

Kimisis

Close-Up



VOLUME 23, ISSUE 5

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
HOLMDEL, NJ

JUNE 2013

PRESIDING PRIEST:
FATHER GEORGE H. DOUNELIS

Summer Hours:
Orthros: 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am

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Father's Day June 16

*God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it...*

Dad

~Author Unknown

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU 2013 FESTIVAL

June 6 - June 9

Church and Community Organization Leaders

Fr. George Dounelis-Protopresbyter

PARISH COUNCIL

President: Dimitri Geaneas
Vice President: Emanuel Tsarnas
Secretary: Paul Callamaras Jr.
Treasurer: Thomas Protentis
Asst. Treasurer: James Thompson

Members:

Matthew Bistrimovich	Parry Peters
Bob Bucco	Soteris Petrou
Bessie Drogaris	Costa Phillipou
Stavros Fotinos	Nikie Sourlis
James Marinos	Elias Tsigounis
Argyrios Milonas	Roula Tsoukaris
Basil Parlamis	Roula Tsoukaris
Roula Tsoukaris	

ORGANIZATIONS

A.H.E.P.A.:	Robert Fourniadis
Acolyte Coordinator:	Emanuel Tsarnas
Art Program:	Susan Englis
Ballroom Dancing:	Sophie Idromenos
Bible Study:	Roula Merianos
Boy Scouts / Cub Scouts:	James Marinos/Nick Englis
Choir:	Marie Devino
Coffee Hour :	Harriet & Fred Callis
Community Center Rental:	Matt Bistrimovich, Emanuel Tsarnas
Festival:	Dimitri Geaneas
Girl Scouts:	Cheryl Bontales
G.O.Y.A./Youth Advisors:	Fr. George Dounelis, Basil Kotsis, Lucy Milonas, Theo Papasavas, Emanuel Tsarnas
Greek School:	Katrina Hutin
Greek School PTO:	Katherine Gilbride
KCU Editor:	Cleo Bartos
KCU Ads:	Frieda Mookas
Kimisis Dancers:	Aphro Bucco
Men's Basketball:	Peter Kolydas
Philoptochos:	Josephine Tsarnas
Prime Timers:	Connie Mellas
Stewardship:	Helen Antholis, Frieda Mookas, Josephine Tsarnas
Sunday Bulletin:	Amalia Vapheas
Sunday School:	Nikie Sourlis
Tree of Life:	George Karatzia
Ways & Means:	George Karatzia
Website:	Dimitri Orfanitopoulos
Welcoming Committee	Helen Antholis, Frieda Mookas, Josephine Tsarnas , Roula Tsoukaris

Sacraments

May 11 Baptism – Maia & David Ketner: baby Kaylee

May 11 Wedding – Patricia Svarnas and Jim Bevere

May 12 - 40-day Baby Blessing: Vicki and George Kostas – Nicolas

May 18 – Baptism: Helene & Brian Quinn: baby Brian Emanuel

May 18 – Wedding: Evelyn & Steve Horn

May 25- Baptism - Stavros & Melanie Mentsoudis: baby Melina Anth

May 25- Baptism - Elayne & Tim Edmonds: baby Andrew Anthony

May 26- Wedding Christina & Nick Nelson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dimitris Geaneas, President



Dear Family of Kimisis Tis Theotokou,
Xristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

I hope our Kimisis Close-Up finds you and your family well. In this message, I like to take the opportunity to highlight one of our PC Committees, the **Interior Committee**. This Committee consists of Parish Council members who over the last couple of decades have worked tirelessly towards the goal of beautifying the interior of our Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church. Testament of their accomplishments are the beautiful iconography, ikonostasi, platytera, chandeliers, stained glass icons, pagaria, and other additions too numerous to list. The people responsible for the beauty of our church are Costa Phillipou, Bessie Drogaris, Dimitri Thompson, Ilias Tsigounis, Paul Calamaras, and let us not forget our Charlie Gavaris who passed away several years ago. Especially noteworthy are the efforts by Costa Phillipou, who with his persistence and perseverance, has been spearheading the fund raising of all these projects, including future ones. May the members of this Committee be specially blessed by God for their continuing labors of love for our Church.

Our Choir

I am pleased to announce that two members of G.O.Y.A., Kathleen Allen and Mia Kandalaft, have now joined our choir. Our current choir members have faithfully served in this "ministry of song" for decades, and these new additions are both a delight and a necessity, as the membership has declined over the years. We encourage not only G.O.Y.A., but all parishioners to consider joining and praising God with their voices in a special way. The choir is an integral part of the liturgy, and their participation enriches and maximizes its impact. Please contact Marie DeVino, the Choir Director, and volunteer your services (a Maria Callas or a Pavarotti voice is not a prerequisite).

