

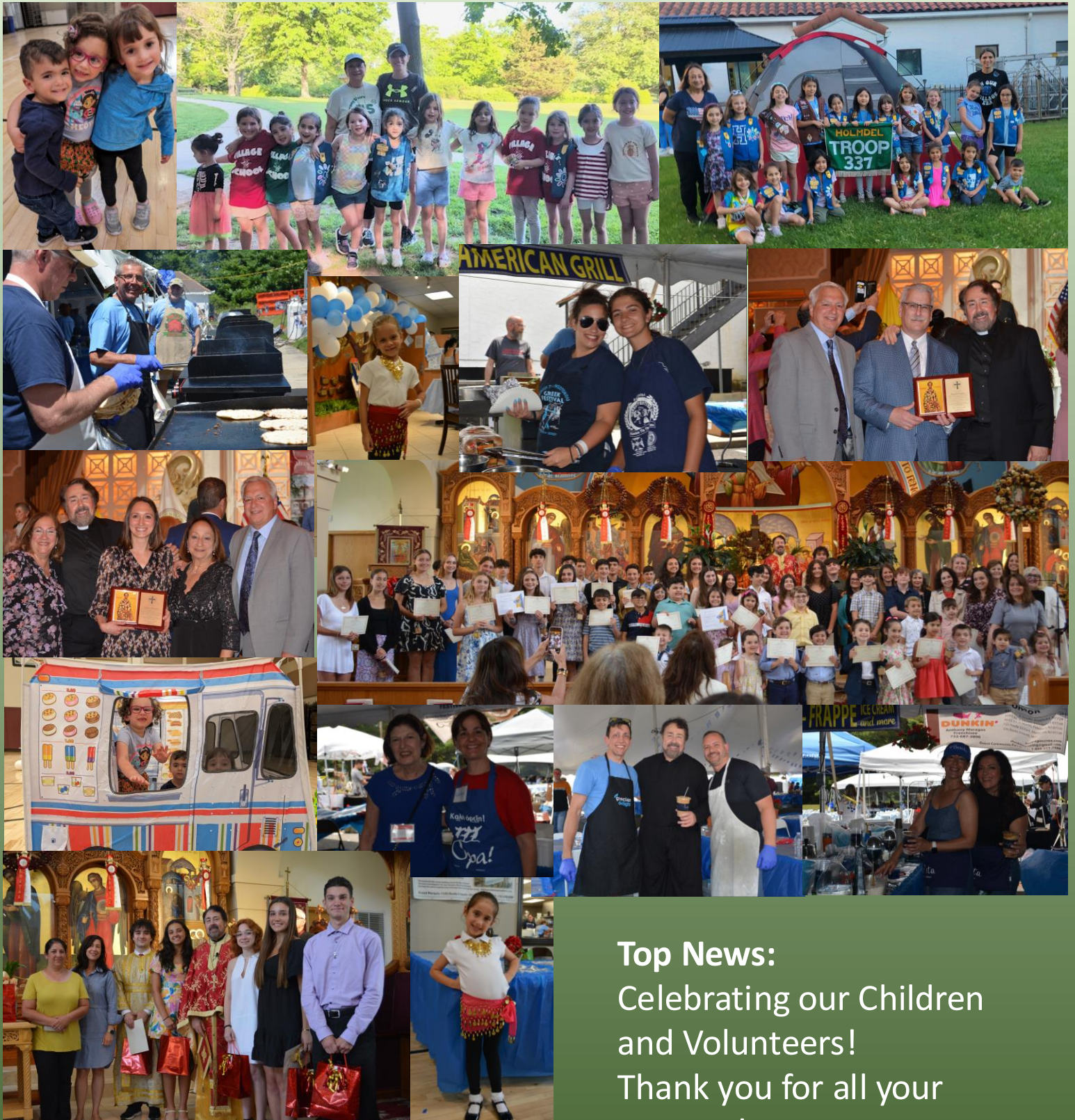
KIMISIS COMMUNITY JOURNAL



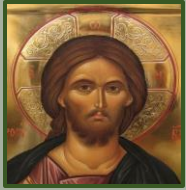
SUMMER 2024 Edition

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

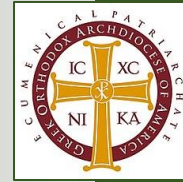
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Father's Message



The Dormition of the Holy Virgin Theotokos



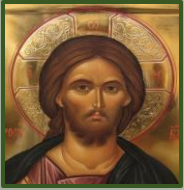
“You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death”. (Apolytikion of the Feast)

The Dormition of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 15. The word "Dormition" is a derivative from the Latin word "dormitio", which means "falling asleep."

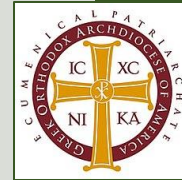
The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is the commemoration of the falling asleep, burial, resurrection, and translation of the Theotokos into heaven in the body. The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is one of the oldest feasts in the Orthodox Church. The roots of the feast go back to Jerusalem, where the apostles and the Christians of Jerusalem honored and kept alive the memory of the falling asleep of the Theotokos. Consequently, her empty tomb, in Gethsemane, became a destination for pilgrims from Jerusalem and the surrounding neighborhoods.

After the establishing of the doctrine of the Divine Motherhood of the Virgin Mary in the third Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431), the commemoration of the falling asleep of the Theotokos became more popular amongst Christians in most of the Christian world.

In the late sixth century, in the year 588, the emperor Maurice – Maurikios (539-602), officially adopted the commemoration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos into the liturgical calendar in the entire Byzantine Empire, and commanded that it be celebrated on August 15.



Father's Message



In the second half of the seventh century, the feast of the Dormition appeared in the West under the influence of the East. It was accepted in Rome under Pope Sergius I (687-701), and from Rome it passed over to the rest of Europe.

Up until the end of the ninth century, the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos was preceded by two periods of fasting:

- 1) before the feast of the Transfiguration (August 1-5) and
- 2) after the feast of the Transfiguration (August 7-15).

In the tenth century, the two fasting periods were merged into one, which includes fourteen fasting days beginning on August 1st through August 14th.

The details of her Dormition are not found in the New Testament but come to us from Holy Tradition of the Church which include: the writings of Saints Dionysios the Areopagite, John the Damascene and Andrew of Crete; the hymnography and iconography of the Church, in addition to an apocryphal narrative of the feast by Saint John the Theologian.

