

The Cathedral Chronicle

Volume 25: No. 3

October 2nd, 2024



FATHER'S MESSAGE:

Dear Parishioners of St. John's Cathedral,

Welcome back from summer vacations and travels! The new ecclesiastical and school year is well underway, and there are many exciting things happening here at the Cathedral. Of course, we just celebrated our **Parish Feastday**, the feast of St. John the Theologian, with our spiritual father, His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, leading us and the priests of the area for the two days of celebrations. May we always have the prayers and guidance of our beloved St. John.

Our educational programs are also in full swing. **Sunday School** classes for our youth and **Adult Catechism** classes for those who want a deeper understanding of our faith are up and running and open to all. Our **Greek School** has also started classes for the children and will soon be starting an **Adult Greek Class**.

GOYA, as always, is one of our most active ministries. We invite all

youth in grades 7-12 to join and participate. This year we will also be relaunching **JOY**, the Junior Orthodox Youth, for grades 4-6. **Scouts** is also available for children of all ages.

Philoptochos, **Kali Parea**, the **PTO/Mothers' Club**, **AHEPA**, and many other groups all have full calendars planned. With so many ministries, there is a place for everyone, and I hope that this year, you find how you can take advantage of these ministries and be involved in the life of this wonderful parish. These are the ministries that make our Church a true community. Make it your resolution to join and support these ministries this new year!

Wishing you all a blessed new Ecclesiastical Year, I remain with paternal love and blessings

in Christ,

+Fr. Gregory Gilbert

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear fellow St. John's stewards and parishioners

A story for you, as autumn approaches... A long time ago, an explorer from the mainland had gotten lost in his air balloon and drifted out over the Aegean. As the balloon was descending towards Thymiana in Chios, the navigator spied an olive farmer working his trees. The balloonist shouted "Where am I, where am I?", to which the old farmer replied, "You can't fool me – I see you, you're up there in that balloon!"

Perspective is everything.

So where are we? Well, from the ground level, it has been another remarkably busy and positive year. We hosted the Evzones and the Metropolis' Three Hierarchs/Greek Letters celebrations ... Summer has come and gone, the Festival was a wonderful success, we had a joyous and well-attended Feast Day presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, and the Ministries are kicking into gear with the new ecclesiastical year. **But, "what's it all mean?"...**

There is another famous story that goes something like this. Two men were digging in a quarry, and a passerby asked one what they

were doing. The first quarryman said he was **digging stones**. And that was true. The other took a couple of seconds to reflect. After a moment and with a bit of a wry smile, he answered that he was **helping to build a cathedral**.

Both above statements were true, it was just the perspective that was different. Yes, we have been incredibly busy at St John's and, crazily, Christmas is not that far off in the horizon. GOYA meetings, Kali Parea lunches, dance practices, basketball, St. Basil's EOCS campouts, Hellenic Women's Club meetings, Philoptochos Icon fundraising, AHEPA pet blessings, G2G video shoots...oh my!

However, the bigger picture is that we are the St. John's family. Church attendance is trending up, our ministries are thriving and, most importantly, Father Gregory is shepherding us as we seek Christ. AND through all of this, we are also "building the cathedral," our Cathedral of St. John the Theologian.

Stones or Cathedrals? In that regard, I ask you to consider our **Generation-to-Generation (G2G) Capital Campaign** and our amazing(!) **Kickoff Event at Axia on October 26th**. Over the next four years, the Buildings and

Grounds team, led by Stavros Kamilaris, will be reinvesting in the critical elements of the Cathedral's structure and facilities, from restoring our beautiful dome which, after twenty years, needs major repairs, to the roofs over our Church, Fellowship Hall, and other areas of the Cathedral, to our kitchen. Yes, it is tempting to look at this as merely "digging stones" (what, another fundraiser?) but we are truly **"building (restoring)" our Cathedral** for our families, and for the generations to come.

Hand-off ahead. As the president of the parish council, I have been humbled and honored to serve you, our cherished community of St. John the Theologian, over the last two years. My term is nearly done, and it has been with a spirit of love and unity that we nurtured our faith, supported one another, celebrated the rich traditions of our Greek Orthodox heritage and welcomed everyone who entered the doors of St. John's. I look forward to seeing you again and sharing ideas, feedback and fellowship at **our next General Assembly meeting in November and, of course, at October's G2G Axia Kickoff!**

With love in Christ,
George Staphos
President, Parish Council

SAVE THE DATE:

10/26/24 Saturday
Generation to Generation Kickoff at
AXIA in Tenafly

11/17/24 Sunday
General Assembly

12/15/24 Sunday
Parish Council Elections



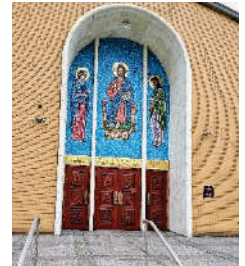
FACILITIES/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The mission of the Facilities/B&G Committee is to preserve and maintain our church facility in good and safe operating condition; and to properly evaluate, plan and execute capital improvement projects based on need, purpose, and priority.