Clergy Laity, May 13, 2013 –Honorees from Kimisis Tis Theotokou

Congratulations to the 2013 Clergy Laity honorees from our Church:

PC Member-Robert Bucco, Jr

Philoptochos Member-Joyce Cocco

Community Member-George Karatzia

Greek School Teacher-Anna Zamora

G.O.Y.A. Member-Mia Kandalaft

Annual Church Festival (June 6-June 9)

Our 2013 Annual Church Festival is only a couple of weeks away. This is the biggest of our Church fund raisers contributing to 25% of our annual revenue. This Festival can only be successful with **Your** participation and **Help**, as proven over the years. Attaining our set goal will not be possible without **You**. Please see enclosed leaflets for more detailed information and how you can help. Thank you!

Stewardship

It is never too late to submit your pledges for 2013 and become a Steward of Kimisis Tis Theotokou. If you have not already pledged for 2013, please join our list of Stewards by contacting our Church secretary Frieda Mookas, or by filling out the form that you have received in the mail. Stewardship Commitment forms are also available in the Narthex of our Church.

Fr. Daskalakis

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Fr. Daskalakis for being our Priest for almost four months. It was a critical and difficult period for all of us. We are indebted to him for enhancing our spiritual lives with his outstanding sermons and attention-riveting Liturgies. May God keep this holy man in the palm of His hand, and bless him in his travels to Greece and back.

Fr. George

Fr. George is recuperating from a recent relapse. Please keep him in your prayers.

Nasthe panta kala/Me agapi,

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU
Greek Orthodox Church20 Hillcrest Road - Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
Office: (732)739-1515 Fax: (732)739-1172

Stewardship Update

Christos Anesti!

by Helen Antholis, Stewardship Chair

RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT FOR 2013

Thank you to the 308 families who have already submitted their 2013 Stewardship form. Your pledge and donations keep us growing and able to serve our community with much-needed support to the faithful. There are 148 households that we are still waiting to hear from. Filling out the form helps us to know that you are committed to the parish. Please let us know as soon as possible.

THANK YOU FOR ACCELERATING YOUR GIVING

So many of you stepped up your donations during our cash-flow challenges in recent months. We thank you for that. We asked for you to accelerate your donations and you responded.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

With our **Festival** upon us, please schedule some time to help. Many hands make light work. The Festival is our major fund-raiser and your time and talent is needed. Any time you can offer is greatly appreciated.

QUESTIONS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP?

If you have any questions about Stewardship, please direct them only to me, Frieda or Father George. For example, if you are not receiving Stewardship offering envelopes, contact me or Frieda. If you need to know your balance, contact me or Frieda. If you are not sure if you filled out a form, contact me or Frieda. Call 732-739-1515. Thank you!

AUTOMATIC DONATIONS

We are still exploring "Online Giving" as an option for your use of credit cards, electronic check donations, etc., to facilitate giving. Whether for recurring or one-time donations, this method would make it more convenient for you and ease our bookkeeping. It would be totally safe and secure through the Kimisis website. Watch for more information coming soon.

ARE WE SERVING YOU?

Our Stewardship Committee meets once a month and asks itself:

- What can we do for you?
- What are we not doing that we should be doing?
- How well do we meet your needs?
- What are ways in which our community can support your faith?



Please email to me your answers at helenantholis@mac.com. We really want to know.

Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road - PO Box 367, Holmdel NJ 07733-0367

2013 Christian Stewardship Annual Commitment Card

ONGOING STEWARDS

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's
work at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church:

Suggested annual donation – check one:

* \$7500

* \$5000

* \$3000

* \$1500

* \$720 suggested minimum for Families (less than \$2/day)

* \$400 suggested minimum for Seniors/Singles

* Other _____

To be donated: * Weekly * Monthly * Quarterly * Annually

I would like Offering Envelopes mailed to my home: Yes ____ No ____

Last Name _____ Phone () _____

First Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Please provide updated current information since your previous commitment form.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

EMAIL _____

Profession _____ Profession _____

Cell/Work # _____ Cell/Work # _____

Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road - PO Box 367, Holmdel NJ 07733-0367

2013 Christian Stewardship Annual Commitment Card

NEW STEWARDS

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work.