According to the Orthodox Tradition, the Virgin Mary lived after Pentecost in the house of the Apostle John in Jerusalem. As the Mother of the Lord, she became the source of encouragement and help for the Apostles and all Christians.

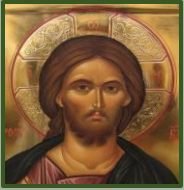
Three days before her death, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary and revealed to her the date of her departure into eternal life. Immediately, the Theotokos returned to her home and prepared herself for this event through fasting and prayer.

On the day of her repose, even though the apostles were scattered throughout the world, they were miraculously transported to be at her side. Apostle Thomas did not arrive on time to bid his final farewell to the Theotokos.

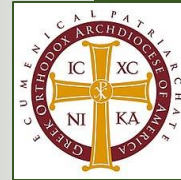
While the Apostles were singing hymns in honor of the Mother of God, they saw a vision showing Christ, accompanied by Angels and Saints, coming to escort the soul of His Most Holy Mother into heaven. With songs of praise, the Apostles carried the body of the purest Theotokos to the grave in Gethsemane to be buried near her parents.

At Gethsemane, the disciples gathered and remained around her tomb and kept a vigil for three days. On the Third day, the Apostle Thomas arrived and asked to view for the last time the Most Holy Mother of God. When the Apostles opened the grave of the Theotokos, her body was not there. The Apostles realized then that she was taken into heaven in the body to be reunited with her soul.

It is a sacred tradition in our Church that the celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is preceded by a two-week fasting period, which is referred to as the "Dormition Fast." The Dormition Fast starts on August 1 and ends on August 14th. It is a very strict fast, even stricter than both the Nativity and the Apostles Fasts.



Father's Message



In the Dormition Fast all kinds of meat, fish, oil, and wine are forbidden to eat; with the following exceptions: on the feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) when fish is allowed; on Saturdays and Sundays when oil and wine are allowed.

During the Dormition Fast, either the Small Paraklesis (Supplicatory Canon) or the Great Paraklesis are celebrated every evening with the following exceptions: on Saturdays, on the Eve of the Feast of the Transfiguration and on the Eve of the Feast of the Dormition itself, where the festal services are celebrated.

In some churches and monasteries, the service of the "Burial of the Theotokos" is celebrated during an All-Night Vigil. The order of the service is based on the service of the burial of Christ, which consists of chanting the "Lamentations at the Bier of the Mother of God", and a solemn procession made with the a Epitaphion of the Theotokos.

In our parish, the Lamentations of the Dormition of the Theotokos will be chanted at Great Vespers on the eve of the Feast. Please note that this beautiful service of the "Burial of the Theotokos" is not a standard service in most parishes, or even most cathedrals or monasteries.

The liturgical text of the Feast of the Dormition depicts the feast as a Paschal event. The hymns of the feast assert that the Virgin Mary experienced **her own personal Pascha** by passing through death and rising to eternal life. Being alive in heaven, as a queen and mother of Christ, we, now, can ask her intercessions to help us transform our own forthcoming death into a Paschal victory over death.

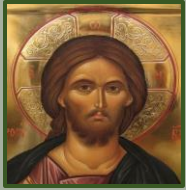
In the ecclesiastical tradition, the feast of Dormition of the Theotokos is called the "Summer Pascha." This name is derived from the fact that the Theotokos experienced her own Pascha; "Passover" from this life into life eternal.

The Dormition of the Theotokos is a confirmation of the resurrection of Christ and a source of hope for the faithful in the promise of their personal resurrection, their personal Pascha. The death of the Theotokos and her translation into heaven confirms the divine promise of Christ to His faithful children that they will enjoy life eternal in everlasting communion with God.

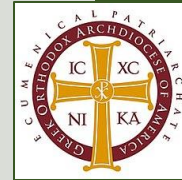
What a paradox! While this Feast is called the "Falling Asleep of the Theotokos," it is a celebration of her life and victory over death. It is a celebration of her "Passover" from this life into life eternal. It is a celebration of the confirmation of the promise of our own resurrection in Christ.

May Lord our God bless us with health and endurance so we can all celebrate joyfully her Dormition on August 15th. Amen!

In His Service,
Fr. Panagiotis Lekkas



Father's Message



ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΜΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

Ἦχος α΄.

“Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῇ Κοιμήσει τὸν κόσμον οὐ κατέλιπες Θεοτόκε, Μετέστης πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν, μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη, ἐκ θανάτου τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν”.

Μέσα στὴν σωματικὴ καὶ πνευματικὴ χαλαρότητα τοῦ καλοκαιριοῦ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας προβάλλει, ὡς πνευματικὴ καὶ ψυχικὴ ἀφύπνιση, τὴν μεγάλη γιορτὴ τῆς Παναγίας μας. Τὸν Δεκαπενταύγουστο, ἢ ὅπως τὸ ὀνομάζουν πολλοὶ «τὸ Πάσχα τοῦ καλοκαιριοῦ», ἀποτελεῖ ἕναν σπουδαῖο ἐορτολογικὸ σταθμὸ τοῦ ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ ἔτους. Ἡ κορυφαία αὐτὴ γιορτὴ εἶναι γιὰ ὀλόκληρη τὴν Ὀρθοδοξία καὶ ἰδιαίτερα γιὰ μᾶς τοὺς Ἕλληνες, πού εὐλαβούμεστε τὴ Θεοτόκο μὲ ξεχωριστό τρόπο, μιὰ εὐκαιρία νὰ ἐκφράσουμε ὀλόψυχα τὴν τιμὴ μας πρὸς τὸ ἱερό της πρόσωπο, κι αὐτό, διότι ἡ προσωπικὴ καὶ ἐθνικὴ μας ζωὴ εἶναι συνδεδεμένη μὲ τὴν σκέπη καὶ τὴν προστασία τῆς Μεγάλης Μάνας, τοῦ κόσμου.

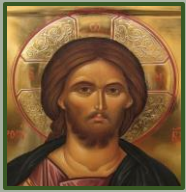
Ἡ Παναγία μας, ἀξιώθηκε νὰ γίνῃ το ἱερώτατο σκεῦος, ὥστε νὰ δεχτεῖ τὸν ἄπειρο Θεὸ στὴν ἀμόλυπτη σάρκα της, νὰ κυφορήσῃ τὸν ἄναρχο καὶ ἀναλλοίωτο Θεὸ στὴν τίμια γαστέρα της, νὰ θρέψῃ τὸν Θεὸ ἀπὸ τὰ παρθενικά της αἷματα, νὰ κρατήσῃ στὰ σεπτὰ της χέρια τὸν «ἀχώρητον παντί».

