

KIMISIS COMMUNITY JOURNAL



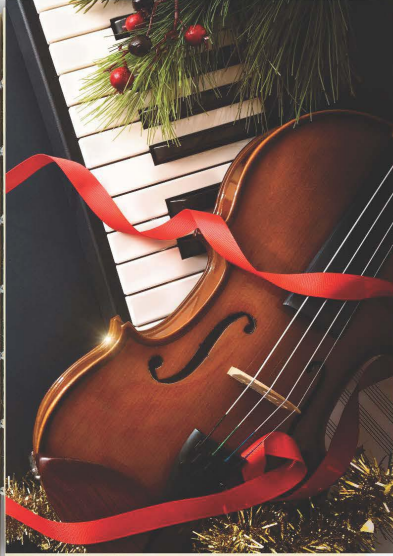

WINTER 2024 EDITION

KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HOLMDEL NEW JERSEY

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN
APOSTOLOS OF NEW JERSEY
&
KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU,
HOLMDEL NJ,

WELCOME YOU TO OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
PRESENTING,



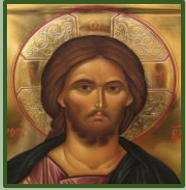
YOUTH CHOIR, KIMISIS CHOIR,
NJ CHAMBER ORCHESTRA,
& CHORUS FROM THE
TRI STATE METROPOLITAN AREA
OF NY & NJ
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
MAESTRO DIMITRIOS M. FOUSTERIS
WITH TRADITIONAL SONGS &
CAROLS AND SELECTIONS FROM
HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

DEC 14TH 2024, 6:00PM
20 HILLCREST RD
HOLMDEL NJ

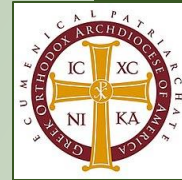


Top News:

Looking forward to celebrating the holidays with everyone at our special events



Father's Message




Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of New Jersey

Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

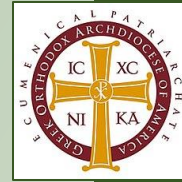
Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 15, 2024
9:00 A.M.

Kimisis tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733




Letter from the President



Hello Kimisis Family,

It is my pleasure and honor on behalf of the Parish Council to wish everyone a beautiful Thanksgiving and soon enough a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025! We pray you and your loved ones will be sharing wonderful memories together.

The members of our Altar, Sunday School, Greek School, PTO, Joy and Hope, GOYA, Greek Folklore Dancing, Girl Scouts, Maids of Athena, Volleyball & Basketball Teams, and our youngest, Kimisis Preschool Group have been very busy interacting through religion, culture, and volunteerism while creating lifelong friendships. If you are interested in still registering for any organization, please visit our website at <https://www.kimisis.com/parish-ministries/ministries> or contact the office with any questions.

Our Parish was delighted to welcome everyone back at our Kimisis *Welcome Back Luncheon* and are working diligently to increase our budget to cover our operating costs starting with our Fall fundraisers like Matawan Day, the ongoing sale of our Kimisis Cookbook, and most recently, Murder Mystery Dinner. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who donated, volunteered, and attended.

On December 14th, our community will be hosting our second annual, "A Christmas Concert" with the blessings and presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of NJ on behalf of the Metropolis of NJ. We look forward to an uplifting evening with great appreciation to Fr. Panagiotis Lekkas, all our ministries, Philoptochos, volunteers, donors, and choirs. Please make every effort to attend as we hope to see all our parishioners on December 14th.

We look forward to spending more beautiful events with all of you in the upcoming year through our various ministries. Please see all our upcoming events on our website and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KimisisHolmdel/>.

Please keep your calendars marked for our annual Bayshore Greek Festival, June 5, 6, 7, & 8. Our festival committee needs your help! Let us continue to make each year more successful than the last. New ideas and volunteers are always welcomed! Contact me at 1234properties@gmail.com if you would like to join the committee. The future of our church, religion, and traditions rest on the continued support of all our families.



