A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

THE GREAT LENT FAST

Great and Holy Lent will begin for us Monday March 3rd. Every year during Lent I am asked, what is the purpose of the Great Lenten period, or how should I fast during Lent? First, we must understand fasting is the conditioning of **both** the soul and body. We are both physical and spiritual beings created in the image and likeness of our God. Therefore, Lent offers us the opportunity to exercise, condition, both our soul and body. Fasting is a discipline, an exercise or in Greek, Άσκησης. Before looking at the fasting guidelines, I offer to you what the Fathers of the Church and Scriptures have to say about fasting.

St. John Chrysostom on Fasting:

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice. Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful. Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip. Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fish, but bite and devour our brothers? May He who came to the world to save sinners strengthen us to complete the fast with humility, have mercy on us and save us!

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian:

Lord and Master of my life, take away from me the will to be lazy and to be sad; the desire to get ahead of other people and to boast and brag. Give me instead, a pure and humble spirit, the will to be patient with other people and to love them. Let me realize my own mistakes and keep me from judging the things other people do. For you are blessed now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians:

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.

Jesus' Instructions on Fasting:

Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:16-18)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present in all places and filling all things. Come and abide in us. Cleanse us from all impurity, and save our souls, O Gracious

Guidelines for fasting for the forty Days of Lent

Though many are not able to hold the strict fast; I offer the following guidelines to be considered first, prayerfully and in consideration of any medical condition or dietary requirements.

Strict Fast

No meat, Fish, Milk, Dairy Products, Oil, or Oil products

Palm Sunday

Fish, Oil & Wine are permitted.

Feast of the Annunciation/March 25th

Fish, Oil & Wine are permitted Shellfish are permitted throughout Great Lent

If you are unable to hold the strict fast during Lent due to medical or dietary requirements, then set a fast to suit your needs for the entire Lenten period. Most importantly, Lent is a time of discipline, the conditioning for both our bodies and souls. May we be strengthened

thanksgiving let your requests be made known and grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during this Lenten period, keeping in mind, a forty day fast without prayer and attending services frequently is only a fortyday diet!

+ Fr. Andrew Eugenis

ST. GEORGE **GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

1033 West Park Avenue Ocean Township, NJ 07712 P: 732-775-2777 F: 732-775-0109 Website: www.stgeorgeap.org

PROISTAMENOS

Father Andrew Eugenis frandrew@stgeorgeap.org

DEACON

Emanuel Tsarnas dnemanuel@aol.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Karen Catizone kcatizone@stgeorgeap.org

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Marguerite Iachello secretary@stgeorgeap.org **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** Mon.-Fri. 10-3

Father Andrew's Office Hours Thurs.-Fri.: 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

If there is no response to your phone call during regular office hours, please leave a message and someone will return your call ASAP. In case of emergency, call the church office for more information.

PARISH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

George Costidis

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Spiro Pappas

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

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Tom Georges

George Iosifides

George Moutis

Zach Roros

Athanasios Tsilivitis

Paul Koutouzakis

Jimmy Kelesidis

Petros Vlitas

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/

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

AGAPE Vicki Kamaratos A.H.E.P.A. Dimitris Geaneas Beacon Niki Cronen Bible Study Teri Lalli Caring for God's Creation — Stella Fotopoulos

Environmental Stewardship and Protection

Caring for God's Creation -Christina Eliopoulos Barrows

Environmental Stewardship and Protection

Cemeterv Billy Athans

Choir Ministry Daughters of Penelope

G.O.Y.A. G.O.Y.A. Greek Dance

Greek School Greek School Heritage Iconography Kali Parea

Mustard Seed Bookstore Orthodoxy Connect

Orthodoxy Connect

P.T.O. **Philoptochos** Photographers Prosforo Baking Photographers Pitsirikia Dance

Seek the Light Book Corner

Scholarships Socialites

Spiritual Enrichment Spiritual Enrichment Spiritual Growth Spiritual Growth St. George Acolytes Stewardship

Sunday School Website Administrator Young Adult League (YAL)

Youth Advisors Youth Advisors 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 Panaš Kozak

Errie Teevan Arthur Pappaylion Claire Chrysanthopoulos Barbara Terlecsky

Jacquelyn Marousis-Bush

Vicki Kamaratos Errie Teevan Barbara Terlecsky George Perentesis

Fr. Andrew Eugenis

Lela Panas

Rick Deet Fr. Andrew Eugenis Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas Dn. Emanuel Tsarnas Louis Koumoutsos Spiro Pappas Cathie Georges Barbara Terlecsky

Markos Eugenis Fr. Andrew Eugenis George Moutis

WEBSITE

Submissions

If you would like to add an article or flyer to our website, please submit them to Barbara Terlecsky And make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

> Masthead photo by Yiorgos Sakelaris

The St. George Beacon of Orthodoxy & Hellenism newsletter is published five times a year. All submissions and pictures will be reviewed prior to printing by the Beacon committee and under the guidance of Father Andrew Eugenis. All articles, flyers and photos must be submitted by email with a contact name and phone number to Niki Cronen at nikicronen. gmail.com. All submissions must be received by the following deadline dates to be considered.

Edition January/February March/April May/June August/September/October November/December

Deadline December 1st February 1st April 1st July 1st October 1st

From the Parish Council...

