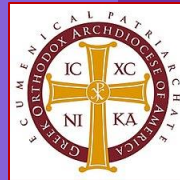


KIMISIS COMMUNITY JOURNAL



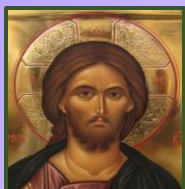
SPRING 2025 EDITION

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

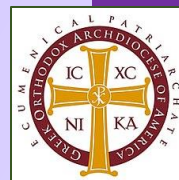
HOLMDEL NEW JERSEY



Celebrating Our Youth



Father's Message



Lent as a spiritual journey

Great Lent in the Greek Orthodox Church is a significant period of spiritual preparation before Easter (Pascha). It's a 40-day season of heightened spiritual discipline, reflection, and renewal.

The Church does a great job presenting certain truths with easy-to remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 Sacraments, 3 Persons in the Trinity. Great Lent begins on Clean Monday and concludes on the Friday before Lazarus Saturday, which precedes Palm Sunday. The journey through Lent is seen as a pilgrimage toward the light of Christ's Resurrection, helping believers experience spiritual renewal and transformation.

The primary purpose of Great Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection through: Spiritual purification, Repentance, Increased prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving. It is essentially for us to increase our prayer time through the 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and elevate us by the encounter with Him.

With fasting our personal disciplines are interspersed, and is a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ. Lent is also a good, set time to work on personal discipline. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more, I'm going to pray more, I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends, and coworkers". The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control- it's about finding aspects of us that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a renewed form.

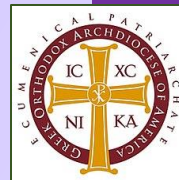
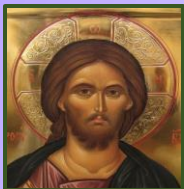
Sometimes, it's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. But that is wrong. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

As we experience weakness and challenges during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering, or otherwise in need. Almsgiving is an expression of love to our fellow brother and sister who are in need. It is not only throwing some extra dollars in the collection tray of our Philoptochos, but also about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

Giving of ourselves during our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the Cross for all of us. Lent is a journey that passes from the crucifixion and the death of Christ to His glorious Resurrection. Joining in His suffering we should learn to love like Him.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Philoptochos BAHG Society, the Sunday School, the PTO, the Greek School, the Joy and Hope, the Girl Scouts, the principal, the Greek School teachers, the Sunday School directors and teachers the Kali Parea, and the AHEPA, we wish all a blessed Pascha.

Fr. Panagiotis Lekkas



Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή

Η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, που αρχίζει από την καθαρά Δευτέρα, έχει βασικό χαρακτηριστικό της την εγκράτεια και τη νηστεία. Προβάλλει συνταρακτικά πρότυπα τα οποία καλούμαστε να μιμηθούμε για να βιώσουμε την Ανάσταση του Χριστού.

Η πρώτη Κυριακή της Μ. Τεσσαρακοστής ονομάζεται Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας. Εορτάζουμε την οριστική αναστήλωση των εικόνων. Η γιορτή αυτή καθιερώθηκε την εποχή της αυτοκρατείας του Βυζαντίου Θεοδώρας, το έτος 843, όποτε και αναστηλώθηκαν οι άγιες εικόνες. Είναι η νίκη και ο θρίαμβος της Ορθοδοξίας εναντίον των αιρέσεων και της πλάνης.

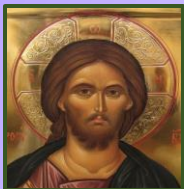
Ακολουθως **η δεύτερη Κυριακή των Νηστειών** ορίσθηκε εις μνήμη του υπερασπιστή της Ορθοδοξίας Αγίου Γρηγορίου του Παλαμά, Αρχιεπισκόπου Θεσσαλονίκης που έζησε το δέκατο τέταρτο αιώνα. Η Εκκλησία προβάλλει το παράδειγμα του Αγίου Γρηγορίου προς μίμηση από τους πιστούς. Κεντρικό θέμα η νηστεία, η προσευχή και η έντονη άσκηση της ελεημοσύνης. Αυτά βοηθούν τον εσωτερικό καθαρισμό. Πρότυπο ο Αγ. Γρηγόριος ο Παλαμάς. Στο πρόσωπο του συγκεντρώνεται σοφία και γνώση που ανθίζουν από μια βαθιά ορθόδοξη πίστη.

Η Τρίτη Κυριακή των Νηστειών είναι η Κυριακή της Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως. Η Εκκλησία προβάλλει προς προσκύνηση τον Τίμιο και ζωοποιό Σταυρό ψάλλοντας τον ύμνο «Τον Σταύρον σου προσκυνούμεν και την αγίαν σου Ανάστασιν δοξάζομεν», υπενθυμίζοντας στους πιστούς ότι πλησιάζει η χαρούμενη μέρα της Αναστάσεως. Τώρα υμνείται ο Σταυρός, ο «της εγέρσεως Χριστού τας αυγάς φωτοβολείν». Ο άνθρωπος τοποθετείται απέναντι στο Σταυρό. «Όστις θέλει οπίσω μου ελθείν απαρνησάσθω εαυτόν και αράτω τον σταυρόν αυτού». Ο Σταυρός προβάλλεται στη μέση της Μ. Τεσσαρακοστής ως στήριγμα και βοήθεια προς τους πιστούς για να αντλήσουν δύναμη και να συνεχίσουν τη νηστεία και τον πνευματικό τους αγώνα.

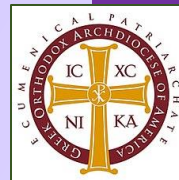
Ακολουθεί **η Τέταρτη Κυριακή**, όπου γιορτάζουμε τη μνήμη του Οσίου Ιωάννου, του συγγραφέα της Κλίμακος, ενός βιβλίου με πνευματικές διδαχές που γράφτηκε ώστε «ώσαν κάποια κλίμαξ (σκάλα) που θα φθάνει τις πύλες του Ουρανού θα ανεβάσει εκεί σώους και αβλαβείς όσους θέλουν». Μετά την άσκηση ο δρόμος της ανυψώσεως. Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης της Κλίμακος προσφέρει την ανθρώπινη εμπειρία της μυστικής ανόδου.

Παράλληλα κατά την εβδομάδα αυτή κατά την ημέρα Πέμπτη ψάλλεται η ακολουθία του **Μεγάλου κατανυκτικού Κανόνα**. Πρόκειται για το εκτενές ποίημα του σημαντικού Μελωδού της Εκκλησίας, Αρχιεπισκόπου Κρήτης Ανδρέα που αποτελείται από 280 τροπάρια. Στο έργο αυτό περιέχεται ολόκληρη η ιστορία της Παλαιάς και της Καινής Διαθήκης και μέσω αυτού η Εκκλησία καλεί τον άνθρωπο να μιμηθεί τις αρετές.

Κατά την **Πέμπτη Κυριακή των Νηστειών** τελεί η Εκκλησία μας την μνήμη της Οσίας Μαρίας της Αιγυπτίας. Η οσία Μαρία έζησε πιθανώς τον 4ο αιώνα στην Αλεξάνδρεια της Αιγύπτου, μια πόλη πλούσια, αλλά αρκετά διεφθαρμένη εκείνη την εποχή. Έτσι λοιπόν και η Μαρία ήδη από την ηλικία των 12 ετών, χάρις στην απaráμιλλη φυσική ομορφιά της παρεκτράπηκε στην αμαρτία, την πορνεία και τη φιληδονία, παρασέρνοντας κι άλλες ψυχές. Ωστόσο, όταν εμποδίστηκε από θεϊκή αόρατη δύναμη να εισέλθει στο ναό, προσευχήθηκε με μεγάλη συναίσθηση της αμαρτωλότητάς της στη Μητέρα του Χριστού, στην Παναγία μας να μεσιτεύσει στον Υιό της και να συγχωρέσει τις αμαρτίες της. Τα δάκρυα μετανόιας της ήταν ασταμάτητα. Σε ένδειξη λοιπόν έμπρακτης και αληθινής μετάνοιας πήγε στην έρημο, όπου έζησε



Father's Message



υπερφυσδικα 47 χρόνια με άσκηση και προσευχή. Προς το τέλος της ζωής της, την συνάντησε ένας ιερομόναχος, ο αββάς Ζωσιμάς, ο οποίος την εξομολόγησε και την κοινώση των Αχράντων Μυστηρίων

Η επόμενη Κυριακή είναι η **Κυριακή των Βαΐων** και εορτάζεται η θριαμβευτική είσοδος του Ιησού στα Ιεροσόλυμα. Ο Χριστός εισέρχεται στα Ιεροσόλυμα «επί πώλων όνου». Πορεύεται ο Χριστός και οι Ισραηλίτες τον υποδέχονται με τιμές ως Βασιλιά. Εκείνος δεν δίνει ιδιαίτερη σημασία στις τιμές, δεν περιορίζεται στο πανηγύρι, στην πρόσκαιρη δόξα, αλλά προχωρεί στο σταυρό και την Ανάσταση.

Η είσοδος του Χριστού στα Ιεροσόλυμα είναι τελικά η είσοδος του μαρτυρίου στην επίγεια ζωή του Κυρίου. Σε λίγες ημέρες θα μαρτυρήσει και θα θανατωθεί στο σταυρό, για να θανατώσει το θάνατο και να χαρίσει τη ζωή.