This verse in *Colossians 3:23*: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" encourages everyone to approach all they do with sincerity, dedication, and enthusiasm with a genuine desire to serve and honor God. This reminds us to serve together wholeheartedly, with love and unity reflecting God's love through their actions. This shared, divine-centered motivation strengthens the bonds of the congregation, as we all grow in love and mutual respect. We are very blessed to have ministries, businesses, and individuals who donate above and beyond to the church's operations and improvements. Your stewardship and donations are always truly appreciated.

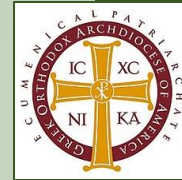
As we look ahead to the new year, please keep our Kimisis families in your prayers. I look forward to seeing everyone in these upcoming weeks leading to the joyous occasion where we will celebrate the birth of Christ and share in the spirit of Christmas together.

Θα ήθελα να σας ευχαριστήσω όλους και να σας ευχηθώ καλά Χριστούγεννα και ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος.

Respectfully,

Despina "Debbie" Mattos
President, Kimisis Parish Council

Stewardship News



"Your Own from Your Own"

The theme of the Archdiocese 2025 Stewardship Campaign is ***"Your Own from Your Own,"*** from the Divine Liturgy as we offer back to God that which He has given us. He receives our humble offering of bread and wine and returns them to us as His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

So it is with our church, we often imagine only what is humanly possible. If we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of "Your own from Your own." We will see our church, not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God's generosity and love. With our faithful offering, we will see in our church as they did in the early Church, "...the Lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

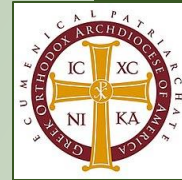
On Sunday November 17, 2024 we held our annual Stewardship Sunday asking parishioners to commit to the church with their treasure for 2025. Once again we had a wonderful response from parishioners pledging for 2025 and some fulfilling their 2025 commitment.

The Steward Committee and the Parish Council are happy to report that stewardship has grown again this past year and we are poised to hit budget and maybe surpass. We offer you all Pledged and Fulfilled Stewards "A BIG THANK YOU!" We have given to the church and in turn we have received an active vibrant community pastored by Father Panagiotis. That should be our goal to thrive and to have the resources to support all our ministries, whether it is GOYA, Kali Parea, Hope/Joy, and all our other ministries.

For everyone's knowledge and information, next year will be another challenging year for the church to sustain financial stability. Stewardship will account for 40% of the 2025 budgeted revenues. Our expenses have risen to over \$600,000. It wasn't too long ago that we were below \$450,000. We implore everyone that if you have made a donation thank you and maybe you can increase your next year's donation by a bit more. This way we have a bit of a cushion to offset a down festival or an extra unexpected expense.

To those who have not made a donation, please join your fellow parishioners and return Sacrificial Pledge Card along with your donation soon to help us continue to support our ministries. We know this is not an easy decision with everyday living costs rising each month.

Christmas Sponsorship



Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Holmdel NJ

Sponsorship Opportunity

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS OF NEW JERSEY
&
KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU, HOLMDEL NJ,

INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT PRESENTING,



DEC 14TH 2024, 6:00PM
20 HILLCREST RD
HOLMDEL NJ

ADULTS \$40
STUDENTS \$20

YOUTH CHOIR, KIMISIS CHOIR,
NJ CHAMBER ORCHESTRA,
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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
MAESTRO DIMITRIOS M. FOUSTERIS
WITH TRADITIONAL SONGS & CAROLS
AND SELECTIONS FROM HANDEL'S
"MESSIAH"

COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
IN OUR COMMUNITY CENTER

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION
CALL 732-739-1515
EMAIL US OFFICE@KIMISIS.COM
OR SCAN QR



- Back Cover \$2,500
+ 12 tickets
- Centerfold \$2,000
+ 10 tickets
- Front Inside Cover \$1,250
+ 6 tickets
- Back Inside Cover \$1,000
+ 4 tickets
- Gold Full Page \$500
+ 2 tickets
- Silver Half Page \$400
+ 1 ticket

