

# KIMISIS COMMUNITY JOURNAL



FALL 2024 Edition

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

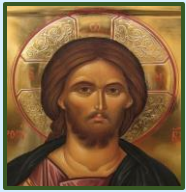
HOLMDEL NEW JERSEY



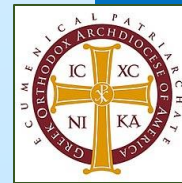
## Top News:

Registrations Begin! Sign Up Your Children and Consider Volunteering





# Father's Message



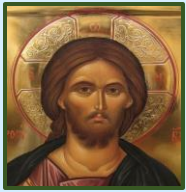
## WELCOME BACK

As we embarked in the New Ecclesiastical Year, our Lord extends His arms to embrace and welcome us in fellowship with Him. Our God is loving and forgiving. It is up to us to respond to this invitation of renewal and restart of our commitment to Him. In September we celebrated the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year, the Birth of our Panagia and Mother of our God, the Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross of our Lord, the feast day of St. John the Theologian, beloved disciple of Christ, as well as many other feast days of pious Saints that consist of the Triumphant Church of God's kingdom.

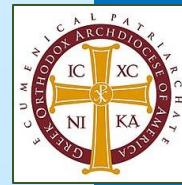
Sunday School, Joy, Hope, Goya and all the youth ministries of our Church have started and it's up to us as parents to get our children to be part of the Church life.

October brings us the commemoration of the lives of Saint Demetrios, the Apostle Luke, Saint Thomas, the 7th Ecumenical Council—all wonderful joyous holy days. On October 28th, we also celebrate OXI Day. Ioannis Metaxas, the formal military general and the prime minister of Greece was given an ultimatum by the Italian prime minister, Benito Mussolini, in the Greco-Italian War. The Italian army required a passage to access the Greek-Albanian border. The ultimatum signaled the occupation by of some areas of Greece by the Italian army. Metaxas rejected the ultimatum by allegedly saying "Then it is war!" His refusal caused Greece to stand on the side of the Allies in the Second World War. The word "Oxi" became synonymous with this day as it represented the day the Greeks said "No" to the Mussolini and to all the fascists trying to invade their country. The locals ran across the streets while screaming "Oxi". The Greeks not only refused Mussolini's wishes, but they also made the Italian army fall back from Albania. It is believed that if Metaxas hadn't said no, the Second World War would have lasted longer. There were many theories regarding the refusal of the Mussolini's ultimatum, one of which is that if Greece had approved his entry, Hitler would have invaded Russia in spring rather than winter. During the time of the Greco-Italian War, Winston Churchill stated that from then onwards they would say "heroes fight like Greeks" rather than "Greeks fight like heroes."

There were also many heroes that came from the church. Metropolitan Chrysostomos is a true example of the Oxi Day spirit and his courage is a worthy role model for contemporary leaders. In 1943, the German military commander ordered Metropolitan Chrysostomos and the mayor of Zakynthos to prepare a list of the Jewish community on the island. His goal was to deport them to concentration camps in Poland. Instead of preparing

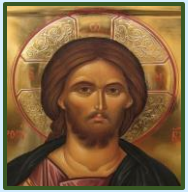


# Father's Message

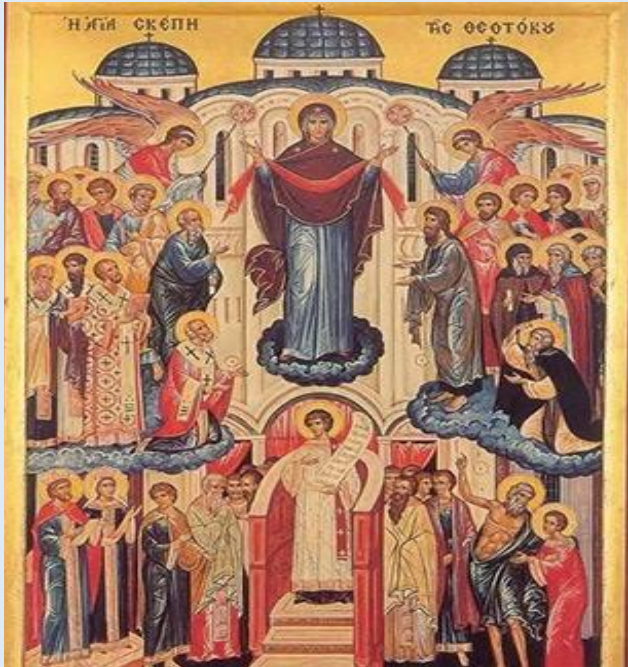
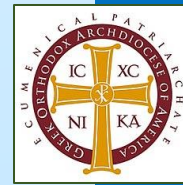


such a list, the Metropolitan and the mayor went to the Jewish community on the island and sent them into hiding in the mountains or with Christian friends in the countryside. Metropolitan Chrysostomos and the mayor returned to the German military commander with a piece of paper that contained their two names and said it was the list of the Jewish community of Zakynthos. The percentage of the Jewish community of Zakynthos who survived the Holocaust is ranked among the highest of any Nazi occupied area. Metropolitan Chrysostomos was awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1978, in recognition of his efforts to protect the Jewish community on his island. Metropolitan Chrysostomos' actions are consistent with those of other Greek Orthodox religious leaders, including Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens. The Raul Wallenberg Foundation reports that the Archbishop was the only national religious leader who publicly challenged the Holocaust as it was happening. As well, he oversaw actions such as the creation of false baptismal certificates to protect members of the Jewish community and the sheltering of Jews in Greek monasteries and other Church properties. Collectively their actions saved thousands of Jewish lives.