My fellow St. George Parishioners,

I pray that 2025 has been good to you and your families.

I am proud to announce a number of new initiatives for our parish. We started our Catechism Corner on Sundays after Liturgy. It was very enlightening. Thank You to Allison Woods and Rick Deet for overseeing these sessions. Also in February our church had its Pot Luck Glendi. Many of our parishioners attended and enjoyed a night of fellowship, food, and dancing. Thank you to all who attended and also to all who helped organize it. Our Greek School Apokriatiko Glendi was also in February. It was another awesome night. What a great job our PTO and teachers do, not only on this night but throughout the year. Thank you to the parents for your support.

Claire Chrysanthopoulos has started the Prosforo (Bread) baking ministry which supplies Fr. Andrew with Prosforo for our Divine Liturgies.

By now, everyone has received the calendar of services for this Lenten season. If you haven't, please reach out to the office.

Some dates to remember:

- March 1st 2nd Saturday of Souls.
- March 2nd start of the Lenten Season.
- March 5th (Wednesday) Presanctified Liturgy at 7pm (check website for additional dates)
- March 7th (Friday) Salutation Service at 7pm (check website for additional dates)
- March 15th (Saturday) is our Lenten Retreat with guest speaker Father Nicholas Louh. Fr. Louh is a wonderful speaker and is guaranteed to inspire you on your Lenten journey of faith. RSVP on sign-up genius.
- In March, our Goyans will be competing at the Delaware Valley Sights and Sounds. Good luck to our youth – we know you will shine!
- March 23rd (Sunday) our Greek School will be performing their Independence Day Program. Please stay after church and support them.
- March 29th (Saturday) is the Journey to Marriage Ministry in the library. This ministry helps our newly engaged and married couples with their faith and also introduces them to each other for fellowship. Thank you Angela Koumoutsos and her committee for this unique program.
- April 4th (Friday) is the Akathist Hymn at 7pm
- April 5th (Saturday) our Philoptochos spearheads the annual church cleaning. We need help from everyone in

order to keep our Church beautiful. Please join us. Flyers will be online and emailed to you.

- April 11th GOYA annual retreat.
- April 12th is Saturday of Lazaros. Enjoy the pancake breakfast and Palm Making.
- April 13th is Palm Sunday and our 3rd annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. More information and sign ups to come.
- April 14 Holy Week begins with the Bridegroom service Sunday at 7pm
- Pascha is celebrated on April 20!

A reminder that our annual St. George Great Vespers service is Tuesday, April 22nd. Please make every effort to attend. St. George Feast day Liturgy is the next day, April 23, followed by a Reception in the Cultural Center, hosted by Philoptochos.

Save the date of April 27th, immediately after Liturgy, for our Spring Parish Assembly.

Finally, please know that due to an increase in the volume of scam emails asking for gift cards and money, and infecting our personal computers with spyware, we are removing the emails of parish council members and ministry heads from Beacon and from our website. This move is in the best interest of our St. George Church and our volunteers. If you need to contact any Ministry Head or Parish Council member you can call the office, and they will accommodate your request. We apologize for any inconvenience.

With Love, Peace, and our Lord's Blessing,

George Costidis

Your Parish Council President



New board members to the Parish Council taking their oath in church

CALENDAR OF SERVICES

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

Mar	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				
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				
Apri	il 2025						
2	Wednesday	7PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy				
4	Friday	7PM	Akathist Hymn				
6	Sunday		Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt				
9	Wednesday	8:30AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy				
12	Saturday		Saturday of Lazaros				
13	Sunday		Palm Sunday				
		7PM	Bridegroom Service				

14	Monday	8:30AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
		7PM	Bridegroom Service
15	Tuesday	8:30AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
		7PM	Bridegroom Service
16	Wednesday	8:30AM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
		4PM	Holy Unction Service
		7PM	Bridegroom Service &
			Unction Administered
17	Thursday	6AM	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
			& Unction Administered
		7PM	Passion Gospels &
			Unction Administered
18	Friday	9AM	Royal Hours & Unction
	•		Administered
		4PM	Apokathelosis & Unction
			Administered
		7PM	Epitaphios Thrinos &
			Unction Administered
19	Saturday	8:30AM	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
	,		& Unction Administered
		11PM	Canon of the Resurrection
20	Sunday	12AM	Great and Holy Pascha
	•	11AM	AGAPE Service
22	Tuesday	7PM	Great Vespers for St.
	·		George the Great Martyr &
			Triumphant; Patron Saint of
			Our Church
23	Wednesday	8:30AM	St. George
25	Friday		Life-Giving Font
27	Sunday		Sunday of Thomas
	•		•

RECENT SACRAMENTS

Baptisms:

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
January 23, 2025	Josheph Peter Camamis
Adult Baptisms:	
June 29, 2024	Richard Theodore Bianchi
Chrismations:	
May 5, 2024	Andrew Vito Piccolino
June 30, 2024	John Rocco Hoefler
February 16, 2025	Robert James Erickson
Weddings	
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 Ghanes
November 2, 2024	Alexandra Sophia Pappas & Keith
	Corkery
January 23, 2025	Irene Koumantaris & August Galifi
March 2, 2025	Victoria Wells & Nicholas Kapsalis
Deaths:	
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
December 26, 2024	Paula Perentesis
January 20, 2025	Christine Tassakis



ST. PHOTIOS GREEK ORTHODOX NATIONAL SHRINE

Polexeni Maouris Hillier

Executive Director

41 St. George Street St. Augustine, FL 32084 904.829.8205 www.stphotios.org phillier@stphotios.com



An institution of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

PRESS RELEASE - JANUARY 15, 2025

St. George Filmmakers Receive the St. Photios Medal and Blessings from Metropolitan Dimitrios

Dignitaries, community members and guests gathered at the St. Photios Greek Orthodox Shrine to present special honors to actress Julia Ormond and writer-director Christina Eliopoulos, in recognition of artistic work that witnesses and celebrates Greek culture and Orthodox Christianity.

Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos, V. Rev. Maximos Politis and Father Paul Mayernick praised the artists for their new film, Here's Yianni!, the story of a Greek-American couple, devoted to each other and their faith in the wake of a devastating health crisis.

At the ceremony, Executive Director, Polly Hillier assisted Father Maximos in bestowing the medal of St. Photios to Ormond and Eliopoulos. The medal of solid sterling silver, designed by Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, is quite rare and likewise rarely awarded. The medals were minted in 1976 and less than 100 of them were made.

"We honor you, Christina, for sharing with the world your family's story. Many of us found comfort and strength in witnessing the highs and lows in navigating the day with a loved one in cognitive decline. We honor you, Julia, for you authentically portrayed us, Greek Orthodox women, who fully dedicate our lives to our families with the Grace of Faith." The artists then received a blessing from Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos.

"In this magnificent and holy chapel, we can feel the warmth and support of the entire Greek community," said Eliopoulos. "Julia and I feel honored and deeply grateful. We will forever remember the beautiful blessing offered by His Eminence."

Ormond and Eliopoulos and their award-winning film were part of the 2025 St. Augustine Film Festival. At the festival, Ms. Ormond was granted the festival's Lifetime Achievement Award following a special tribute film that celebrated her artistry and distinguished career in film and television.

In Here's Yianni! Ormond plays Plousia, a wife whose strength is tested when her husband's mind and memory starts to fail him, and he imagines himself to be a late-night TV talk show host. Her husband Yianni, played by veteran actor Joe Cortese, is a diner owner who suffers from dementia. Plousia faces this challenge with whimsy, resourcefulness and abiding faith. Metropolitan Dimitrios thanked the artists for bringing to light a difficult subject. Many conversations began as the reception commenced with traditional avgolemono soup and bougatsa.

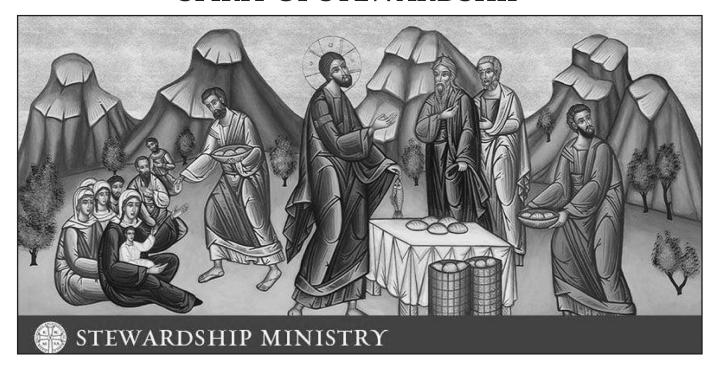


Christina Eliopoulos, His Eminence Met. Dimitrios of Xanthos, Father Paul and Presvytera Mayernick, guest, Julia Ormond



Medal of St. Photios

SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP



Greek Orthodox stewardship is the practice of responsibly and faithfully managing the gifts God has entrusted to individuals, including time, talents, and treasures, for the glory of God and the benefit of His Church. Rooted in the teachings of the Bible and the traditions of the Orthodox Church, stewardship emphasizes gratitude, generosity, and service as expressions of faith and love for God and neighbor.

"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2

It involves recognizing that everything comes from God and offering a portion of one's blessings back to Him through worship, charitable giving, and active participation in the life of the Church. Greek Orthodox stewardship calls believers to live as co-workers with God, caring for His creation, supporting the needs of the Church community, and fostering spiritual growth in themselves and others.

If you have not already sent in your Stewardship Pledge Card for 2025, we ask that you please complete the form as soon as possible by one of the following methods:

- Completing a hard copy of the form and mailing or dropping it off to our Church Office.
- Printing the form from our website <u>www.stgeorgeap.</u> org under the Stewardship tab.
- You may use the QR code below to offer your donation.

We thank you in advance for your generous support.