All sponsors will appear on journal & website

Name: _____

Phone: _____

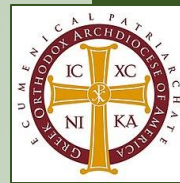
Email: _____

Payment Method: (Cash) (Credit) (Check)



Scan QR

Christmas Concert



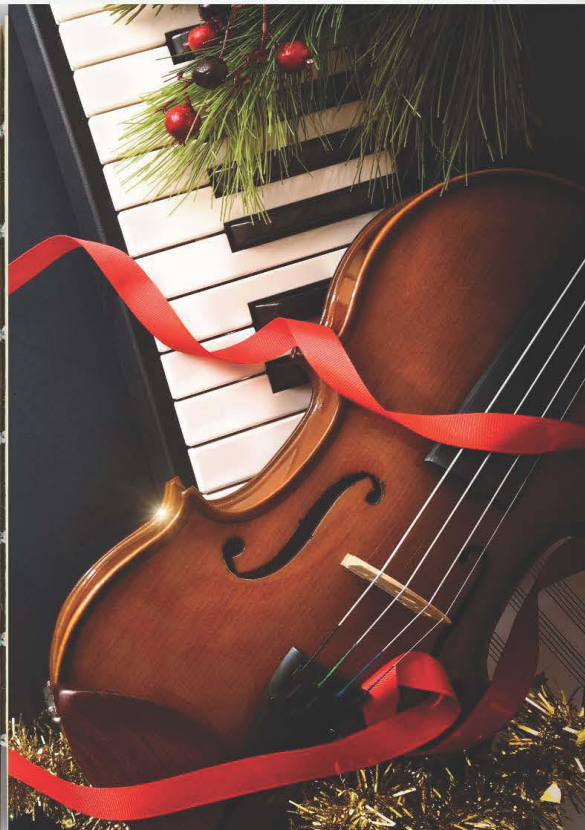
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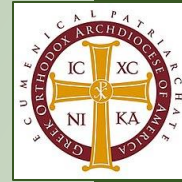
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Christmas Concert



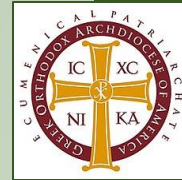
Save the Dates

December 14th ~ Christmas Concert
December 15th ~ Divine Liturgy with
His Eminence Metropolitan

Arrestos



Philoptochos



Ladies Philoptochos Winter Journal



As winter and the holiday spirit of giving and gratitude quickly approach, so does the need for our aid and we are energized and ready to serve.

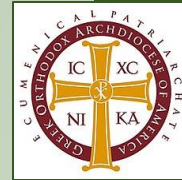
Holiday Baskets

Our army of agape gathered to assemble Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for those in need last week. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated supplies and to the wonderful ladies who rolled up their sleeves again this year to put the baskets together.

180-Turning Lives Around

We will be donating part of our proceeds from our large fundraiser to this wonderful organization this year. Their mission is to "empower survivors and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault to find the courage and strength to turn their lives around." Last week, we hosted a representative from the organization and it's safe to say, I think we all left very impassioned to do all that we can to aid this important cause.

Philoptochos



Operation Classroom

We have been fundraising for the ESL department (consisting of 50 students) across Milltown Elementary and Middle Schools and we are preparing to visit the school next week. The excitement of the children is something we look forward to each quarter and we simply cannot wait to deliver all the donated school supplies during a fun-filled afternoon with the kids.

St. Basil Holiday Visit

On the morning of our Christmas concert at church, Christie will make the trip to St. Basil Academy to deliver the holiday gifts we have gathered for the children. This is always such a heart-warming part of the year and we thank everyone for their generosity. There is still time to help and this year, there are three ways you can do so:

- Purchase a gift from the kids' [wish list](#)
- Host a child/siblings for the holiday season - info [here](#)
- Donate a monetary contribution toward the [Experience Fund](#) which provides enriching experiences to help the children engage with life in healthy, productive, and meaningful ways.