I hope that this celebration of Oxi Day is understood in the context of pride in the actions of the Greek Orthodox faithful. This is not just a holiday of the Greek Nation but also a celebration of our Orthodox heritage. This is why on this day we offer our prayers to the Theotokos "Lady, your holy protection \* holds us beneath it like a veil; \* and it protects all believers, \* leading in battles to defend \* your people, O Theotokos, \* and guard them from any danger."



# Father's Message



## Καλώς Ορίσατε

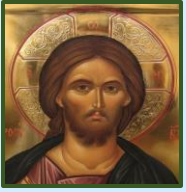
Αγαπητοί αδελφοί μου καλωσορίζω όλους στο Νέο Εκκλησιαστικό έτος το οποίο άρχισε την 1<sup>η</sup> Σεπτεμβρίου ευχόμενος όπως είναι καρποφόρο και προσοδοφόρο τόσο για εσάς όσο και για τις οικογένειές σας.

Όλες οι ποιμαντικές δραστηριότητες της Εκκλησίας μας έχουν αρχίσει και παρακαλώ όλους να προωθήσετε να παιδιά μας να πηγαίνουν στο Κατηχητικό Σχολείο για να μάθουν την Ορθόδοξη Παράδοση μας και να συμμετάσχουν ενεργά στην Μυστηριακή Ζωή της Εκκλησίας μας.

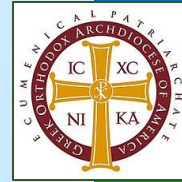
Τον Σεπτέμβριο μήνα εορτάσαμε την Ύψωση του Τιμίου Σταυρού, το Γενέθλιον της Θεοτόκου, την εορτή του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Θεολόγου και άλλες εορτές ευσεβών Αγίων της Θριαμβέβουσας Εκκλησίας του Χριστού μας.

Τον Οκτώβριο μήνα η Εκκλησία μας εορτάζει τις μνήμες των Αγίων Θωμά του Αποστόλου, Λουκά του Ευαγγελιστού, Δημητρίου του Μυροβλήτου, Νέστωρος μαθητού του Αγίου Δημητρίου, την μνήμη της Σκέπης της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου προς όλο το χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα της Εκκλησίας.

Η Σκέπη της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου που εορτάζετε στις 28 Οκτωβρίου είναι επίσης και η ημέρα εορτής του ΟΧΙ εναντίων του φασισμού και του ναζισμού κατά τον Β Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο όπου πολλοί αδελφοί μας θυσίασαν την ζωή του για την Ελευθερία και Ανεξαρτησία. Η εορτή της Αγίας Σκέπης έχει τις ρίζες της στην Βυζαντινή παράδοση. Σύμφωνα με μελέτη του διαπρεπούς ρώσου αγιολόγου Σεργίου, αρχιεπισκόπου Βλαδιμήρου (1898) στα χρόνια του βασιλέως Λέοντος του Μεγάλου (457-474 μ. Χ.) ζούσε στην Κων/πολη ο όσιος Ανδρέας, ο κατά Χριστόν σαλός. Σαλός είναι ο τρελός και “κατά Χριστόν σαλοί” ονομάζονται κάποιοι άγιοι, οι οποίοι κάνανε κάποια περίεργα και παράλογα πράγματα, με απώτερο σκοπό να τους θεωρούν παλαβούς ή παλιανθρώπους και να μη τους τιμούν οι άνθρωποι· και έτσι αυτοί να ζουν εν ταπεινώσει και αφανεία. Μια νύχτα που γινότανε αγρυπνία στο ναό της Παναγίας των Βλαχερνών, ο όσιος Ανδρέας μαζί με τον μαθητή του Επιφάνιο, που έγινε αργότερα πατριάρχης Κων/πόλεως (520-536 μ. Χ.), είδαν την Υπεραγία Θεοτόκο οφαλμοφανώς, όχι σε όραμα, να μπαίνει από την κεντρική πύλη του ναού.



# Father's Message



Την συνόδευαν ο Ιωάννης ο Πρόδρομος και Ιωάννης ο Θεολόγος και πλήθος αγγέλων. Αφού μπήκε μέσα στο ναό προχώρησε στον σολέα. Εκεί γονάτισε και προσευχήθηκε πολλή ώρα με θερμά δάκρυα υπέρ της σωτηρίας των πιστών, ενώ την βλέπανε μόνο ο Ανδρέας και ο Επιφάνιος. Αφού προσευχήθηκε για πολύ η Θεοτόκος σηκώθηκε και μπήκε μέσα στο ιερό, όπου φυλασσόταν το μαφόριο της το πήρε στα χέρια της και βγαίνοντας έξω το άπλωσε πάνω από τους πιστούς, για να δείξει ότι τους σκέπει και τους προστατεύει.

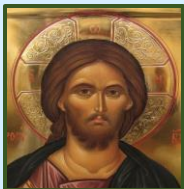
Το νέο διαδόθηκε αμέσως στην Κωνσταντινούπολη, σε μία περίοδο που βρισκόταν υπό την απειλή των Αγαρηνών (βυζαντινή ονομασία για τους Άραβες), εμφυσώντας θάρρος και αισιοδοξία στους κατοίκους της. Όταν πέρασε ο κίνδυνος, η διάσωση της Βασιλεύουσας αποδόθηκε στην παρέμβαση της Παναγίας και η Εκκλησία θέσπισε το γεγονός ως θεομητορική εορτή και την όρισε να εορτάζεται την 1η Οκτωβρίου. Τον 12ο αιώνα θεσπίστηκε και στη Ρωσία υπό το όνομα «Πογκρόφ» και τιμάται στις 14 Οκτωβρίου.