In His Service, Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Stewardship Committee



SAVE THE DATE:

Scholarship Sunday, June 22 ~ Applications will be available soon

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1033 WEST PARK AVENUE, OCEAN, NEW JERSEY 07712 PHONE: 732-775-2777 / FAX: 732-775-0109 EMAIL: KCatizone@stgeorgeap.org

2025 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Family Last Name			
PI	LEDGE INFORMATION		
In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to	o contribute for Christ's work at	St. George C	hurch for 2024
□ \$10,000 or 12 monthly payments of \$833.34	!		
□ \$ 7,500 or 12 monthly payments of \$625.00			
□ \$ 5,000 or 12 monthly payments of \$416.67			
□ \$ 3,000 or 12 monthly payments of \$250.00			
□ \$ 1,350 Suggested minimum for Families of	r 12 monthly payments of \$112.5	50	
□ \$ 700 Suggested minimum for Seniors and	l Singles or 12 monthly payment	s of \$58.34	
□ \$ 120 Suggested minimum for College Stu	dents or 12 monthly payments o	f \$10.00	
The above amount will be given: Weekly Mon	athly \(\price \textit{Quarterly} \) \(\price \text{Semi-annually} \)	□ Annual (One	e time)
Signature	Date		
	RD PAYMENT INFORMATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY YEAR	ON	
I authorize the payment of my pledge, acco	ording to the payment plan selec	ted by the foll	lowing credit card:
□ VISA / □ MC / □ AMEX #	Exp. Date	Code	_
Cardholder's Name as shown on card (Pleas	e Print)		国際交換
Cardmember's Signature			_
And.			

Giving Online ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF GIVING ONLINE!!

Please note that you must fill out a form and/or enter your pleage on Vanco every year.

Recurring payments do not renew year to year.

You can now pledge and pay your Stewardship and your regular weekly offerings with the convenience of electronic giving! On our Vanco system, Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Credit & Debit Card Giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card. Go to www.stgeorgeap.org ONLINE GIVING. You can easily set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

For your convenience, the use of Vanco online payment system is now available for 2025. If you are unfamiliar with Vanco, please contact the Church Office if you need assistance setting up payments.

Thiloptochos Palm Sunday Bake Sale 2025



Pickup Saturday, April 12 12 noon - 1 pm Order deadline: Friday, March 22 Limited Quantities



<u>Item</u>	Price	# Ordered Total	
Baked Goods			
Baklava	\$12.00		
Koulourakia	\$12.00		
Kourambiedes w/Almonds	\$12.00		
Kourambiedes w/o nuts	\$12.00		
Frozen Foods			
Loukaniko	\$10.00		
Spanakopita Tray	\$23.00		
Pastichio Tray	\$32.00		
Galaktobouriko Tray	\$23.00		
Moussaka Tray	\$40.00		
Keftedakia (Greek Meatballs)	\$15.00		
Appetizers	\$20.00		
(12 x Tyropita & 12 x Spa	nakopita)		
Tsoureki Loaf - small	\$15.00		
Tsoureki Loaf - large	\$20.00		
TOTAL			
Name	Cell phone	e: Email: _	

Mail form with your check payable to St. George Philoptochos to Andrea Hellinghausen 428 Driscoll Dr., Brick, NJ 08724. For additional questions, call Andrea: (732) 998-7758 or email: andreahavon@aol.com



Ladies Philoptochos Society

You are invited! It is time to renew your membership to the Philoptochos Society of St. George. The Philoptochos is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that has offered over 90 years of philanthropy through a multitude of programs that make a difference in the lives of people in the United States and throughout the world.

We invite you to join us to fulfill our mission to "help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fundraising efforts; to promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources; to preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs; to promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council." (from www.philoptochos.org). (St. George membership form in the Beacon)

With more than 400 chapters and 25,000 members across the country, Philoptochos is an "ARMY OF AGAPE- Inspiring Women, Impacting the World".

Our St. George Philoptochos Society is also strong! With more than 120 members we have made a difference internationally, nationally and locally. Our "Make A Difference Initiative" recently completed its 2rd year of giving more than \$20,000

each year to local charities for their specific needs. The notes we receive warm our hearts and show us that we can make a positive difference in the lives so many. We also support the national initiatives including answering the call for donation to national disasters.

Our organization is also a place where our women gather for fellowship and fun. We work hard to produce and organize events for our community. Our Vasilopita Luncheon was a success as we offered delicious treats after church and also raised much needed funds for our Saint Basil Academy. Also in January we held a Martini Membership meet that was very successful. In December, we held our Christmas dinner and enjoyed delicious food and friendship. We held our annual Valentine's membership meeting which has become a much anticipated evening and is so well attended. We thank all the chairs for organizing these meetings and events.

We are now preparing for our annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale and baking all of the delicious Greek pastries that contribute to the success of our annual Greek festival. All hands on deck as many hands make light work. If you would like to volunteer, we would love for you to join us. No experience necessary. There are all types of jobs that help us help others.

Ladies (and men) we urge you to take part in any of our fundraising initiatives. We need you!

*Save the date for our annual Luncheon, Breakfast at Tiffanys! Flyer in the Beacon.















Saint George Philoptochos 2025 Membership



As a member of the Saint George Philoptochos Parish Chapter #1021, you also have membership in both the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos and the National Philoptochos. Due to financial obligations of our Parish Chapter, we ask that you consider pledging an amount equal to or greater than the minimum of \$30.

Dues Breakdown:

\$15 of your dues is sent to National Philoptochos and \$8 is sent to the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos to fulfill our organizational commitments. The balance of your dues is what our local chapter counts on to operate our philanthropic budget. Please keep that in mind when pledging.

Types of Membership:

The National Philoptochos by-laws state that there are three types of membership in a Parish Chapter.

Full Membership: Women of the Greek Orthodox faith that are 18 years of age or older.