**HELP THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
MAKE IT A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
FOR THE CHILDREN OF**

SAINT BASIL ACADEMY

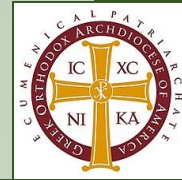
<p>Option 1: Wish List</p> <p>Choose from a wish list of items for children and young adults aged 1-24. Items will be hand-delivered on December 14th</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Option 2: Host a child</p> <p>Make the holiday extra special and fulfilling by welcoming a child into your home between Christmas and New Year's Day</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Option 3: Monetary donation</p> <p>Contribute to the Saint Basil Academy Experience Fund which supports enriching experiences for the children</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>
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CONTACT CHRISTIE.PISACANO@GMAIL.COM TO RECEIVE HOSTING INFORMATION OR MAKE A MONETARY DONATION TO SUPPORT THE SAINT BASIL ACADEMY EXPERIENCE FUND.

SAINT BASIL ACADEMY IS A RESIDENTIAL HOME AND SCHOOL FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS RUN BY THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA.



Philoptochos



Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or instructions on how to complete any of the above.

Fall Harvest Luncheon

Our Fall Harvest Luncheon, held late October, brought together our beautiful parish - old and young - together for a delicious feast and lots of Greek dancing! A special thank you goes to our very own Cheryl Bontales for organizing and putting her heart into this event year after year.

Christmas Bake Sale

Our wonderful bakers will be at it again next month! Please get your [pre-orders](#) in before we sell out! :)

St. Vincent De Paul's Food Pantry

We continue to collect non-perishables for the St. Vincent De Paul's food pantry. Items should be placed on the silver racks located in the gym entrance. Your generosity is always much appreciated and a list of the items that fly off the shelves appears below for your convenience.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS

&

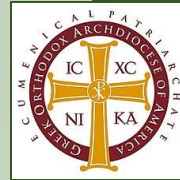
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S FOOD PANTRY

EACH OF US CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You can HELP

Soups and Stews	Canned fish, meat	Pasta sauce
Grain breakfast	Peanut butter / other nut butters	Canned tomatoes
Dried beans	Diapers	Canned vegetables
Coffee/Tea	Diaper Wipes	Toilet Paper
Vegetable Oil	Laundry Detergent	Paper Towels
Cereal	feminine Hygiene Products	Dish Detergent
Pasta		
Canned Fruit		

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

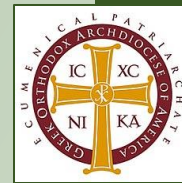
3
MAY
2025

11:30 AM

GRAND MARQUIS | OLD BRIDGE, NJ



Sunday School



Kimisis Oratorical Festival

January 31, 2025

6:00pm

Resource Package available:

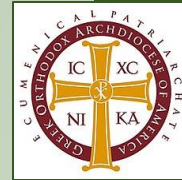
https://www.goarch.org/documents/32058/13944382/2025_SJCOF_Topics_Tips_%26_Resources_vFINAL.pdf/ca34d3ee-630a-531f-d9b3-6e36d37a7537?t=1729024458230

Or email nlorthodoxou@gmail.com

**2025 TOPICS,
TIPS & RESOURCES**
THE 1-2-3 PACKAGE

EST. 1983
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE)
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

Greek School

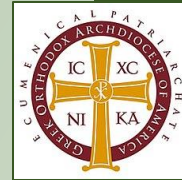


Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek School 2024-2025 Calendar

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

Greek School



Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek School

Winter NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE

Our Oxi Day presentation was a resounding success! Students from Pre-K through 8th grade participated by reciting poems and singing patriotic songs, beautifully honoring Greece's courage and resilience during World War II. We are incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work and enthusiasm. Now, we are excited to turn our attention to our upcoming Christmas show, where our students will once again showcase their talents and celebrate the festive season with the entire school community, which will be followed by The Three Hierarchs Celebration in January. We are excited to host St. George and St. Barbara Greek Schools for this special event at 6pm January 24th. Please join us!



