Dimitris Geaneas-Stewardship Chairman

908-770-2426/[jgeaneas@msn.com](mailto:jgeaneas@msn.com)

Join our St. George group Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/stgeorgeap/>



**PS-“Let your Love for St. George live on well into the Future by including St. George in your Estate Planning”.**

# ONLINE GIVING

[www.stgeorgeap.org](http://www.stgeorgeap.org)

## Stewardship Sunday is January 12, 2025

Please consider electronic giving this year by setting up recurring payments through our Vanco Online system.

You may do so directly by using the links above or by scanning the QR code below. If you prefer, the Church Office can set it up for you! Please indicate your credit card information on the Commitment Form. Our Stewardship team will also be available during coffee hour to assist you.

- Monthly Deductions may be made with a Credit/Debit Card or a withdrawal from your bank account.
- Credit and Debit Card giving allows you to make your offerings on a pre-determined schedule.
- Monthly recurring donations help us eliminate paperwork and allow the Church to budget more efficiently.
- Vanco Online adheres to the highest security standards for online giving. Your payments are always protected and securely applied to your account.
- Create your Vanco account and manage your online giving and have access to your transaction history

**Support St. George even  
when you are away.  
Your donations are always received.**



Please note: Recurring donations do not renew each calendar year.  
If you are already set up for recurring donations for 2024, we ask that you kindly renew for 2025.

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

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### 2025 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Family Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please see reverse side for required additional information)

#### 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 12 monthly payments of \$833.34
- \$ 7,500 12 monthly payments of \$625.00
- \$ 5,000 12 monthly payments of \$416.67
- \$ 3,000 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

*Please contact the Church Office if you have any questions or need assistance setting up recurring payments.*

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](http://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".*



# Ladies Philoptochos Society

In October, our Philoptochos Chapter held its Annual Luncheon and Gift Auction – our largest fundraiser of the year. This year we varied our location and hosted our event at the Grand Marquis. This Luncheon is always an opportunity to our Philoptochos members to enjoy lively conversation and reconnect with friends from all over New Jersey – all while winning valuable prizes. We thank our general co-chairs Anastasia Michals and Marissa Costidis, our gift auction chairs Anastasia Michals, Victoria Michals and Kasandra Moutis for securing wonderful prizes and continuing the tradition! THANK YOU to all of the chairs of the event – and thank you to all who attended and supported our Philoptochos. We also thank our donors who helped make the event a success every year – our parish council, GOYA, AHEPA, and Daughters of Penelope, individual donors and businesses we appreciate and love! We have already scheduled next year’s Luncheon for November 1, 2025 at the Grand Marquis. Mark your calendars!

In October we held a general meeting on a Sunday after Divine Liturgy. It was a chance for some of our long-time members to join us in the daytime, rather than in the evening. It was great to see a full house with a wonderful group of women in attendance. Thank you to Georgia and Tina Marie

Vlitas for organizing. Thank you also to Elise Rogers for chairing our wreath and grave blanket sale – as a service to our community.

Thank you also for supporting our bake sale. You continue to amaze us with your support for Philoptochos – we cannot do what we do without the generosity of so many. In fact, this year we continued our Make A Difference initiative and donated more than \$20,000 to worthy local and national non-profit organizations. The thank you letters we receive from these organization are touching and keep us grounded and thankful that we can help.

We ended the year with a Christmas gathering where we enjoyed each other’s company and took a moment to sing Christmas Carols and renew our spirit. We wish you all joy and love... and good health to you and yours for the New Year!

And as we look to 2025 we invite you to join us – in any way that you can. It is our responsibility to keep Philoptochos as the right hand of our Church. Our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers have nurtured Philoptochos to where it is now – a remarkable national organization of strong and generous women whose mission is to help those who are in need.







## Daughters of Penelope



Aulis 195 had several events happening since our last Beacon issue. On October 5th, seven of our members (Antoinette, Dimitra, Jacquelyn, Karen, Natasha, Peggy & Stathia) attended our District 5 workshop in Randolph, NJ. Our Sister and Grand Vice President of the DOP gave a great presentation on Growth & Expansion where we should pollinate our DOP hives to make them thrive and “Bee the Buzz.”

On October 10th, Sisters Jacquelyn, Karen & Melissa attended the Altes163 Gift Auction. It was a great event and Sister Jacquelyn won a beautiful Coach bag!

