

THIS CHRISTMAS

Speak your love.
Be kind.
Be gentle.
Laugh a little.
Think first of someone else.
Dismiss suspicion, and replace
it with trust.
Seek out a forgotten friend.
Keep a promise.
Forego a grudge.
Forgive an enemy.
Apologize if you were wrong.
Try to understand.
Examine your demand on others.
Express your gratitude.
Gladden the heart of a child.
Go to Church.
Take arms against malice.
Take pleasure in the beauty
and wonder of the Earth.
Speak your Love.
Speak it again.
Speak it still once again.
MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Rejoice!

Dear Lord, as I close the door on the old year,
I ponder the things I've done...
The things I've said and the joys I've had.
I wonder, have I lost or won?

I've thought of new friends I have made,
And the old ones, staunch and true...
The paths of the old year made easier, Lord,
Because I have walked them with you.

I think of all the many times,
When my burdens were so heavy to bear,
And how my faith slipped away from me.
But somehow you were always there.

Now, as I open the door to thus New Year,
And carefully peep inside,
I wonder what it holds for me...
But I'll throw the door open wide.

Whatever it brings to me and mine,
I'll meet it with a heart so true...
I know that, Lord, whatever it may be,
You'll be there to carry me through.

By Merrel Thompson

CHRISTMASTIME

*What does Christmas mean to us,
Does it mean a lot of fuss?
Gifts to buy and cards to write,
A Christmas tree with candles bright,
A turkey plump, mince pies to bake;
With outward signs we all partake.
We rush around no time to pray,
"Oh, that can wait another day."
But stop awhile, just think it out
What Christmas Day is all about,
The day a tiny child was born,
In stable bare, and so forlorn,
The King of Kings who reigns above
Come down to bless us with His love.
The Friendship Book*

The 10 Commandments of the Christmas Season

1. *Thou shalt remember to keep Christ in Christmas.*
2. *Thou shalt pause in thy business to consider the magnitude of God's gift of Christ to mankind.*
3. *Remembering that Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn, thou shalt give Christ the chief room in thy heart.*
4. *Thou shalt participate in the Christmas activities sponsored by the Church.*
5. *Thou shalt be generous in thy gifts to foreign missions at Christmas.*
6. *Thou shalt take time to plan for the happiness of those outside thine own circle of family and friends.*
7. *Thou shalt enjoy, in unhurried calm, the priceless heritage of Christmas music which exalts the Lord Jesus Christ.*
8. *Thou shalt give of thyself in all gifts, giving not for duty, for reciprocity, or personal satisfaction – but for the simple joy of sharing.*
9. *Thou shalt remember, with great patience and understanding, all those who serve thee; the sales clerk, the postman, the delivery man, and all others who bear the physical burden of the holiday season.*
10. *Thou shalt teach thy children the true meaning of Christmas. Of the Prince of Peace, who came to give mankind a way to righteousness and true everlasting happiness.*

President's Message:

Dear Fellow Stewards,

On December 1, 2004, I chaired a meeting of the members of our Foundation who are also the members of our Parish Council.

It was a special moment because it has been twenty years since the Foundation was incorporated and probably just as many or close to it, since the members of the Foundation have had a meeting.

This special meeting was held to review the investment strategy of the Foundation monies and to approve a recommendation made by the Parish Council, to accumulate all income generated from the \$257,000 balance for ten years and on January 1, 2015 make it part of the principal balance of the Foundation account. Beginning on that date and continuing thereafter, the income derived from the new principal balance will be disbursed, if necessary, every six months to the general operating account of the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian.

The ideal goal, to strive for, is to build the funds in the Foundation to the point that the income generated from the principal will be enough to cover all the operational expenses of the Church, and thus, assure the future of our Cathedral for our children, grandchildren and many more generations to come. How exciting!

Two weeks ago, we celebrated our 36th Annual Dinner Dance and paid tribute to our beloved Protopresbyter Father John for his 35th year of service to our Lord. It was an evening filled with warmth, happiness and joy.

The commemorative journal was an overwhelming success bringing the total revenues generated from the last three years' journals to over \$200,000.

The recent success of our journals, coupled with the success of the four consecutive car raffles which generated over \$210,000 in net profit, have allowed us to repay the Foundation account the money the Church borrowed to survive in more difficult times.

I'd like to thank my wife for the tremendous sacrifice she has made to computerize and coordinate the journal these last three years. I made a promise to the Council that I would take

this fundraiser from \$17,000 to over \$70,000 a year, but it was my wife who made it possible with the help of our sales group, Mr. George Gines, Mr. Gus Kramis and Mr. George Souflis. On behalf of the Parish Council and the Stewards of St. John, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude.

A little over two months ago, we launched Phase II of our Preservation and Beautification Project on September 17th, the Feast Day of AGIA SOPHIA.

I am sure that it was a Holy Wisdom, which inspired this program that has already raised over \$200,000 in a little over a year for the preservation of our beautiful inheritance.

Special thanks to our gracious, hospitable and generous Mrs. Jean Milanos, who hosted the kickoff dinner at her beautiful home and also added \$5,000 to Phase I and \$5,000 to Phase II in support of the project.

Also special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tenedios and family for contributing \$10,000 to Phase I and \$25,000 to Phase II.

Additionally, I'd like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Evripides Kontos for contributing \$15,000 to Phase I and \$11,000 to Phase II in support of this project.

These three families were responsible for more than one-third of the total money raised thus far (\$206,000).

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported this project and invite the people who haven't contributed to the Preservation of our Cathedral, to do so.

So, as you can see, we have had a very productive autumn season and I would like to thank everyone who has made personal sacrifices, financial or through service to strengthen our Cathedral and Community.