Suggested annual donation – check/circle one:

* \$7500 * \$5000 * \$3000 * \$1500

* \$720 suggested minimum for Families (less than \$2/day)

* \$400 suggested minimum for Seniors/Singles

* Other _____

To be donated: * Weekly * Monthly * Quarterly * Annually

I would like Offering Envelopes mailed to my home: Yes _____ No _____

Last Name _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

EMAIL _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Religion _____ Religion _____

Profession _____ Profession _____

Work/Cell _____ Work/Cell _____

Were you married in the Greek Orthodox Church? YES / NO

If YES, list **DATE and NAME** of Church _____

Children's Names	Age	Religion	Birthdate

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU 2013 FESTIVAL

June 6 - June 9

Dear Family of Kimisis Tis Theotokou,

Please be generous to our Church and to our Community by contacting the Chairpersons below and volunteering your time and talents to the booth/area of your preference, as best as you can. Thank you!

Committee	Contact person
Super 50/50 Raffle during Festival	George Karatzia (732-610-6622)—Need Volunteers
Hourly 50/50 Raffle	Barbara Zaharioudakis (732-972-9613), Mariann Corin (732-533-7787)
Parking	Soteris Petrou (732-766-0450)
Admissions	Joanna Kourkounakis-Friedli (732-571-3766), Roula Merianos (732-671-6925)
Coffee	Lynn Marinos (732-727-5783)
Burgers, Hot Dogs & Fries	Bill Parlamis (917-617-4087)
Boutique & Souvenirs	Katina Hutin (908-309-4554)
Games & Rides	Syd Hutin (908-309-0051) Bob Fourniadis (732-259-3894)
Kitchen Salad Prep	Margarita Actipis-Bowden (732-741-2048)
Kitchen Cooking	Paul Calamaras (732-566-8099), Parry Peters (732-577-0363)
Kitchen Outside Serv/Taverna	Roula Tsoukaris (732-264-3289)
Runners	Dr. Thomas Nickolas (732-275-6994), Dr. Michael Simon, Roula Tsoukaris (732-264-3289)
Loukoumades	Maria & John Palatianos (847-989-9465)
Pastries	Katina Churney (732-915-5882)
Souvlaki & Gyros	Jim Marinos (732-832-6576), Dr. Matt Bistimovich (732-863-1822), Cheryl Bontales (732-796-1006)
Beverages/Beer	Eddie Haliotis (732-417-1273), Angelo DelPizzo (732-780-3292), Paul Lemire (917-880-9802)
Treasury	Thomas Protentis
Donations	Father George or Frieda (732-739-1515)
Deliveries	Elias Tsigounis, Paul Calamaras, Dimitris Geaneas, Jimmy Marinos, Angelo and Julie DelPizzo (732-780-3292), Alex and Dora Neofotistos

2013 Festival Dates:

June 6 - June 9

Thursday 6 -10 pm,

Friday 4 -11 pm,

Saturday 1 - 11 pm,

Sunday 12 noon - 8 pm

Festival Set-Up: June 5, Wednesday 6:30 - 9 pm

Festival Knock-Down: June 9, Sunday 7:30 -9:30 pm

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Kimisis Tis Theotokou

2013 Festival Volunteers

CIRCLE TO INDICATE YOUR INTEREST

Festival Set-Up	Festival Breakdown	Publicity
Admissions	Pastries (Baking)	Games
Boutique(Arts&Crafts)	Pastries (Selling)	Rides
Beer-Soda	Hamburgers	Coffee
Cashiers	Loukoumades	
Clean Tables	Salad Makers	Sanitation
Grill (Souvlaki)	Kitchen (Inside)	Servers
Runners	Kitchen(Outside)	Where Needed
Parking Lot		

Please Circle Days & Times Preferred

Thursday 6/6

Friday 6/7

Saturday 6/8

Sunday 6/9

5pm to 10pm

3pm to 9pm 12pm to 6pm

11am to 4pm

7pm to 10pm

5pm to 11pm

5pm to 11pm

4pm to 8pm

7pm to 11pm

7pm to 11pm

8pm-Breakdown

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please give completed form to Frieda Mookas, our church secretary, or Dimitri Geaneas. Please try to volunteer for the entire day(s), if possible.

Thank you for volunteering your services and time to our church and community.



Philoptochos Perspective

By Josephine Michael Tsarnas, President, JMTsarnas@gmail.com

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." --John 13:34-45

Michael Jordan was cut from the high school basketball team. J.K. Rowling lived on welfare before Harry Potter made her a billionaire. Beethoven's music teacher said he was hopeless at composing. Lucille Ball got sent home from acting school being too shy. Thomas Edison was fired twice for not being productive enough. Walt Disney lost his job at a newspaper after he was told he lacked imagination.