EVENTS

December 8 - Christmas Show and PTO Luncheon

December 24&31 - NO SCHOOL

January 7 - Vasilopita Cutting

January 24 - Three Hierarchs Celebration

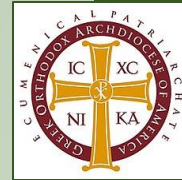
February 21 - Apokriatiko Glenti



CONTACT

Evangelia Dounis
Greek School Director
Liadounis@gmail.com

Greek School



Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Holmdel NJ
Greek School PTO
Presents Our Annual

Christmas Brunch

December 8th 2024 12PM
Community Center

Surprise Guest



Photobooth

Adults \$25
Children 3+ \$15

Greek School Students &
Teachers Free Admission
RSVP required for seating

For Optimal Seating
Please Reserve Tickets by 12/1

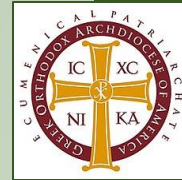
Activities For Kids

Contact us
Greekschoolptokimisis@gmail.com
201-753-0880

Scan QR



Greek School



Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek School
Cordially invites you to
The Three Hierarchs/Greek Letters Day Celebration



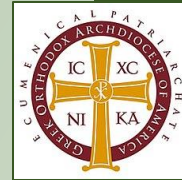
January 24, 2025
6PM at Kimisis Tis Theotokou

Kimisis Tis Theotokou
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733



RSVP with the QR CODE provided

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



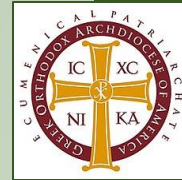
Scan QR code to
view our
events, join our
team & email list



@KIMISISGREEKSCHOOLPTO

Follow US on IG

Greek School PTO



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 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

Three Heircharchs Dinner 1-24-2025

Apokriatiko Glendi 2-21-2025

Greek Independence day 3-23-2025

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

Greek Independence Day Parade 4-27-25

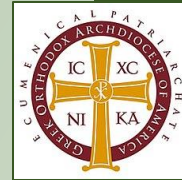
Greek School Graduation Party 5-28-25

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.

Greek School PTO



Kimisis Tis Theotokou
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, NJ 07743
GREEK SCHOOL PTO
GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com

Greek School PTO Annual Event Summaries

Harvest Bake Sale 11/24/2024

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

Christmas Party 12/8/2024

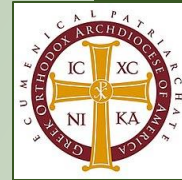
Truly a favorite event among our community, PTO hosts our Annual Breakfast with Santa for all children at our community center. Join us in the festivities, and a take picture with Santa! We serve a full breakfast buffet, there is an entrance fee for this event for adults, seniors and non Greek School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

Three Heircharchs 1/24/2025

The Three Hierarchs—St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the

Greek School PTO



Kimisis Tis Theotokou
20 Hillcrest Road
Holmdel, NJ 07743
GREEK SCHOOL PTO
GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com

Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom—are celebrated for their significant contributions to education and the integration of faith with learning. These saints believed that education should nurture both the mind and the soul, promoting classical Greek knowledge alongside Christian teachings. Their emphasis on combining intellectual and spiritual development makes them the perfect role models for our students, who strive to embody these ideals in their own studies. To honor the Three Hierarchs, Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church is hosting a special event on Friday, January 24. We are delighted to welcome the communities of St. George Perth Amboy, St. George Ocean, and St. Barbara Toms River to join us in this celebration. The event will begin with a church service, followed by a program of poems and songs performed by students from our Greek schools. After the program, the Kimisis PTO will host a dinner, offering a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and celebration. We look forward to coming together as a community to honor these great saints and their enduring legacy in education and faith. (Credit Evangelia Dounis).

Apokriatiko Glendi 2/21/2025

Join us in our most extravagant, popular event our *Apokriatiko Glendi*. PTO hosts this event at a catering hall with food, bar, music, and many other forms of entertainment including/but not limited to photo Booth, balloons, along with our children's dance performances.

This year we would like to hold a tricky tray with many varieties of baskets and raffles.

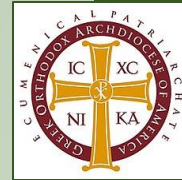
All hands on deck for this event, parents, join us in preparation with gathering raffles, setting up centerpieces, seating arrangements.... you name it, we have a spot for you.