We have several highlights to look forward to; Our Annual Christmas Pageant and Party, Our New Year's Eve Party, and "Basile" is coming back with a whole new show in February. Looking forward to seeing you all at these events.

We have built together, a momentum of growth, and financial strengthening. Let's continue to work together towards common goals and objectives and focus on the positives.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank Father John for his spiritual support, my family for their support, and all the members of the Parish Council and Stewards who have supported our endeavors.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with Love, Health and Good Fortune!

With Faith & Love in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

*Andreas Zigouras
President, Parish Council*

Philoptochos:

Dear Members & Parishioners.

"St. Philothea" Philoptochos of the Metropolis Cathedral of St. John the Theologian wishes everyone in our Parish, "A Merry Christmas & A Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year in 2005."

September is the new ecclesiastical year for our Orthodox Church and also the beginning of our Philoptochos' new year. We've all come back from our vacations relaxed and full of vivre, and our Board has already brought some new and innovative ideas to the table. Our goals for 2005 are to incorporate these new ideas into even more successful fundraisers and increased membership and participation of our members in the general meetings.

In September, our Metropolitan Cathedral celebrated its Patron. St. John the Theologian. After Vespers, on the 25th, the Philoptochos ladies hosted a beautiful reception. His Eminence, Metropolitan Evangelos, numerous priests and devout Christians came to celebrate the Feast day of our beloved Metropolis with us. A sincere thank you to the Chairladies and all those who helped them make this reception a success.

In October, we all gathered together to honor an exceptional lady, a great mother, a devout Christian, a good friend and one of the hard working people of our Community, Mrs. Maria Makrinos, our Philoptochos Past President. Maria dedicated her life to our Parish and held many positions in various clubs such as the Girl Scouts, PTO, Mother's Club (President), Goya Advisor, and for the last four years, Philoptochos President. So, on October 21st, we all gathered at

the Clinton Inn for Maria's testimonial. The Metropolis of NJ was represented by Metropolitan Secretary Father Nikas, Father John Alexandrou, Father Apostolos Panos and Father Dimitris Doukas from Buffalo, NY. Our Parish was represented by President, Mr. Andreas Zigouras, PTO/Mother's Club Presidents, Mrs. Zigouras and Mrs. Dongaris, Parish council members and members of all church organizations. Mrs. Skiadas, National Philoptochos President, and Mrs. Drogaris, Metropolis of NJ President, also came to honor and celebrate Maria's numerous achievements, her "St.. Philothea" sisters, her Parents and her Family. The event was planned with great detail by Chairlady Marina Philliou and her co-Chairladies, Katina Halkias and Harriet Nikolaidis. It was exceptional and moving. We wish Maria and her family the best. May the good Lord grant them health, strength, love and happiness. Bravo and Thank You to Mrs. Philliou.

November's General Meeting, MEZE, SANGRIA & MEMBERSHIP," was something out of the ordinary. We had a meze contest and the Judges, Father John, Mr. Zigouras and Mr. Andreas Georgiou, awarded three prizes: 1st prize -Bruschetta with shrimp: 2nd prize - Kreatopitakia and 3rd prize -Crab Cakes. To all the ladies who participated in the contest, your mezedes were outstanding and delicious and we enjoyed them all. This was a successful general meeting and we will repeat it in February 2005. Please join us!! Our aim is to publish a 2006 "Meze Calendar".

November 14th, Philoptochos and PTO/Mother's Club, hosted a reception in honor of our beloved Father John Alexandrou, Dean of our Cathedral. It was his 35th Anniversary in the Priesthood. Metropolitan Evangelos of NJ, Chancellor Stavropoulos, Metr. Secretary Father Nikas, Father Tsigounis and Father Theodoros celebrated the Divine Liturgy. In a packed Fellowship Hall, Father John's family, spiritual children, friends and our church's Hierarchy, gathered together to honor him. Tributary speeches showed us all the various sides of Father's life: the family man, the coach, the teacher, the spiritual Father and one of our church's ecclesiastical leaders. To Father John and his Family, we wish love, happiness and health. May God grant him many more years to

continue his work as our spiritual leader. To the Chairladies of the reception and those who helped them, congratulations on a job well done.

Philoptochos Events during December:

Christmas Party -December 2nd, 2004

Holiday Bazaar- December 4th, 2004

Philoptochos Events in Future:

Vasilopita -January 9th, 2005

Fashion Show -May 10th, 2005

Please join our Philoptochos! There is no age limit. We would love to have members from 18 to whatever. We are filled with new ideas, and we need your participation.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Harriet Nikolaidis, President

PTO/Mother's Club:

Our Greek School and Sunday school programs are in full swing and the PTO/MC has been very busy organizing our many fundraisers to support our schools. Enrollment of Greek and Sunday school is at an all time high of about 200 children in each program.

We began our calendar year with hosting OXI day on October 28th. Our children did a wonderful job with their ποιήματα, thanks to our wonderful teachers and principal Anna Megaris. We would like to thank our chairladies, Georgia Economos and Gina Tzavelis, and our hospitality committee, Demi Katradis and Anna Kyriakides, for coordinating this successful event.

On November 14th, the Philoptochos and the PTO/MC hosted the celebration in honor of our Cathedral Dean, Father John Alexandrou, for his 35 years of service in the priesthood. We would like to thank the chairladies of the Philoptochos, Athena Apostle and Theodora Manolis, along with our chairladies, Christine Barbarise and Fani Demetrakopoulos. Father John, Παντα Αξιος !