The failures of those great successes shows me that our weakness is often the flip side of our strength. Our strengths and weaknesses are usually directly related. For the longest time I resisted embracing my strengths because to do so would make me confront my weaknesses. It was a long time before I learned that God can use both. It took me even longer to learn that sometimes God chooses us for our weaknesses, not for our strengths.

I find it comforting that all through the Bible that God doesn't always choose the strong. He picks the flawed, the weak and transforms them. Moses, who killed a man, is chosen to lead people from bondage to freedom. David, who ordered a man be killed, is picked to be king. Then Jesus, who included among his twelve closest followers a man who lied to him, a man who doubted him and a man who betrayed him. Some of my favorite Scripture passage starts with "Fear not." Those two words mean God is going to do something powerful with someone who is weak. I've heard it said that we should read the Bible as if we are each of the characters in it. Father George said in one of his sermons, the innkeeper who closed the door to the holy family on that first Christmas Eve. He acted the part from beginning to end, from his smug refusal to his shameful remorse. He said that we are the innkeeper who shut the door and made no room for others. We are those shepherds, busy tending our sheep; our jobs, hobbies, families - and we are afraid when God comes to us, whether in the form of heavenly angels or earthly ones - friends, family and strangers, or in the shape of problems and crises. We shirk when called to go somewhere unfamiliar or somewhere undesired, some detour from our carefully constructed paths and highly scheduled calendars.

We are like Joseph, who could have quietly left Mary instead of getting into a relationship that might demand more of him than he wanted to live. We prefer the normal, the predictable - something we can control. We plan our lives and in the planning are careful not to leave any room for God to come in and change it all up. What would happen if God called us to something higher? It sounds good; for a second. Until we count the cost. What if it means moving, earning less money, going back to school?

When God called Jeremiah, he wanted to decline; he claimed he was too young for the job. Moses wasn't so keen on being hired to corral the Israelites through the desert to the Promised Land.

A priest once told me he was unsure before his ordination whether he was strong enough to become a priest. Then someone asked him, "Are you weak enough?" Saying yes to God isn't about being strong, but about being weak and saying yes anyway. It is not about being called successful but to be faithful.

If you ask yourself, "Am I strong enough to serve, and your answer is no, maybe you're asking the wrong question." Ask yourself, "Are you weak enough to serve?" Me Agape~



Kimisis Tis Theotokou Philoptochos Fashion Show & Dinner

"Under the Sea"

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Gramercy at Lakeside Manor

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

"The purpose of the **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** is to give our youth an opportunity to learn and speak about their beliefs, their Church, and their heritage, which strengthen their understanding and appreciation of their identity as Greek Orthodox Christians."

All children in their parish in grades 7th through 12th, may participate by writing a Religious Composition and reciting it. There are two divisions: the Junior Division (7th - 9th Grade) and the Senior Division (10th - 12th Grade). In each division, a child writes their own composition based on 1 of the 5 topics given. The parish then selects one

1 child from the Junior Division (7th - 9th grade) and 1 child from the Senior Division (10th - 12th grade) to represent the parish and advance to the Metropolis of New Jersey District Finals.

From our parish, Michael Gilbride was selected to represent the Junior Division and Alex Milonas was selected to represent the Senior Division. They were accompanied by Mrs. Roula Merianos, who coached them and spent many hours, rehearsing and editing their oratorical religious compositions.

On April 6th, St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Toms River, New Jersey, hosted the Metropolis of New Jersey District Finals of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Two children from each participating parish (Michael and Alex) went to St. Barbara's to compete among finalists from all the parishes of New Jersey. First, the Junior Division Speakers recited their compositions; then there was a break, and the Senior Division Speakers recited their compositions. There were three judges who listened to all the speakers and collectively selected a winner from each division. At the end of the Festival, Michael and Alex both achieved Honorable Mentions.

We hope you enjoy reading these inspirational compositions written by Alex Milonas and Michael Gilbride featured in this issue of the KCU.

Kimisis Health Ministry

By Cheryl Bontales, RN



The Kimisis Tis Theotokou community is lucky to have some very talented people serve as stewards of the church. Among them are professionals and providers from a broad range of the health care field who practice as Nurses, Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Massage Therapists, Psychologists, Chiropractors, Nutritionists and Dieticians.

Free Blood Pressure Screening will be conducted on September 22, 2013

To join the health ministry, all interested health care providers are asked to contact Cheryl Bontales, RN at bontsc@aol.com. Follow postings in KCU and on Bulletin Board under Health Ministry for further information and stay healthy.

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival***Composition written by Alexander Milonas***

“Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.” (Psalm 118/119, verse 73).