Associate & Supporting Membership: A non-Greek Orthodox woman married to a Greek Orthodox shall be eligible for Associate Membership. Men of Orthodox faith may be supporting members without the right to vote.

Honorary Membership: Honorary membership may be bestowed upon any person who has distinguished herself by service to the Ladies Philoptochos.

Philoptochos Membership Form **Dues Amount**

	\$30	\$50	\$75	\$100	Other \$	
Name			с	ell:	Email:	
Address					7: 0.1	
City			s	tate	Zip Code	
Mail this for	rm with you	membersh	ip contribut	ion 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 PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF OCEAN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

SAVE THE DATE!

Luncheon at Tiffany's

ANNUAL LUNCHEON
& GIFT AUCTION

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Grand Marquis Old Bridge, New Tersey



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.











Daughters of Penelope



A BIG thank you to all of our community members who donated to and/or attended our annual JINGO and Gift Auction event on Saturday, December 7th. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and allows us to support many different causes and of course the church.

On Monday, December 16th, the Daughters and AHEPA celebrated Christmas with a family dinner at the Greek Spot in Red Bank. Over 50 members of both organizations were in attendance, and lots of laughs were had. The white elephant gift exchange was a big hit, and the food was delicious as always. We look forward to continuing our strong relations with our Brother AHEPAns.

We held our first meeting of the New Year on Sunday, January 12th, in the library. It was a cozy event with a pancake and oatmeal bar breakfast. We had our annual vasilopita bread cutting, courtesy of Sister Antoinette's bread, and we have no idea who received the "lucky" coin! We also welcomed two new sisters to the order. Welcome Sister Suzanne Pavlides and Sister Elpida Sapidou.

On Sunday, January 26th, we hosted a Mental Health Awareness Event with the GOYA. Thank you to all the community members who attended the event. We were fortunate enough to have Sister Helen Demetriades, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and owner of Bridge Mental Health speak to us along with speakers from Into The Light, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. We pray that the event was not only informative, but can help shed some light on a topic that may be taboo.

Avery Happy Birthday to Sisters JoAnn Hittie (3/26), Effie Psomias (3/31), Tina Panas (4/12), Lori Billows (4/12), Maria Conery (4/13), Claire Chrysanthopoulos (4/15), Andrea Hellinghausen









(4/15), Sophie Anest (4/17), and Penelope Gabriel (4/17).

A big congratulations to these members for their many years of service to the Daughters of Penelope. March: Nitsa Anastasiou (1 year), Joanne Cahill (8 years), Maria Conery (23 years), Mary Giannakopoulos, Angela Gkionis (1 year), Mary Hadjiyerou (36 years), Marina Hahlidis (1 year), Pagona Hahlidis (1 year), Pari Harrison (8 years), Stacy Jackson (1 year), Natasha Liu (1 year), Carissa Marousis-Bush (1 year), Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades (27 years), Androniki Nicholas (1 year), Karen Pascal (36 years), Renoula Paviadakis (1 year), Elise Rogers (17 years), Eerie Teevan (1 year), Maria Tsivicos (2 years), Melissa Vafias (3 years), Patty Vlahos (36 years), and Georgia Vlitas (37 years). April: Marissa Costidis (16 years), Angela Koumoutsos (16 years), Antonia Lyons (16 years), and Anne Papageorge (12 years)

Aulis 195 turned 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.







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Will find their salvation
----St. Seraphimof Sarov

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40 Day Blessing:

Baptism: Wedding:

New Hope:

Grief Support Group

Welcome:

St. George Guides: Faithful Hands: Knit& Crochet

Coffee Hour Ministry: Coffee Hour Helpers

Environmental Stewardship & Protection Ministry
St. George Newlyweds:
Newcomers & Visitors:

Light of Life

Chrismation Ministry

Colleen Pardenek Krissy Conery Chelli Vicki Kamaratos Donna Karpodinis Barbara Van Wagner Antonia Lyons

Angela Koumoutsos Arthur Pappaylion Bea Paparsenos

Vicki Kamaratos Angela Koumoutsos Stella Fotopoulos Christina Barrows Angela Koumoutsos Antonia Lyons

Claire Chrysanthopoulos

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

Wishing all a Blessed Great Lent and Resurrection of Our Lord





Come together to get our beloved St. George ready to shine for Pascha.

Saturday, April 5th 10:00 am in church

All we need is your elbow grease.

No experience necessary.

Contact Antonia Lyons at <u>Antonia.lyons16@gmail.com</u> Cell - 732-598-4784



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. Last year on December 10th the following 4 Brothers were initiated by our Supreme President Savas Tsivicos:

Vasilios(Billy) Kelesidis

Charles(Bobby) Lekkas

Demetrios Petrides

George K. Sarris

An additional 3 Brothers were also initiated at a special initiation ceremony on December 27.