Ακολουθεί η **Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα**, η εβδομάδα των Παθών του Κυρίου μας. Τα τρία πρώτα βράδια ψάλλεται στην εκκλησία μας η ακολουθία του Νυμφίου. Νυμφίος είναι ο Χριστός και νύμφη η Εκκλησία, μα και η κάθε ανθρώπινη ψυχή. Καλούμαστε σε εγρήγορση και πνευματική αφύπνιση, ώστε να μην μείνουμε έξω του νυμφώνος Χριστού, της Βασιλείας των Ουρανών. Γι' αυτό και η Εκκλησία μας ψέλνει τον υπέροχο ύμνο «ιδού ο Νυμφίος έρχεται εν τω μέσω της νυκτός...». Τη Μ. Πέμπτη εορτάζουμε τα εξής τέσσερα σωτηριώδη γεγονότα: 1) τον ιερό νιπτήρα, 2) τον Μυστικό Δείπνο, κατά τον οποίο ο Κύριος μας παρέδωσε το μυστήριο της Θείας Ευχαριστίας, 3) την υπερφυά προσευχή του Χριστού στον κήπο της Γεσθημανής και 4) την προδοσία του Ιούδα και τη σύλληψη του Κυρίου. Τη Μ. Παρασκευή επιτελούμε τα σωτήρια και φρικτά Πάθη του Κυρίου μας, τη Σταύρωση και το θάνατο στο Σταυρό. Το Μ. Σάββατο είναι η εις Άδου Κάθοδος του Κυρίου μας. Ο Χριστός κατεβαίνει στον άδη και καταργεί το κράτος του άδου και του θανάτου. Μας χαρίζει την αιώνια ζωή και λύτρωση.

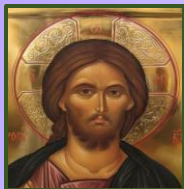
Εν κατακλείδι, η Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή μάς προετοιμάζει με τη χάρη του Θεού και τη δική μας προσπάθεια, στην ταπεινοφροσύνη, στη μετάνοια, την άσκηση, την νηστεία και προσευχή για τη συμμετοχή μας στη θεία Κοινωνία. Στην πορεία των ημερών η δική μας προσπάθεια παίζει βασικό ρόλο για να επέλθει σε εμάς η χάρις του Θεού. Η είσοδος μας στο χώρο του αγίου και η ζωή μας μέσα στον κόσμο του «φρικτού» και συνάμα «γοητευτικού μυστηρίου» της ανθρώπινης ύπαρξης μπορεί να γίνει πραγματικότητα.

Εκ μέρους του Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου και όλων των Εκκλησιαστικών οργανώσεων της ενορίας μας, θα ήθελα να ευχηθώ σε όλους τους ενορίτες της Κοιμήσεως, υγεία εγρήγορση και υπομονή καθ' όλο το διάστημα της Αγίας και μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής. Σας εύχομαι Καλό ευφρόσυνο και χαρούμενο Πάσχα.

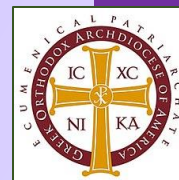
Μετά πατρικής Αγάπης

Αιδ. Πρω. Π. Λέκκας





Father's Message



So How Should I Fast?

NOTE: Persons who are ill, on prescribed drugs, or have other valid reasons are exempted from physical fasts that could prove detrimental to their health. Please see your priest if you have any questions. We do not want you to burden yourself with unnecessary, unmerited guilt. Strict abstinence is *not allowed* on Saturday or Sunday. (Saturday is the Seventh Day of God's Creation – the Day of Rest; Sunday is the Day of our Lord's Resurrection.)



The Minimum Degree:

During the first week, abstain from meat.

On all Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, abstain from meat.

During Holy Week, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products (i.e., milk, eggs, butter, etc.), and oil – including Holy Saturday which is the **strictest fast day of the year** on which the fast must be maintained *even after receiving Holy Communion* on Holy Saturday morning.

Light Degree:

Throughout the first week abstain from meat, fish, and dairy.

On all Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, abstain from meat.

During Holy Week, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, (i.e., milk, eggs, butter, etc.), and oil – including Holy Saturday.

Moderate Degree:

During the first week, abstain from meat, fish, and dairy.

On all Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, abstain from meat, fish, and dairy.

For Mid-Lent, abstain from meat, fish, and dairy.

Throughout Holy Week, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, (i.e., milk, eggs, butter, etc.), and oil – including Holy Saturday.

Conservative Degree:

For the first week, abstain from meat, fish, and dairy.

All during Lent, abstain from meat, fish, and dairy.

During Holy Week, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, (i.e., milk, eggs, butter, etc.), and oil – including Holy Saturday.

Strict Degree:

Throughout the first week, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, and oil.

All during Lent, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, and oil.

During Holy Week, abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, (i.e., milk, eggs, butter, etc.), and oil – including Holy Saturday.

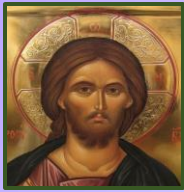
Ascetic Degree:

All during Lent and Holy Week – one “glass” of water and a “morsel” of bread each day.

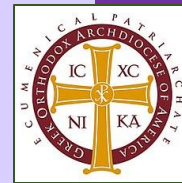
NOTE: Even the strictest fast should be broken on the Annunciation (March 25th) and Palm Sunday, when fish are allowed.

Please do your best!

From **The Triodion**, Annual Resource Companion, A Digest of Orthodox Educational Articles, pp. 54-55.

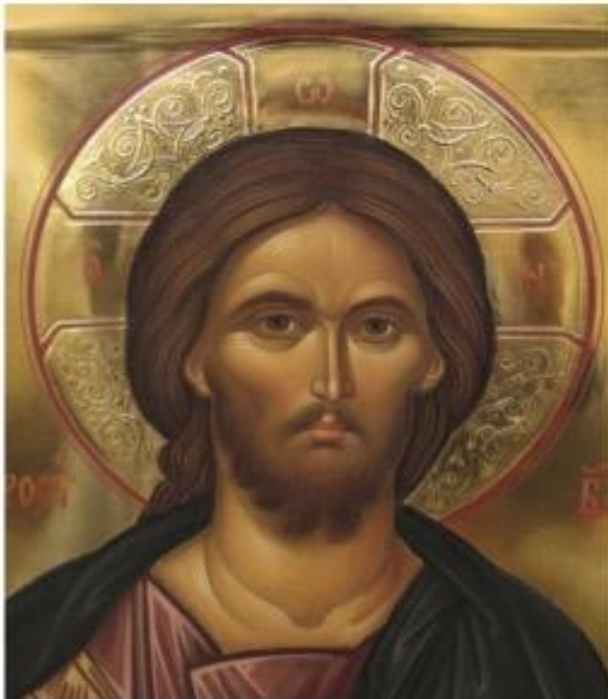


Holy Week Schedule



Divine Services for Holy and Great Lent 2025 Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church

Ἀκολουθίες Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς



Friday, March 21, 2025, 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Παρασκευή, 21 Μαρτίου 2025,
3η Ἀκολ. τῶν Χαιρετισμῶν
7:00 – 8:00 μ.μ.

**Lenten Lectures
8:00 – 9:00 PM**

Ὁμιλίες Μ. Τεσσαρακοστῆς
8:00 – 9:00 μ.μ.

**Sunday, March 23, 2025,
Vespers of Forgiveness
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Κυριακή, 23 Μαρτίου 2025,
Κατανυκτικός Ἑσπερινός
2:00 – 3:00 μ.μ.

Monday, March 24, 2025, Great

Vespers of Annunciation in Jersey City 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Δευτέρα, 24 Μαρτίου 2025, Μ. Ἑσπερινός τῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ
εἰς Jersey City 6:00 – 7:30 μ.μ.

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Orthros & Divine Liturgy of the feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos 9:30- 11:30 AM

Τρίτη, 25 Μαρτίου 2025, Ὁρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία τῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ τῆς Θεοτόκου 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025,
Τετάρτη, 26 Μαρτίου 2025,**

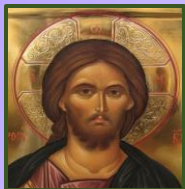
**Pre Sanctified Liturgy
Προηγιασμένη/Θ. Λειτουργία**

**6:00 – 7:30 PM
6:00 – 7:30 μ.μ.**

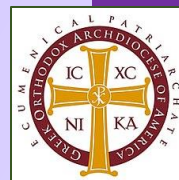
**Friday, March 28, 2025,
Παρασκευή, 28 Μαρτίου 2025,**

**4th Salutations to the Theotokos
4^η Ἀκολ. τῶν Χαιρετισμῶν
Lenten Lectures
Ὁμιλίες Μ. Τεσσαρακοστῆς**

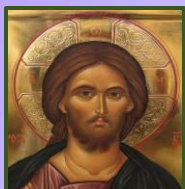
**7:00 – 8:00 PM
7:00 – 8:00 μ.μ.
8:00 – 9:00 PM
8:00 – 9:00 μ.μ.**