Discuss how this passage can guide us in a time when we constantly seek to alter the way we look, act, and live.

The Bible says that God has made every person on earth in His image. Yet, one of our biggest fears is how other people perceive our appearance. We constantly try to make ourselves look different as opposed to accepting who and what we really are. Psalm 118 Verse 8, teaches us that “it is better to trust in the Lord than to put your confidence in man.” We tend to stay away from God’s teachings even though God has fashioned us the way He wants us to be.

The media also has a large effect on the way we act and sets unnecessary standards for us. We watch what is on T.V and attempt to copy what we see. Everyone wants to be in style. They want to wear the latest clothes, and act a certain way that is portrayed as “normal.” We are afraid that if we don’t act the way everyone wishes us to act then we won’t be accepted by society.

I was born with Cerebral Palsy which affects my brain and the nervous system so I’m unable to walk straight and I have to wear leg braces. There is no cure for Cerebral Palsy. Psalm 119 verse 73 states “this is how God has made me and fashioned me,” and I couldn’t be any happier. After all, this is all I know I was born with this disability; I never knew what it was like to be “normal.” It is true that people think I’m “weird, strange, retarded, and helpless” just based on my appearance. It does get slightly annoying, and I have trouble fitting into most groups. The question is why I would want to try to fit in with others when God is pleased with me. In Archimadrite Seraphim Aleksiev’s book, The Meaning of Suffering and Strife and Reconciliation, he emphasizes the profound value of patience when we are insulted or slandered and the fact that we must endure forever if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Church looks for authentic inner perfection while secular people look for outward perfection. That’s why God allows certain disabilities to happen in order to test us, our parents, our friends, and the people around us. If we blame God for our shortcomings we become bitter and fall short of His mercy. However, if we accept our disability with patience and love we are pleasing to the Lord.

Everyone has the need to fit in, but when we try to fit in, we sometimes digress from the commandments and God’s teachings. Unfortunately we don’t always see the way God is trying to communicate with us, and we start to doubt His presence. For example, you are getting bullied at school and everyone around you just stands there while you take the abuse, it’s hard to believe that there is some higher being that is helping you. However, in Psalm 118 verse 6 it states, “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” I know God is paving my path and I will continue to follow it without hesitation. Any pain that God brings me has a purpose. We shouldn’t have to worry about pleasing other people. We should all live our lives the way God wants us to by doing two things: Follow God’s teachings and be yourself. Then you will truly make God happy.

I plan to study Special ED at Montclair State University, and my goal is to help kids with disabilities achieve their goals just like my parents helped me achieve mine. Proverbs 22 verse 6 states, “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” I don’t need to alter the way I look because I trust in God and that will ultimately lead to my salvation. Together with my Lord and Savior I will serve Him with all my mind, all my heart and all my strength.

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival***Composition written by Michael Gilbride***

“Discuss the importance of participating in the life of the Church in light of Jesus’s teaching in John 15:5: “I am the vine, you are the branches.”

It is Sunday. I am serving as an altar boy at my parish. As I gaze up over the altar, I see large, beautiful and vibrantly colored iconography. Jesus is in the center, and all of His Apostles are connected to Him and to one another by a vine.

This scene is so familiar to me. Every time I enter the church my eyes immediately focus above the altar. My mother tells me when I was younger I would point up at the iconography and ask her, “Who were those people? What was written underneath their icon?” She would explain to me who they were, and what their names were in Greek. “Practice”, she would say, “try sounding out their names every time you come to church and you will learn them.”

As I stare at the iconography now, my thoughts wander....what is the significance of the vine? A vine is strong, requires some maintenance and spreads easily. It consists of branches or stems and may even flower or bear fruit. In John 15:5, Jesus states, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” The Apostles, chosen and appointed by God, represent the branches of the vine, whose purpose was to go out and spread the good news of our Lord for our eternal salvation.

In the Old Testament, the vine was a symbol of Israel. In Isaiah 5:1-7, God instructed the Israelites how to obey His laws and be righteous people. He compared Himself to a vine in His vineyard, which represented the foundation of life and permitted the development for healthy branches to grow and strengthen into developing fruit. The Israelites did not spiritually fertilize or water God’s vineyard and eventually the branches turned into thorns and bore no fruit.

In the New Testament, Jesus instructed His new Apostles to be His messengers and go out and teach all nations. We must follow in their footsteps. As Orthodox Christians, we must have peestee (faith), agapee (love), prosefhee (prayer), and abide by God’s laws (the commandments). If we include the following in our daily lives, we will nourish the vine, keeping it healthy and strong.