This year's major fundraiser, our "**Tricky Tray**", which was held on November 18th, was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance. We would like to thank our community for their continued support. As presidents, we would like to

extend a special thank you to our wonderful chairladies: Stacey Kontolios, Christine Barbarise, Frances Bayiokos, Fani Demetrakopoulos, Maria Pavlou and Audrey Sousou. Μπράβο και του χρόνου!

We are also continuing our very successful **Grocery Gift Certificate** Program. By purchasing gift certificates for A&P, Kings, Pathmark, and Shoprite, the PTO/MC receives 5% while you pay nothing extra for your grocery shopping. Gift Certificates are available through our board members during Greek School hours and after Liturgy on Sunday. We thank everyone in advance for your support.

We have been working diligently in our **Children's Library** in anticipation of our January Agiasmo (date to be soon announced). There is still a lot of work to be done (inputting books in the computer, labeling and covering the books) and we welcome anyone interested in helping us.

Please note our upcoming events:

December 12th – Sunday school

Communion Breakfast

December 19th – Christmas Pageant and Community Christmas

Party/**children's gifts to Santa for less fortunate children**

December 21st – Greek School

Christmas Celebration

December 29th – **Nutcracker on Ice, 2:00 pm** at NJPAC

January 30th – Three Hierarchs Program in church

February 16th – PTO/MC General Meeting at 7:30 pm

March 5th – APOKREATIKO ` GLENDI

The annual APOKREATIKO GLENDI is our 2nd major fundraiser so please keep the date open and come celebrate with us the Apokries. There will be great food, good company, music and fun entertainment for the children!

On behalf of the entire PTO/MC Board, we would like to wish our family of St. John the Theologian a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

**Gena Dongaris, Sherry Zoe Zigouras
Co-Presidents**

Mr. & Mrs. Club:

Proudly, we announce the addition of over 100 new members to our club. We have been working diligently on attracting new Orthodox couples and singles, from everywhere to join us. We have met this challenge with great success.

A most enjoyable Autumn Jubilee was held on Saturday, October 9. Our new generation board: Nancy Kontos, Andrea Brun, Wendy Zavolas, and Sandy Tsamutalis, transformed our room into a lovely fall paradise with a delectable menu, that complimented our Amerikus Greek wine tasting event. Cheers to the evening's bartenders, Nick Zavolas and John Demoleas. We are truly grateful for all the donations made to our club.

With the untiring endeavors of our previous Mr. & Mrs. Club board, a \$3,000 donation, was made towards the Beautification & Preservation Project of our church.

We look forward to your good company, at our CHRISTMAS SOIREE at THE VENETIAN in Garfield, N.J., on Sunday, December 12. (Special Honoree: Alexander Argiriou)

Upcoming EVENTS:

February – Manhattan Greek Taverna Glendi
April – Broadway Theatre & Dinner
June – Meadowlands Pegasus Night

Spread the word – SOCIALIZE with us!

Vivian Demoleas, President

Stewardship:

Reminder! Have you filled out your stewardship card for your commitment for 2005 yet? Please take the time now. They are available at church in the Narthex or through the church office.

AHEPA:

As the holiday season has arrived and our calendar year comes to an end, many of us will reflect on 2004. We will reminisce of holidays past as we only have our memories and our photographs to remind us. We choose to remember as much as we can without losing the important and meaningful times.

However, what I have seen happening slowly to the entire Hellenic community is our loss of identity as a culture and as a people. We are losing our language as the generations progress; some have lost the beauty of our Orthodox Church, and if outside powers have their way, we will soon lose our history to the revisionists.

Several years ago, certain African Americans proclaimed that the ancient Greeks stole much of the philosophy, mathematics and medicine from Africa. Even after many "symposiums" and reporting in the press, no one asked, did the Greeks steal their drive and desire to progress as well? One month ago, our government chose to recognize the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia as the Republic of Macedonia, failing or choosing to ignore the reason, which the former was agreed to after much debate and controversy. The latest slight is the Oliver Stone movie Alexander. Mr. Stone chose to take artistic liberty with his version; however, it prompted a group of lawyers to sue requesting that the production qualify itself as a non-historical film.

We must protect what has been handed down to us by our forefathers, the same as we protect our family honor and respect our parents and grandparents. Our roots run very deep. No one individual or group of self proclaimed intellectuals should be allowed to uproot our large and very old time tested tree.

Hellenes have proven themselves throughout the world this past spring when out of nowhere the Greek National Soccer Team took the European Cup, This past summer when the whole world waited for the Athens Olympics to fall flat, the Greeks Mythically executed them to an astonished world. Every day as millions of Greeks around the world go about their daily lives, be it a professional, laborer or the most important of

which is homemaker, the foundation of what we are about is FAMILY.

Our "Family" extends beyond our blood relatives. It extends to our Church, both locally and internationally, and to the Hellenic organizations that we belong to including AHEPA.

Recently our Archbishop Demetrios met with Secretary of State Powel and National Security Advisor Rice. AHEPA's Supreme President Frank Manios was at his side to offer support and voice the opinions of the Ahepa Family. As Ahepa continues to strive, to progress and protect Hellenism, each one of us must continue to ensure that we protect what has been given to us, be it cultural or spiritual.

I want to wish everyone a Happy and above all Healthy Holiday Season!

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

*George Papas, President,
Bergen Knights Chapter 285, AHEPA*

Philoptochos Past President Testimonial:

I was deeply honored to see so many that came to my past Philoptochos President testimonial dinner. There were not enough words I could say that could have expressed my gratitude to those who helped make that evening so special. I thanked the President, Harriet Nikolaidis, and all the board of St. Philothea for the wonderful testimonial which was held at the Clinton Inn on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2004.