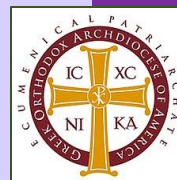
Holy Week Schedule



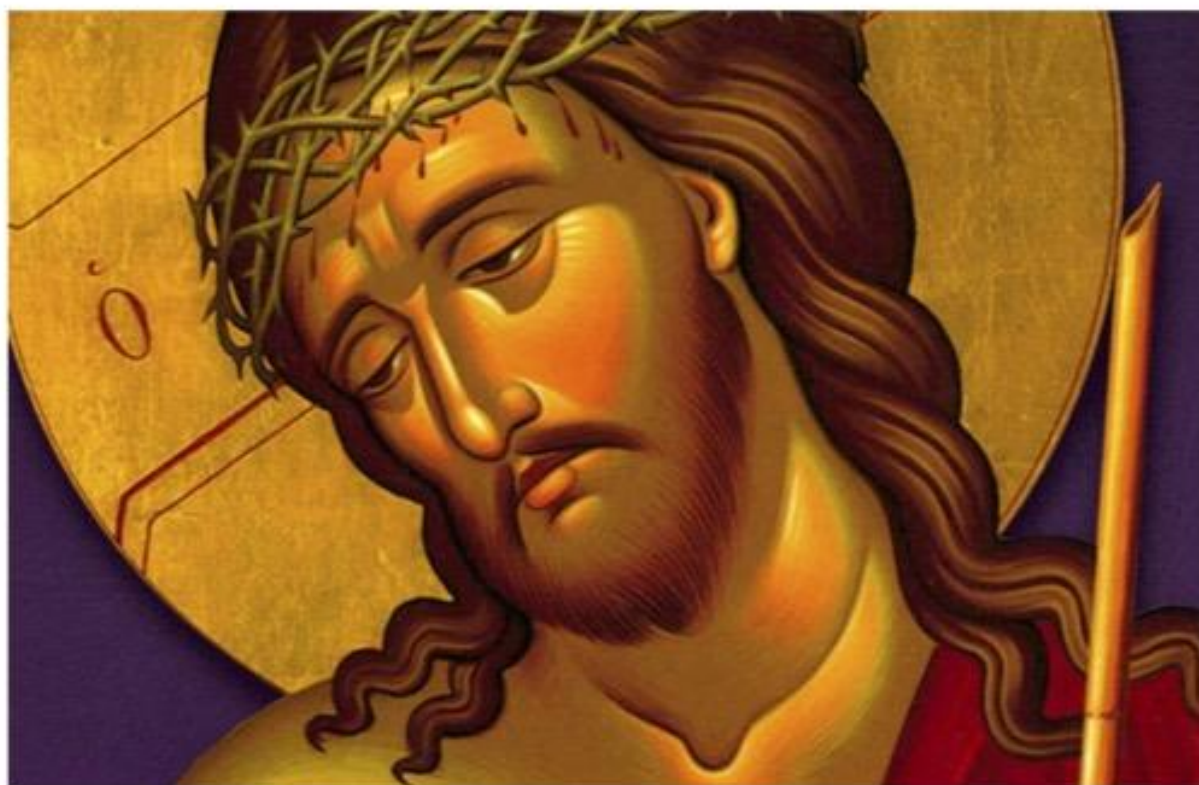
Sunday, March 30, 2025, Κυριακή, 30 Μαρτίου 2025,	Greek Parade in NY Παρέλαση για την 25 ^η Μαρτίου στην NY	1:30 PM 1:30 μ.μ.
Wednesday, April 2, 2025, Τετάρτη, 2 Απριλίου 2025,	Pre Sanctified Liturgy Προηγιασμένη/Θ. Λειτουργία.	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 μ.μ.
Friday, April 4, 2025, Παρασκευή, 4 Απριλίου 2025,	Akathist Hymn Service Ακ. του Ακαθίστου Ύμνου Lenten Lectures Όμιλίες Μ. Τεσσαρακοστής	6:30 – 8:00 PM 6:30 – 8:00 μ.μ. 8:00 – 9:00 PM 8:00 – 9:00 μ.μ.
Sunday, April 6, 2025, Κυριακή, 6 Απριλίου 2025,	Vespers of Forgiveness Κατανυκτικός Έσπερινός	2:00 – 3:00 PM 2:00 – 3:00 μ.μ.
Monday, April 7, 2025, Δευτέρα, 7 Απριλίου 2025,	Great Compline Μέγα Απόδειπνον Bible Study Βιβλική Μελέτη	6:00 -7:00 PM 6:00 -7:00 μ.μ. 7:00 - 8:00 PM 7:00 - 8:00 μ.μ.
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Τετάρτη, 9 Απριλίου 2025,	Pre Sanctified Liturgy Προηγιασμένη/Θ. Λειτουργία	6:00 – 7:30 PM 6:00 – 7:30 π.μ.
Saturday, April 12, 2025, Σάββατο, 12 Απριλίου 2025,	Saturday of Lazarus Σάββατο του Λαζάρου	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.
Sunday, April 13, 2025, Κυριακή, 13 Απριλίου 2025,	Palm Sunday – Ort. & Div. Liturgy. Κυριακή Βαΐων Όρ. & Θ. Λειτουργία	8:30 – 11:30 AM 8:30 – 11:30 π.μ.
Sunday, April 13, 2025, Κυριακή, 13 Απριλίου 2025,	1st Service of the Bridegroom 1 ^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	7:00 – 8:00 PM 7:00 – 8:00 μ.μ.
Monday, April 14, 2025, Μεγ. Δευτέρα, 14 Απριλίου 2025,	Holy Monday – Pre Sanc. Liturgy. Προηγιασμένη/ Θ. Λειτουργία	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.
Monday, April 14, 2025, Μεγ. Δευτέρα, 14 Απριλίου 2025,	2nd Service of the Bridegroom 2 ^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	7:00 – 8:00 PM 7:00 – 8:00 μ.μ.
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Μεγ. Τρίτη, 15 Απριλίου 2025,	Holy Tuesday – Pre Sanc. Liturgy. Προηγιασμένη/ Θ. Λειτουργία	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Μεγ. Τρίτη, 15 Απριλίου 2025,	3rd Service of the Bridegroom 3 ^η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	7:00 – 8:00 PM 7:00 – 8:00 μ.μ.
Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Μεγ. Τετάρτη, 16 Απριλίου 2025,	Holy Wednesday – Pre Sanc. Liturgy Προηγιασμένη/ Θ. Λειτουργία	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.
Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Μεγ. Τετάρτη, 16 Απριλίου 2025,	Holy Unction Ακολ. του Αγίου Εὐχέλαιου	4:00 – 5:00 PM 4:00 – 5:00 μ.μ.
Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Μεγ. Τετάρτη, 16 Απριλίου 2025,	Matins of Holy Thursday Service Ακολ. του Όρθρου Μεγ. Πέμπτης	7:00 – 8:00 PM 7:00 – 8:00 μ.μ.
Thursday, April 17, 2025, Πέμπτη, 17 Απριλίου 2025,	Vesperal Div. Lit. of St. Basil Έσπερινός & Θεία Λειτουργία	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.

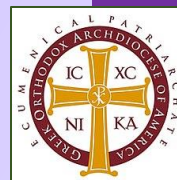
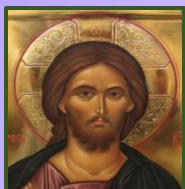


Holy Week Schedule



του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου		
Thursday, April 17, 2025, Πέμπτη, 17 Απριλίου 2025,	Service of the Crucifixion Ακολουθία τῶν Παθῶν	6:30 – 9:30 PM 6:30 – 9:30 μ.μ.
Friday, April 18, 2025, Παρασκευή, 18 Απριλίου 2025,	Great Royal Hours Service Ακολ. τῶν Βασιλικῶν Ὑμῶν	12:30 – 3:00 PM 12:30 – 3:00 μ.μ.
Friday, April 18, 2025, Παρασκευή, 18 Απριλίου 2025,	Apokathelosis Service Ακολ. τῆς Αποκαθηλώσεως	3:00 – 4:30 PM 3:00 – 4:30 μ.μ.
Friday, April 18, 2025, Παρασκευή, 18 Απριλίου 2025,	Lamentations Service Ακολουθία τοῦ Ἐπιταφίου Θρήνου	6:30 – 9:30 PM 6:30 – 9:30 μ.μ.
Saturday, April 19, 2025, Σάββατον, 19 Απριλίου 2025,	Vespertal Div. Lit. of St. Basil Ἑσπερινός, Θεία Λειτουργία Μέγα Βασιλείου	9:30 – 11:30 AM 9:30 – 11:30 π.μ.
Saturday, April 19, 2025, Σάββατον, 19 Απριλίου 2025,	Resurrection Service Πανυχίς / Ακολ. τῆς Αναστάσεως	11:00 – 12:10 AM 11:00 – 12:10 π.μ.
Sunday, April 20, 2025, Κυριακή 20 Απριλίου 2025,	Orthros / Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection Ὁρθρος / Θεία Λειτουργία τῆς Αναστάσεως	12:10- 2:10 AM 12:10 – 2:10 π.μ.
Sunday, April 20, 2025, Κυριακή, 20 Απριλίου 2025,	Easter – Agape service Ἑσπερινός τῆς Ἀγάπης	12:30 – 1:30 PM 12:30 – 1:30 μ.μ.





Holy Week

ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ

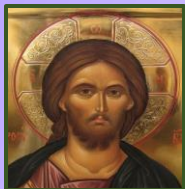
GOOD FRIDAY, April 18, 2025

Παρακαλοῦμε νά γράψετε τὰ ὀνόματα (Βαπτιστικά) τῶν κεκοιμημένων τῆς οἰκογένειάς σας, πού θά μνημονευθοῦν τήν Μεγάλη Παρασκευή τὸ ἀπόγευμα. Ἐλάτε νά προσευχηθοῦμε γιὰ τήν ἀνάπαυση ὅλων τῶν προσφιλῶν τεθνεώτων ἀδελφῶν μας.

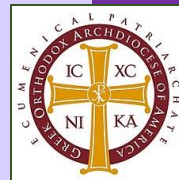
Please print clearly the **First Names (Baptismal)** of the **deceased members** of your family and come worship with us following the Services of the Descent of the Cross on Holy Friday.

ΥΠΕΡ ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑΣ ΑΝΑΠΑΥΣΕΩΣ ΤΩΝ ΨΥΧΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΔΟΥΛΩΝ
FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS

[illegible]



Holy Week Donations



SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND FLOWER DECORATION FOR HOLY WEEK 2025

As we continue the Great and Holy Lent and prepare for Holy Week and Pascha, we invite you to partake in the cherished tradition of adorning our Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church with beautiful flowers. These floral offerings symbolize renewal, life, and the radiant glory of the Resurrection.

This year, we seek contributions for the Epitaphio flower decorations—a centerpiece of our Good Friday services, representing the Tomb of Christ—, flowers to decorate the icons that will be used during Services, as well as for the general beautification of our church during this most holy time.

Your generous donations will help us create a fittingly beautiful environment for our worship and reflection, capturing the spirit of Easter in every bloom and arrangement.

Every flower placed in our church is a testament to our community's faith, love, and the shared joy of Easter.

Join us in this meaningful expression of devotion and celebration.

May the beauty of Easter fill your hearts as we together honor this sacred season.