Η Ιερά Σύνοδος της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος, στη συνεδρία της 17ης Οκτωβρίου 1952, κατόπιν πρότασης του αρχιεπισκόπου Σπυρίδωνος, αποφάσισε τη μετάθεση της εορτής της Αγίας Σκέπης από την 1η Οκτωβρίου στις 28 Οκτωβρίου, για να αποτελέσει τη θρησκευτική βάση της επετείου του «ΟΧΙ». Την Ακολουθία της εορτής, σε συνδυασμό με το περιεχόμενο της επετείου κήρυξης του Ελληνοϊταλικού Πολέμου, συνέγραψε ο Αγιορείτης μοναχός Γεράσιμος Μικραγιαννανίτης (1905-1991).

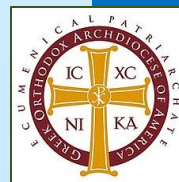
Εύχομαι η Παναγία μητέρα μας να είναι πάντοτε η προστάτης και βοηθός όλων μας.

Π. Παναγιώτης

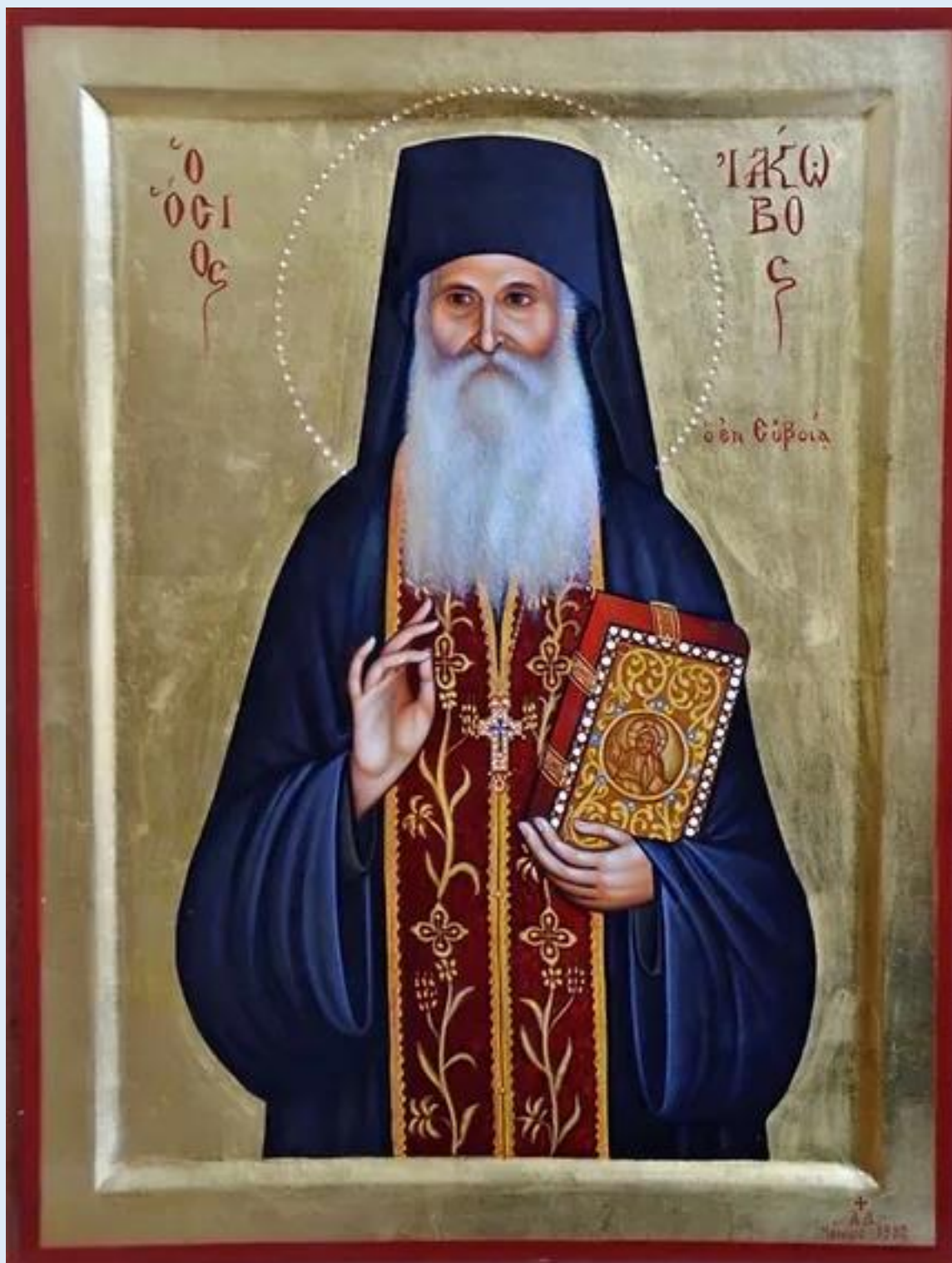


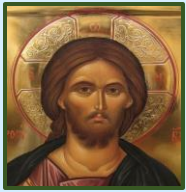


# Father's Message

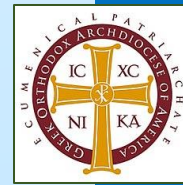


The New Patron Sain of our Metropolis.