Follow us on IG for latest updates & event photos.

If you have any questions please free to email us at
GreekSchoolPTOkimisis@gmail.com



GOYA



Kimisis GOYA is off to a great start for the year. We had a successful GOYA Car Wash fundraiser on Pink Sunday, with all of our GOYAnS dressed suitably to spread awareness for Breast Cancer month. Furthermore, our president, Sofia Countouroudas, and Alex Plevritis represented our GOYA with grace and dignity at the Mr/Miss GOYA pageant. We are incredibly proud of their efforts. With many donations and volunteers, we had a rewarding Autumn Clothing Drive. Our Pastitsio Luncheon was absolutely delicious and we are so thankful to all who supported us. On Youth Sunday, our GOYAnS worked hard as they took on the roles of the Church and our executive board members were sworn in. Most recently, our November meeting had a wonderful turnout and was very productive. Thank you all who joined us.

In order to help out around the holidays, our GOYAnS are donating to the RAINE foundation, which provides gifts to less privileged children in Monmouth County. We are so blessed to be able to support such a beneficial organization.

Our GOYA is hosting a Vasilopita Sale in preparation for the New Year. Pre-order your Vasilopita by December 8 for \$25 or purchase it at the Kimisis Christmas Concert. Be sure to complement this gift with a book explaining its true meaning. Paired together, this is a perfect Christmas gift for a hostess or for children.

Our GOYAnS participating in choir will be performing once again at the annual Kimisis Christmas Concert on December 14. We hope to see you there!

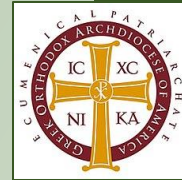
The GOYA Christmas Dance at St. Demetrios Church in Union on December 27 will have our GOYAnS glued to the dance floor. This is the biggest dance of the year and we can't wait for a night full of fun.

With the annual Sights and Sounds approaching, our GOYAnS are dedicated to attending weekly practices for Greek Dance, band, choir, play, choral speaking, art, and more. We are so proud of the work they are putting in and are excited to bring home some wins.

We can't wait for our upcoming events and are so proud of each of our GOYAnS.



HOPE JOY



Hope/Joy Winter 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:

Backpack Blessing

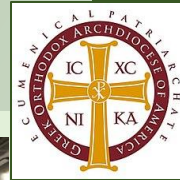
On September 20th, we kicked off the school year with our annual Backpack Blessing. The event commenced with an opening prayer lead by Father Panagiotis and the blessing of the children's backpacks. The children then gathered in the all-purpose room where they played ice breaker games to get to know each other better, decorated crosses and enjoyed ice cream sundaes.



Parents Night Out at Bell Works

On September 28th, parents gathered at Bar Bella in Bell Works. Our parent's night out was a wonderful evening for parents to get together for good conversation and laughs. Both new and returning parents had the opportunity to get to know each other better.

HOPE JOY



Halloween Bash

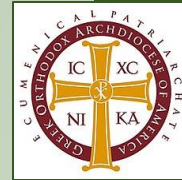
On October 12th, we held our annual Halloween Bash. It was a big hit with close to 90 attendees in total! With fun costumes, games, and treats, it was a joyful way to celebrate together. Special thanks to our parent volunteers who helped make our event a success!



Charity Lemonade Stand with Goya

On October 13th, alongside Goya, our ministry organized a charity lemonade stand, raising \$179. Our children voted on which charity they wanted the proceeds to go to and decided on the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) hurricane relief effort. Hope/Joy will be matching the money raised by the kids bringing the donation total to \$358.