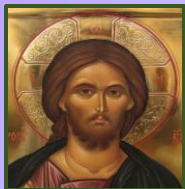
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE: 732-739-1515 DURING OUR REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Kindly make checks payable to: Kimisis Tis Theotokou G.O.Church (memo : Easter Donation)

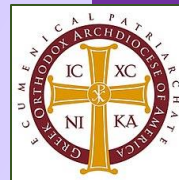
****PLEASE NOTE – PERIODIC DONATIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE TOWARDS ANY ONE ITEM****

1. Palm Sunday – Palms (Vayia) – for the crosses	\$ 450
2. Palm Sunday –Palm trees to be placed inside the Church	\$ 300
3. Palm Sunday – Flowers & Candles for Icon of the (Nymphios) Bridegroom	\$ 250
4. Holy Wednesday – Oil, flowers for icon of the Last Supper & other items for the Holy Unction Services	\$ 350
5. Holy Thursday – Crucifixion Flower Arrangement	\$ 250
6. Holy Thursday – Crucifixion Candles (6 sets of 3) – (\$100 each set)	\$ 600
7. Holy Thursday – 12 Wreaths for the Crucifixion of the Lord –	\$ 250 each
8. Holy Friday – Epitaphio Candles – (4 sets of 6) – (\$100 each set)	\$ 400
9. Holy Friday – Wreath, Myrrhon for Epitaphio, Rosewater	\$ 250
10. Epitaphio Flowers	\$ 2,000 Donated
11. Holy Saturday morning – Bay leaves	\$ 700
12. Holy Saturday – Flowers to decorate the Altar and the Icons	\$ 550
13. Holy Saturday – Icons of Resurrection	\$ 250
14. Holy Saturday – Flowers for the wreath of the Resurrection Banner	\$300
15. Holy Saturday – Resurrection Candles for the Clergy	\$350
16. Lily plants – One dozen	\$350
17. Livani – Incense	\$250
18. Red & White Roses – 4 Arrangements for the Altar -\$200 each	\$800
19. Communion Wine – 3 cases of St. John's Commandaria - \$170 each case	\$510

Your Generosity is Greatly Appreciated!



Donation Opportunity



Beloved brothers and sisters, as you may have noticed the last 6 months, we have done some beatification improvements to our Church that were necessary for the interior of the Church and the completion of various areas in the Nave.

We have done the following:

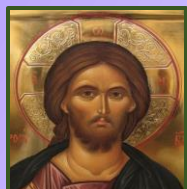
- 1) Marbleized the 4 columns in the Nave of our Church (\$12,000).
- 2) Replaced the old rugs inside and outside of the altar (\$4,000).

We also replaced the old audio system with a new one as well as installed 3 4K streaming cameras for better broadcasting of our services. Kindly we ask for your support and monetary donation. If anyone wishes to donate towards the above completed projects, you may do so, by speaking to Fr. Panagiotis, or to Katina, our secretary.

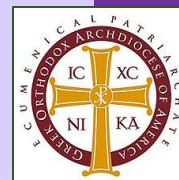
May Lord our God grant to you and to your families a blessed remainder of our Holy Lent and a joyful Pascha.

With Great Respect,

Fr. Panagiotis Lekkas



Letter from the President



Dearest Stewards of Kimisis Tis Theotokou,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the blessings of the season. As we approach Easter, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your dedication and commitment to our church community.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to extend our warmest wishes for a meaningful Lent/Sarakosti and a joyous Easter/Pascha. This sacred season calls us to reflect on renewal, compassion, and the triumph of light over darkness. Together, we create a welcoming and spiritually enriching environment for all who enter our church especially during this special time of year.

Your stewardship, in all its forms, strengthens our parish. Whether through volunteering, financial contributions, or the kindness and support you show one another, your efforts make a difference throughout our church.

The Parish Council extends its sincere appreciation to Father Panagiotis Lekkas and all our ministries and their volunteers for their dedication to preserving our faith, culture, and teachings.

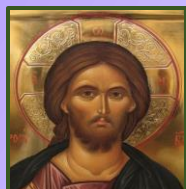
We look forward to everyone's assistance for another successful Festival this June. Please take a moment to volunteer for any shift(s) for which you are available from June 5th-8th. You may email me your availability at 1234properties@gmail.com.

Please see all our upcoming events on our website www.kimisis.com and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KimisisHolmdel/>.

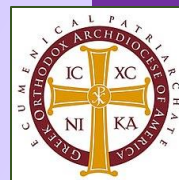
Thank you, once again, for all you do. Your commitment to our parish is a blessing beyond measure.

With Warmest Regards and Easter Blessings,

Despina "Debbie" Mattos
President, Kimisis Tis Theotokou



Stewardship News



Stewardship News

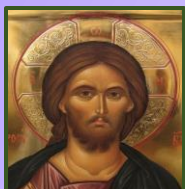
A Thank You to all Stewards for their support of the Kimisis Stewardship program and in helping to attain and surpass the 2024 Stewardship financial goal. Your offering of treasure along with your time and talent made the 2024 campaign a success. Even though we attained our financial 2024 goal, we can still look for a better 2025 with your help and commitment again.

Your Stewardship commitment is a testimony of your dedication to your spiritual growth and the continuation of our beloved Orthodox Faith and to Kimisis Tis Theotokou GOC. Although time (volunteer) and talent are important and critical, your generous donation of treasure helps Kimisis keep the doors open for all the Faithful.

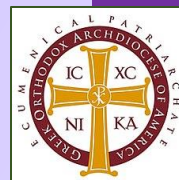
Father Panagiotis Lekkas, The Stewardship Committee, and The Parish Council, thank you once again on behalf of Kimisis Tis Theotokou GOC.

The following list below constitutes all Stewards who contributed financially in 2024.

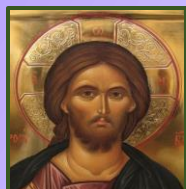
Brenda Abadiotakis	Christian & Rowena Abadiotakis	Nicholas & Elizabeth Adem
Karan & Katerina Ahlawat	Charles & Alexandra Alaimo	Dimitrios & Rallou Amolochitis
John Amoratis	Ernest & Helen Antholis	Victoria Apostle
Theodore Aspiotis	Evan & Mary Avgerinos	Fotini Barber
William & Cleo Bartos	Dr. Kenneth & Heather Belitsis	Posidon & Angie Belitsis
Dr. Matthew & Irene Bistrimovich	Anthony & Linda Blasi	Anthony Blasi III
Steve & Cheryl Bontales	Angelo & Terese Bouzos	Edmund Brown Jr.
Robert & Aphrodite Bucco	William & Brittany Bucco	Dan & Anna Buchsbaum
Michael & Lindsey Buludis	Anthony Calamaras	Nick & Catherine Calamaras
Paul M. Calamaras	Paul Calamaras, Jr	Fred & Harriet Callis
Demetri & Marilyn Catis	Helen Certa	Alex & Christine Charalambous
Michael & Angelina Chavan	Steven & Elizabeth Cherry	Christopher & Katina Churney
Michael & Donna Ciercierski	Ghergina Ciorlian	Mark & Joyce Cocco



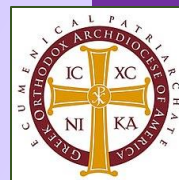
Stewardship News



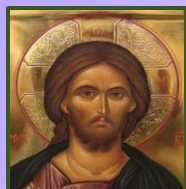
Despina Cofidis	Vinnie & Connie Congemi	Alex & Ana Cosmas
Stephanie Countouroudas	Virginia Cuozzo	Harry & Maria Dakas
Philip & Elena Daniele	Ryan & Samantha Dean	Angelo & Julie Del Pizzo
Aristidis & Stamatia Delis	Nicole Devaney	Despina Dibella
Gerald & Erika Dimaso	Dimitri & Carol Dimitriades	Nicholas & Georgia Doukas
Dimitrios & Julie Douloubakas	Dr. Harry & Evangelia Dounis	David & Ellyana Drake
Maria Drakos	Nicholas Drakos	Jesse & Rosanna Dubois
George & Kyriaki Dyer	Alex & Flora Dymersky	Peter Ehrensperger
Eric & Alexandra Eigen	Nicholas & Susan Englis	Catherine Erkal
Frank & Tina Esposito	Christina Fabio	Chrisie Favara
Drew & Lauren Fitzsimmons	George & Stephanie Fotinos	Kostas & Nichol Fotinos
Stavros & Ploumi Fotinos	Robert & Paula Fourniadis	Serena Fragoulis
Spiros & Renee Fragoulis	Stephanie Fragoulis	Charles & Christina Frazier
Amjad & Fadia Gammoh	Antonios & Sofia Gasparatos	Irene Gavaris
Dimitri & Regina Geaneas	Michael & Jennifer Gerdes	Kenneth & Anastasia Gerien
Ben & Barbara Theos-Germana	Paul & Katherina Gilbride	Andreas & Fotine Greberis
Andrianna Greberis	Serban & Jeanette Greceanu	George Grivas
Charles & Georgia Grossenbacher	John & Cornelia Hackett	Demetrios & Nancy Hadgis
Haralambos Hadjitheodosiou	Edmund & Catherine Haliotis	Frances Haliotis
George & Sheila Haliotis	Paul & Casey Haliotis	Vanessa Haliotis
Chris & Katy Haliyiannis	Jack & Helen Hambas	Brian & Alaina Hedges
Spencer & Cathryn Hondros	Dr Ian & Nikki Horkheimer	Mark & Salomi Horvath
Krissa Hutin	Sydney & Katina Hutin	George & Maria Idromenos
Sophia Idromenos	Lubie Eve Kakos	Nickolaos & Jessica Kallis
Stephen & Jennifer Kamnitsis	Steve & Eileen Kamvissis	Antoine & Yvette Kanaris
Amine & Cherine Kandalaf	Jon & Christine Kangos	Steven & Evangelia Kapsaskis
John & Eudokia Kaptain	John & Angella Karakoglou	George & Anita Karatzia
Andonis & Stephanie Karatzia	Dimitrios Kartsakalis	Evangelos & Georgia Kartsakalis
Stamatina Katsingris	Maria Kazanis	Davis & Maia Ketner
Christopher & Mary King	Kyriaki Kipriadis	Georgia Klizos