# Father's Message



## St. Iakovos of Evia

Patron Saint of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

### Biography of Saint Iakovos (Tsalikis) of Evia

St. Iakovos of Evia was born on 5 November 1920 to pious parents in Asia Minor. Soon after he departed for Greece as a refugee, near Corinth.

From 1938 till the end of his life he lived in extreme asceticism, eating little, praying always and working hard. He lost his mother in 1942 and was drafted into the army in 1947. Upon his return from the army in 1949 his father passed away, leaving him to care for his sister, Anastasia until her marriage in 1952.

At the age of 32 Iakovos became a novice monk at the Monastery of St. David in Evia and on December 19, 1952, he was ordained a priest by Metropolitan Gregory of Halkida. On June 25, 1975, he became Abbot of the Monastery. This monastery was quite dilapidated on his arrival and Father Iakovos lived in great poverty which affected his health. It was reported that he conversed personally with the saints including St. Paraskevi, St. John the Russian, and St. David of Evia, the patron saint of the monastery. The Elder did not live for himself but from the fruit of his prayer and fasting he gave counsel and help to the people who began flocking to him. Despite many illnesses he always made time for the faithful who came to the monastery.

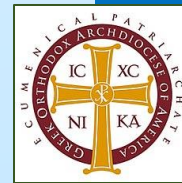
Beginning in 1990 his health began to decline and on November 21, 1991, he attended the Divine Liturgy, received Holy Communion, and heard the confessions of several people. He died peacefully later that day with thousands of people attending his funeral with many shouting "A saint! A saint!"

The Monastery of St. David has recorded over 300 testimonies of miraculous help connected with the prayers of the Elder Iakovos.

On November 17, 2017, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate canonized St.

Iakovos of Evia, officially numbering him among the saints to be commemorated on November 22nd.

# Letter from the President



Hello Kimisis Family,

It is my pleasure and honor on behalf of the Parish Council to welcome you to the start of our 2024-2025 ecclesiastical year! We pray this summer has given you time to rest and have extra time with family as our children begin their school year.

Kimisis has welcomed new families and beautiful babies into our community over the past few months and are excited to be a part of their lives going forward. We have another busy year ahead planned for the children with Sunday School, Greek School, Hope & Joy, GOYA, Greek Folklore Dancing, Volleyball & Basketball Teams, Girl Scouts, and recently acclaimed Chapter of the Year, Maids of Athena. We hope your child will create lifelong Greek friendships within our faith. To participate in any of our ministries, please register following church services. Most registrations can also be completed online. Please do not hesitate to contact the corresponding director, the office, or myself with any questions.

The 2024 Bayshore Greek Festival was a great success because of our adhesive community, volunteers, generous donors, sponsors, and our festival committee! Thank you to all who participated! We are so very blessed to have you in our Kimisis Family.

Celebrating Panagia this summer was a heartfelt two days beginning with the Great Hierarchical Vespers on August 14<sup>th</sup> followed by a copious fasting reception hosted by our amazing Philotochos Society. The Feast Day of our Lady Theotokou on August 15<sup>th</sup> was well attended, and everyone enjoyed our plentiful luncheon. The flowers on the Epitaphio were beautiful as usual and have our donors and volunteers to thank! Xronia Polla to Father Panagiotis and to everyone.

Please mark your calendars to join the Parish Council on:

September 29<sup>th</sup>: Welcome Back Luncheon

November 9: Murder Mystery Dinner

November 17<sup>th</sup>: our bi-annual General Assembly Meeting following church services

December 14<sup>th</sup>: our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Concert

Please make every effort to support our church's fundraisers. Father Panagiotis will be emailing a list of items which need attention in our church. If anyone is able to volunteer their expertise, time, and/or funds it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again to everyone who has helped preserve and continue to assist in improving our sacred Kimisis community. We are looking forward to another wonderful year together and are grateful for our bountiful blessings.

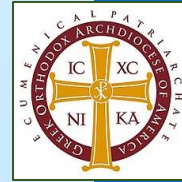
Respectfully,

Despina "Debbie" Mattos

President, Kimisis Parish Council



# Stewardship News



## "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

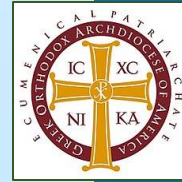
Our Stewardship theme for 2024 is "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant," from the Parable of the Talents. We are all blessed with certain gifts. This parable stresses the importance of developing our gifts, multiplying them, and offering them back in service to God.

You can and have seen this theme on the banners that have been placed at the front of the church on the billboard, above the doorway leading to the community center, and hanging in front of the stage. These banners are there to remind us all that we are to share our gifts so that they may multiply in our parish for the ministries that are supported and the growth of our parish.

As of the end of August, I am pleased to convey that the Stewardship program is on track to meet its annual budget of \$225,000 for the 2024 budget. The Stewardship program accounts for 40% of the annual revenue budget. Along with the annual festival, these two funds account for 65% of the revenues in our budget. The generosity of all in terms of time, talent, and treasure has helped Kimisis sustain the ministry programs in the areas of Youth, Seniors and Outreach to various charitable causes throughout the year. We ask you to support these worthy ministries with your continued pledge and donations.