George Chatzopoulos

Stephan Horn

Angelo Sourias

- The number of Brothers who were initiated, transferred or reinstated since November 2023 (less than 18 months ago) was 34 bringing the total membership to 111. Our objective going forward is to continue growing, increase the monthly attendance to our meetings which currently stands between 30-35 Brothers, and most importantly, the retention of our membership base.
- In order to better serve our Chapter and its membership, we would like to welcome to our Executive Board Aris Pavlides as Assistant Treasurer and Niko Vloyanetes as Assistant Secretary. Brother Nick Billows who for many years served as Treasurer stays as Advisor. God Bless them all for the Good of AHEPA.
- As of this writing on January 20th, this is the status of our Fundraisers for Calendar Year 2025:
 - 1) Super Bowl Raffle and NCAA March Madness-In Progress-Chaired by Brother Odysseas Kolasis
 - 2) Texas Hold'Em- Took Place on January 17th- Chaired By Brother Peter Venetis- Attended by 80 People-Another Successful Fundraiser
 - 3) Annual Golf Tournament- Scheduled for June 9th- Chaired by Brother George Perentesis
 - 4) Our First Cigar Night-Tentatively Scheduled for October-Chaired by Brother Kostas Linardakis
 - 5) New Year's Eve Party- December 31- Chaired by Brothers George Moutis and George Sakelaris
- The AHEPA Educational Foundation Gala to Benefit "Journey to Greece" was held on December 15 at the Graycliff Manor. Attending from our Chapter were: Brother Paul Kalamaras and wife Peggy, Brother George Perentesis and wife Helen Demetriades and son Costas Demetriades and myself. Brother and SP Savas Tsivicos announced the establishment of an Endowment Fund for \$1 million. Testimonials of students who attended this program were presented (our Brother Costas

Demetriades was one of them). Our Chapter fully supports this noble Hellenic endeavor.

- Our AHEPA Christmas Dinner on December 16 was celebrated jointly with the Daughters of Penelope. It took place at the Greek Spot in Red Bank, was attended by 51 Brothers and Sisters, and was a huge success based on feedback. We are looking forward to this year's, God allowing.
- The Fifth District AHEPA Family Cancer Research Foundation Gala at the Pines Manor was attended by Brother Paul Kalamaras and wife Peggy. Brother Paul is also a member of the Board of Trustees. Our Chapter supported this noteworthy Cancer Foundation as a Platinum Benefactor.
- This year the Hellenic History Tournament (HHT) has been scheduled for May 10th. More details to follow.
- Lastly, I would like to thank our great Board of Trustees and all the Chairs and Brothers for their leadership and tireless efforts. As an AHEPA family and team we can accomplish everything we set our minds to.

God bless AHEPA and their Families!

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



The following members were initiated at a special meeting. George Chatzopoulos, Steven Horn and Angelo Sourias. Also pictured are members of the Board of Trustees

The following AHEPA members initiated into our chapter - Vasilios Kelesidis, Charles (Bobby) Lekkas, Demetrios Petrides, and George K Sarris





Our Chapter was honored by having the National Supreme President, Savas Tsivikos attend our initiation of new members. As of now, we have about 111 members and still growing



A MESSAGE FROM OUR GREEK SCHOOL

Our Greek school students continue to work hard both in school and at home. We made it through a busy holiday season! Students went Christmas caroling to the nearby neighborhoods of Ocean Township. We would like to thank all the families and businesses that graciously opened their doors to welcome our children. We hope that they enjoyed the children as much as they enjoyed your cookies and sweets! We also celebrated Christmas with our program. The kids sang festive songs, recited poems, performed play of the Nativity, and then they caroled some more. We even had a visit by Santa. Thank you to Mr. Emmanuel Fragioudakis for dressing up as Santa.

We began 2025 with our annual vasilopita cutting. The lucky winners were Yianni and Evangelo Gkionis! Wishing both, and all our students a healthy and prosperous new year. In January, our students also participated in our traditional Three Hierarchs Program. This year we celebrated with the Greek School of Saint Barbara's and the Greek School of Kimisis who hosted the program and the reception dinner. Students recited poems and sang hymns about the importance and contributions of Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. We thank all the families that participated and attended.

Our upcoming events include PTO's Apokriatiko Glendi on Saturday, February 22nd, our Greek Independence Day program on Sunday, March 23rd, and the Greek Parade in New York City on Sunday, March 30th. We are actively seeking teachers to join our team for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know someone that would be interested in helping us next year, please reach out to Antonia Sum at atsiandi@gmail.com or Maria Lambrinos at MLambrinos@hotmail.com for more information.



Our group singing Christmas Carols.



Santa at the Christmas Program

Το 2025 ξεκίνησε με τις ευλογίες του Πάτερ Αντρέα και το ετήσιο κόψιμο της Βασιλόπιτας του σχολείου μας. Οι δύο τυχεροί που βρήκαν το φλουρί ήταν τα αδέλφια Γιάννης και Ευάγγελος Γκιώνης! Ευχόμαστε σε όλα τα παιδιά, τις δασκάλες και τις οικογένειες του σχολείου μας ένα ευλογημένο και ευδοκιμών νέο έτος.

Στις 24 Ιανουαρίου, το σχολείο μας επισκέφτηκε την εκκλησία της Κοίμησης της Θεοτόκου, οπου μαζι και το Ελληνικό σχολείο της Αγίας Βαρβάρας του Τομς Ρίβερ για το εορτασμό της ετήσιας γιορτής προ τιμήν των Τριών Ιεραρχών. Με τις προετοιμασίες για τη γιορτή αυτή, οι μαθητές μας έχουν την ευκαιρία να μάθουν για Αυτούς τους Φωστήρες, την ιστορία της ζωής τους και τα διδάγματά τους. Μετά το πρόγραμμα, ο Σύνδεσμος Γονέων προσέφερε μια όμορφη δεξίωση για όλους τους παρευρισκόμενους. Ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ σε όλες τις οικογένειες που μας τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους και τα παιδια που εκπροσώπησαν το σχολείο μας.