A very special Thanks you goes to past president Marina Philliou whose tireless efforts and many sleepless nights that made that night one I will never forget. It was truly was an endeavor of love and exceptional work.

A president would be nothing without an outstanding board. These exceptional women helped to formulate plans and methods to help reach all our goals. I thanked and expressed my appreciation to my executive members, Xanthi Athanasenas, Vasilia Azzata, Marie Tzagournis, Katina Halkias, Ann Hatzikyriacou, Bessie Theodorou, Dena Gaitanaros and Iro Michal for their tireless, unselfishness and outstanding

enthusiasm for the success of many of our fund raisers. Through the acts, dedication and commitment by my **entire** board, we were able to make a difference in so many ways. We all know how difficult fundraising is and I was so grateful for the encouragement and moral support I received from parish council presidents Stacey Antoniadis, John Lignos, John Thomopoulos and Andreas Zigouras and all our parishioners and friends. I thank our spiritual fathers, Fr John, Fr George Nikas and Fr Paul Panos' for their guidance they gave St. Philothea. A special thank you went to my right hand, Andy Georgiou, for all of his help.

It is very important to have encouragement of one's family. I felt I was able to give so much of my time and love to this organization. For that I thank my husband Adam, my daughters Anna, Andrea, Stephanie and my son-in-law Sean, for all their love and for putting up with me for the past four years. I want to especially thank my family who came from Canton, Ohio and Buffalo, N.Y. to share this evening with me. My parents, having served the church all their lives, have been excellent role models. I am glad to follow in their foot steps.

I was very honored and thrilled with the presence of the National president, Georgia Skeadas, and the Metropolis president, Bessie Drogaris. The service and commitment these two special women have demonstrated through their leadership have set the threshold very high for the rest of us. I thanked both of them for coming and for their inspiring words. Our national president shared with everyone how our chapter was singled out during the Clergy Laity Congress meeting this past summer. Our chapter won first place on the **Out Reach Program** with the Benefit Sclavos fundraiser. This was the result of our entire community uniting for a worth while project. It was so heartwarming and gratifying to see the response by Fr. John, our Parish council president Andreas Zigouras, the PTO/MOTHERS' Club, KALI PAREA and the Lampousa Society; and individuals like Stanley Matthews and Christina Tzimas. Their love and concern was meant to make a difference.

I was very honored to have had Georgia Skeadas present me with the National

Philoptochos Past President's Pin; Father John and Andreas Zigouras for the very beautiful icon of St. Philothea; and the very special presentation of a beautiful plaque by Stanley Matthews and George Papas from the Greek Childrens Fund. .

Very Rev. Fr. George Nikas read the letter from our Metropolitan Evangelos, who was unable to attend. Fr. George's own words were very inspiring and moving. His presence that evening was very special to me. At that point I also thanked Fr. Paul Panos for coming and the beautiful icon of The Panagia.

Our Saints, St. John and St. Philothea, gave me this opportunity and the strength to do and accomplish my four years . I also thank God for all the gifts I have been given in my life....

PHILOPTOCHOS BOARDS COME AND GO BUT THE FRIENDSHIPS CREATED WILL BE FOREVER !

For all that were present- I expressed my sincere THANK YOU!

Maria Makrinos, Past President 1999-2003

Parts of an Associated Press Article:

Vatican City(Nov. 27) - Pope John Paul II, seeking to heal rifts with other Christians, on Saturday handed over the relics of two Orthodox saints that were brought to Rome from ancient Constantinople centuries ago. The Pope sat beside Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, in St. Peter's Basilica as the bones of the saints, resting on yellow velvet in crystal and alabaster reliquaries, were brought to the altar. The two religious leaders blessed the relics before the reliquaries were carried away by Vatican ushers in dark suits for return later in the day to Istanbul, Turkey, the former Greek Orthodox Byzantine capital of Constantinople. The Vatican is retaining some small part of the relics.

During a June visit to the Vatican, the Orthodox leader sought the return of the relics of Patriarchs John Chrysostom and Gregory Nazianzen (The Theologian), who were Archbishops long before the eastern and western churches split nearly

1,000 years ago. In remarks read for him by an aide, the frail pontiff called it an occasion to "purify our wounded memories" and to "strengthen our path of reconciliation." Bartholomew, speaking next, said the handover repaired "an anomaly" and "ecclesiastical injustice" and was a sign that there were no "insurmountable problems in the Church of Christ." The Orthodox leader said the gesture also served as an example to those holding religious treasures sought by others. Bartholomew is considered "first among equals" among Orthodox Patriarchs and directly controls several Greek Orthodox churches around the world.

A religious service attended by Bartholomew and John Paul both have emphasized reconciliation between their churches, which split in 1054. The Orthodox say the relics were removed from Constantinople when Crusaders sacked the city in 1204. The Vatican, however, says the bones of one of the Saints, Gregory, were brought to Rome by Byzantine monks in the 8th century. In 2001, John Paul apologized for Roman Catholic involvement in the Constantinople siege. The Pope has made reconciliation among the divided Christian churches one of the major themes of his papacy.

YAL:

The YAL has been very busy with a variety of events: social, charitable, religious and otherwise... too many to list in this newsletter. Please visit our website for the latest on YAL events, meetings, and how to become a member. All 18-35 year olds are welcome:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YAL_Tenafly/

From all of us in the St. John's YAL family, we would like to wish everyone a Very Happy, Healthy and Blessed Holiday Season and New Year 2005!

Sincerely, *The YAL Committee*

Stewardship:

We want 100% percent participation in stewardship this coming year!

Bookstore:

Remember, we have a beautiful bookstore with books, icons, tapes and various other items available for purchase for yourself or for gifts. It is located inside, to the right, as you enter for the church office and chapel. It is open after Liturgy on Sundays and when the church office is open.