God has given us many spiritual gifts that we must apply to fertilize the vine and its branches. Matthew 12:33 says, “For a tree is known by its fruits.” The Church Family consists of parishioners who volunteer their service, time and talent in various organizations within the community. Many of these organizations are established for the benefit of the children. The children represent the fruit that can be produced from the branches on a vine. I am one of those children. We are the future in keeping and spreading the Orthodox Faith.

A vine, if you think about it, is such a simple thing. So simple, yet means so much. The Lord used a free and natural source from the earth, to send us His message. Being good stewards, giving alms to the needy, helping those in distress, and passing on the traditions and commandments of our Lord, are a few requirements made upon us. Attending church and being part of the church family keeps us connected to God’s House. The more we attend the more we commit ourselves to our faith and the life of the Church. Like a vine in God’s vineyard, the branches will spread, grow strong and bear fruit. I know I want to be connected to that vine. Don’t you? Thank you.

G.O.Y.A. NEWS (Greek Orthodox Youth of America)

By Theodora Papasavas, Advisor

On May **11th**, twenty nine GOYAns participated in GOYA's first "*Bus Ride*" (Advisor Basil Kotsis' idea) which included Monster Golf in Marlboro, Pizza at Peter & Elda's in Neptune, Rock Climbing in Morganville and Dessert at Crazee's in Rumson. A great time was had by all!

May **18th** brought twelve GOYAns to Saint Demetrios in Perth Amboy for the Indoor Olympics. They competed in table tennis, backgammon, chess, Wii dance, FIFA Soccer and Badminton. Breakfast and lunch were served and all enjoyed themselves.

The weekend of May **25th-26th**, 39 GOYAns participated in the Annual Memorial Day Olympics at Monmouth University in Long Branch, NJ. Once again we wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to our Olympic coaches, Mr. Manny Tsarnas, Mr. Chris Churney, Mr. Paul Gilbride, Mr. Amine Kandalaf, and Mr. Nick Stantzios for their tireless dedication to our youth. We also wish to thank our fantastic chaperones Mrs. Denise Nizza, Mrs. Peggy Sideris, R.N. and Dr. Julie Simon for assisting the Advisors and spending the weekend with our youth!

GOYA Seniors

Another year has come and gone and we would like to recognize our seven seniors that will be graduating High School and going on to college. They are Mia Kandalaf, Alex Milonas, Matthew Paladino, Nick Plakoudas, John Sideris, Demetri Tsourkakis and Alexa Zamora. We wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!

Looking Ahead

GOYA registration for the 2013-2014 will begin Sunday, September 8th with a October 31, 2013 DEADLINE. GOYA is a youth organization for children between the ages of 12 and 18 years old. Our meetings are held once a month, typically on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Our calendar is full of activities including religious, charitable, athletic and social that are either on the local or state level.

We wish to thank all the parents who generously donate their time, talents or items throughout the year to support our GOYA. May your kindness return to you in the same beautiful way it was offered! We also wish our GOYA families a safe and happy summer!

Thanks for the memories.....

At this time, advisor Mrs. Lucy Milonas and I wish to say "So Long". We have been GOYA advisors for the past five and six years respectively. Throughout the years, collectively we have attended over 100 State meetings in Westfield, 100 GOYA meetings, approximately 50 dances, 11 Sights & Sounds, 10 Outdoor Olympics, 8 Indoor Olympics and delivered sandwiches to the homeless at Newark Penn 3 times, sent out 100's of emails and spent endless hours on paperwork,

Sights & Sounds has to be the most memorable GOYA event for us. We were always awestruck by the artistic and dramatic talents our GOYAns possess. At Sights & Sounds for the past six years, our GOYAns have always placed in the top 5, landing 5th place twice, 4th once, 3rd twice and ultimately this year finishing in FIRST PLACE.

During our time as advisors, we have made many special friendships with our GOYAns, their parents, parish priests and fellow advisors. We take away many wonderful memories! It has been our pleasure to serve as your GOYA advisors!

Carol Burnett's theme song says it best.....I'm so glad we had this time together, Just to have a laugh, or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, Comes the time we have to say "So Long."



(photo courtesy of Dr. Michael Simon)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Nikie Sourlis, Joyce Magriples, Nausica Orthodoxou, Anna Zamora,

Our school year is quickly coming to an end with our annual graduation ceremony. We would like to thank all of the parents who came each week and delivered their children to us to learn more about their faith. Again, we can't thank our teachers enough for their dedication, patience and inspiration. "Thank you" doesn't seem like enough along with our unconditional gratitude for their time, faith, creativity and commitment. We look forward to seeing all of you again in September.