The Committee continues to work diligently for the preservation and maintenance of our Church Facility, while making sure that every dollar is spent carefully and responsively. The following is a summary of projects and activities completed or undertaken this year so far:

Recently Completed work includes:

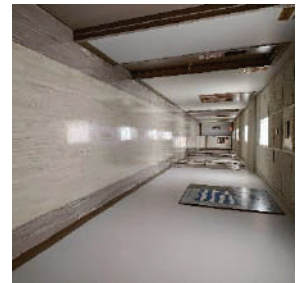
The much-needed **refinishing of the church doors and the repairs to the door thresholds** were recently completed. A big shout out to the people who spent two Friday afternoons removing and reinstalling the doors and repairing the thresholds, namely: Chris Charas, Marinos Lilikas, Nick Katsapis, Peter Hilaris, Marios Socrates, Tasos Miltiadous and Elias Prastos who did a phenomenal job refinishing the doors in his shop for three weeks! The cost of the refinishing is \$6,500 and it was all donated by George & Harriet Prepis who are the initial donors of the doors. Thank you!



Pavement Milling/resurfacing – Completed the much-needed milling/resurfacing of the deteriorated pavement at the entrance driveways, around the circle areas, and other sporadic pavement repairs throughout the parking lot for a cost of \$53,500.



The yearly **cleaning and refinishing of all the downstairs classrooms, library and hallways floors as well as the carpet cleaning inside the fellowship hall, the ceramic tile cleaning of the atrium floor and dance floor and the cleaning of the kitchen floor** were completed in July. The cost of these necessary refinishing and cleaning maintenance was \$8,000 for downstairs and \$3,400 for upstairs. The PTO donated \$4,000 towards the downstairs floor refinishing. Thank you!



Kitchen and storage corridor light fixtures replacement – Several existing ceiling light fixtures in the kitchen and storage corridor did not work and we replaced all 21 fixtures with new energy efficient LED fixtures. Under a NJ energy savings subsidy program, we received an \$800 rebate, and the entire project cost was \$1,850

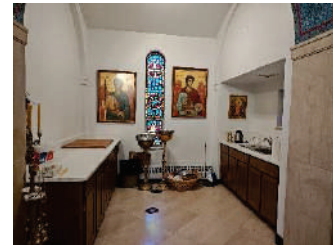


Gym floor Refinishing – Due to the excessive use of gym by our youth and the rental entity, we initiated a yearly maintenance (refinishing) of the gym floor. This extend the useful life of the floor and reduce extensive expensive replacement in the short run. The cost for this year's refinishing was \$2,530.



our
will
and

Replace and improve the Altar sink and cabinets area – The Altar sink and adjacent cabinets were deteriorated and in need of replacement, renovated and painted. Jimmy Zervoudis led this project and renovated the area with new cabinets, shelving, etc. to fit the needs of Fr. Gregory. Jimmy donated all labor and materials (estimated cost is \$5K). Thank you!



Construction of a handicap curb cut and repair of the settled sidewalk - The settled sidewalk in front of the Atrium/Gym entrance created a safety/ tripping hazard. This project addressed this issue and also created the missing handicap access curb cut adjacent to the existing handicap ramp leading to the Atrium/Gym entrance. The cost of this project was \$5,400.



Gym Roof Replacement – The 40-year-old existing roof was leaking due to cracking of the aged shingles. The roof was replaced at a cost of \$33,800.



Repairs to the heating boiler \$2,049.

Inspection & routine maintenance of the gym doors \$950

Miscellaneous interior maintenance repairs throughout the church facility.

Work in Progress or Under Consideration Includes:

Church Dome Repairs – As you may have noticed, some of the blue tiles on the dome debonded and were removed for safety reasons. The “Kemper” roof membrane below the tiles is intact and in good condition. As a temporary measure, and until we evaluate and consider a permanent rehabilitation scheme, the B&G recommended removing any other loose tiles and coating the exposed roof membrane with a compatible “Kemper” blue color coating. We are currently waiting for the material delivery in September for the restoration contractor (Skyline Restoration) to perform the work.

Heating Boiler piping replacement – Several pipes connecting to the heating boiler inside the boiler room are deteriorated and leaking. We are in the process of obtaining cost proposals for the pipe replacements.