On October 17th, Sisters Antoinette, Carissa, Jacquelyn & Manoni attended the screening of the “Greek Bar Jacket.” This was a fantastic event hosted by the DOP Grand Lodge at the Union League Club in NYC with proceeds going to Open Door, a Cerebral Palsy Home in Athens, Greece. The lodge also gave out 2 Spirit of Penelope Awards to Alexandra Winokur, President of Christian Dior Couture Americas & Marianna Economou, Film Director & Producer. You can view the moving “Greek Bar Jacket” short film on YouTube at: <https://bit.ly/greekbarjacket>

Aulis 195 held their first Apple picking event on October 26th at Battleview Orchards in Freehold. It was cold, but we picked a lot of apples to eat, dip, and make into something else. We even picked a few pumpkins!

On October 27th, our Chapter hosted our 18th Annual Pink Coffee Hour. Our own Effie Psomias started organizing this “fight fundraiser” in 2006 after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and finished her chemo. It’s such a special day for our organization, and we are touched at how everybody has helped to make it grow. As an aside, all the extra desserts were donated to the Chelsea Senior Living Center. Thank you again to our amazing St. George parish.

On October 29th, several Sisters started and now have completed DOP Academy. Through 8 Zoom lessons, this educational opportunity has allowed Sisters to learn more about our wonderful organization, and how we can better promote the ideals and mission of the DOP.

Saturday, November 9th, was another one for the books. Sisters Antoinette, Bessie, Dimitra, Effie, Helen, Jacquelyn,

Karen, Mary & Peggy attended the 36th Annual AHEPA Fifth District Cancer Research Foundation Gala where they gave out \$52,500 in grants. We heard from a powerful breast cancer survivor who captivated everyone in the audience with her optimistic spirit and can-do attitude, which truly made the difference in her journey. There is no doubt the doctors and researchers are doing such incredible work behind the scenes for cancer advancement. There is hope for a cure and hope for a better tomorrow. With our help raising funds, they can continue making breakthroughs.

On November 11th we had our District 5 visitation. Together we had good deliberations and shared a wonderful pot luck meal. It was so good, that when it was over, several AHEPANS came over to share food!

On November 15th, Sisters Dimitra, Jacquelyn & Mary travel to Randolph for Alexander 250’s Trivia & The Magic of David Corsaro. While we didn’t win Trivia, we did enjoy the magic that left us scratching our head saying, “how’d he do that!”

Our “Jar For Good” was used to sponsor a family from the Community Hope Foundation for the holidays. Our Sisters were very generous. We were able to purchase everything on their list and more. We also donated food for the Community Hope Thanksgiving Food Drive.



*Continued on next page*



# Daughters of Penelope



*Continued from previous page*

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, January 12th following coffee hour. A light breakfast will be served, and we will have our annual Vasilopita cutting. Please email [daughtersofpenelope195@gmail.com](mailto:daughtersofpenelope195@gmail.com) if you'd like to bring something.

Wishing many years of health and life to our Sisters: Stathia Marousis 1/1, Elaine Vlahos 1/1, Joann Cahill 1/27 & Lisa Imbro 2/22.

A big congratulations to these members for their many years of service to the Daughters of Penelope: January & February: Mary Hadjiyerou 36 years, Irene Glynos 31 years, Elaine Vlahos 6 years, Effie Buludis 3 years, Dimitra Pappoulis 3 years, Presbyteria Angela Eugenis 23 years, Julie Generelli 6 years & Maria Venetis 2 years.

Aulis 195 will be turning 76 on February 6th. Our chapter is growing, and we would love to have you grow with us as we march our way to 100 members. We have so many fun things planned to make for an exciting year filled with laughter, friendships, and philanthropy. We ask you to do what you can, when you can, no pressure.

Thank you to the St. George Community. We appreciate and value you for your continued support of our chapter. To learn more about the Daughters of Penelope, see our calendar, or join, please go to: [www.dop195.org](http://www.dop195.org).



# KALI PAREA SENIORS CLUB

*Kali Parea which means "GOOD COMPANY," is the name of our seniors group.*

Kali Parea was established 11 years ago, under the direction of Lela Panas. With the blessing of Fr Andrew and parish council support. The group meets on Thursdays twice a month at 12:30 pm in the St. George Goya lounge. They enjoy a variety of activities including movies, board games or a meal together.