HOPE JOY



Upcoming events

Fall Craft event

On Saturday November 23rd, Hope/Joy will be hosting a Fall Craft Night. Father Panayiotis will be leading a discussion about gratitude. Children will then make an assortment of fall themed crafts that they will take home. In lieu of a registration fee, we are requesting donations to the Philoptochos food pantry. Register to attend the event at: my.cheddarup.com/c/hj-fall-craft

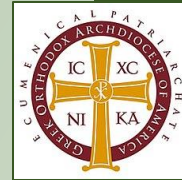
Holiday Cookie Decorating

On Friday December 6th from 6-8pm, Hope/Joy will host our Christmas event for the kids in the Church APR. The holiday festivities will include cookie decorating, drink hot cocoa and watch a Christmas movie. This event will also be free of charge for the children who bring an unwrapped Christmas present to donate to those in need. Register to attend the event at: <https://hj-holiday-24.cheddarup.com>

Kimisis Apparel Fundraiser

We're excited to announce the Winter 2024 Kimisis Apparel Fundraiser to help support our ministry and church. Our collection features the design of our stunning Church silhouette. There's something for everyone, including sizes and styles for all ages. For this sale, open through December 15th, 50% of the proceeds from our winter 2024 sales will be allocated to the church's operating budget and 50% to the Hope/Joy ministry.

HOPE JOY



KIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU
HOLMDEL, NJ

KIMISIS APPAREL FUNDRAISER

WINTER 2024

Open now for a limited time through December 15th

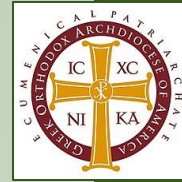
Order by Dec 5th to guarantee delivery by Christmas



Enjoy free shipping on orders over \$50, or choose free pickup at the Church;
Payments can also be made by cash or check by emailing kimisishopejoy@gmail.com.

The proceeds from this Winter 2024 Kimisis Apparel Fundraiser will be allocated with 50% benefitting the Church's operating budget and 50% to the Hope/Joy ministry.
Thank you for your generous support!

Kali Parea



Kali Parea is a group of Seniors of Kimisis Tis Theotokou from ages 50+++ . We get together every first Thursday 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

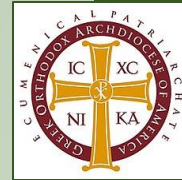
Our goal is to meet other seniors and enjoy a few hours of fun and good company, (hence Kali Parea).

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 having a productive year so far.

With the proceeds from our Pura Vida Bracelet sale, we are proud to have made a generous donation to the AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Foundation. This organization provides veterans suffering from PTSD the comfort and assistance of a service dog. As our advisor, George Karatzia, is a veteran himself, this program is especially meaningful to our chapter and we are grateful to support it.

We are expanding our chapter even more, as we recently welcomed three new members into our sisterhood.

We bonded over pumpkin decorating and Halloween trivia at our annual Halloween party.

To do our part in the fight against Breast Cancer, our chapter attended a Breast Cancer Walk and raised money towards the cause.

Soon after, we hosted our Grand Lodge Liaison, Lia Chrisohou, who is originally from the Cassandra-Hera #185 chapter in Calgary, Alberta and now serves as the Grand Vice President of the Maids of Athena. Over lunch, we discussed pivotal topics that provided our members with a greater understanding of the Maids of Athena organization as a whole and all that it offers.

Our chapter also held a successful Dine to Donate fundraiser at Chick-fil-a. Thank you all for your support.

As the season of giving begins this December, we'll be participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Kid program, where we'll donate items from the Christmas wish lists of less privileged children. We will also be having our annual Christmas Party, where our members will have the chance to connect even more with each other.

Our Bingo Night Fundraiser will be taking place on Saturday, January 25 at Kimisis. After finding great success with this fundraiser last year, we are thrilled to be back and better than ever. All ages are welcome to join us for an evening of bingo games, trivia, food, music, and a chance to win amazing prizes.

Purchase your early bird tickets online for \$15 or buy tickets the week of / at the door for \$20. Hope to see you there!

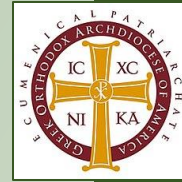
In February, we are excited for our yearly Valentine's Day Party.

To continue celebrating the month of love, we will be having a Valentine's Day Bake Sale during coffee hour on February 9. Enjoy delicious treats and be sure to share with your loved ones.

With the enthusiasm and drive of our members, our chapter is ecstatic to take on these endeavors.