GOYA:

The GOYA of the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian has been busy with a variety of events for the 2004-2005 seasons.

- September: Car Wash Fundraiser- Thanks to Mrs. Maria Lignos for coordinating this event, and to all the parishioners who took advantage of the car wash.
- September: Kick Off Dance: First State Dinner/Dance hosted by St. Andrews, Randolph. 30 of our Goyans attended.
- October: District I Basketball/Volleyball Tournament- Congratulations to our Boys Varsity Basketball Team who won the Second Place Trophy. Thanks to our basketball coaches: George Nannas, Nick Nannas, Chris Tsamutalis, and to our volleyball coaches: Michael Sountis, and Tarsia Manso.
- November: Bowling Tournament: Hosted by Ascension, Fairview. Congratulations to Socrates Tsamutalis for winning the first place medal for the boys' team with the highest score.
- December: Jersey City Tournaments: 12/10-12/12 and 12/18. The boys will be playing volleyball and the girls' basketball. This is a State event hosted by Evangelismos, Jersey City.
- December 12th & 19th (Sunday) Annual Christmas Ornament Fundraiser: for the benefit of the six year old Kebabjian Triplets who were orphaned at the age of three.
- December 26th (Sunday): Vasilopita Sale
- December 29th (Wed.) 7-11 PM: Metropolis State Christmas Dinner Dance hosted by the GOYA of the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian. Chairladies: Maria Lignos and Maria Kamilaris.

- Upcoming Events: Ski Trip; Metropolis State Valentine's Dance; District Religious Retreat; Sights & Sounds (literature, art, & music festival); Community Service Project.

If you are 12 years old and in seventh grade- 18 years old and in twelfth grade, please join us. You will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of events and meet Goyans from throughout the State. Wonderful friendships have developed through the numerous GOYA activities.

Please e-mail Mrs. Rousouli for meeting information, and to be placed on the GOYA mailing list: Dimegr@aol.com

The GOYA of St. John the Theologian wishes all the parishioners of the Cathedral a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Penny Rousouli, GOYA Adviser

Girl Scouts:

St. John's Girl Scout Troop #653 continues to grow. We now have 20 girls involved in our program. The girls are thriving as they enrich their lives with knowledge, good values and fun.

Our meetings continue on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month at 7:30pm. We also have had several wonderful outings. The highlights have been the Annual Scout Religious Retreat at St. Basil's, a Father-Daughter square dance and Ice Skating.

Recently, several of our girls earned their religious awards in scouting. They worked diligently to earn the St. George & Chi Rho Medals. Thank you to Father John and Christ Economos for their guidance and instruction for those many classes!

We're so proud of all the girls for their achievements and look forward to an exciting year together! For information, call the following leaders:

- Daisies: Frances Bayiokos 750-9180
- Brownies: Christalla Papas 391-0150
- Brownies: Janet Hilaris 750-9173
- Juniors: Helen Kamilaris 384-3856
- Juniors: Phyllis Turin 767-1113

Cub Scouts:

The ten purposes of Cub Scouting are:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

Since September, the Cubs have grown to 35 young boys from both inside and outside of our Cathedral. We have kept them busy with activities like our trip to the Crayola Factory in September, our Outdoor Field Day in October, where our pack won 1st Place, and an Outdoor Activities Day in November in the NJ Camp Alpine.

On Thanksgiving weekend eight of our Webelos scouts received the Chi Rho religious award, John Cuyulis, Nicholas Cytowicz, Nicholas Hilaris, Christos Kaparos, Peter Katsogiannos, James Millas Russo and Alex Themistocleous. This is the second of the three religious awards available to all scouts. Later that day we joined two other local cub scout packs and our girl scouts and went Ice Skating at the Westwood rink. In December we went on a trip to the USS Ling, a submarine moored in the Hackensack River.

It is not too late to join the fun. We have our Klondike Derby coming in January for our Webelos Scouts, our Blue and Gold Dinner in February, our Pinewood Derby in March and a trip to Philadelphia and the Battleship USS N.J.

Young men in Grades 1-5 can join Cub Scouts at any time, so call Peter Hilaris 201-750-9173 or James Coyle 816-8742.

*Peter Hilaris, DPM
Cubmaster*

Boy Scouts:

The Scouts, grades 6 and up, have kept themselves busy, with multiple campouts, including the 1st Annual Police Camporee in Sea

Girt, NJ. Camping on the beach was an experience none had done before. Besides their striving for advancement on all levels, the boys have led numerous service projects, including painting lines in our parking lot and a toys for tots program with the veteran marine corps. Such are the activities of our boy scouts, so join now for a rewarding exciting experience.

Parish Profiles:

Constantine Lignos

Constantine “Dean” Lignos attends the Bergen County Academies, Academy for Visual and Performing Arts (Theatre Concentration). His passion is theatre, having performed in such plays as *The Wizard of the Mall* (Mannequin), *Woolfie* (Papa Bear), *Kamp Koas* (Martin), *The Phantom of the Soap Opera* (Addison), and *A Midsummer Cirque du Night’s Dream* (Bruce LaBruce and Theseus). He also performed in two plays written in the Greek language for the GOYA Sights and Sounds Festival which were *Οικογενειακες Εριδες* and *Ολυμπιακη Αεροπορια* where he played an immigrant Grandmother. Dean, who aspires to pursue acting, broadcast journalism and teaching, is now in rehearsal for *As You Like It* (William) and also plans to audition for the Bergen County Academies’ production of *Les Miserables*. Dean is now taking Byzantine music lessons with the Cathedral Chanter, Mr. Hippocrates Polemis, yet also makes time for his other interests which include public speaking, writing, producing movies/plays (*Take the Time, Take the Whole World Too; The Ultimate Art; and Make a NAME for Yourself*), and traveling. He has been an acolyte for four years and has been taunted as a church *ανάγνωστη*. He has attended Sunday School for 11 years going from Pre-Kindergarten to the 9th grade class and has successfully completed 8 years of the Greek School program excelling in the Greek Regents and Proficiency Exam in New York. He participated in the St. John the Chrysostom Oratorical Festival twice placing in first place (moving on to the District Festival) and third place and plans to participate again this year. Dean is also in his third year as a member of GOYA attending many of the dances and activities GOYA hosts. As a member and a leader in Troop 25, Dean has just attained the highest achievement in Scouting, the rank