Kali Parea is an important part of our culture of social gathering. These social gatherings sometimes debate issues with historical values from our native Country Greece, in our second country United States of America, and humorous jokes. The inspiration of our members here at St. George as we meet becomes very valuable, because it gives us purpose as we discuss above issues and we acknowledge something very important. "People need other people to survive," and we call it the "cafe of Agape."

With agape Angela Koumoutsos



**Faithful Hands resumed meeting September 10th. This year we will be concentrating on crocheting and knitting lap blankets for our homebound parishioners and 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 any newcomers to join us in the library from 3:00 to 5:00 on Tuesdays. No need to know how to crochet or knit. We will teach you! Hope to see you then. Contact Bea Paparsenos at [beapap@live.com](mailto:beapap@live.com) or 732-585-3402.





# AGAPE MINISTRIES

*You must give some time to your fellow men  
Even it's a little thing – do something for which  
You get no pay but the privilege of doing it.  
---Albert Schweitzer*

**AGAPE is Christian love.... In Action It never stops doing good**  
**Vicki Kamaratos - vassilia71@aol.com 732-539-6831**

<b>40 Day Blessing:</b>	Colleen Pardenek Krissy Conery Chelli	kalliep19@aol.co kconery2011@gmail.com
<b>Baptism:</b>	Vicki Kamaratos	vassilia71@aol.com
<b>Wedding:</b>	Donna Karpodinis Barbara Van Wagner Antonia Lyons	donnakarpodinis@gmail.com barbaravan341@gmail.com antonia.lyons16@gmail.com
<b>New Hope:</b> <i>Grief Support Group</i>		
<b>Welcome:</b>	Angela Koumoutsos	fiore88@aol.com
<b>St. George Guides:</b>	Arthur Pappaylion	a.pappaylion@gmail.com
<b>Faithful Hands:</b> <i>Knit &amp; Crochet</i>	Bea Paparsenos	beapap@live.com
<b>Coffee Hour Ministry:</b> <i>Coffee Hour Helpers</i>	Vicki Kamaratos	vassilia71@aol.com
<b>Environmental Stewardship &amp; Protection Ministry</b>	Angela Koumoutsos Stella Fotopoulos	fiore88@aol.com s.fotopoulos@att.net
<b>St. George Newlyweds:</b>	Christina Barrows	celiop99@me.com
<b>Newcomers &amp; Visitors:</b>	Angela Koumoutsos	fiore88@aol.com
<b>Light of Life</b> <i>Chrismation Ministry</i>	Antonia Lyons Claire Chrysanthopoulos	antonia.lyons16@gmail.com clairechrysl@gmail.com

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

***Happy & Healthy New Year to All***

## HONORING OUR VETERANS



On Sunday November 17th some of our AHEPA Brothers who were Veterans were honored in Church by Father Andrew.



On Sunday, November 17th, our Church of St George memorialized veterans who had been members of our church, past & present from those who served from WWI to the present. The Philoptochos and the Heritage Committee put this display together.”



# 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. Additional Brothers are expected to be initiated on December 10th. Our Supreme President and Chapter Brother Savas Tsivicos will be present to preside over the initiations and the reinstatements. He tirelessly continues to tour the world visiting countless Chapters and governing bodies in order to promote and defend the AHEPA principles and interests. We are very proud of him!

• During the months of October/November, donations were made to the District 5 in c/o St. Basil, the Relief Fund for Hurricanes Helene and Milton and the Fifth District Cancer Research Foundation.

• District 5 visited our Chapter at our monthly meeting in November led by the District Governor Ion Kontolios and his Lodge Lou Stefanou, George Perentesis and Evans John. Emphasis was placed on the Hellenic History Tournament to take place in February, and the “Journey to Greece” Fundraiser to be held on December 15, 2024 at the Graycliff Manor in Moonachie.

• Congratulations to Carissa Marousis-Bush for being awarded a Scholarship from AHEPA National. Her parents Brother Jeremy and Sister Jacquelyn should be very proud!