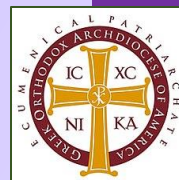
Stewardship News



Peter & Maryanne Kollydas	Steve & Tina Kontos	Angelo & Rita Kostakes
George & Vasiliki Kostas	Paul & Veronica Kostoulakos	Basil & Joanna Kotsis
Dimitrios & Kleopatra Koufidis	Kostas & Helen Koufidis	Euthimios & Marianthi Koukoumis
James & Caryl Kourgellis	Peter Kousouris	Christiana Krimitsos
Nicholas & Jessica Kyprianou	Kikis & Judith Kyriacou	Jordan & Georgia Kyrifides
Anthony & Tina LaFonte	George & Tracy Lambrinos	Nikitas & Sevasti Lambrinos
Fr. Panagiotis & Presv. Eleni Lekkas	Panagiota Lioudakis	Irene Lizardi
Anthony & Christine Loizos	Michael & Mary Loizou	Lucas & Kristine Loucopoulos
Michael & Vasilisa Loucopoulos	Nick & Joyce Magriples	Stephen & Demetra Makrinos
Spillos & Eleni Makris	Peter & Eugenia Manekas	Harry & Margo Manesis
Aris & Mary Maniotis	Maria Mantoudakis	Anthony & Helen Maragos
Nicholas & Eleftheria Maragos	Theologos & Christina Maragos	Alexis Marinos
George & June Marinos	James & Lisa Marinos	Paul & Lynn Marinos
Georgia Mariolis	Theodoros Mariolis	George & Despina Markos
Eva Mastroly	James & Jennifer Matsukas	Darren & Debbie Mattos
James & Maria Mavroleon	Dina Mellas	Garifalo Mellas
Roula Merianos	Zafiris & Esther Michalios	Thomas & Grace Michos
Argyrios & Lucy Milonas	Zack & Roula Moros	Renee Moulton
Alex & Dora Neofotistos	Arete Nicolopoulos	Paul Nicolopoulos
Michael Nikitas	James & Angela Nikitopoulos	Vasilis & Tiffany Niotis
Edward & Aphrodite Noone	Alkimini O'Brien	Demetri & Nathalie Orfanitopoulos
Chris & Nausica Orthodoxou	Nicholas & Eleni Pakis	Lola Paladino
Eugene & Nitsa Palatianos	George Panagakos	Dimitrios & Stavroula Panagiotopoulos
Denise Panicello	John & Angie Panzarino	Agatha Papadoulis
Spyridon & Alexandra Papageorgiou	Angelo & Despina Papagiannakis	George & Eva Papagrigorakis
Cassie PapaKostas	Evangelia Papamarkpu	Harry & Angelina Papasavas
Savvas & Theodora Papasavas	Basil & Karolyn Papatrefon	Steven & Tammy Papatrefon
Anastasia Parameritis	Joanna Parlamis	William & Martha Parlamis
Voula Perdikaris	Andreas Petrou	Soteris & Loula Petrou
William & Kostoula Pilaras	Nicholas & Christie Pisacano	Konstantinos & Maria Plakas
Gregorios Plakoudas	Nicolaos & Fotini Plakoudas	Nicolaos & Georgia Plevritis



Stewardship News



Pierris & Concetta Ploumitsakos

Anita Protenentis

Antonio & Darryl Ramos

Mike & Andrea Rigopoulos

Richard & Jean Rosario

George & Cindy Ruboyianes

Steve & Asimina Savrides

Robert & Diane Sepe

Anthony & Peggy Sideris

Valia Simpson

Constantin Slitas

George & Nikie Sourlis

Spyridon & April Stathonikos

Stamatios & Helen Suravlas

Louis Symos

Noni Theocharides

John & Daniela Tragares

Elias Tsigounis

Savas & Maria Tsivicos

George & Didi Vakkou

Athena Vasilatis

George & Kathryn Vellios

Constantine Vlecides

Drs. George & Terri Zachos

Ted & Claudia Zubulake,

Gregory & Joyce Ploussas

Nicholas Psillis Carstenson

Demetri & Madelyn Rexinis

Kyle & Maria Rodgers

Katrina Rossos

Shannon Said

Akram & Mariam Sawiris

Tyrone Shields

Nikita & Kelly Sifonias

Steve & Vanessa Siozos

Robert & Despina Small

James & Irene Sourlis

Chris & Loula Stellakis

James & Ann Svarnas

George & Pat Synefakis

Frank Theofilkos

Chris & Lauren Tsagaris

Konstantinos & Angie Tsirkas

John Tumazos

Pantelis & Amalia Vapheas

Gigi Vastardis

Alfred & Angela Verrios

Joseph & Erica Xenakis

John & Maria Zaferiou

Rita Zunakos

Thomas & Andrea Protentis

Anthony & Annette Psomas

Kosta & Kara Rexinis

Maria Roditis

Dr. Paul & Sandi Rossos

Despina Samaras

George & Dena Scoullios

Anton & Stephanie Shipman

Drs. Michael & Julie Simon

Madeline Slater

Loucas & Danielle Sofocli

Vickie Spinazzola

Terry Stellakis

Reon & Diane Swaim

Marina Szapala

Liberty Toto

Ioannis & Constandina Tsakon

Chris Tsistinas

John & Stamatia Turk

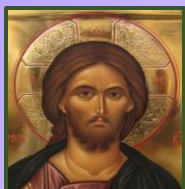
Areti Vardas

Leonidas & Irene Vastardis

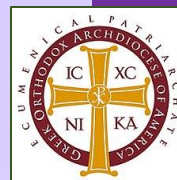
Richard & Michele Vikse

George & Evelyn Zachos

Scott & Anna Zamora



Philoptochos

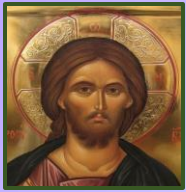


The Ladies Philoptochos Society started 2025 with a supply drive for families in need where members generously and very quickly assembled to collect diapers, canned food items, cereals and paper goods for The Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Benedict's Church. We held our annual Heart Healthy Sunday in early February with our wonderful medical professionals offering complimentary blood pressure screenings to parishioners. Our annual Fasolada Luncheon is just around the corner. We hope you can all join us on March 16th in the All Purpose Room. Our Palm Sunday Luncheon will follow on April 13th in the Community Center and our long-anticipated fundraiser, Bubbles & Blooms, will take place May 3rd at the Grand Marquis. We will gather there in celebration of Mother's Day and the special women in our lives. There will be a cocktail hour bubbly bar, raffles (with some amazing prizes), entertainment you don't want to miss and of course a yummy reception to enjoy together. We absolutely cannot wait to welcome you all and we are so proud to share that in addition to supporting our philanthropic endeavors, a portion of the proceeds from our Grand Raffle will be donated to two local nonprofit organizations – Reaching All in Need Everyday (RAINE) Foundation and 180 Turning Lives Around. We are wishing our entire church and hard-working ministries a beautiful spring ahead!

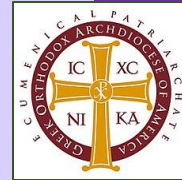
With sisterly love,

All your Ladies Philoptochos





Philoptochos



THE KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO

Bubbles & Blooms

A celebration of the special
women in our lives,
especially our mothers

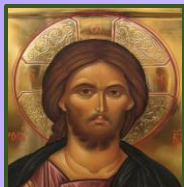
SATURDAY

3
MAY
2025

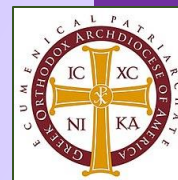
11:30 AM

GRAND MARQUIS | OLD BRIDGE, NJ





Philoptochos



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society – BAHA Chapter
Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
Phone: 732-739-1515

Dear Friend of Philoptochos,

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holmdel, NJ, is excited to announce our upcoming fundraiser, the Bubbles & Blooms Luncheon, which will be held on May 3, 2025, at the Grand Marquis, Old Bridge, NJ. We are expecting approximately three hundred women from the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan area to be in attendance. We are writing to you today to invite you to become a sponsor for this special event by providing a monetary or gift donation to help offset our expenses.

The Bubbles & Blooms Luncheon is not only a celebration of our vibrant community and organization but also a significant fundraiser that supports our ongoing charitable efforts.

The funds raised from this luncheon will enable us to continue our mission of aiding those in need, supporting community outreach programs, and fostering spiritual growth and fellowship. This year, we are very proud to share that in addition to supporting our philanthropic endeavors, a portion of our proceeds will be donated to two local nonprofit organizations – Reaching All in Need Everyday (RAINE) Foundation (rainefoundation.com) and 180 Turning Lives Around (180nj.org).

As a sponsor, you and/or your business will receive prominent recognition throughout the event, including acknowledgment in our event programs and speeches.

We offer several levels of sponsorship:

- Platinum Sponsor: \$600+
- Gold Sponsor: \$250 - \$600
- Silver Sponsor: \$100 - \$250
- Bronze Sponsor: Under \$100

Your support will not only help us achieve our fundraising goals but also demonstrates your commitment to making a positive impact in our community. We are grateful for your consideration and hope to partner with you to make this event a resounding success.

Please find the enclosed sponsorship commitment form for your convenience. Please contact us at BubblesAndBloomsLuncheon@gmail.com should you have questions or require more information.

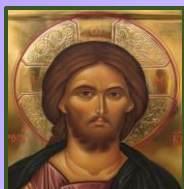
Thank you for your time, consideration and generosity. We look forward to the possibility of working together to support our community through the Bubbles & Blooms Luncheon.

Sincerely,

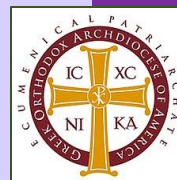
Ana Cosmas, Christie Pisacano and Mary Loizou

Ladies Philoptochos – BAHA Chapter Fundraiser Committee

Tax ID # 222-134-153/000



Philoptochos



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society – BAHA Chapter
 Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
 20 Hillcrest Road, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
 Phone: 732-739-1515

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

I would like to support the Ladies Philoptochos Society's Bubbles & Blooms luncheon by contributing the following (check all that apply):



☐ Submit a cash donation to help underwrite an item. \$ _____

- Platinum Sponsor: \$600+
- Gold Sponsor: \$250 - \$600
- Silver Sponsor: \$100 - \$250
- Bronze Sponsor: Under \$100



☐ Submit an advertisement or Mother's Day tribute in our program journal.