I invite you to be with us on Sunday, November 17, 2024 when we will have our annual Stewardship Sunday headed by Father Panagiotis and supported by the Stewardship Committee. On this Sunday will once again focus on the foremost purpose of the Steward's offering of time, talents, and treasures to support, maintain and grow the spirituality and mission activity of the parish. We hope to see many Stewards on that Sunday November 17 and we invite everyone to a lite fare brunch as an appreciation to all.

# Stewardship News



As we begin the new ecclesiastical year, please take the time to make your offering today if you haven't so for 2024 and enable our Church to continue to enhance the spiritual growth of the Orthodox Christians entrusted to our care. I also, urge anyone to contact Father Panagiotis, or a Stewardship committee member or any Parish Council member if there are any concerns, questions, or ideas to help strengthen the Stewardship program.

Please remember that Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of your commitment and an expression of thanks for the many blessings in your life.

“Well done, Good and Faithful Servant!”

The Stewardship Committee

Steve Bontales, *Chairman*

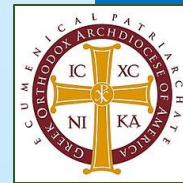
Kostas Koufidis, *member*

Rosanna Panagakos, *member*

Krissa Hutin, *member*



# Christmas Concert



# Save the Dates

**December 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Concert**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Hosting His  
Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos**

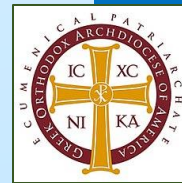


**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS &  
KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU HOLMDEL, NJ**

# A CHRISTMAS CONCERT



# Philoptochos



Fall is a busy time for our army of agape as everyone returns focus to our mission of serving those in need.

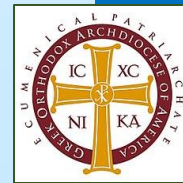
### **Operation Classroom**

The beginning of the school year has already inspired us to find our next Operation Classroom teacher and this quarter we will be fundraising for the ESL department (consisting of 50 students) across Milltown Elementary and Middle Schools. For those who want to help this effort, please see the school's [amazon wishlist](#). All items should be ordered to your home and placed inside our bin under the Operation Classroom poster by the gym entrance. Our visit to the schools to deliver the supplies always ends with a cupcake party and lots of smiles so we have a lot to look forward to on that front!

### **Fall Harvest Luncheon**

Our Ladies Philoptochos chapter is also gearing up for its 3rd Annual Fall Harvest Luncheon, which will take place after church services on Sunday, Oct 20th. We look forward to seeing you all there for a delicious feast and lots of Greek dancing! A reminder that we are continuously collecting non perishables for the St. Benedict's food pantry. Items should be placed on the silver racks located in the gym entrance. Your generosity is always much appreciated.

# Philoptochos



## Fall Harvest Luncheon

# *Celebrating our Heritage*

past, present and future

At the Kimisis Community Center

*Sponsored by*

**The Ladies Philoptochos Society/BAHA Chapter**

**Dancing, dining and fellowship following church dismissal**

**Adults - \$35.00 pp & Children 17 and under - \$15.00 pp**

All proceeds will benefit the many philanthropic endeavors of the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

# Sunday, October 20th, 2024

## Featuring:

- Buffet luncheon
- Performance by the Kimisis Youth Dancers
- Special performance and presentation by The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey

Mail In or *venmo* to Greek Orthodox Philoptochos @Harriet-Callis  
Make check payable to Ladies Philoptochos and mail to Cheryl Bontales (see below address)



Scan this code to pay

Yes, I would like to attend

#  Adults @ \$35 pp =  #  Children @ \$15 pp =  Total Enc.   
(17 and under)

No, I cannot attend, but would like to support the philanthropic endeavors of Philoptochos. Contribution/Donation Amount Enclosed:

Name:  Phone#:

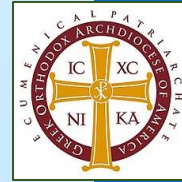
Address:  Email:

Mail to: FHL Reservations - C/O Cheryl Bontales - 3 Pheasant Run, Holmdel, NJ 07733 • Seats are limited to 300 guests - paid reservations no later than October 10th, 2023 • For More Info: (732)796-1006 or cheryl.bontales@gmail.com

Sunday, October 20, 2024




# Philoptochos



## Bubbles & Blooms

Finally, we hope that by now you have seen the Save the Date for our large 2025 **Bubbles & Blooms** fundraiser. While the fundraiser will be focused on raising money to help those in need, our event will be focused on YOU and the other special women in all of our lives. Please save the date and share it with the special women in your life whom you would like to celebrate. **Bubbles & Blooms** will take place Saturday, May 3, 2025 at The Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ and will be an event to remember!




THE KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU  
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY  
INVITES YOU TO

*Bubbles &  
Blooms*

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

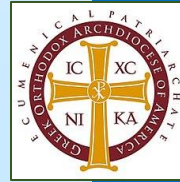
SATURDAY	3 MAY 2025	11:30 AM
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GRAND MARQUIS | OLD BRIDGE, NJ





# Sunday School



## Welcome Back Everyone!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents. Join us on Sundays, bring your children to Sunday School.

*Everyone is welcome!*

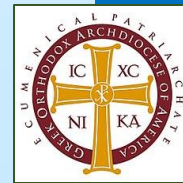
Learning our Orthodox religion,  
making lifelong friends,  
and sharing some light refreshments after church.  
Great way to spend a Sunday morning.

Please complete your stewardship application if you still need to do so for 2024.

Scan the QR code and register.