• Listed below is a tentative schedule of our Fundraisers for the Calendar Year 2025:

## 2025

-Super Bowl Raffle and NCAA March Madness-Chaired by Brother Odysseas Kolasis

-AHEPA Texas Hold ‘Em Night- Chaired by Brother Peter Venetis- January 17

-AHEPA Golf Outing- Chaired by Brother George Perentesis- June 9

-AHEPA Cigar Night- Chaired by Brother Kostas Linardakis- October, Date TBD

-AHEPA New Year’s Eve Party- Chaired by Brothers George Moutis and George Sakelaris- December 31

## OR

-AHEPA Christmas Dinner Dance- Chaired by Brothers George Moutis and George Sakelaris- December 6 or December 13

-Optional: Car Raffle

• Unfortunately for our Chapter, Brother Brendan Ballintine, a multi-talented individual, will be moving out of State. As an active member who led or participated in half a dozen committees he will be dearly missed. He deserves the best future! In addition, Brother Nick Billows will be stepping down from the Executive Board, but will remain as an active member and advisor. As a Treasurer, he raised the Chapter to a new level. I am sure that Brothers will step up to fill the void left by them, as always.

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

On behalf of the AHEPA Executive Board (Brothers Arthur, George H., Paul, Nick, Brendan and Stavro) I would like to wish you and your families a Happy, Healthy, Blessed and Prosperous New Year 2025.

God bless AHEPA and their Families!

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

*“We as a chapter are very sorry to see our brother Brendan Ballintine leave us. A Certification of Appreciation was given to him for his dedication, hard work and expertise as he also served on our Executive Committee. He was also a big help to our church choir, His beautiful base voice will be missed as well. AXIOS”*



*“Our AHEPA Chapter 287 was honored by our District Officers coming to our meeting. It’s always good to have our fellow brothers. This was also the first time we could display our office jewels which came in from Greece.”*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR GREEK SCHOOL

Καλή Χρονιά και Χρόνια Πολλά σε όλους!! Εκ μέρους του Ελληνικού μας σχολείου σας ευχόμαστε ολόψυχα ένα ευτυχισμένο νέο έτος γεμάτο υγεία! Το σχολείο μας άρχισε τη σχολική χρονιά με το εορτασμό της 28ης Οκτωβρίου, στον οποίο οι μαθητές μας είπαν πατριωτικά ποιήματα και τραγούδια. Το πρόγραμμα ακολούθησε μια όμορφη δεξίωση που οργάνωσε ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων.

Το Νοέμβριο οι μαθητές μας είχαν την ευκαιρία να δούνε στο Count Basie το μουσικό θέατρο Elf. Γονείς και μαθητές πέρασαν ωραία και ήταν ευγνώμων προς το Σύνδεσμο Γονέων που οργάνωσε αυτή τη μέρα. Στις 30 Νοεμβρίου πολλοί από τους μαθητές μας παρευρέθηκαν στη γιορτινή βραδιά Joy to the World. Τα τραγούδια, τα σνακς, ο Άη Βασίλης, και οι όμορφες δραστηριότητες που ετοίμασαν οι διάφορες οργανώσεις της εκκλησίας μας δημιούργησαν μια υπέροχη βραδιά για όλους τους παρευρισκόμενους.

Τον Δεκέμβριο τα παιδιά μας θα παρουσιάσουν την ετήσια Χριστουγεννιάτικη γιορτή και θα πούνε τα κάλαντα σε σπίτι γύρω στο Ocean Township. Ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων θα πουλήσει Βασιλόπιτες από το μοναστήρι της Αγίας Σκέπης.

Τέλος, χρειαζόμαστε μια δασκάλα, ή έναν δάσκαλο, για την επόμενη σχολική χρονιά. Αν ενδιαφέρεστε, επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας το συντομότερο.



*Students attending Elf the Musical.*



*Elias Magriplis,  
Stephen D'Agnese, and  
Konstantinos Lekkas*

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Greek School, we wish the Saint George community a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025! Our school and its students have had a very busy Fall. We had our first program commemorating OXI Day on Friday, October 25th. It was nice to see so many families come to support the students as they recited and sang patriotic songs.

In order to get into the holiday spirit, our students attended the musical The Elf at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank on Saturday, November 23rd. The show was well received by the kids and their parents and we are thankful to our PTO for arranging this fun day. The festivities continued on Saturday, November 30th at our church's Joy to the World celebration. Together we sang Christmas carols, ate some delicious snacks, and warmed up with some hot chocolate. And no visit is complete without the presence of Saint Nicholas who arrived on a firetruck!