Our Dedicated Staff:

Mrs. Linda Antonakakis, Mrs. Eleni Thermos – Pre-K

Mrs. Cecilia Melendez, Mrs. Nausica Orthodoxou – Kindergarten

Ms. Gina Dounelis, Miss Lydia Saltzbart – 1st Grade

Mr. & Mrs. Shields – 2nd Grade

Mrs. Debbie Mattos, Mrs. Cleo Poosikian, – 3rd Grade

Mr. Steve Kamvissis- 4th Grade

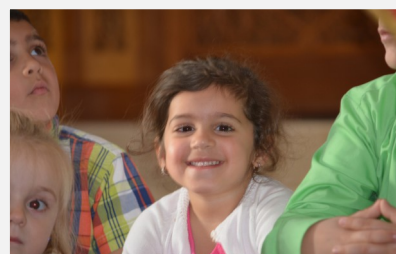
Mrs. Joyce Coccaro- 5th & 6th Grade

Mrs. Salomi Horvath– 7 & 8th Grade

Mr. George Marinos, Mrs. Marie Ellen Cestone -9th-12th Grade

Mrs. Christine Nikolis –Substitute Teacher

Please enjoy a few shots of our children during Lent and Holy Easter.



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

By Katherine Gilbride



As the Greek School year winds down, we reflect on all these special memories: In October, for OXI Day, one of our older students explained the importance and the meaning of this day; in December, all of our students participated by singing various Christmas Carols for the Annual Christmas Party, given by The Ladies Philoptochos Society; at the end of January, for The Three Hierarchs, one of students explained the significance of the day; on March 24th, we celebrated Greek Independence Day with poems, songs, and skits from all the children; on April 7th we marched in the Greek Independence Parade in New York City; in March and April, during the first five Friday evenings of Lent, six of our older students read prayers during the Service of the "Akathist Hymn."

We want to thank all the teachers, Katina Hutin, Irene Lizardi, Irini Socratous, Argyroula Tsoukakis, Alexandra Velmahos and Anna Zamora for all their hard work, dedication and love for all the children. Thank you to our Director, Katina Hutin, who has provided our children with a wonderful and safe learning environment.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and/ or donated items throughout the school year. We would also like to thank the people in the parish who supported the Greek School. We look forward to seeing all of you in September!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our Festival! (June 6th thru June 9th):

Please attend – tell a relative, friend, neighbor or two. Please try to volunteer your services.

They'll be lots of Mom's from the Greek School volunteering.

Last Day of Greek School Classes:

Wednesday, June 12th 2013

Graduation Day!

Thursday, June 13th, 2013

Will be held in the Gym at Kimisis for all students of the Greek School.
The children will be receiving their diplomas. Congratulations to all the children!

KALO KALOKAIPI KAI KALES DIAKOPES!!

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER AND SUMMER VACATION!!

Information and upcoming events are available through our email system.

If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Gilbride at ksgil-bridel@yahoo.com.



Kimisis

**Ballroom Program
(Adults)**

Every Sunday after coffee hour in the all purpose room, only \$10 a class. 100% of the proceeds go to the church!

No partner or previous classes required.

Holmdel Troop 531 Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts

By Nausica Orthodoxou

BIG THANK YOU to all our leaders for donating their time and experience to our young men:

Boy Scout Leaders

Mr. Marinos
Dr. Bistrimovich
Dr. Nicholas
Mr. Gammoh
Mr. Peters

Cub and Webelo Scouts Leaders

Mr. Englis
Mr. Poosikian
Mr. Robbins

We wish our graduates all the best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. Nik Bistrimovich will be attending The Coast Guard Academy Prep School and Alex Milonas will be attending Montclair State. We thank both young men who stayed on as Assistant Scoutmasters this year.

Congratulations to Michael Emanuel Simon and Andrew Robbins who have completed all of their merit badge requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout and are beginning to work on the service projects.

The Cub Scouts and Webelos put their gardening skills to work and created these fantastic gifts for their moms. The boys worked well together under the watchful eye of Mr. Englis to create these little masterpieces.

Our Boy Scouts along with our graduating Webelos will be attending Scout Camp this summer the week of July 21st at Forestburg, NY. We look forward to sharing their news when they return.



Girl Scouts

By Cheryl Bontales and Lana Kandalaft

GIRL SCOUT CAMP

Troop 337 enjoyed the great outdoors at Camp Sacajawea in May, which was organized by Mrs. Cestone with most of the precamp planning regarding meals and hikes carried out by our Ambassador Girl Scouts. Ambassador Lana Kandalaft gives her account of the event.