Girl Scouts Troop 337



Holmdel Girl Scout Troop 337 is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year since forming in 1994 with a small group of girls who are leaders in our community today! Since 1994, well over 500 Girls have passed through our Troop, and some return to conduct a lesson with our present Troop.

- Kimisis Girl Scouts held their rededication candle ceremony at the church hall, reciting the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law, and receiving their earned badges.
- Each Girl took a turn describing their individual summer Discovery Box filled with items that reflected family fun and adventures, while developing self confidence to speak before a group.
- The Girls enjoyed a family fun HayRide in October and learned marketing skills in November to prepare for the annual Cookie Sales!

Badges and Awards

The Girls are working on their Safety Award with awareness, preparedness and response skills needed to be safe at all times.

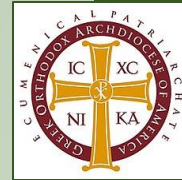
The Girls are working on the St. George and Chi-Rho Religious Recognition programs working independently and in a group with the assistance of their Leaders, parents and parish Priest. Upon completion of the programs, awards will be presented in church by Fr. Panagiotis.

Community Service

The Girl Scouts joined up with the GOYA choral group singing Christmas Carols and bringing cheer at a local Nursing Care facility. The Girls distributed Christmas Greeting Cards to the residents and engaged them in holiday sing-alongs.

**Girl Scout Cookie Sales begin on January 10th.
Please see a Girl Scout to place your order.**

Hellenic Dancers



After taking time to recharge our batteries over the summer, The Hellenic Dancers of N.J. hit the ground running with a number of exciting performances and workshops from Upstate N.Y., many parts of N.J. and all the way up to Boston MA.

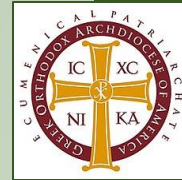
However the summer was still greatly productive, as we expanded our wardrobe with beautiful, handmade, authentic outfits from many different areas of Greece. We brought back traditional dress from Kerkyra (Corfu), Trekeri (Thessaly), Kymi (Euboea) and the region of Epirus.

The HDNJ was very happy and proud to perform at the Harvest Luncheon held by the Philoptochos of Kimisis Tis Theotokou, as we have in the past. We took the opportunity to take photos with some of our alumni who were in attendance that day.



Currently, we are in the process of planning our annual Taverna Night Performance and Dinner Dance. This wonderful event will take place on Sat Feb. 8 at Kimisis. We are looking forward to seeing all of you that evening!

Kimisis Youth Dancers

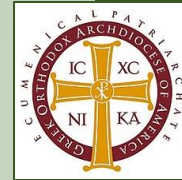


The Kimisis Youth Dancers performed at the Philoptochos Harvest Luncheon on October 20, 2024. They put on a wonderful show for the community and demonstrated the pride they have in their Hellenic heritage. The Kimisis Youth Dancers will have their next performance at the Apokriatiko Glendi in February! GOYA is continuing to practice and prepare for their upcoming competitions at MDF in February in Philadelphia and at Sights and Sounds in Westfield in March.

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



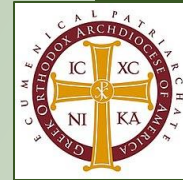
Ahepa Chapter 517



AHEPA Garden State Chapter 517 recently sponsored Viki B. to take part in the Journey To Greece Program. The Journey to Greece Program is run and organized by AHEPA and allows high school seniors and college students to take part in an immersive educational experience in Greece. Students are able to earn six college credits at the Athens Campus of Webster University, which allows them to keep up with their academic studies while also enabling them to explore their ancestral culture and land. Viki B. stated of her experience *“The Journey to Greece program provided me with a sense of what it is like to experience Hellenism through culture, religion, education, and of course the night life. The program is not only a life-changing and memorable experience, but gave me the opportunity to create lifelong friendships and meet people from around the world.”* AHEPA Chapter 517 is currently accepting applications for the program for 2025, **the deadline for applications is April 30, 2025.** More information can be found at these links: <https://ahepa.org/jtg/> and <https://ahepa.org/journey-to-greece-is-underway/>

In addition, 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.

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