Τὸ ἱερό πρόσωπο τῆς Θεοτόκου ἀποτελεῖ, σύμφωνα μὲ τὴν ὀρθόδοξη θεολογία μας, μέρος τοῦ μυστηρίου τῆς θείας Οἰκονομίας.

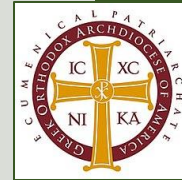
Ἐκλέχτηκε ἀπὸ τὸν Θεὸ ἀνάμεσα σὲ ἑκατομμύρια ἄλλα κορίτσια, ἀμέτρητων γενεῶν, ὡς ἡ καθαρώτερη καὶ ἀγιώτερη ἀνθρώπινη ὑπαρξή, προκειμένου νὰ γίνῃ μητέρα τοῦ Θεοῦ. Οἱ Πατέρες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας λένε πὺς γιὰ τὴν πραγματοποίησιν τοῦ σχεδίου τῆς σωτηρίας τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους, ὁ μὲν Θεὸς ἔδωσε τὸν Υἱὸ τοῦ τὸν Μονογενῆ ἢ δὲ ἀνθρωπότητα πρόσφερε τὴν Παναγία. Στὸ ἱερό πρόσωπο Ἐκείνης ἔγινε ἡ συνάντησις Θεοῦ καὶ ἀνθρώπου. Μέσα στὸ πάναγνο σῶμα Ἐκείνης ἔγινε ἡ μεγάλη συμφιλίωσις Θεοῦ καὶ ἀνθρώπου καὶ ἀπὸ αὐτὸ ξεκίνησε ἡ σωτηρία τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους. Στὸ πρόσωπό της ἔγινε ἡ ἀρχὴ γιὰ τὴ λύτρωσις τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τὴ θεώσις τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Ἡ Θεοτόκος μὲ τὴν ἐπέλευσιν τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος κατὰ τὸν Εὐαγγελισμό, ὑπῆρξε τὸ πρῶτο ἀνθρώπινο πλάσμα πού καθαρίστηκε ἀπὸ τὸν ρύπο τοῦ προπατορικοῦ ἁμαρτήματος καὶ ἐπανῆλθε στὴν ἀρχαία προπρωτικὴ της μορφή καὶ ὠραιότητα, προκειμένου νὰ δεχτεῖ στὰ ἀγνά σπλάγχνα της τὸν Ἰησοῦ Χριστό, τὸ «πῦρ τῆς θεότητος».

Ἀπὸ τότε ἔγινε ἡ «Κεχαριτωμένη», ἡ ἀγιώτερα ὑπαρξή μετὰ τὸν Τριαδικὸ Θεὸ. Ἡ συμβολὴ τῆς Παναγίας μας στὸ ἐπὶ γῆς ἀπολυτρωτικὸ ἔργο τοῦ Χριστοῦ ὑπῆρξε τεράστιο. Βρισκόταν συνεχῶς πλάι στὸν Λυτρωτὴ μας: ἀπὸ τὴν Γέννησιν ὡς τὸ Πάθος, τὴν Ἀνάστασιν καὶ τὴν Ἀνάληψιν. Δοκίμασε, ὡς μητέρα, τὶς πίκρες τῶν παθημάτων τοῦ Υἱοῦ της, μὲ ἀποκορύφωμα ἐκείνη τοῦ σταυρικοῦ του θανάτου.



Father's Message



Σύμφωνα μέ τήν παράδοση τής Ἐκκλησίας μας Ἀυτή ἦταν πού ἐμψύχωνε τούς διωκόμενους πρώτους χριστιανούς τής Ἐκκλησίας τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων. Ἡ ἐπί γῆς ζωή τής Παναγίας μας ὑπῆρξε ἕνας συνεχῆς ἀγώνας καί μία ἀξιόλογη προσφορά γιά τή σωτηρία του ἀνθρωπίνου γένους.

Τά ἱερά βιβλία τής Καινῆς Διαθήκης δέν ἀναφέρουν δυστυχῶς τίποτα γιά τή ζωή τής Παναγίας μας, μετά τήν Ἀνάσταση τοῦ Κυρίου, τήν Πεντηκοστή καί τήν Ἀνάληψη του στούς οὐρανοῦς.

Ὅταν ἦρθε ἡ ὥρα νά ἐγκαταλείψει αὐτόν τόν κόσμο, στάλθηκε καί πάλι ὁ ἀρχάγγελος Γαβριήλ νά τῆς ἀναγγεῖλει τήν ἐπιθυμία τοῦ Θεοῦ καί Υἱοῦ της. Ἐνῶ προσευχόταν στό σπίτι της στά Ἱεροσόλυμα, παρουσιάστηκε ὁ Ἄγγελος καί τῆς εἶπε: «Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη Μαρία. Σοῦ φέρνω μήνυμα ἀπό τόν Υἱό Σου. Ἦρθε ἡ εὐλογημένη ὥρα νά πᾶς κοντά του καί νά δοξαστεῖς ὅπως σοῦ ταιριάζει. Ἐτοιμάσου, λοιπόν, καί σέ τρεῖς ἡμέρες θά ἔρθει Ἐκεῖνος νά πάρει τήν τίμια καί ἀμόλυντη ψυχή σου».

Μετά ἀπό αὐτό καί ἀφοῦ συνῆλθε ἀπό τήν ὄπτασία, χάρηκε πολύ καί κίνησε βιαστικά νά ἀνέβει στό ἀγαπημένο της Ὅρος τῶν Ἐλαιῶν γιά νά προσευχηθεῖ, ἐκεῖ πού προσευχήθηκε γιά τελευταία φορά ὁ Υἱός της πρὶν ἀπό τό Πάθος του.