"The Girl Scouts have recently gone on a camping trip as a whole troop, including the Ambassadors, Cadettes, Juniors, and Brownies! It was such a fun experience that we endured all together. We had the opportunity to camp at Lakeside, which although is a chalet style house, almost has the same camping feel as camping in a tent. We went boating on Brindle Lake, made smores at the campfire, and even went zip lining! As a troop, we all got together and learned about teamwork and cooperation. With multiple activities that we accomplished as a team, all of the Girls truly appreciated the meaning of what teamwork is. It is a key part of what Girl Scouting is about, and is a lesson that is meant to be kept for the rest of our lives! We hope to have many more camping experiences just like this one, if not, even better!"

Troop 337 held an evening of Zumba in May as Women and Girls of all ages worked out together in the GYM to great music and great dance moves. We all had fun.

COURT OF AWARDS/BRIDGING CEREMONY

Troop 337 hosted a Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony in May at our Kimisis Community Center to mark the end of the year and recognize the accomplishments of the Girl Scouts on each level. The evening started with a flag ceremony and candle ceremony followed by Girls crossing the bridge. Congratulations to all as they move up to the next level.

Bridge from Daisy to Brownie:

Sophia Chatzopoulos

Bridge from Brownie to Junior:

Sophia Karakoglou and Christianna Simon

Bridge from Junior to Cadette:

Christina Cestone and Diana Thermos

Bridge from Ambassador to Adult Volunteer and 2013 High School Graduate

Mia Kandalaft

Our **High School Graduate**, Mia Kandalaft completed 7 years of Girl Scouting in Holmdel. She is a Gold Award candidate whose project to make our community center kitchen more organized and user friendly will begin immediately after the festival. We wish her continued success as she enters her college years at Penn State. Troop 337 also wishes to congratulate Mia as recipient of the GOYA community recognition award by the Metropolis at the 2013 Clergy Laity in May. We are confident she will contribute admirably to her new community away from home with the same dedication that she served here in Holmdel as a Girl Scout and as GOYA President. Good luck.



The Kimisis College Connection

The College Connection is a support program of the Ladies Philoptochos Society (in its third year) that seeks to maintain a link with students from our community during college. It is our goal to keep them informed of the Kimisis news and happenings, and to reach out to them during this time. For those that are living on campus away from home, we offer to connect them with a Greek Orthodox Church and priest closest to their college town, and include them in that parish. It is our hope that they will easily readjust to our community when they return home. Each month we will post their comments and accomplishments in the KCU for everyone to follow. If you would like to write to any of our students, please let us know.



We welcome all of our current college students home for the summer. It was nice seeing some of them in church during Holy Week and helping out with altar service and assisting the Parish Council. Harry Pappasavas had just arrived home from Penn State Univ. and helped carry the Epitaphion in the procession around the church on Holy Friday.

The 2013 Kimisis High School Graduates who will be part of our College Connection are; Nick Bistrimovich, Mia Kandalaft, Alexis Lizardi, Alex Milonas, Matthew Palladino, John Sideris, Demetri Tsoukaris, Debbie Vapheas and Alex Zamora.

Please join us on August 11, 2013 for a blessing of our students before they leave for college. A fellowship hour will follow to offer them our very best wishes.

Any student wishing to join the College Connection should contact any member of our committee of three Ladies; Cheryl Bontales (bontsc@aol.com), Salomi Charalambou-Horvath (msac2@comcast.net) or Joanna Kotsis (daskalisa@aol.com)

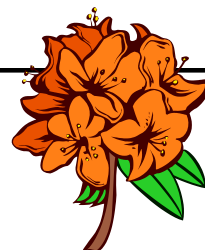
PRIME TIMERS

By Connie Mellas

Christos Anesti from the Prime Timers

Please check the Bulletin board for upcoming event trip to Manasquan Reservoir..

Please call me and let me know if you are interested, Maybe we can have a meeting to get this trip going at 732-264-0111. This trip is open to all.



Kimisis Tis Theotokou
Greek Orthodox Church
Holmdel, NJ

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_____ \$500	Platinum Sponsor	Name or business listed appear the Kimisis.com website for one full year, listed in the Festival Program and the <i>Kimisis Close Up</i> , and free admission tickets to the Festival.
_____ \$250	Gold Sponsor	Name or business listed in the Festival Program and the <i>Kimisis Close Up</i> and free admission tickets to the Festival.
_____ \$100	Silver Sponsor	Name or business printed in the <i>Kimisis Close Up</i> and free admission tickets to the Festival.
_____ \$50	Booster	Free admission tickets <u>to the Festival</u> .

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