Για το υπόλοιπο του σχολικού έτους έχουμε το ετήσιο αποκριάτικο γλέντι στις 22 Φεβρουαρίου στην αίθουσα δεξιώσεων της ενορίας μας, τη γιορτή για την Ημέρα Ανεξαρτησίας και τον Ευαγγελισμό της Θεοτόκου στις 23 Μαρτίου, την Παρέλαση στο Μανχάταν στις 30 Μαρτίου και τους εορτασμούς του Πάσχα.

Τέλως, χρειαζόμαστε μία δασκάλα ή έναν δάσκαλο στο σχολείο μας για την ερχόμενη σχολική χρονιά. Για οποιεσδήποτε πληροφορίες παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με την Τώνια Σαμ atsiandi@gmail.com ή τη Μαρία Λαμπρινού MLambrinos@hotmail.com



Mrs. Elizabeth's class having fun before Christmas Break.



Our lucky coin winners!



Three Hierarchs Program in Holmdel.



Three Hierarchs Program in Holmdel



Students reciting Τὸ Σύμβολο τῆς Πίστεως at the Three Hierarchs Program in Holmdel.

SUNDAY S



§ SCHOOL

Our annual Nativity Pageant was spectacular this year! Thank you to all the students and their parents who dedicate themselves to coming to Sunday School and their participation. Special thanks to all our Sunday School staff and the amazing Choir for the success of our annual Nativity Pageant every year!

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Participation 2025

Every Sunday School Student is encouraged to participate in the Oratorical Festival. This year has changed a little so please be sure to read below. Every Goyan choosing to participate in the Summer Olympics, MUST complete one of the options below to be included with the athletes.

Senior Division - 10,11,12 Junior Division - 7,8,9

1st Option - Participate in the Presentation on March 9th. A chance to win a \$100 Gift Card or \$50 Gift card to runner-up. Select any one of the 2025 Oratorical Prompts, as can be found at www.goarch.org/oratorical.

2nd Option - Classroom Presentations/Essay February 23rd.

Select any one of the 2025 Oratorical Prompts, as can be found at www.goarch.org/oratorical

• Essay must be 500-1000 words. All essays must be typed, double-spaced printed on one side only. Must be correctly labeled with Name, Grade and SS Teacher name on the top left corner.. Students will present their essay to their class on February 23rd. If February doesn't work for the student, makeup presentations to the class will be done with the Sunday school teacher's schedule.







You Are Invited - Parents of grades 7-12

At 11:30 AM on Saturday, March 9th, after Liturgy we will be holding our annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in the church. All students in grades 7-12 are welcome to participate. Topics are being discussed in Sunday School and essays are to be written at home. Please speak to your Sunday School teachers.

The entire congregation is welcome to join us in listening to our young people share their love and knowledge of our beautiful faith.

You Are Invited - Parents of grades Pre-K thru 6

Come watch your children perform! This year, our elementary students will be participating in the Oratorical in their own way - through skits! Sunday School teachers will come up with a skit to present to parents on February 23rd, right after Church. Parents will come upstairs to enjoy coffee and muffins while watching the presentations. Pre-K and Kindergarten will present in their room downstairs.

Remember it is never too late to sign up for Sunday School. See the QR Code below.

We are still looking for Sunday School teachers - If interested please call Cathie Georges 732-642-1791 or email, Cathiegeorges@aol.com.



Registration

Questions Contact Cathie Georges: 732-642-1791

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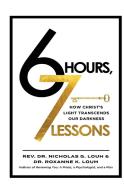


Our guest speaker

Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh

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.

"6 Hours 7 Lessons How Christ's Light Transcends Our Darkness"



Saturday, March 15, 2025

9:00 - 12:00 (Morning session) 12:00 - 1:00 (Lunch)

1:00 - 3:00 (Afternoon session)

To register please scan QR Code



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The holiday season is a time for celebration, reflection, and coming together as a community. From the heartwarming Giving Tree to the joyful carolers, these events truly captured the spirit of the season and made a lasting impression on the community.

Caroling was a holiday season highlight, bringing smiles to young and old. We made our way to homes and local businesses, spreading holiday cheer to those who might not have been able to celebrate as much. It wasn't just enjoyable for those who heard the songs, but also for those who sang. It was a super great experience and one of the year's most anticipated events.

The Christmas Adopt-a-Family was another beautiful way GOYA was able to give back to the community. The Asbury Park family we sponsored received everything from gift cards and clothing to toys for the kids and home decor, making their Christmas brighter. It was a reminder that the spirit of Christmas is all about helping others and showing compassion to those in need. The little girl who received the gifts was adorable, and you could see the pure surprise and joy on her face as she received so many thoughtful presents from our 11th and 12th grade GOYANs!

What better way to celebrate the holidays than with a festive Christmas dance? The St. Dimitrios Church in Union hosted a fun-filled Christmas dance that brought the GOYANs throughout our Metropolis together for an evening of music, food, and obviously, dancing.