# Sunday School

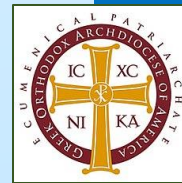


## KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025

September 3, 2024	Registration
September 15, 2025	Sunday of the Holy Cross / St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean
September 22, 2024	Registration / Will continue into October
September 29, 2024	Sunday School First Day / Welcome Back Luncheon by Parish Council
Oct-24	Picture Day
November 15, 2024	Lent begins for Christmas (Advent Fast)
December 1, 2024	Thanksgiving Sunday Family Worship
December 15, 2024	Communion Breakfast
December 22, 2024	Christmas Pageant
January	Kimisis Oratorical Festival
February 2, 2025	Godparent's Sunday with Heart Health Month by Philoptochos
March 3, 2025	Great Lent Begins
March 9, 2025	Sunday of Orthodoxy / Regular Classes / Classes will participate in the Icon Procession
March 23, 2025	Sunday of the Holy Cross / Regular Classes / Classes will participate in the Cross Procession
April 12, 2025	Saturday of Lazarus / Didactic Liturgy Service / Communion Breakfast / Attend Church and help make palm crosses
April 13, 2025	Palm Sunday Family Worship
April 20, 2025	Great and Holy Pascha Family Worship
May 11, 2025	Mother's Day Family Worship
May 18, 2025	Teacher Appreciation / Last Day of Classes
May 25, 2025	Family Worship
June 1, 2025	Graduation

Nikia Sourlis (908) 610-4052 / Boyce Magriples (732) 772-0068 / Anna Zamora (732) 995-7872 /  
 Nausica Orthodoxou in [orthodoxou@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxou@gmail.com) (917-733-7278)

# Greek School



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  
»—————«



Join US  
SCAN QR

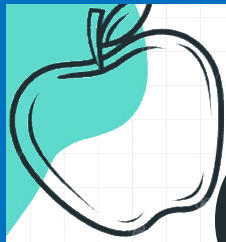
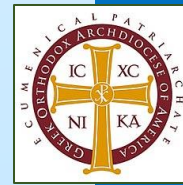
Greekschoolptokimisis@gmail.com



Follow US  
on IG



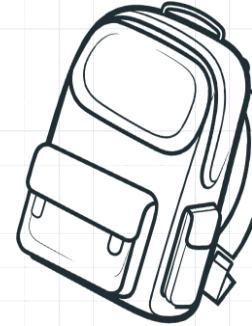
# Greek School



welcome back to

# Greek School

Director: Evangelia Dounis  
 Liadounis@gmail.com



Dear Parents and Students,



Welcome back to the new school year! We are excited to see all of you back in our Greek School. Our teachers are prepared for a year of learning, growth, and fun. We have many exciting events and activities awaiting our students.

## Our Teachers

- Kyria Eugenia**
- Kyria Roula**
- Kyria Christiana**
- Kyria Despina**
- Kyria Niki**
- Kyria Maria**

## School Rules and Routine

- Classes begin at 5PM
- Attendance is important
- HW is necessary to retain info learned from class
- Contact your child's teacher with any concerns
- Always be prepared with school supplies

## EVENTS

October 27th- OI Day Presentation

October 29th- Students may wear their costumes to class

November 24th- PTO Harvest Bake Sale

November 26th- No School Thanksgiving Recess

Necessary School Supplies

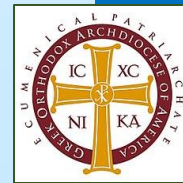
Backpack

Return Books to Every Class

Writing Instruments

Notebook/Binder

# Greek School

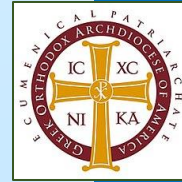


## Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek School 2024-2025 Calendar

Tuesday	September 10	Blessing of Greek School/Meet & Greet PTO
Tuesday	September 17	First Day of Greek School
Sunday	October 27	OXI DAY Program and PTO Fundraiser
Sunday	November 24	Harvest PTO Bake Sale
Tuesday	November 26	No School- Thanksgiving Recess
Sunday	December 8	Christmas Program/PTO Luncheon
Tuesday	December 24 & 31	<i>No School- Christmas Recess</i>
Tuesday	January 7	Vasilopita Cutting Followed by Class
Friday	January 24	Three Hierarchs Program at Kimisis
Friday	February 21	Apokriatiko Glendi
Sunday	March 23	Greek Independence Day Program
Sunday	April 6 & 13	PTO Tsoureki/Easter Bread Sale
Tuesday	April 15	No School Holy Week
Sunday	April 27	Greek Independence Parade NYC
Tuesday	May 27	End of Year Program/Graduation/PTO Party

If you have any questions or concerns, email Director of Greek School  
Evangelia Dounis- [Liadounis@gmail.com](mailto:Liadounis@gmail.com)

# Greek School



Kimisis Tis Theotokou  
20 Hillcrest Road  
Holmdel, NJ 07743  
GREEK SCHOOL PTO  
[GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com](mailto: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 Rexinis  
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 Annual Events 2024-2025 School year

**Greek School Blessing 9-10-2024**

**Oxi Day 10-27-2024**

**Harvest Bake Sale 11-24-2024**

**Christmas Breakfast 12-8-2024**

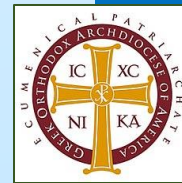
Volunteer support from our parents and our community is vital to the success of our community and events. There are many moving parts to these events and they cannot be successful without the help of our parents. Please consider joining us, we need all your support and your time volunteering, in order 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](mailto:GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com) or simply find one of our Board members and at any time and we'd be happy to assist!