Our upcoming events include Christmas Caroling in the nearby neighborhoods of Ocean Township and our annual Christmas Program which will be celebrated on Sunday, December 15th. Our PTO hosted their first Greek School spirit wear fundraiser under the direction of Mary Zaharatos. Now all our children will have St. George gear to show off! They are also selling vasilopites from the Agia Skepi monastery for the holiday season. Thank you all in advance for your support of Greek School.

Lastly, we are actively looking for teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. We will have a Level 6 next year and are hoping to secure a passionate and knowledgeable teacher from now. If you have any desire to help, please contact Antonia or Maria and let us know. The earlier we know, the more prepared we can be to start the next school year.



*Celebrating OXI Day on October 25th.*



*Konstantinos Lekkas, Elias Magriplis, Zorian Benavides, and Zoe Zaharatos holding their 1st place certificates from last year's competition "Cyprus-Greece-Homogeneity: Educational Bridges."*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's never too late to start Sunday School. We have someone in the school wing every Sunday who can help get your family registered. All children three years old and up are welcome to join us on Sundays after communion! We have wonderful teachers helping to foster and grow our Christian Orthodox Faith!

We had a great turn out at the Joy to the World Nativity and Tree Lighting event. A big thank you to Mr. Mike and his wife Stephanie for their great job helping at our "Icon Nativity" craft table. Our own Mr. Paul was an awesome Master of Ceremony as well as the event planners, Tom and Cathie Georges and George and Androniki Nicholas. What a great way to start off the beautiful season of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Our Nativity Pageant will be December 22nd - all students are encouraged to show up and be in the pageant - everyone has a part! We are looking forward to the newest member of our Sunday School Family, Constantine Russo, to play the special part of "Baby" Jesus. Congratulations to Dave and Kristen Russo!

The Oratorical Festival is right around the corner. The date of our annual festival will be announced as soon as it is set. Information will be sent out mid-January.

If you are interested in helping or substituting for Sunday School, please contact Cathie Georges, 732-642-1791.

Our Sunday School staff wishes you all a healthy, joyful, abundant year filled with God's Grace and Blessings!



*Ms. Renee, Mr. Mike and Ms. Sophia's Pre-K and Kindergarten SS Class*



*Ms. Stella's Sixth Grade SS Class*



*Mr. Moutis' 11th & 12th Grade SS Class*



*Ms. Kathy's 7th & 8th SS Class*



*Mr. Mike helping at the Nativity craft table*



*Ms. Nicholas' 2nd and 3rd Grade SS Class*



*Ms. Paula's First Grade SS Class*



*Mr. Paul's 9th & 10th Grade SS Class*



*Tom and Cathie's 4th & 5th Grade SS Class*



*Photo booth Donated by Sunday School!*



*Sunday School Students Enjoying Caroling*

## LIGHT OF FAITH MINISTRY



On Sunday, November 24th we celebrated our most recent group of converts to the Orthodox faith. Andrew (Anthony) Piccolino, Chelsea (Xenia) Roberts, Vienna (Anastasia) DeLucia, Richard (Theodore) Bianchi, John Rocco Hoefler and Tristan (Theodore) DeLucia. May our Lord continue to guide them on their spiritual journey and grant them many more years!



## GLENDI!!!



*Join Us For An evening of fellowship & dancing*

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 • 7 pm ~ 11 pm**

Please bring something for our Potluck Buffet

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St. George Cultural Center • All Welcome

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# LENTEN RETREAT & LUNCHEON

## Saturday, March 15, 2025



*Our guest speaker*

**Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh**  
**St. George Cultural Center**

The Reverend Dr. Nicholas Louh is the Senior Priest of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, FL, where he was born and raised. He is a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.



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# GOYA

This GOYA year has been off to a great start! We had Godparent Sunday, Our first Cemetery Cleanup, the Bowling Tournament Dance, our Fall Retreat, the Joy to the World Tree Lighting, and basketball and volleyball Games.

At the cemetery cleanup, we were able to cleanup the leaves and the graves. We pile up all the leaves, put them into trash bags, and collect them by the dumpster to be picked up. This event allows us to pay our respects to those who've passed and honor their memory.

The Bowling Dance is a dance where we first bowl and then go to a church for the dance. At the bowling, you are put in a lane with different people from different churches to compete for a medal. After the time is up, everyone goes back on the bus and they're driven to the church. There, they eat, dance, and the medals are given out. It is always a fun event to compete with your friends in a different setting.