☐ Contribute an item to be used in the raffle baskets.

Item(s) description: _____

Please indicate the retail value and expiration date of item(s) donated:

Fair market value of item(s): \$ _____ Expiration date (if applicable): _____

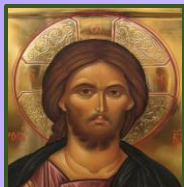
Ways to submit your donation:

1. Mail completed form and check to Ladies Philoptochos Society, 20 Hillcrest Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733
2. Online payment via Cheddar Up (see above for respective QR code)
3. Contact BubblesAndBloomsLuncheon@gmail.com to share completed form and arrange for gift drop-off

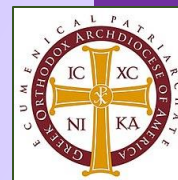
Questions? Please contact BubblesAndBloomsLuncheon@gmail.com.

Thank you for your contribution!

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____



Philoptochos



Dear Philoptochos Sisters,

We hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. As we continue our mission to support those in need and contribute to the betterment of our community, we are approaching a crucial time of the year where your support and dedication are more important than ever.

Our upcoming Bubbles & Blooms luncheon fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 11:30am at the Grand Marquis. We are expecting approximately three hundred women from the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan area to be in attendance, and we will donate a portion of the proceeds earned directly to two local non-profit organizations – Reaching All in Need Everyday (RAINE) Foundation (rainefoundation.com) and 180 Turning Lives Around (180nj.org).

This event requires substantial funding and resources, and we are counting on you, our esteemed members, to help us reach our goals. To ensure the success of our event, we are seeking your assistance in soliciting donations through three specific outlets. Your efforts in reaching out to potential donors and sponsors will be instrumental in making a significant impact. Here are the ways you can help:

1. Goods donations from businesses (see [donation request letter](#))

We are looking for donations of goods from local businesses, which can include gift cards or gift items. These contributions will be used for our fundraising raffles. Not only do these donations provide valuable resources, but they also help to engage the community and promote local businesses. Remember to record your donations in our [raffle tracker](#).

To solicit these donations, consider the following steps:

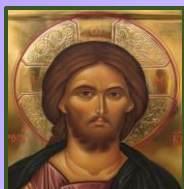
- Identify local businesses that you support and who align with our mission and values.
- Share the donation request letter or email explaining our cause and how their contribution will be utilized.
- Follow up with a phone call or in-person visit to discuss the donation further.
- Share that we will recognize their support in our event programs.

2. Ad journal and Mother's Day tribute sponsorship (see ad journal flyer)

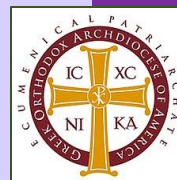
An ad journal sponsorship is a wonderful way for businesses and individuals to support our cause while gaining visibility. We are creating an ad journal that will be distributed at our events, and we invite sponsors to purchase ad space to promote their businesses or share messages of support.

To secure ad journal and Mother's Day tribute sponsorships:

- Reach out to businesses, community leaders, and individuals who may be interested in purchasing ad space or submitting a tribute ad in honor of Mother's Day.
- Think of beauty salons, lawyers, medical practices, accountants, funeral homes, restaurants, construction companies, other small businesses, etc.
- Provide them with the ad journal flyer which includes sizes, pricing, and benefits of sponsorship.



Philoptochos



- Emphasize the exposure they will receive and the positive impact their sponsorship will have on our initiatives.
- Personal tribute pages from friends and family are also welcomed and we encourage you to submit a special Mother's Day tribute for the special women in your lives.

3. Monetary Donations from Supporters (see sponsorship request letter and form)

Monetary donations are crucial in offsetting the costs of our programs and events. We are reaching out to our community of supporters, friends, and family members to ask for their financial contributions. These donations will directly support our efforts and allow us to continue our work effectively. We offer several levels of sponsorship:

- Platinum Sponsor: \$600+
- Gold Sponsor: \$250 - \$600
- Silver Sponsor: \$100 - \$250
- Bronze Sponsor: Under \$100

To solicit monetary donations:

- Send personalized letters or emails to potential donors, highlighting our recent achievements and upcoming projects.
- Express gratitude and provide updates on how their donations are making a difference.
- Ask if they have a preference on how their donation will be spent – raffle purchase, decorations, offset the cost of ticket or program book printing, etc.
- Let them know that we will recognize them in our program journal and in a speech that day.

In conclusion, your active participation in soliciting donations is vital to our success. By reaching out to businesses for goods donations, securing ad journal sponsorships, and encouraging monetary contributions from supporters, we can ensure that our programs continue to thrive and benefit those in need.

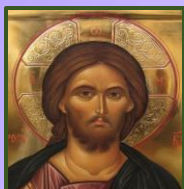
Thank you for your unwavering commitment and generosity. Together, we can achieve remarkable things and make a lasting impact on our community.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further assistance in your efforts. We are here to support you every step of the way.

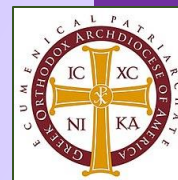
With heartfelt gratitude,

Ana Cosmas, Christie Pisacano and Mary Loizou

Bubbles & Blooms Luncheon Committee Chairwomen



Philoptochos



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society – BAHA Chapter
Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
Phone 732-739-1515

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is a duly accredited women's philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church. We aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry and the widowed through our fundraising efforts. We respond to war and national disasters as well as donate to food and blood banks in our local area. In addition, we support various charities such as the Ronald McDonald House Greek Division, UNICEF, Autism Assistance Fund, as well as local schools through Operation Classroom.

This year we have decided to hold a 'Bubbles and Blooms' luncheon as one of our main fundraising events. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11:30am and will be held at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, New Jersey. We are expecting approximately three hundred women from the New Jersey and New York Metropolitan area to be in attendance. We are writing to your organization in the hopes that you will support our event by donating an item that can be included in our raffle auction. Our raffle baskets are the main source of profit for this fundraising event, and we will be donating a portion of the proceeds earned directly to two local non-profit organizations – Reaching All in Need Everyday (RAINE) Foundation (rainefoundation.com) and 180 Turning Lives Around (180nj.org).

The Ladies Philoptochos Society would greatly appreciate any donation your organization is able to provide, and we plan to recognize your company and your corresponding donation in our program guide that will be provided to every person in attendance. If you would like to purchase an ad, please reach out to me at BubblesAndBloomsLuncheon@gmail.com and I will share our pricing options or scan the QR code on the back of this flyer for more information.

You may also support our event by donating an item that can be included in our raffle auction. Please note that this letter and our letter of Thank You, indicating your exact donation, will be sufficient documentation of your donation for tax deduction purposes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at BubblesAndBloomsLuncheon@gmail.com.

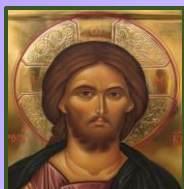
Thank you in advance for your consideration. We hope that you will find our event a worthwhile cause for your organization.

Sincerely,

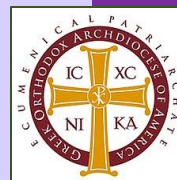
Ana Cosmas, Christie Pisacano and Mary Loizou

Ladies Philoptochos – BAHA Chapter Fundraiser Committee

Tax ID # 222-134-153/000



Philoptochos



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society – BAHAMAS Chapter
 Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
 20 Hillcrest Road
 Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
 Phone 732-739-1515

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Item(s) description:

Please indicate the retail value and expiration date of item(s) donated: Fair market value of item(s):

\$ _____ Expiration date (if applicable): _____

Item is to be: ☐ Mailed ☐ Arranged for pick up ☐ To be delivered

I am unable to provide an item at this time, but I would like to:



☐ Submit a cash donation to help underwrite an item. \$ _____



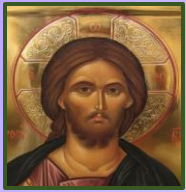
☐ Submit an advertisement for the ad journal. Please scan the QR code to view our pricing options and submit your ad and payment.

Questions? Please contact BubblesAndBlossomsLuncheon@gmail.com. Thank you for your contribution!

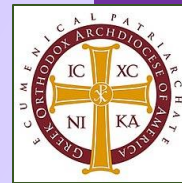
Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form with your donation to the following address by March 1, 2025. Or submit payment electronically via the QR codes above for monetary donation/journal sponsorship.

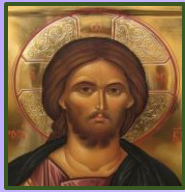
Ladies Philoptochos Society
 8 Clinton Court
 Holmdel, NJ 07733



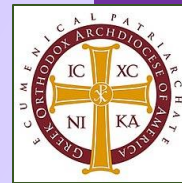
Sunday School



May God Bless all our Children
& Their Families
Happy Easter



Greek School



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING KIMISIS JOURNAL 2025

GREEK SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

In our recent celebration of the Three Hierarchs at Kimisis Greek School, we had a truly wonderful event! The students and teachers did an outstanding job, and it was a joy to witness their hard work and dedication. Special thanks to St. George Ocean and St. Barbara of Toms River, whose students joined us to sing songs and recite poems in honor of the Three Hierarchs. A big thank you to our GS PTO as well for providing a delicious dinner following the event. Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that we're now planning for our Greek Independence Day presentation, where our talented students will once again showcase their skills and pride in our heritage!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

23

Greek Independence Day Presentation

MARCH

30

Greek Independence Parade NYC

APRIL

15

No Greek School Holy Week

MAY

27

End of Year Celebration Graduation

ADULT GREEK LANGUAGE CLASSES COMING SOON!

We are excited to offer Greek language classes for adults at our school. Whether you're learning for travel, personal enrichment, or cultural appreciation, our classes are designed for all levels. EMAIL the Greek School Director for information.