Γονάτισε ταπεινά, ὕψωσε τά σεπτά της χέρια καί ἀτένισε τόν οὐρανό. Καί ἀφοῦ εὐχαρίστησε τόν Θεό, τόν παρακάλεσε γιά τή σωτηρία τοῦ κόσμου. Μετά γύρισε στό σπίτι της καί ἄρχισε νά ἐτοιμάζει τα ἀπαραίτητα τῆς κηδεῖας της. Μάζεψε ἐπίσης τούς συγγενεῖς της καί τούς ἀνακοίνωσε τή ἐπιθυμία τοῦ Κυρίου, νά τήν καλέσει κοντά του. Ἐκεῖνοι ὅταν τό ἄκουσαν ξαφνιάστηκαν καί ἄρχισαν νά θρηνοῦν γιά τό χωρισμό τῆς Μητέρας τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἡ Παναγία τους παρηγόρησε λέγοντάς τους πῶς αὐτό εἶναι τό θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ καί πῶς ἀπό τή θέση της στόν οὐρανό θά πρεσβεύει πάντοτε γιά ὀλόκληρο τό ἀνθρώπινο γένος.

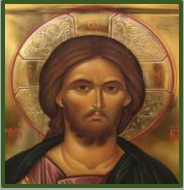
Γιά παρηγοριά τούς δώρισε δύο ἀπό τά φορέματά της, τήν Σκέπη της (τό μαντίλι πού φοροῦσε στό κεφάλι της) καί τήν Ἐσθήτα της (τό ἐπανωφόρι της), τά ὁποῖα ἀποτελέσαν κατόπιν τούς πολυτιμότερους θησαυρούς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας.

Την Τρίτη ἡμέρα μετά τήν ἐπίσκεψη τοῦ ἀρχαγγέλου, ἡ Κυρία Θεοτόκος ἀφοῦ ντύθηκε μόνη της τα νεκρικά της ἐνδύματα, κάλεσε καί πάλι τούς συγγενεῖς της καί ξάπλωσε ἡρεμα στήν κλίνη της. Τότε συνέβη τό ἐξῆς θαυμαστό γεγονός: Μιά δυνατή βοή ἀκούστηκε στό σπίτι της καί τό κάλυψε μιά φωτεινή νεφέλη. Ἀμέσως μεταφέρθηκαν σέ νεφέλες ἀπό τα πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης οἱ ἅγιοι Ἀπόστολοι προκεκμεῖνοι νά παραβρεθοῦν στήν ἐξοδό της. Κατά τόν ἴδιο τρόπο μεταφέρθηκε ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ὁ Διονύσιος ὁ Ἀρεοπαγίτης καί ὁ ἅγιος Ἱερόθεος, πρῶτος ἐπίσκοπος τῶν Ἀθηνῶν, ὁ ἅγιος Τιμόθεος καί ἄλλα σημαίνοντα πρόσωπα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

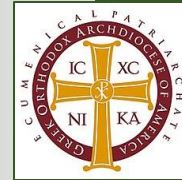
Ἡ Κυρία Θεοτόκος, ἀφοῦ χαιρέτισε καί εὐλόγησε ὅλους, παρέδωσε τήν ἁγία ψυχή της στά χέρια του Υἱοῦ της, ὁ Ὅποιος κατέβηκε ἀπό τόν οὐρανό γιά νά τήν παραλάβει ὁ Ἴδιος. Οἱ συγκεντρωμένοι Ἀπόστολοι, οἱ προεστοί τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων καί ὁ πιστός λαός ἄρχισαν νά τῆς ψάλλουν ἐξοδίους ὕμνους. Ταυτόχρονα ἀκούστηκε νά συμπάλλει στρατιά Ἀγγέλων ἀπό τόν οὐρανό. Ἡ οὐράνια μελωδία ἀκούστηκε σέ ὀλόκληρη τήν πόλη. Φόβος καί ἔκσταση κατέλαβε τούς κατοίκους τῆς ἁγίας πόλεως τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων.

Μετά σχηματίστηκε νεκρική πομπή ἡ ὁποία κατευθυνόταν στό χωρίο Γεθσημανή, ὅπου θά ἐνταφιαζόταν τό τίμιο σκήνωμά της.

Πρὶν φτάσουν στόν τόπο τῆς ταφῆς ἔφτασαν φανατικοί Ἰουδαῖοι οἱ ὁποῖοι θέλησαν νά βεβηλώσουν τήν ἐξοδό τῆς Μητέρας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, τόν Ὅποιο μισοῦσαν θανάσιμα. Μέ ὕβρεις, ἀπειλές καί λοιδορίες προκαλοῦσαν τήν σεμνή νεκρική πομπή. Κάποιος ἀπό αὐτούς εἶχε τήν ἀναίδεια νά πλησιάσει τό σεπτό φέρετρο τῆς Θεοτόκου, μέ σκοπό νά ρίξει στό ἔδαφος τό ἅγιο σκήνωμά της. Μόλις τόλμησε νά ἀγγίξει τό νεκροκρέβατο, ἀμέσως κόπηκαν καί τά δύο του χέρια καί ἔμειναν κολλημένα πάνω σ' αὐτό. Ταυτόχρονα ἔχασε καί τό φῶς του. Τότε κατάλαβε τήν ἀσεβέστατη καί αἰσχροτάτη πράξη του καί μέ φωνές γοερές δήλωνε τήν μετάνοιά του καί παρακαλοῦσε τήν Παναγία νά τόν ληθηθεῖ καί νά τόν θεραπεύσει. Καί ὦ τοῦ θαύματος. Ὁ ἀνθρώπος ἐκεῖνος θεραπεύτηκε ἀμέσως. Μέ δάκρυα στά μάτια ἀκολουθοῦσε καί αὐτός τήν ἱερή πομπή. Ἀντίθετα οἱ ἄλλοι σύντροφοί του παρέμειναν ψυχροί καί ἀμετανόητοι μπροστά στό μεγάλο θαῦμα τῆς Θεομήτορος. Ἐκεῖ στό ἡσυχό χωρίο Γεθσημανή ἔγινε ἡ κήδευση τοῦ ἀχράντου λειψάνου τῆς Παναγίας μας. Τό θεοδόχο σῶμα της, τέθηκε σέ περιποιημένο μνημεῖο, πού ἐτοιμάσαν οἱ Χριστιανοί τῆς ἁγίας πόλεως. Μέ λυγμούς καί δάκρυα οἱ ἅγιοι Ἀπόστολοι καί οἱ ἄλλοι Χριστιανοί σφράγισαν τό μνημεῖο καί ἀποχώρησαν.