of Eagle Scout. Outside of church and school, Dean has taken a one-month summer camp with off-Broadway director, Victoria Pero, acting classes at the John Harms Theatre in Englewood, and singing lessons with Broadway actress, Gay Marge. He enjoys watching movies, his favorites being *Chicago* and *Moulin Rouge*, to analyze techniques used in cinematography and acting. After High School, Dean plans to attend college and pursue his passion, but most importantly, to implement the ideals that scouting has set so concretely in his heart.

Sam & Anastasia Matthews

The grateful couple helped organize a fundraiser for Englewood Hospital Medical Center. They wanted to thank the Hospital for the way it helped with the recovery of their first daughter. So, in October, they donated the profits of a full day from their diner in Bergenfield to benefit the Hospital. This was the second year they have held this fundraiser. Congratulations on their efforts!!

Thomas Eliopoulos

Thomas has been awarded the Mabel and Lawrence S. Cooke Scholarship by the National Eagle Scout Association, to be given over his next four years of education. This is the largest and most prestigious scholarship awarded by the NESA and only one Eagle Scout in the United States per year is given this honor. He was honored for earning the maximum of 120 merit badges in scouting and 12 Palms. He is also an officer in the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society in Scouting, for which he attended a conference in Iowa this summer where 7000 young men from the USA, Europe and Asia were in attendance.

Basile & Jimmy Santos Concert:

The AHEPA, co-sponsored with the Cathedral, will be bringing the fabulous duo of Basile and Jimmy Santos of Los SuperGreeks back for a totally NEW SHOW!!!!

So, mark the date of February 26th, Saturday, 7pm for this event. The \$75 will include dinner, open bar and the entertainment!

Sacraments:

Chrismation:

8/22/04 Danielle Lofaso with George & Voula Giannoulis as Anadochi

Baptisms:

8/22/04 M/M Leo F. McManus for Ava Christina with Christina Petrakis as Anadochos.

8/28/04 M/M Steven Barr for Maria with Bessie Giannopoulos as Anadochos.

9/12/04 M/M John P. Chugranis for Isabella Jordan with Dimitra Kambitsis as Anadochos.

9/12/04 M/M John P. Chugranis for Constantina Nicole with Demetrius Kambitsis as Anadochos.

9/19/04 M/M Nomikos Karapiperis for Eleni Maria with Nikolaos & Eleni Karapiperis as Anadochi.

10/3/04 M/M Christian B. Martinez for Karina Eleni with Eleni T. Mathioudakis as Anadochos.

10/10/04 M/M Altiviades Vazakopoulos for Anastasia with Michael Lilikas as Anadochos.

10/16/04 M/M Timothy J. Bartzos for Nicole Catherine with Rika & Harry Fiorentinos as Anadochi.

10/24/04 M/M Gorge Tsoullis Jr. for Samantha with Peter Marketos as Anadochos.

11/14/04 M/M George Barakos for Achilles George with Aristomenis & Hariclia Kourmousis as Anadochi.

11/28/04 M/M Telemahos Fitanides for Nicholas Telemahos with Catherine Roth as Anadochos.

11/28/04 M/M Charles DeGruccio for Stylliani Katherine with Tom & Allison Orechio as Anadochi.

12/4/04 M/M Dean Paltos for Barbara Antonia with George & Helen Karounos as Anadochi.

12/4/04 M/M Lawrence Manning for Zoe Ruth with Perry & Siobhan Papantonis as Anadochi.

12/5/04 M/M John Loos for Maria Alexandra with Sam Poulis & Despina Liouliakis as Anadochi.

Weddings:

8/22/04 Dennis Kathechis & Stephani Stassou with Emanuel Katechis as Paranympfos.

8/22/04 Nikolaos C. Hiletzaris & Maria Briguglio with Maria Lignos & Marco Briguglio as Paranympfi.

9/5/04 Stratos Samouhos & Effie Chrisanthopoulos with Konstantina Dalamaras & Kiki Chrisanthopoulos as Paranympfi.

9/12/04 Achilleas Tzoulafis & Michelle A. Press with Dean Mastrojohn & Tina Kontarakis as Paranympfi.

9/18/04 Telly Zervoudis & Maria Maragos with Gus & Irene Zervoudis & Spiros Maragos as Paranympfi.

9/19/04 John Kananis & Danielle Lofaso with George Gianoulis & Voula Gianoulis as Paranympfi.

10/1/04 Alexander A. Parlamis & Joanne E. Benedetti with Stephanie Karlis, Franklin Parlamis & Elian Karlis as Paranympfi.

10/9/04 Peter Gonedes & Nazly Gheit with George Alexiades & Theodore Gonedes as Paranympfi.

10/16/04 Andrew Chronis & Irene Evangelou with Paula Lapas & Nick Vartholomeos as Paranympfi.