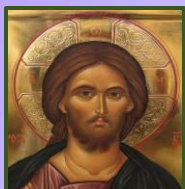
GREEK SCHOOL HOURS

Tuesdays 5-7PM PreK- Advanced Proficiency Levels

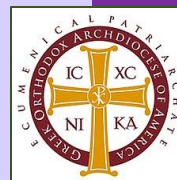
CONTACT INFO

Greek School Director:
Mrs. Evangelia Dounis

Email:
Liadounis@gmail.com



Greek School

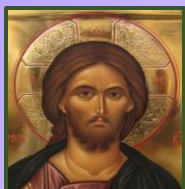


THREE HIERARCHS CELEBRATION- JANUARY 24, 2025

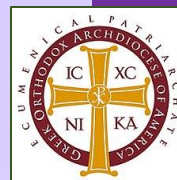


THE GREEK SCHOOLS OF KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU HOLMDEL ST. GEORGE OCEAN-ST. BARBARA TOMS RIVER



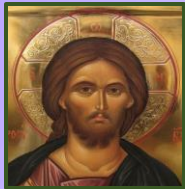


Greek School

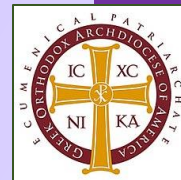


GREEK SCHOOL VASILOPITA CUTTING 2025





Greek School PTO



Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Holmdel NJ

PTO EASTER SHOP

\$20

Tsoureki

\$5

Egg Dye

\$25

Lambades

Pre Order Today
Quantities Limited

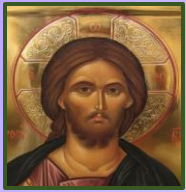
Scan QR



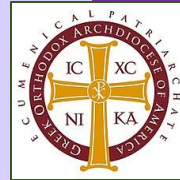
To Order

Baked by the lovely ladies at Agia Skepi

Contact us 201-753-0880



Greek School PTO



Kimisis Tis Theotokou Holmdel, NJ

Greek School Parent Teacher Organization

**Join us
Get Involved
Plan Events!
Fundraise!
Bake with Us!
Develop Friendships!
Build our community!**

»————«
Lets pass on our
culture & and
traditions to the
next generation
»————«

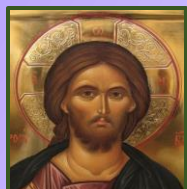


**Scan QR code to
view our
events, join our
team & email list**

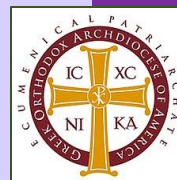


@KIMISISGREEKSCHOOLPTO

Follow US on IG



Greek School PTO



Greek School PTO Spring Event Summaries

Greek Independence day Coffee Hour

Ζήτω η Ελλάδα! Greeks all over the world are celebrating this day. Join us at our community center to enjoy our children's performances, along with stations of traditional Greek food, coffee and loukoumades for Sale.

Easter Bread /Tsourekia Sales

Our lovely ladies at Agia Skepi make the tastiest Tsourekia during our Easter holiday.

Pre-Order for you or your family to reserve your Tsoureki, they sell fast and none are left behind. Pickup for Pre-orders, TBA.

Palm Sunday, PTO will be selling the remainder of inventory at the church.

Greek Independence Day Parade

PTO sponsors the float and bus for this event, which is available to all Greek School students and families.

PTO also provides a lunch and snack bag which includes one sandwich, juice and snack to all Greek school students prior to departure for parade.

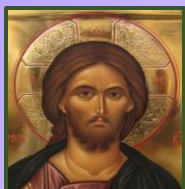
End of school year Graduation Party

Pursuant to graduation PTO hosts a FREE fun filled event at our community center. Kids will enjoy food, refreshments, dessert, along with a variety of activities from Bounce Houses to target practice. PTO wraps up the event & the end of year with a gift for each Greek School Student.

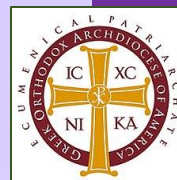
Follow us on IG for latest updates



@KIMISISGREEKSCHOOLPTO



Greek School PTO



Kimisis Tis Theotokou
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, NJ 07743
GREEK SCHOOL PTO

GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com

Welcome to our 2024-2025 Greek School Community

Our goal at Greek School PTO is to work closely together with our church & Greek School administrators to provide a fun & memorable experience here at the Kimissis Community.

Meet our executive board:

President - Kara Reginis

Vice President - Helen Koufidis

Treasurer- Stephanie Fotinos

Compliance/Recording Secretary - Georgia Aravantinos

Social Media Coordinator- Catie Haliyiannis

PTO board and parents meet once a month to discuss and plan our fundraising events, school supplies needed, school/class trips, student parties, and other school based fundraising events. This is also a good opportunity to meet the other parents make new connections and enjoy the PTO experience. Refreshments are served. Dates to be announced and email reminders will be sent.

Our Spring Events 2024-2025 School year

Greek Independence day 3-23-2025

Tsoureki Easter Bread Sales 4-6-2025, 4-13-2025

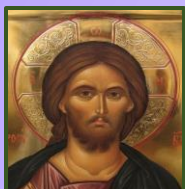
Greek Independence Day Parade 4-27-25

Greek School Graduation Party 5-28-25

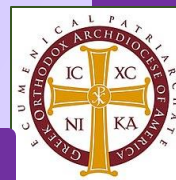
Volunteer support from our parents and our community is vital to the success of our community and events. There are many moving parts to these events and they cannot be successful without the help of our parents. Please consider joining us, we need all your support and your time volunteering, in order to keep our community thriving. Membership is \$20 per family. Click the QR code to make payment. All funds go directly to Greek school PTO for purposes of Greek school only.



If you have any questions please email us at GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com or simply find one of our Board members and at any time and we'd be happy to assist!



GOYA



As we welcome the vibrant season of spring, we want to reflect on the incredible journey our GOYA has had these past few months.

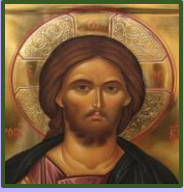
We kicked off the year with a lively Zumba fundraiser, bringing our community together for a great cause. This was a successful event and everyone had so much fun moving to the beat of the music. We also held the first level of the Oratorical Festival and heard many heartfelt, insightful speeches. A huge congratulations to our Oratorical winners, Zoe Horkheimer and Christos Churney, for their outstanding performances—your hard work was truly inspirational!

In February, our Greek dance group and youth choir group showcased their talent at the MDF competition in Philadelphia. This was a great experience for our GOYA and everyone performed with pride and precision. Thank you Nick Fourniadis, Alex Bistromovich, Lucy Milonas, and Darryl Ramos for your dedication in teaching.

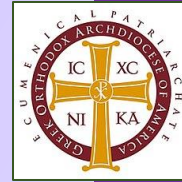
We are thrilled to share that we won 3rd place overall at Sights and Sounds at the beginning of March! We also placed 2nd in the category of Greek dance. All those months of practice for Greek dance, band, chorus, play, and choral speaking really paid off. We want to extend a sincere thank you to all the parents, coaches, and advisors who supported us along the way.

Looking ahead, we have our Lenten retreat scheduled for March 22 at Saint Basil Academy, which will doubtlessly be a meaningful experience for everyone involved. Additionally, our spring clothing drive is just around the corner, and I encourage everyone to participate and give back to those in need. Here's to a wonderful spring filled with growth and community spirit!





Hope Joy



Spring Update

We are pleased to share with you recent updates from the Ministry of Hope & Joy. The children of Hope/Joy have been very busy so far this year:

Coffee Hour and Vasilopita Cutting

On January 26th, Hope/Joy sponsored coffee hour. Thank you to the families who helped make our coffee hour a success by donating items. Additionally, the Hope/Joy board cut a vasilopita for the children to wish them many blessings and good fortune for the coming year.

Jump Event at Urban Air

On January 29th, the children of Hope/Joy gathered at Urban Air in Hazlet for our first event of the New Year. The kids had a blast playing on trampolines, obstacle courses, and games while spending time with each other.

Coffee Hour

On March 2nd, Hope/Joy sponsored its final coffee hour of the year. Thank you to the families who generously donated items. It's our community's support and contributions that make our events possible.

Kathara Deftera Kite Event

On Monday March 3rd, the children of Hope/Joy had a blast celebrating Kathara Deftera. They decorated and flew kites. Father Panagiotis discussed the meaning and significance of Kathara Deftera with the group. It was a beautiful afternoon filled with laughs and wonderful memories.

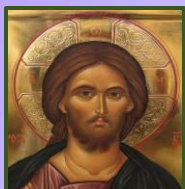
Lenten Charity Drive: The Crayon Initiative

We are proud to announce our Lenten Charity Drive in support of the **Crayon Initiative**, a nonprofit that recycles old crayons into new ones for children in hospitals. From Sunday, March 2nd through Sunday, April 20th, Hope/Joy will be partnering with Girl Scout Troop 337 to collect used and broken crayons to donate. The crayon collection bins will be in the church starting on clean Monday.

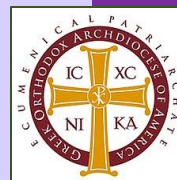
A Look Ahead

- *Friday, March 28th* - Confession & Craft Event @ APR, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
- *Friday, April 18th* - Good Friday Retreat with GOYA @ Church, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm
- *Thursday, May 1st* - Protomayia Flower Wreath Event @ Kimisis Gym, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- *Saturday, May 17th* - Year End Celebration offsite ; details TBA soon!





Kali Parea



Kali Parea is an exciting group of parishioners from Kimisis Tis Theotokou that are ages 50++. We get together on the first Thursday of the month for companionship, good conversation, fun, and making memories with friends!

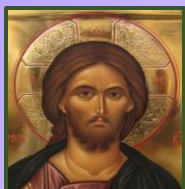
We meet from 11:30am - 1:30pm. We have delicious lunches, pizza, and dessert as well as pot luck lunches. Everyone brings something to the gatherings, food, love, and laughter.

In the past we have watched movies, played games and raffled off gifts. Our up coming events include, trips, eating out, hands on crafts, and Greek dance lessons.