Father's Message



Ἡ εὐσεβὴς παράδοση τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας ἀναφέρει πὼς μετὰ τὴν ταφή καὶ ἀφοῦ πέρασαν τρεῖς ἡμέρες, ἔφτασε στὴν Γεθσημανὴ ἀργοπορημένος ἀπὸ τὶς μακρινὲς Ἰνδίες, ὅπου ἔκανε ἱεραποστολή, ὁ ἀπόστολος Θωμᾶς. Ζήτησε ἐπίμονα, μὲ δάκρυα στὰ μάτια, νὰ τοῦ ἀνοίξουν τὸν τάφο γιὰ νὰ δεῖ καὶ νὰ προσκυνήσει γιὰ τελευταία φορὰ τὸ τίμιον σκῆνωμα τῆς ἀγαπημένης Μητέρας τοῦ Δασκάλου του. Μπροστὰ στὴν ἐπιμονή του οἱ ἄλλοι Ἀπόστολοι ἀνοίξαν τὸν τάφο καί, ὡς τοῦ θαύματος, ὁ τάφος ἦταν κενός, ἦταν ἄδειος. Ὁ Κύριος μετέστησε τὸ πάνσεπτο σῶμα τῆς ἀγαπημένης Μητέρας του στὸν οὐρανό, ὥστε νὰ μὴν γευτεῖ τὴ φυσικὴ φθορά.

Ἡ ἀργοπορία τοῦ Θωμᾶ χαρακτηρίστηκε ἀπὸ τὴν Ἐκκλησία ὡς οἰκονομία τοῦ Θεοῦ, γιὰ νὰ γίνει γνωστὴ ἡ μετάσταση τῆς Κυρίας Θεοτόκου. Ὁ κενός τάφος της στὴν Γεθσημανὴ ἀποτελεῖ μέχρι σήμερα πηγὴ ἁγιασμοῦ τῶν μυριάδων πιστῶν πού τὸν ἐπισκέπτονται κάθε χρόνο καὶ ἀπόδειξη τῆς μετάστασής της στὸν οὐρανό.

Ἡ ἱερὴ μνήμη τῆς Κοιμήσεώς της Παναγίας μας εἶναι, Ἀγαπητοί μου, μιὰ καλὴ εὐκαιρία νὰ ἐκδηλώσει ὁ εὐσεβὴς λαὸς τῶν πιστῶν, τὴν ἀγάπη, τὸ σεβασμό καὶ τὴν εὐγνωμοσύνη του πρὸς Αὐτήν.

Οἱ Ὁρθόδοξοι πιστοί:

*Συμμετέχουμε καθημερινὰ στὶς ἀκολουθίες τῶν ὑπέροχων Παρακλητικῶν Κανόνων της.

*Νηστεύουμε, ἐξομολογούμεστε καὶ κοινωνοῦμε.

*Τρέχουμε μὲ δάκρυα στὰ μάτια νὰ ἐναποθέσουμε σ' Αὐτήν τὶς δυσκολίες καὶ τὰ βάρη τῆς ζωῆς μας.

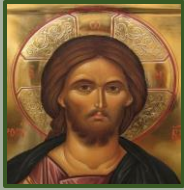
*Τὴν παρακαλοῦμε μὲ ζέση ψυχῆς νὰ ἐλαφρώσει τὸν βαρὺ ζυγὸ μας, διότι πιστεύουμε ἀκράδαντα πὼς ἡ γλυκιά Θεομάννα καὶ μετὰ τὴν σεπτὴ της Κοίμησις συνεχίζει νὰ ἀγαπᾷ καὶ νὰ νοιάζεται γιὰ μᾶς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Μέσα στὴ μεγάλη καρδιά της ὑπάρχει χῶρος γιὰ τὸν κάθε ἄνθρωπο, ὄχι μόνο γιὰ τοὺς πιστοὺς, ἀλλὰ καὶ γιὰ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς καὶ ἀσεβεῖς, ἀκόμα καὶ γιὰ τοὺς ὑβριστὲς της.

*Ἡ μακάρια θέση της κοντὰ στὸν Υἱὸ της καὶ Θεὸ μας Ἰησοῦν Χριστό, τῆς δίνει τὴν εὐχέρεια νὰ προσεύχεται γιὰ τὸν καθένα μας καὶ γιὰ κάθε μας πρόβλημα.

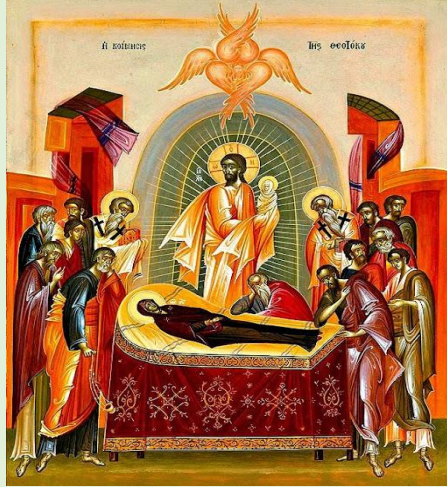
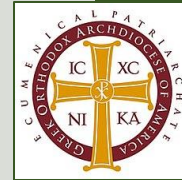
*Τα ἀποτελέσματα τῶν πρεσβειῶν της εἶναι χειροπιαστά. Γι' αὐτὸ ψάλλουμε στὸν περίφημο Μικρὸ Παρακλητικὸ Κανόνα πρὸς Αὐτήν:

«Οὐδεὶς προστρέχων ἐπὶ σοί, κατησχυμένος ἀπὸ σοῦ ἐκπορεύεται, ἀγνή Παρθένε Θεοτόκε, ἀλλ' αἰτεῖται τὴν χάριν καὶ λαμβάνει τὸ δῶρημα, πρὸς τὸ συμφέρον τῆς αἰτήσεως».

π. Π. Λ.



Father's Message



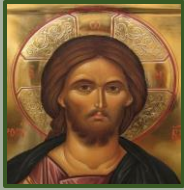
SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR THE FEAST DAY OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS AUGUST 15, 2024

Προετοιμασία για την έορτή της Κοιμήσεως
της Υπεραγίας Θεοτόκου
στις 15 Αυγούστου 2024.

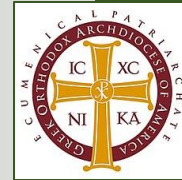
IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A PARTICULAR ITEM FOR THE
FEASTDAY OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS, PLEASE CONTACT FR.
PANAGIOTIS OR THE CHURCH OFFICE DURING OUR REGULAR OFFICE HOURS.