# Greek School



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20 Hillcrest Road  
Holmdel, NJ 07743  
GREEK SCHOOL PTO

[GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com](mailto:GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com)

## Greek School PTO Annual Event Summaries

### Greek School Blessing (Meet & Greet)

PTO hosts a gathering with refreshments pursuant to annual blessing. PTO, Parents and children are given the opportunity to gather and socialize in friendly setting prior to commencement of classes.

### Oxi Day

PTO hosts coffee hour. We also Bake and sell Spanakopita/Tiropita as a small fundraiser in preparation for future events. Frappe station will also be active.

### Harvest Bake Sale

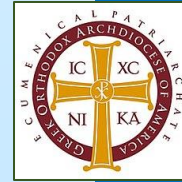
Fundraiser event. The following items will be baked and sold by the PTO. Please let us know which items you can contribute your baking skills to.

Not a baker? Not to worry, you can help us sell and box at event.

#### Following Items for Sale:

Galaktoboureko  
Karidopita  
Koulourakia  
Cupcakes  
Baklava  
Frappe Station

# Greek School



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[GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com](mailto:GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com)

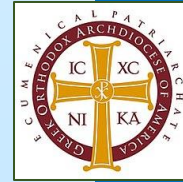
## Christmas Party

Truly a favorite event among our community, PTO hosts our Annual *Breakfast with Santa* for all children at our community center. Join us in the festivities, and a take picture with Santa! We serve a full breakfast buffet, there is an entrance fee for this event for adults, seniors and non Greek School children. *Greek School children* eat **FREE** of charge & PTO Paid members get a reduced rate.

Book your seat ahead of time as this event fills quickly. Further information will be sent.

If you have any questions please free to email us at  
[GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com](mailto:GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com)

# Kali Parea



## Welcome Back Everyone!

**Kali Parea** is a group of Seniors of Kimisis Tis Theotokou from ages 50++++. We get together every first Tuesday of the month for companionship and good conversation.

We meet from 11:30-1:30. We bring a boxed lunch and for the Holidays we have potluck lunches, where everyone brings something to the gatherings.

In the past we have watched movies and played games.

Planning for September is in progress.  
We look forward to you

## *Joining Us*

Our goal is to meet other seniors and enjoy a few hours of fun and good company, (hence Kali Parea).

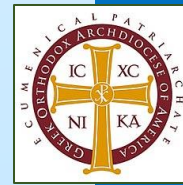
We welcome new members and new ideas.

So come & enjoy the fun with some good company.

Respectfully,  
*Connie Mellas-President*



# Maids of Athena



The Maids of Athena chapter Theodora #282 is ecstatic to be back for yet another fantastic year. As we plan our events and set our goals for the 2024-2025 year, we continue to keep in mind the principles of the Maids of Athena— sisterhood, service, citizenship, hellenism, family, and excellence.

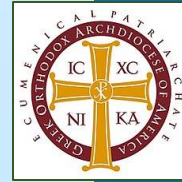
Back in June, the Maids of Athena welcomed three new members into our chapter. To catch up with our sisters after a long Summer off, we had our annual pool party at the end of August. Our girls had an amazing time cooling off, playing games, and bonding with one another.

In support of an organization especially meaningful to our chapter and advisor, we sold a variety of Pura Vida bracelets. 100% of the proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Service Dogs for Warriors foundation. Thank you to everyone who supported this endeavor.

Our chapter president, Lia Belitsis, and vice president, Christina Xenakis, had the privilege of attending this year's Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Over the course of the weekend, they were fortunate to discuss new ideas, connect with others from across the US and Canada, and explore the charming city of D.C. Attending this convention was undoubtedly a refreshing and inspiring experience.



# Maids of Athena



At the Leadership Conference, our Maids of Athena chapter was presented with the Chapter of the Year award. To say that we are honored to have achieved this is an understatement. We are so proud of how far we have come as a chapter, as leaders, as sisters, and as friends. It didn't happen overnight that we crafted this group and began to make a difference within our community, but it was made possible with all the sincere support we have received. The AHEPA chapter #517, parishioners, fellow Maids chapters, and our advisor, George Karatzia, have provided us with the utmost guidance from the beginning. While the recognition from the national level is greatly appreciated, the sisterhood, philanthropy, and growth we have experienced is the true reward.

In the upcoming months, our members will be busy with events and functions. For October, we'll be initiating three additional girls who are thrilled to become a part of this organization. We will also be having a Halloween Party for our sisters to socialize and celebrate this spooky season.

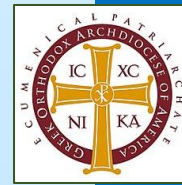
In November, we plan to have a Friendsgiving to share our gratitude and call attention to our endless blessings. As the chill of December settles over us, we will be participating in the Angel Kid Tree program to provide less fortunate children with Christmas gifts they've always wished for. We will also be having a Christmas Party where we'll take part in the season's festive activities.

We are so grateful  
to have such passionate  
and dedicated members.  
We are all looking forward  
to an amazing year ahead of us!