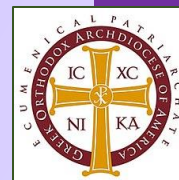
We hope to see you all next month. Join us and have some fun!
We welcome new members and new ideas.

Come & enjoy the fun with some wonderful people.
Thank you to all who have join us. We are truly blessed.

Respectfully,
Despina Markos - President



Maids of Athena



As we reflect on the past few months, our chapter, Theodora #282, has been incredibly active and productive.

In January, we were thrilled to welcome two new members into our sisterhood. To kick off the year, we also held a successful bingo night fundraiser that brought our community together and raised funds for our future initiatives. Thank you to all who attended and to the AHEPA members who helped us along the way. We also had the chance to get to know our Sister City chapter Cassandra-Hera from Calgary via zoom. Despite the distance between us, it was so nice to connect with these girls and share ideas.

February was filled with love and giving. We celebrated Valentine's Day together, and our members crafted beautiful homemade Valentine's Day cards, which we donated to the Promenade Assisted Living Facility in Middletown, New York. The joy on the residents' faces was heartwarming and reminded us of the impact we can make through small acts of kindness.

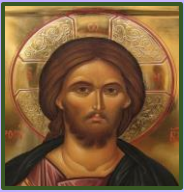
March was another busy month for us. We initiated two more members, expanding our chapter and strengthening our bonds. Additionally, we partnered with the Red Cross to host a blood drive, contributing to a vital cause and supporting those in need.

Looking ahead, April is set to be an exciting month. We will be participating in a beach clean-up to help protect our local environment, followed by a Mother's Day basket raffle to celebrate and honor the wonderful mothers in our community. In May, we have planned a special coffee hour on Mother's Day, where we will gather to appreciate our mothers and their contributions. We will also be electing our next leaders, ensuring the continued growth and success of our chapter.

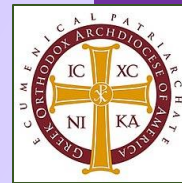
Finally, in June, we are eagerly anticipating meeting other chapters at the Greeks in New York event. This will be a fantastic opportunity to connect, share experiences, and strengthen our ties with the broader community.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished so far and look forward to the many exciting activities and events ahead.





Girl Scouts Troop 337



Our Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts have been busy learning about science, community service, civic leadership, and having fun along the way. The Girls brought joy to the residents at Care One Health facility in Holmdel where they joined with the GOYAns and sang holiday songs. They celebrated World Thinking Day learning songs and games from other countries, and the 113th Birthday of Girl Scouting in the USA with other Holmdel troops, coupling it with badge workshops and providing for those in need. They recently earned the Financial Awareness and Kitchen Chemistry badge. They collected and donated supplies to *babybundle*, an organization that provides essential items for new parents in need.

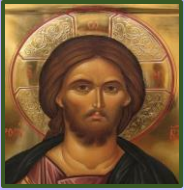
While selling Girl Scout cookies, the Girls learned about communication skills, money management and goal setting. Many thanks to all who purchased Girl Scout cookies so they can enjoy a weekend at Camp Sacajawea, which they have been preparing for all year! The Girls will begin working on their level Religious Recognition Award program with their parents, leaders and Fr. Panagiotis Lekkas. Our annual family hike through the trails in Holmdel Park is planned for mid-Spring. For more information on Girl Scouting in Holmdel, contact cheryl.bontales@gmail.com Leaders and Adult Volunteers welcome, training is free.

Kimisis Tis Theotokou

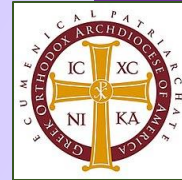
Girl Scout Troop 337 News –

by Stephanie Karatzia, Troop Leader





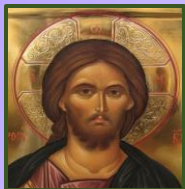
Hellenic Dancers



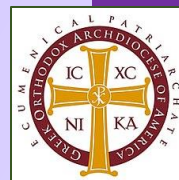
The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey kicked off 2025 with an Alumni gathering in January. Our Alumni dancers gathered to dance, socialize and dance with the current troupe. On Saturday, February 8, we held our Annual Taverna night. Over 300 people filled the Kimisis Cultural Center and danced to music provided by Anemos Music Project. HDNJ took the stage for a 45-minute performance highlighting dances and clothing from all over Greece.

As we look toward Spring and Summer, the troupe has several upcoming events: performing at the Greek Independence Day Celebration at the Hellenic Civic Club in Fort Lee on March 22nd; marching and performing at the Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade on April 6th, The 10th Annual Greek Jewish Festival at Kehila Kedosha Synagogue in NYC on May 11, and many more Greek Festivals including Middletown, NY, Poughkeepsie, NY and Roseland, NJ. For performance inquiries, email: info@hellenicdancersofnj.org; follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all performance updates: @HDNJ1972





Kimisis Youth Dancers



The Kimisis Youth Dancers and GOYA have had a very eventful winter season! Our GOYANs participated in the first annual MDF Competition in Philadelphia over President's weekend. The GOYA dancers performed two separate routines from Macedonia and Thrace. The GOYANs received the Folk Expression Award for their performances of Enteka and Lazaritsa from their Macedonian routine.

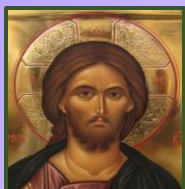
The GOYANs also competed at Sights and Sounds on March 1st in Westfield and came in 2nd place for Greek Folk Dancing! Their hard work, dedication, and passion for their culture enabled them to put on an incredible performance at both the MDF and Sights competitions. Looking ahead, the GOYANs will be performing at the Forsgate Country Club on March 28th and then it is on to the Festival in June!

The Kimisis Youth Dancers also performed for the Apokriatiko Glendi in February at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. The youth put on an amazing show thanks to the coordination of Alex Bistrimovich, Sofia Countouroudas, and Renee Moulton.

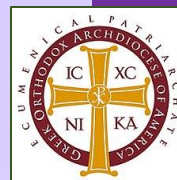
The youth dancers are also looking forward to their performances at the Kimisis Greek Festival from June 5th to 8th!

Anyone still wishing to enroll their child in our Greek Dance program should contact Nicholas Fourniadis at nfourniadis@gmail.com



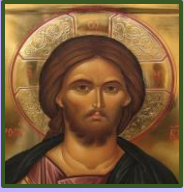


Kimisis Youth Dancers

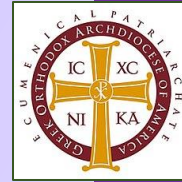


Congratulations to the
Kimisis Youth Dancers for taking
2nd Place at Sights and Sounds.

Thank you to all the students, parents, instructors, advisors
and to Father Panagiotis.



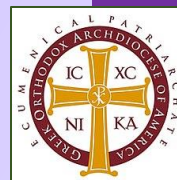
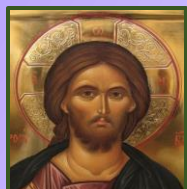
Ahepa Chapter 517



The Brothers of AHEPA Chapter 517 have had a very eventful past few months! In January several brothers attended the Epiphany Celebration in Tarpon Springs and participated in the various events that took place over the course of the weekend. Then on February 2nd, AHEPA Chapter 517 hosted its first ever Casino Night to resounding success. The event raised over \$17,000 for the various charitable initiatives the Chapter supports.

AHEPA Chapter 517 will be hosting its annual Cigar Night on Wednesday May 7th at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, New Jersey. Join us for a night of networking, camaraderie, great food, and great cigars. Tickets can be purchased at the following link: <https://www.simpletix.com/e/ahepa-garden-state-517-cigar-night-tickets-200958>





Volunteer or Come Shop

Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road, Holmdel, NJ

2025 Annual Flea Market
Saturday, April 26th 10:00-4:00
Sunday, April 27th 12:00-4:00



VOLUNTEER!

The Parish Council is hosting a Flea Market Fair. Start your spring cleaning early and donate your unwanted items. We are looking for books, costume jewelry, toys and baby items, kitchenware, electronics, records, home decor, photography, art and art prints, and all sellable home goods. All products must be in "like new" condition.

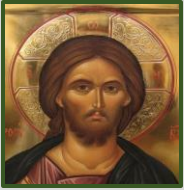
Collection date starts - Monday March 31st in gym on stage - during church office hours at the Community Center Gym. NO furniture, bedding or mattresses accepted.

Be sure to let your friends and family know so they can enjoy shopping for the best bargains at a family friendly event!

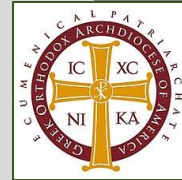
We need volunteers! Please donate your time!

**Thank You
Flea Market Committee
2025**

Email kimisisfleamarket@gmail.com for sign up and questions



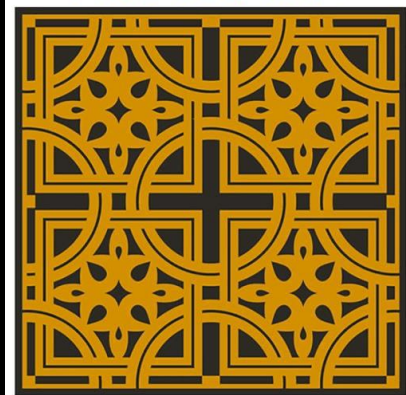
Support Businesses



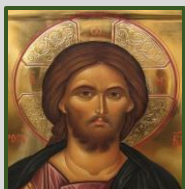
UNIQUE. TIMELESS. BYZANTINE.

Pendants for Women, Men & Children

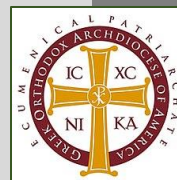
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FINE JEWELRY



HELENE PALATIANOS QUINN
INFO@BYZANTHEA.COM | 908.601.0592
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Advertise Here



Have a business and want to advertise?

For information on how to place an ad
please reach out to:

Katina Hutin

c/o Kimisis tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, New Jersey 07733

info@kimisis.com

732-739-1515

Call Tuesday-Thursday to speak to Katina directly.
Come to the office on Sunday after church to speak
to someone.

Email or call. We are happy to help get your
information to the parish.