Θά ήταν εύχης έργο για όποιον πιστό θελήσει να δωρίσει τά παρακάτω
άπαραίτητα λειτουργικά αντικείμενα για την εὐπρέπεια του έορταστικού
τόνου τών ακόλουθιῶν της περιόδου του Δεκαπενταγούστου. Θά είναι δωρεά
ὕψιστη πρὸς τήν Μητέρα του Χριστού μας. Οί ενδιαφερόμενοι μπορείτε να
ἐπικοινωνήσετε μέ τό π. Παναγιώτη ή μέ τό γραφείο της ἐκκλησίας
στό τηλ. 732-739-1515.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. VOTIVE RED CANDLES FOR
THE PARAKLESIS SERVICES - AUGUST 1 – 15
Κόκκινα κεριά πέντε ημερών από 1-15 Αυγούστου | \$ 10 each
\$ 10 το ένα |
| 2. 4 FLOWER BOUQUETS -
(YELLOW AND WHITE ROSES)
4 Άνθοδέσμες μέ κίτρινα και άσπρα τριαντάφυλλα | \$ 220 each
\$ 220 η μία |
| 3. 4 WREATHS TO DECORATE THE CHURCH
4 Στεφάνια για να στολιστεί ή ἐκκλησία | \$ 200 each
\$ 200 το ένα |
| 4. EPITAFIO FLOWERS
Λουλούδια για τόν στολισμό του Έπιταφίου | \$ 1,500 Donated
\$ 1,500 Donated |
| 5. GARLAND TO DECORATE THE ICON OF THE DORMITION | \$ 400 |
| 6. 4 DECORATIVE RIBBONS FOR THE ALTAR AND ICON STANDS | \$100 each |
| 7. 2 DECORATIVE COVERS FOR THE ICON STANDS | \$ 200 each |
| 8. INCENSE | \$80 per pound |
| 9. KOMANTARIA WINE | \$ 250 |
| 10. 5 LOAVES OF BREAD FOR THE ARTOCLASIA | \$ 90 |



Father's Message



WEEKDAY SERVICES



Sunday, August 4, 2024

Κυριακή 4 Αύγουστου

Great Paraklesis - 2:00 PM

Μεγάλη Παράκλησις -2:00 μ.μ.

Monday, August 5, 2024

Δευτέρα 5 Αύγουστου

Great Vespers of the Transfiguration of our Lord - 6:00 PM

Μέγας Έσπερινός της Μεταμορφώσεως -6:00 μ.μ.

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Τρίτη 6 Αύγουστου

Transfiguration of our Lord Orthros & D. Liturgy 9:00 AM

Μεταμόρφωσις του Σωτήρος Όρθρος & Θ. Λειτουργία 9:00π.μ.

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Τρίτη 6 Αύγουστου

Great Paraklesis - 6:00 PM

Μεγάλη Παράκλησις - 6:00 μ.μ.

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Τετάρτη 7 Αύγουστου

Small Paraklesis - 6:00 PM

Μικρή Παράκλησις -6:00 μ.μ.

Thursday, August 8, 2024

Πέμπτη 8 Αύγουστου

Great Paraklesis- 6:00 PM

Μεγάλη Παράκλησις -6:00 μ.μ.

Friday, August 9, 2024

Παρασκευή 9 Αύγουστου

Small Paraklesis- 6:00 PM

Μικρή Παράκλησις -6:00 μ.μ.

Monday, August 12, 2024

Δευτέρα 12 Αύγουστου

Small Paraklesis - 6:00 PM

Μικρή Παράκλησις - 6:00 μ.μ.

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Τρίτη 13 Αύγουστου

Great Paraklesis - 6:00 PM

Μεγάλη Παράκλησις - 6:00 μ.μ.

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 Eve-Dormition of the Theotokos-

Vespers with the Lamentation Service - Egomia- 6:30 PM

Reception to follow

Τετάρτη 14 Αύγουστου

Παραμονή της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου - Έσπερινός μετά έγκωμίων - 6:30 μ.μ.

Thursday, August 15, 2024, Dormition of the Theotokos-

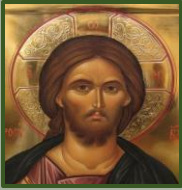
Orthros & Divine Liturgy- 9:00-11:00 AM

Reception to follow

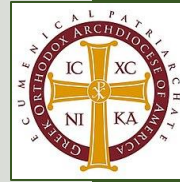
Πέμπτη 15 Αύγουστου

Έορτή της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου - Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία-9:00-11:00 π.μ.
Δεξίωσις μετά την Λειτουργία





Father's Message



DORMITION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN THEOTOKOS

August 15th is the most respected Feast Day in the Greek Orthodox Church that is dedicated to the Mother of God. Our Church celebrates the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came for the salvation of the world. The Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, was the chosen person by God's will for the salvation of the world. Through Mary's motherhood, God fulfilled His philanthropic providence for the deliverance of mankind who was bound with the sin of the world.

Mary's personhood is the most revered among the Christian world and is attributed with the Christian desire to acquire God's mercy by praying to Her during the trying times of their lives in order to receive Her grace, peace, courage and support. It is an old tradition in our Orthodox faith, that during the fasting period, we commemorate the names of our living people in the supplication services.

Η ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΜΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

Η περίοδος από την 1 Αυγούστου μέχρι την ημέρα της εορτής την Κοιμήσεως της Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου 15 Αυγούστου, είναι περίοδος προετοιμασίας πνευματικής και σωματικής για τον εορτασμό της μεγάλης Θεομητορικής εορτής της Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου. Η Εκκλησία μας δίνει την δυνατότητα σε όλους τους πιστούς δια μέσω των παρακλήσεων να προετοιμαστούν ψυχικά και πνευματικά για αυτήν την μεγάλη εορτή της Παναγίας και Μητέρας μας.

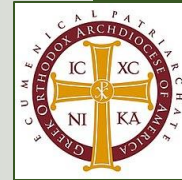
Για μέσου των παρακλήσεων, δίνετε η δυνατότητα σε όλους μας να προσευχηθούμε στην Ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκο να πρεσβεύει υπέρ ημών και υπέρ όλων των προσφιλών προσώπων που έχουν ανάγκη υλική και πνευματική στήριξη. Η Παναγία υπήρξε μητέρα που πόνεσε και αγωνίστηκε όπως κάθε μητέρα και συνεχίζει να είναι μητέρα όλων μας διότι πρεσβεύει προ του Υιό της δια την σωτήρια όλων των ανθρώπων.