10/17/04 John Timotheou & Stephanie Patrikios with Spero & Debbie Leakas & Peter Patrikios as Paranympfi.

10/23/04 Thomas P. Williams & Pamela A. Kessisoglou with Dina Vanides & Jud Williams as Paranympfi.

11/14/04 Dean C. Kyriannis & Eleni Demetriades with Teddy Kouridis & Athena Kouridis as Paranympfi.

11/20/04 Keith H. Christophers & Dina M. Vanides with Victoria Sdrougias Reiter & Jay Turner as Paranympfi.

11/20/04 Adam C. Kambour & Elizabeth Paul with Peter Grubbs & Bronyn Grubbs as Paranympfi.

11/28/04 William T. Biniaros & Lisa A. Lamazza with Mary Halatsis & Thomas Biniaros as Paranympfi.

Funerals:

8/30/04 Kalliroi Vrakas

9/3/04 Virginia Savancea

9/18/04 Mary Charllis

9/20/04 Peter Peppas

9/30/04 Katherine Dallas

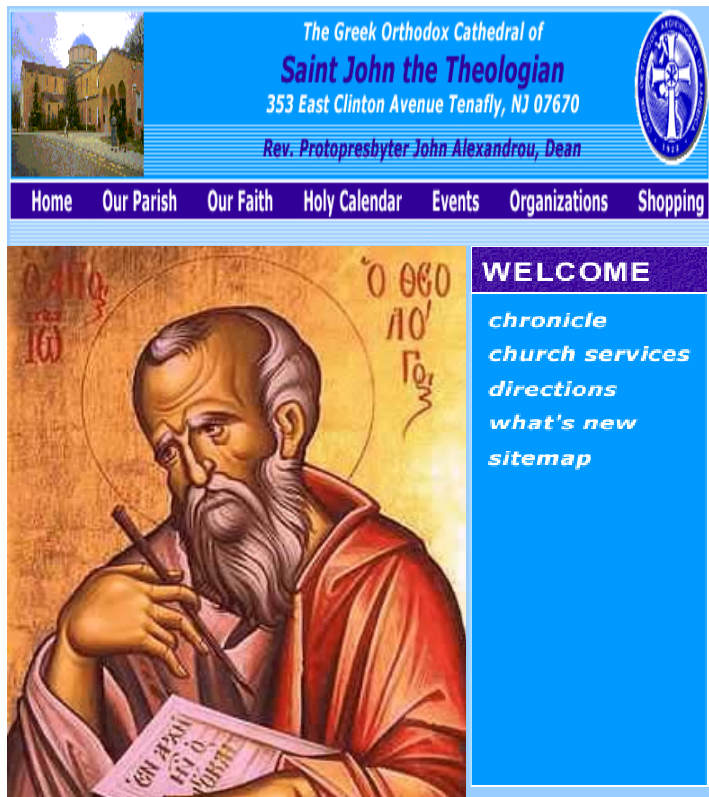
11/4/04 Alike Aslanis

11/16/04 Dennis Screpetis

12/4/04 George Triantafillou

STEWARDSHIP: When you plan your stewardship commitment for 2005, try to increase it from the previous year just a little bit, if you can.

Web Site:



The Home page of our church web site looks like this. Have you explored it yet? It is full of information, although our different church organizations must help organize their links. Please help the site to its completion and utilize what's there now! www.gonj.org

Cathedral Calender of Events:

The following is the list of updated events at the Cathedral, except for regularly scheduled meetings, which are listed at the end.

For an online version of this calendar, go to www.gonj.org the Cathedral's (12/8/04)

- Dec 19 Sun Christmas Pageant/Parish Party
- 21 Tue Greek School Christmas Pizza Party
- 22 Wed Kali Parea-Annual Christmas Party 1:00
- 24 Fri Divine Liturgy of St. Basil – 9-11am
- 24 Fri Christmas Eve, DivLit 9:30-12midnight

- 25 Sat Christmas Day, DivLiturgy9:30-12noon
- 27 Mon St. Stephen the Protomartyr 9-11am
- 29 Wed State GOYA Christmas Dance
- 31 Fri New Year's Eve Party 9pm- 2am

2005

- Jan 1 Sat St. Basil-Div Liturgy 9:30-11:30am
- 2 Sun Parish Council Oath of Office
- 5 Wed Eve of Theophany 9-11am
- 6 Thu Epiphany-Div Lit 9-11am
- 7 Fri St. John The Baptist-Div Lit 9-11am
- 9 Sun Philoptochos Vasilopita
- 16 Sun Girl Scout Cookie Sale
- 16 Sun Lampousa – Vasilopita
- 17 Mon St. Anthony-Div Lit 9-11am
- 18 Tue St. Athanasios-Div Lit 9-11am
- 22 Sat Boy Scout Klondike Derby
- 25 Tue St. Gregory The Theologian 9-11am
- 30 Sun 3 Hierarchs Day /Program
- Feb 2 Wed Presentation of our Lord-DivLit 9-11am
- 5 Sat Mr. & Mrs Taverna Gendi in Manhattan
- 6 Sun Godparent Sunday
- 10 Thur St. Charalambos- Divine Lit 9-11am
- 12 Sat Speaker: Fr. Charles Joanides
-Family Workshop
- 12 Sat Scout Blue & Gold Dinner
- 13 Sun Scout Anniversary/Loukoumades
- 14 Mon St. Anthimos Vesper Service – 7:00pm
- 15 Tue St. Anthimos of Hios- Div Lit 9-11am
- 18 Fri St. Philothea – Vesper Service 7:00pm
- 18-20 Boy Scout Winter Camping
- 20 Sun Triodion Begins
- 22-24 No Greek School Classes-Winter Break
- 26 Sat Basile & Jimmy Santos ConcertAHEPA
- Mar 4 Fri Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
- 5 Sat 1st Saturday of Souls – 9-11am
- 5 Sat GOYA Sights & Sounds
- 5 Sat Apokriatiko Glendi
- 6 Sun Meat Fare Sunday
- 12 Sat 2nd Saturday of Souls – 9-11am
- 12-13 Scout Philadelphia/Battleship Trip
- 13 Sun Cheese Fare Sunday
- 13 Sun Altar Boys – Laganas Sale
- 14 Mon Great Lent Begins
- 14 Mon Lenten Service - 6:30pm
Lenten Dinner - 7:30pm
Lecture - 8:30pm
- 16 Wed Presanctified Liturgy 9:00am
- 18 Fri 1st Salutations 7:00pm
- 19 Sat 3rd Saturday of Souls 9-11am
- 20 Sun Sunday of Orthodoxy
- 20 Sun JOY selling Loukoumades