Pipeline Priority Projects

- **Rehabilitation of the church Dome**
- **Restoration of the marble stone arch in front of the church**
- **Replacement of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen Roof**
- **Replacement of the church roof**
- **Replacement of the office area roof**
- **Replacement of the Chapel area roof**
- **Restoration of the church mosaics**
- **Renovation of the priest’s office**
- **Fellowship Hall audio/video equipment**
- **Replacement of Concrete Steps at Atrium Entrance**
- **Replacement of the entrance monument and installation of flag poles**
- **Mill and repave the west parking lot**
- **Mill and repave the south & east parking lot**
- **Replacement of old kitchen equipment**
- **Renovation of Vestry areas**

We would like to thank all who contributed towards the maintenance and preservation needs of our Church and **we wish everyone a healthy and blessed New Ecclesiastical Year!**

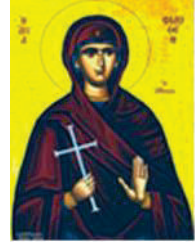
Prepared by: Stavros Kamilaris – Committee chairman

Committee Members: Chris Charas, Steven Ferranti, Bobby Koykas, Dr. Marinos Lilikas, Alex Milionis, Tasos Miltiadou, George Papas, Tom Pirsos, Dennis Preis, Costas Rakkou, George Staphos, Jack Sardis, Marios Socrates, Stephan Soussou, Jimmy Zervoudes.



St. Philothea Philo托chos Society News

FALL 2024



On behalf of the St. Philothea Philo托chos Society of our Cathedral, I pray that this message finds you all well and filled with anticipation and hope for the new ecclesiastical year! Although the Fall season has only just begun, our Chapter is already off to a productive start. I would like to share the news about some exciting upcoming events and reflect on our Chapter’s most recent accomplishments.

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday, October 16th, 7:30 p.m. – Join us for an important presentation and discussion with Dr. Fay Kastrinos, MD, specialist in cancer care, genetic counseling and gastroenterology. Don’t miss this informative evening!



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – CAKE-LESS BAKE SALE: Donations will be accepted throughout October to support this important cause.

Please join us in wearing pink throughout October to show support for breast cancer awareness, breast cancer fighters and survivors!

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

MAKING PITES: SPANAKOPITES & TYROPITES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 4 P.M.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 10 A.M.



BAKING SWEETS:
KOULOURAKIA, MELOMAKAROUNA, KOURAMBIEDES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 10 A.M.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 10 A.M.

VETERAN’S DAY TRIBUTE - WALL OF HONOR
JOIN US ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10th – ST. JOHN’S FELLOWSHIP HALL

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - SALES BEGIN SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st

CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 6:30 P.M. – ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th (11 A.M. to 3 P.M.)

HOME MADE SWEETS, SPANAKOPITA &
HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR SALE



SOME OF OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

47th Clergy-Laity and National Philoptochos Convention –

Our Chapter participated in the 47th Clergy-Laity and National Philoptochos Convention, held from June 30 to July 4 in San Diego. The Convention was a big success with over 300 registered delegates. I represented our chapter along with Stella Baker, who participated as a member of the National Philoptochos Board.



St. John the Theologian Feast Day Vespers Reception – On the evening of Wednesday, September 25, our Chapter and the parish council provided a reception in the Fellowship Hall, including dinner and refreshments for all those in attendance after the service, which was delivered by His Eminence Apostolos in celebration of the Feast Day of our Cathedral's Patron Saint - St. John the Theologian.



St. Philothea and St. Mary Magdalene Iconography -We are excited to be well into “Phase II” of completing the Patron Saint Icons in our Cathedral, a project started in 2016. I’m happy to report that the mosaic backgrounds are complete and ready to be shipped from Italy. We need about \$10,000 more to complete this worthy project. So, please join the St. Philothea Philoptochos Society as a united front. If you can help us reach our goal, please do! We need everyone’s help to complete this awesome endeavor, the results of which will live on forever for all to enjoy!

OUR PHILANTHROPIC MISSION CONTINUES....

Feeding the Hungry and Supplying Essentials to the Needy:

- **Family Promise, Hackensack, NJ - Feeding the Homeless** – Continued distribution of complete dinners to the homeless.
- **Center for Food Action, Englewood, NJ - Local Food Pantry** – Continued shopping and delivery of food and other essentials, such as diapers, to our local food pantry.
- **The Tri Boro Food Pantry, Park Ridge, NJ – Support for those in our local communities facing food insecurity.**
- **Operation Classroom - Comfort Closet** – Continued support to provide essentials and snacks for needy students at a high school in Newark, New Jersey.