Names for the Paraklesis – (FOR HEALTH)

Συμπληρώσετε τα ονόματα για τις Παρακλήσεις – (ΥΠΕΡ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ)

Letter from the President



Dearest Stewards of Kimisis Tis Theotokou,

I hope this letter finds you well during the summer months. The past few months have been exceptionally rewarding and fulfilling, much like this entire ecclesiastical year.

The blessings of Holy Week and Easter were truly amazing. From the solemn reflections of Good Friday to the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday, this sacred time filled our hearts with gratitude and renewed our spirits. The powerful moments of worship, the sense of community, and the profound reminders of faith left an indelible mark on us all. We are deeply thankful for Father Panagiotis and the grace and blessings this holy season brought into our lives.

Shortly after this beautiful holiday, we came together once more to host the best Festival on record. Thanks to your time, generous donations, and volunteering, the event was a great success. Your dedication and support made it possible for us to create an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We are deeply grateful for your commitment, which has truly made a difference in our community. On behalf of the Parish Council, we sincerely appreciate each and every one of you for your continued commitment to our beloved Kimisis Tis Theotokou.

Congratulations to all our graduates! May God continue to bless and watch over you in all your future endeavors. Please remember to visit your Kimisis family whenever possible, as we are incredibly proud of all your accomplishments and eagerly anticipate witnessing your next journey.

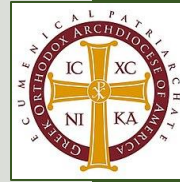
We pray everyone has a blessed and safe summer filled with warmth and joy and look forward to sharing in fellowship during these sunny months. Stay well and enjoy this season of relaxation and renewal!

Thank you, once again, for everything you do. Your dedication to our parish is truly a blessing.

With warmest regards,

Despina "Debbie" Mattos
President, Kimisis Tis Theotokou

Sunday School
GOYA
Joy Hope
Kimisis Dancers



All our organizations enjoyed a great year!

Congratulations
to the Graduating Class of 2024



Good Luck
to all as you prepare
for the upcoming school year

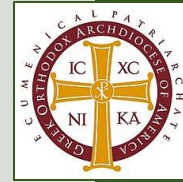


Looking Forward
to connecting in September



Check the website for Registration Days in September

Greek School



GREEK SCHOOL

Summer 2024 | Email: Evangelia Dounis Liadounis@gmail.com



On May 30th, the Greek School had their graduation/promotion ceremony. It was a beautiful event followed by a PTO celebration with food, games and fun. we are proud of our students. Good luck to our graduates and looking forward to seeing our younger students in the fall.

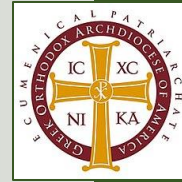
Upcoming Events Fall 2024
September 10, 2024
Greek School Blessing/
PTO Meet and Greet



Registration

Registration for Greek School '24-'25 is attached. If interested in adult Greek classes or signing your children up, please email Evangelia at Liadounis@gmail.com

Kali Parea



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

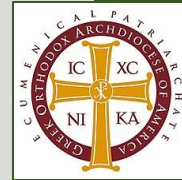
Our goal is to meet other seniors and enjoy a few hours of fun and good company, (hence Kali Parea).

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 has been keeping busy with exciting events. As we near the end of a productive season, we are reminiscing the memories, lessons, and friendships gained.

Back in April, the Maids of Athena set out to celebrate the hard-working mothers within the parish with a Mother's Day fundraiser. After each Maid contributed to a beautiful and brimful gift basket, we raffled off tickets for a chance to win. At our Mother's Day coffee hour, our winner, Johanna Kotsis, went home with a well-deserved Mother's Day present.

After months of planning and fundraising, the Beautification Project is officially complete. The Maids of Athena transformed the space outside Kimisis into a serene area for all to enjoy. We assembled furniture, trimmed bushes, planted flowers, and so much more to pull the space together. We couldn't have finished this project without the generous donations and time spent by the AHEPA chapter #517, who single handedly constructed the charming pergola. Thank you to the parishioners, as well, for participating in our fundraisers and believing in our vision. We are so grateful to be a part of such a supportive community.

The members of our chapter all got together for a relaxing Spa Night, where we got our nails done together to celebrate April being Stress Awareness Month. Not only did this bonding event bring us closer, but it also reminded us to pamper ourselves every once in a while.

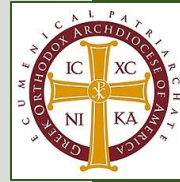
To support the Grand President's project, our president, Lia Belitsis, and vice president, Christina Xenakis, participated in a virtual 5k, where all proceeds benefit the Girls on the Run organization.

Most recently, our girls met with our Grand Lodge Liaison, Markella Roros, and our Past Grand President, Maria Ana Pantelous, for brunch at Over Easy Kitchen. We had such a great time speaking with them and are inspired by their commitment within the Maids of Athena. We are beyond appreciative that Markella and Maria Ana were able to come down to meet with our chapter and are looking forward to seeing them again.

Our chapter advisor, George Karatzia was recognized for his accomplishments with AHEPA in the Service Dogs for Warriors program. He was interviewed about his work as the newly selected Co-Chairman of the NJ Disabled American Veteran Suicide Prevention Committee. We are so proud of Mr. Karatzia and honored to have him as our chapter advisor. Thank you for your service!

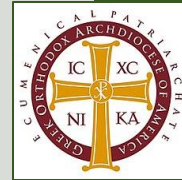
As we begin winding down for the Summer, we'll be hosting our executive board elections to elect our upcoming leaders. We will also be initiating three new members, who we are so excited to welcome into our chapter. Here's to yet another successful season, and we can't wait to start back up in September!

Maid of Athena



Join a great organization doing amazing things to help promote community and Hellenism

Girl Scout Troop 337



Girl Scout Troop 337

by Cheryl Bontales

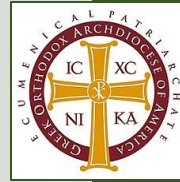
Kimisis tis Theotokou Girl Scout Troop 337 welcomed Mrs. Dena (nee Orfanitopoulos) Scoullos to help the Troop earn their Coding Badge. A Hazlet School District Technology teacher, Mrs. Scoullos, who completed her scouting years with Troop 337, engaged the Girls in fun activities and help them understand technology. Working in teams, Girls learned how computer scientists code programs for computers to solve problems. Thank you, Mrs. Scoullos! In discussing Fitness, Safety and First-Aid the Girls prepared for their Nature Walk through the trails in Holmdel Park, which was enjoyed by all. The Hike was followed by a Lock-In at the Community Center, where the Girls applied skills they learned to take to Camp, such as rolling a sleeping bag, pitching a tent, tying knots, and cooking outdoors. The Girls enjoyed crafts that reflected skills learned.