23 Wed Presanctified Liturgy - 6:30pm
 25 Fri Annunciation of Virgin Mary 9-11am
 25 Fri Philoptochos – Fasoulada
 25 Fri 2nd Salutations of Virgin Mary 7:00pm
 26 Sat Greek School Independence Day
 Celebration at 4pm
 30 Wed Presancitified Liturgy – 9:00am
 April 1 Fri 3rd Salutations of Virgin Mary 7pm
 2 Sat Mr.& Mrs. Broadway Theater Trip
 ?????? Greek Independence Day Parade, NYC
 6 Wed Presanctified Liturgy – 6:30pm
 8 Fri 4th Salutations of Virgin Mary 7pm
 Cathedral Oratorical Festival,after
 9 Sat District Oratorical Festival- Trenton
 10 Sun Greek School “Cultural Day”
 13Wed Presanctified Liturgy – 9:00am
 15 Fri Akathist Hymn – 7:00pm
 16 Sat Metropolis Oratorical Festival
 16-17 EOCS Scout Camporee –St. Basil
 23 Sat Saturday of Lazarus 9-11am
 PTO/MC Community Breakfast
 Palm Crosses to be made
 16-28 Sun-Thurs, Egg Dye Sale, Scouts & Joy
 23-28 Sat-Thurs, Tsourekia & Lambades Sale
 24 Sun Palm Sunday: Family Worship Sunday,
 No Sunday School Classes
 1st Liturgy: 7:30 – 9:45 am
 2nd Liturgy: 10:30 – 12:00noon
 24 Sun Nymphios Service – 6pm
 25-29 No Greek School Classes –Holy Week
 25 Mon Nymphios Service – 7pm
 26 Tue Service of the Bridegroom -
 Hymn of Kasiani 7pm
 27 Wed Holy Unction 2:45pm
 Holy Unction 7-9pm
 28 Thur Holy Communion 6-8pm
 Liturgy of St.Basil the Great 8:30am
 Holy Passion of our Lord 7pm
 29 Fri Royal Hours 11am
 Apokathelosis 1:30pm
 Lamentations 7:00pm
 30 Sat Holy Communion 6-8am
 Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 8:30am
 Resurrection Service 11:00pm
 May 1 Sun Easter Sunday
 2 Mon St. George, Divine Liturgy 9-11am
 3 Tue Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene, 9-11am
 6 Fri Zoodohos Peghe–Divine Lit 9-11am
 7 Sat Goya Indoor Olympics- Perth Amboy
 10 Tue Philoptochos Fashion Show
 19 Thu Last Day Greek School Classes
 20-22 Boy Scout District Camporee

21 Sat SS Constantine & Helen, DivLit9-11am
 Greek School Graduation
 22 Sun Sunday School Graduation
 24 Tue Greek & Sunday School End Year Party
 June 2-5 **Festival**
 9 Thur Ascension of our Lord, Div Lit 9-11am
 10 Fri Scout Awards Night
 11 Sat SS Bartholomew & Barnabus, 9-11am
 11 Sat Mr&Mrs Meadowlands Pegasus
 18 Sat Cub Scout Fishing Derby
 18 Sat Saturday of Souls, Div Liturgy 9-11am
 29 Wed SS Peter & Paul, Divine Liturgy9-11am
 30 Thur Holy Apostles, Divine Liturgy 9-11am

Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

Parish Council -Every 3rd Tuesday (8:00pm)Monthly
 Philoptochos -Every 3rd Wednesday (7:30pm)Monthly
 PTO/MC -1st Tuesday (4:15pm)Monthly
 Sun Sch Teachers-Every 1st Sunday Monthly
 GOYA -Every 2nd Friday (7:30pm)Monthly
 JOY -1st & 3rd Fridays (7:30pm)Bi-Weekly
 Cub & Girl Scout-2nd & 4th Fridays (7:30pm)Bi-Weekly
 Boy Scouts -2nd, 3rd & 4th Fridays (7:30pm)Weekly
 Mr & Mrs Club -Every 3rd Wed(7:30pm)Every other Month
 Bible Class,Greek-Every Thursday (7:30pm)Weekly
 Bible Class,English-Every Tuesday (4:00pm)Weekly
 Choir Practice -Every Thursday (7:30pm)Weekly
 Kali Parea -Every 4th Wed (1:00pm)Monthly
 YAL -Every 1st Sun After Liturgy,Monthly
 Greek Dancing -Sat: 10:30,11:30,12:30,1:30 Sun:12:30

Sunday Orthos - 9:00am
 Sunday Divine Liturgy- 10:00am

February 26th, Saturday

Basile
&
Jimmy Santos
Of
Los SuperGreeks

By Ahepa