At the Fall retreat we are able to connect and bond with our GOYANS and learn more about our faith. This year we had a guest speaker, Father Barnabas Powell, who spoke to us about his past experiences and what he has learned. He was not born as an Orthodox Christian and started off as a Pastor. He then fell in love with our faith and decided that he wanted to be converted. He loved it so much that he is now a Priest as well.

He was able to keep us engaged in the conversation and I think we were all able to take away an important message from him.

At the Joy to the World Tree Lighting, all the GOYANS hung out, listened to the choir, took pictures, and enjoyed the time together. The gym was open, so all of the kids were running around, and everyone was having a good time. Santa came and the little kids took pictures with him, there was hot chocolate, smores, pretzels, apple cider, and different snacks. It was a nice event that has evolved and brings the community together.

Our boys basketball team has been dominating the court and volleyball as well. Both teams have playoffs early in December and we are ready to bring home two wins for AP. As the season comes to an end, we are all thankful for our teams and the opportunities we get. These teams create closer bonds that we will keep throughout all of our GOYA years. We support each other at the games and we also want to thank the parents for all the support they give us too!

I am looking forward to the rest of GOYA this year with my brothers and sisters. I hope everyone enjoys the holiday season with their families. This is the end of my term as President but I'll always be around!

Your GOYA President,  
Mel Sum



*GOYA Bowling Dance*



*GOYA Cemetery Cleanup*



*GOYA Fall Retreat*



*GOYA Volleyball Team*



## An Invitation From Father Andrew



# BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom

**January 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th**  
**Gospel of Mark, Chapters 6-9**

**February 4th - NO Bible Study**

**February 11th, 18th, & 25th**  
**Gospel of Mark, Chapters 10-12**

To Join, Please

Contact Teri Lalli: [lalliptds@gmail.com](mailto: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	\$6,450
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
St. Gerasimos - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
St. Elpidosphoros - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
St. Savva - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
St. Theodore the Commander	
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000
Medallions - Rear Arch Above Choir Loft	
Archangel Gabriel -	\$5,000
St. Alexandros - Right -	\$5,000
St. Alexios - Right -	\$5,000
St. Panteleimon - Right -	\$5,000
St. Haralambos - Right -	\$5,000
St. Marina - Left -	\$5,000
St. Elizabeth - Left -	\$5,000
St. Magdalene - Left -	\$5,000
St. Julia - Left -	\$5,000
St. Christina - 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:	
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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

# CATECHISM CORNER

## February 2, 9, 16 & 23

*After Coffee Hour in the St. George Library*

Father Andrew invites you to grow in your Orthodox Faith and participate in the life of our beloved Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

We will be using Rev. Fr. Paul Truebenbach's catechism videos to discuss the following topics:

### Session 1:

**The Illness and Yearning of Man**

### Session 2:

**Theology and the Nature of God**

### Session 3:

**The Fall and the Nature of Man (Part 1)**

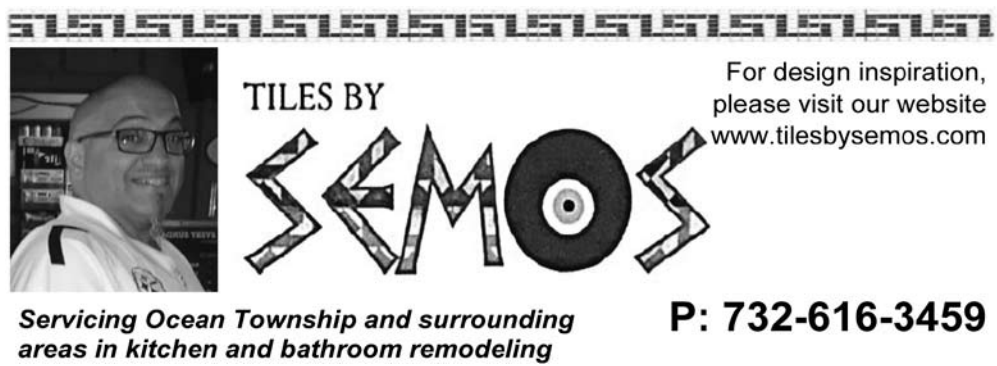
### Session 4:

**The Fall and the Nature of Man (Part 2)**

For More Information Text Allison Woods: 732-610-3782

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