# Girl Scout Troop 337



## Kimisis Girl Scout Troop 337: A Memorable Spring and Exciting Plans Ahead

This past spring was an exciting time for Daisy Troop 337! As we wrapped up our final meetings, the girls eagerly anticipated our end-of-year bridging ceremony. Before welcoming families, the Girl Scouts rehearsed two special songs to perform during the event. At the ceremony, seven Girl Scouts proudly bridged to Brownies, while the rest advanced to their second year as Daisies. Every girl received a certificate, and many were awarded their earned patches and badges.

Reflecting on the past year, Troop 337 had a truly successful and fulfilling season. The girls formed new friendships, explored their creativity with fun crafts, attended township events, sang carols with GOYA, enjoyed a hayride, hiked through Holmdel Park, experienced their first lock-in, learned camping safety, sold a lot of cookies, and celebrated their achievements by bridging to the next level in Girl Scouting.

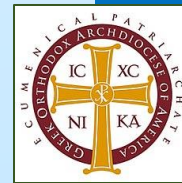
Looking ahead to the upcoming year, we are excited to work towards new badges, build connections with other troops, and begin our journey towards religious recognition awards. This fall, we're looking forward to another hayride and pumpkin picking adventure, as well as another hike at Holmdel Park. Our first meeting is scheduled for September 13th, and we're excited to welcome back all our girls for another amazing year with Troop 337!

Stephanie Karatzia - Troop Leader





# Hellenic Dancers



The sole purpose of the Hellenic Dancers of N.J. has been to perpetuate our heritage. It's something that our founder Presbytera Eleni Chakalos dedicated her life to when we were founded in 1972. With Fr. Jim by her side, they created the pride in Greek Folk dancing that we witness today throughout our state and the country.

The HDNJ has called Kimisis Tis Theotokou home for more than 20 years and we are appreciative of the culture that Kimisis has allowed us to thrive in.

This past summer we invested in our collection of authentic Greek dress. We added more than a dozen pieces of handmade items to our vast collection as well as adding new dances from different regions of Greece.

We plan to show these new items and dances at our future performances, including the Kimisis Harvest Luncheon sponsored by the ladies Philoptochos on Sunday Oct. 20. Please come out and support all the philanthropic endeavors of this wonderful organization.

The HDNJ upcoming events will be:

- 9/21 Poughkeepsie N.Y. Greek Festival
- 9/28 Roseland N.J. Greek Festival
- 10/5 Matawan Day Public Workshop
- 10/11-10/14 Boston MA Kefi Dance Conference
- 10/19 Freehold N.J. Monmouth Arts Festival
- 10/20 Holmdel N.J. Harvest Luncheon
- 11/2 New Brunswick N.J. Multi-Cultural Dance Event
- 2/8 Holmdel N.J. HDNJ Taverna Night

The purpose and vision of the HDNJ will remain in perpetuity, but we plan to expand our presence in different ways, such as workshops and dance conferences. We are looking forward and striving toward our future.

## AHEPA Chapter 517

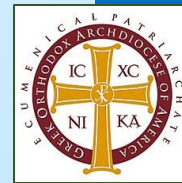


In collaboration with the Maids of Athena, our chapter embarked on a meaningful project to enhance the aesthetic and functional appeal of the church's meditation garden. The initiative involved setting up a beautiful pergola, which now serves as a serene spot for reflection and community gatherings. This effort not only beautified the space but also made it more usable and clean, providing a welcoming environment for parishioners and visitors alike. The success of this project underscores our commitment to fostering a sense of community and care within our church family.

Our much-anticipated Annual Cigar Night was a resounding success, drawing over 300 attendees from various walks of life. This event, a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, provided an evening of camaraderie and enjoyment while raising significant funds for a variety of charitable causes. Through the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our members, we were able to make substantial contributions to philanthropic endeavors, reinforcing our chapter's mission to give back to the community. The event highlighted the spirit of charity and the importance of coming together to support those in need.

In June 2024, the chapter also initiated its new Executive Board. Brothers Paul Zafiriou, Steve Anastasatos, and Kostas Koufidis are returning as President, Vice President, and Treasurer respectively. Brother Nicholas Fourniadis is joining the board as Secretary while Brothers Chris Petrou and Paul Belitsis will serve as Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, respectively. At the District 5 Convention, the Brothers of 517 won the Chapter of the Year Award for District 5. Brother George Karatzia also received both the AHEPAN of the Year Award and the Homeric Award. Sophia Loucopoulos, daughter of Brother Luke Loucoupoulos, was also a recipient of the District 5 Scholarship.

# AHEPA Chapter 517



AHEPA Chapter 517 will be hosting a Casino Night on February 2nd, 2025 and its Annual Cigar Night on May 7th, 2025. Both events will take place at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

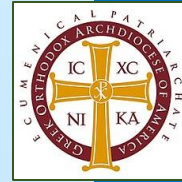
A highlight of our educational initiatives this quarter was the sponsorship of a deserving student to participate in the Journey to Greece program. This enriching experience offers students the unique opportunity to earn college credits while immersing themselves in Greece's rich historical, political, and cultural heritage. By supporting this program, our chapter is investing in the future of our youth, fostering a deeper understanding of our cultural roots, and promoting academic excellence. The student will explore significant historical sites, engage in educational activities, and gain insights that will undoubtedly shape their academic and personal growth.

Through these initiatives, AHEPA Chapter 517 continues to uphold its values of community service, cultural enrichment, and educational support. We are grateful for the unwavering support of our members and the broader community, which makes these accomplishments possible. As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission and to making a positive impact in our community.





*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](mailto: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.

**KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
20 HILLCREST ROAD  
HOLMDEL NEW JERSEY 07733**