Our adult Leaders and Volunteers were recognized at the Council and Regional Awards dinner, with Stephanie Karatzia receiving New Troop Leader Certificate of Appreciation and Star Rookie Award, Vanessa Haliotis received the Rising Star Award, and Cheryl Bontales the Legacy Award.

Our First Grade Daisies bridged up to Brownies and will work on the St. George Religious Recognition Award program over the summer. All Girls earned their Membership Stars and Badges for the work they completed. We look forward to everyone returning in September.

For more information on Girl Scouting in Holmdel, contact cheryl.bontales@gmail.com

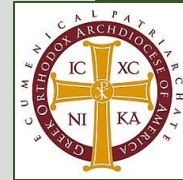
Girl Scout Troop 337



Girls learning, exploring, having fun, learning leadership skills, and making lasting friendships start with organizations like these. Join us in September!



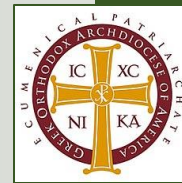
Kimisis Playgroup



The Kimisis Playgroup is open to our community's children from ages 0-4. Meetings include structured activities, storytime, singing, dancing, music and unstructured playtimes. Children of all abilities are welcome, and must have a parent, grandparent or other caregiver with them at all times. Older siblings are welcome to join in on the fun as well. Our latest meeting had ice cream themed activities. Children were able to play in a child-sized ice cream truck. They worked on their motor and social skills by scooping and serving each other pretend treats. This spring, we ventured out for our first farm meetup at Oak Hill Farms in Holmdel, where the children were able to observe and feed chickens, goats and alpacas. Upcoming meetings are to take place on Friday, June 14th at 11am in the church gym. If the weather is suitable, our meetings can take place outside so the children can enjoy nature. An upcoming kids-free, mother's meetup is also scheduled. As always, our meetings will be free of charge. Please e-mail Vivian Silverman at vsilverman95@gmail.com with any questions or if you are interested in joining.



Hellenic Dancers



Mission



- To research, preserve and perpetuate the regional folk dances of Greece within the Greek community
- Share these rich, cultural traditions with the American public
- Document and acquire the folk music, customs, dances, clothing and historical information from throughout Greece and the Greek diaspora

Over 350 dances, songs, and related traditions have been preserved since 1972. These are indigenous to mainland Greece, its islands, Asia Minor and Cyprus.

The Hellenic Dancers of NJ is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1972

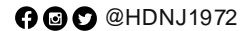


Contact Us

For performance inquiries, to join the group, and more information
908.361.9978

Info@hellenicdancersofnj.org
www.hellenicdancersofnj.org

Connect with us



BECOME A DONOR HISTORY PAST PERFORMANCES

Help HDNJ continue its mission of preserving and perpetuating Greek folk heritage in America by becoming a donor today. We appreciate your support!

- \$10 \$200
- \$25 \$500
- \$50 \$1000
- \$100 \$Other: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

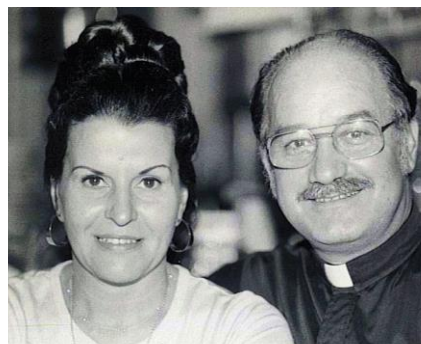
Make checks payable to:
 Hellenic Dances of NJ
 PO Box 461, Holmdel, NJ 07733
 or donate via Zelle:



All donations are tax-deductible
 Federal Tax ID: 22-232-5685
 NJ Charities #: 1087600-03
 HDNJ is also eligible for most corporate gift-matching programs

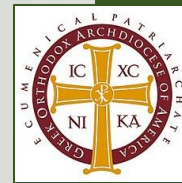
Founded in 1972 by the Very Rev. Fr. Jim and Presvytera Eleni Chakalos, HDNJ held its first rehearsal in Asbury Park, NJ, with just 12 dancers. Over **2000 dancers** have participated in HDNJ since its inception. Our longevity is a testament to the dedication and love that our dancers have for their Hellenic culture.

As the first organization of its kind in the New Jersey, HDNJ has evolved to assume a vital role in the community, inspiring the creation of Greek folk dance groups all over the country, and functioning as an integral component in maintaining the tradition of Greek folk dance in America. The name, **Hellenic Dancers of NJ**, is synonymous with artistic excellence, cultural integrity, and dedication to the arts.



This outstanding troupe is nationally recognized for its accurate presentation of Greek traditions and has performed at Presidential rallies and inaugurations, for the royalty and ambassadors of several nations as well as: Benefit for Sloan Kettering Hospital; Statue of Liberty Weekend Grand Finale; 20/20 ABC Television Program; Garden State Arts Center Intra-State Competition, 1st Place; Deborah Hospital Benefit; Shriners Installation; Queens College of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Benefit; O. Elytis Chair of Modern Greek Studies at Rutgers University; Union County College Folk Arts Festival; NJ State Ethnic and Diversity Festival; Benefit for the Smile Train; Greek Heritage Day with the Metrostars; 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece; Centennial Epiphany Celebration in Tarpon Springs, FL; Culture and Context a Tapestry of Expression at NJ State Museum; New York Times Travel Show; Stockton College Day of Greek Letters; Hermes Expo International; Greek Cultural Village at Riverside Theatre; Kimisis Benefit for Autism Speaks; Founding Member Hellenic Federation of NJ; weddings, baptisms and many other Greek and culturally diverse festivals and special programs.

AHEPA Chapter 517



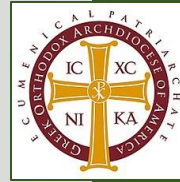
In collaboration with the Maids of Athena, our chapter embarked on a meaningful project to enhance the aesthetic and functional appeal of the church's meditation garden. The initiative involved setting up a beautiful pergola, which now serves as a serene spot for reflection and community gatherings. 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.

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

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**