Thanks to the generosity of the St. George community, the kindergartners at the Thurgood Marshall School were blessed with a bounty of Christmas surprises. The Giving Tree event is a wonderful way for everyone in our community to give back to those less fortunate.

The Nativity is a beloved annual event that brings together



Christmas Dance



Adopt-A-Family



Giving Tree

the church community in celebration of the birth of Christ. Our GOYA members participate in reenacting the Nativity story with the GOYANs taking over the main character roles and the younger kids involved in smaller but impactful characters. It brought together our faith, unity, and a sense of togetherness among all ages.

GOYA, in partnership with Daughters of Penelope, hosted a mental health awareness session bringing to light the importance of keeping yourself in a positive head space.

This weekend, the annual Woodloch Winter Retreat is happening, and it's going to be a blast with skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, and tons of other fun activities! With 40 of our GOYANs going, there's something for everyone, and it's sure to be full of unforgettable moments with friends. Besides hitting the slopes, we'll also have group activities, a Vespers service, and cozy hangouts, making it a weekend full of fun!

The upcoming Valentine's Dance hosted by St. Barbara, Toms River church promises to be an enjoyable evening of music, dancing, and spirit. It's a great opportunity for our youth members to come together in a fun atmosphere while spreading love

This year, our GOYA Executive Board has come together to organize a community service event where GOYANs will create cute Valentine's Day gift bags to be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Red Bank/Neptune/AP. If you would like to help our community service project, we are looking for donations of Hershey's Hugs and Hershey's Kisses.

Our GOYA will be showcasing our performing and fine arts talents at the upcoming Sights and Sounds Competition where we will compete in various creative categories, from music to drama and knitting to photography.

We are midway through a fantastic year and look forward to the events to come.







Nativity



An Invitation From Father Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Interactive discussion and review via zoom



March 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th The Gospel of Mark, Chapters 11-14

April 1st & 8th
The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 15 & 16 (Last Chapter)

April 15th - Holy Week - No Bible Study April 22nd - Bright Week - No Bible Study April 29th - No Bible Study

To Join, Please

Contact Teri Lalli: lalliptds@gmail.com

for Zoom ID/Password







"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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NOGRAPHY PROJEC

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		In The Altar	
		Deacon Parmenas - Left Side-	\$3,000
St. Pandora - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Deacon Prohoros - Right Side-	\$3,000
St. Kathryn - Back Wall Left - Right of Choi	r Loft	Diakonikon - Right Side -	\$25,000
	\$10,000	Artoforio - Left Side Altar -	\$25,000
St. Irene - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Amnos Tou Theou - Center Altar -	\$20,000
St. Cassiani - Back Wall Left -	\$10,000	Archangel Michael - Left Side -	\$20,000
*S.S. Rafael, Nicholas, Irene - Partial Sponsors	hip	St. Fotios - Half of Icon - Right Side -	\$7,500
Back Wall Right - Left of Choir Loft	\$6,450	Church Proper	
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Pandokratora (Dome)	
St. Gerasimos - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Prophets:	
St. Elpidosphoros - Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Daniel -	\$10,000
St. Theodore the Commander		Jonah -	\$10,000
Back Wall Right -	\$10,000	Solomon -	\$10,000
Medallions - Rear Arch Above Choir Loft		Habakkuk - \$10,00	
Archangel Gabriel -	\$5,000	Gideon -	\$10,000
St. Alexandros - Right -	\$5,000	Zephaniah/Sophonias -	\$10,000
St. Alexios - Right -	\$5,000	Ekzekiel -	\$10,000
St. Panteleimon - Right -	\$5,000		
St. Haralambos - Right -	\$5,000		
St. Marina - Left -	\$5,000		
St. Elizabeth - Left -	\$5,000	List is subject to update	
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

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



HERE'S YIANNI!

Yianni and Plousia (Joe Cortese and Julia Ormond) own a charming family diner by the beach in Asbury Park, where Yianni is a convivial host. Lately, Plousia has noticed that her husband of 40 years is not quite himself and is often wistfully distracted. One day, Yianni slips into a parallel realm, a world of his fractured mind, imagining himself as the host of a latenight talk show. Plousia learns that Yianni is facing dementia but hides his illness from coworkers and best friends (Kevin Pollak and Rosanna Arquette). As his condition worsens, Plousia becomes Yianni's full-time caregiver and lifeline. But then long-suppressed grief and a heartbreaking delusion comes over Yianni. With Plousia's determination and her whimsical inventiveness, they discover how to smile through the sadness, and celebrate every moment they have together.

HERE'S YIANNI! — based on a true story and filmed in and around Asbury Park — will be screened in the historic Asbury Lanes. The local bowling alley and hipster hotspot has been renovated into a community multimedia/sports center, with an indie/arthouse movie theatre, a concert venue, a retro diner and private bowling lanes. Join us for a special screening of our film. We'll bring the popcorn.

Running time 101 minutes. A Q&A with the filmmakers will follow.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY.

tickets.gsff.org

Our film is listed as AL9 / 3.30.25. SCROLL DOWN and click AL9 / 3.30.25 to order the correct tickets.

HERE'S YIANNI!

A STORY OF LOVE, STRENGTH AND HOPE IN THE FACE OF SORROW.

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