Support to Charitable Organizations:

- **National Philoptochos Children’s Medical Fund Sponsorship**
- **Philoxenia House, Baltimore, MD, Expansion Project**
- **St. Michael’s Home, Uniondale, NY, Expansion Project**
- **Food Bank, Englewood, NJ**

Social Service Committee – Our Social Service Committee continually and discreetly distributes supermarket certificates and support to local families and individuals in need through our confidential vetting process. Please contact Fr. Gregory or Maria Kamilaris if you know of anyone who needs assistance.

Metropolis Philoptochos of New Jersey Commitments:

- Emergency Social Service Fund
- Schools of the Patriarchate Fund
- Metropolis Office Fund Obligation
- Social Service Fund Obligation

National Philoptochos Commitments:

- St. Basil Academy Vasilopita Fund
- Social Services Fund
- Cancer and Other Major Illnesses
- Autism Assistance Fund
- Saint Photios Shrine Fund
- Orthodox Christian Missions Fund

- Support A Mission Priest Fund
- Hellenic College Holy Cross Lenten Fund
- Membership Per Capita
- Pascha Campaign
- Sisterhood of St. Basil Academy Fund
- International Orthodox Christian Charities Fund
- 75th Anniversary Founders Fund
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund
- Hellenic College Holy Cross Scholarship Fund
- Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund
- National Philoptochos Emergency Fund
- Ecumenical Patriarchate Fund
- APC-NSP Benevolent Fund
- Thanksgiving Campaign
- United Nations International
- Children's Emergency Fund
- General Medical Fund
- Christmas Campaign

Dues and private donations have been a huge help in keeping our mission going. If you have not yet done so, please submit your annual stewardship dues and donations by one of the following two methods:

- ***Mail a check to the Cathedral address, made payable to St. Philothea Philoptochos Society - Please be sure to include a notation indicating the purpose of your payment or donation; or***
- ***Via the Philoptochos page on our Cathedral website - <https://www.stjohntenaflly.org/philoptochos/> – Please click on the “Donate to Philoptochos” button and include a note next to your first name indicating the purpose of your donation (e.g., First name: “Maria Dues”, or “Maria BCAM” for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, etc.).***

We are truly thankful for everyone who continues to support us!

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and spirit-filled ecclesiastical year!

We are all united by one mission and we will continue to serve as Beacons of Hope and Compassion in our communities and show that In Christ We Are One!

**With love in Christ,
Maria Kamlaris, President**

*** PHILANTHROPY – FELLOWSHIP – FAITH IN ACTION ***

Happy 2024 New School Year

From St. John's PTO

The PTO is back after a fun summer with our families. We had a chance to do one last dinner back in June before we departed for our summer adventures, and now we are excited to be reunited for the start of the school year.



For the beginning of the Greek School year, we kicked off the first day with having Agiasmos service in the church with Father Gregory for all the classes. Then, as a little treat for the kids, we ordered an ice cream truck for all the Greek school classes at the end of their first day. As you can imagine all the children were very excited for this surprise.



For our upcoming events we will be doing a Sports Night on Friday September 20th for the Greek and Sunday school children. We will bring in coaches from TGA to run the games and have some food and beverages for the kids. Please see the flyer below to sign up.



ST. JOHN'S PTO PRESENTS

ST. JOHN KIDS SPORTS night

Friday 09/20
6:30-9:00PM

LET THE KIDS PLAY AND MAKE FUN MEMORIES WITH THEIR GREEK SCHOOL & SUNDAY SCHOOL FRIENDS!

CATHEDRAL GYM
353 EAST CLINTON AVE.

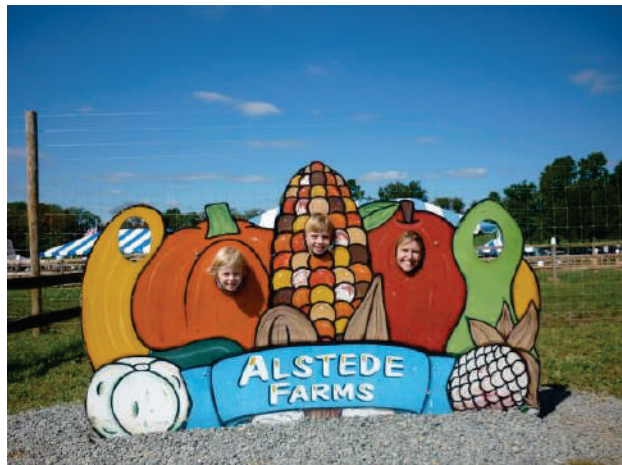
FREE ADMISSION!

Join us as TGA Coaches facilitate a sports night for our kids! Parents are welcome to bring their own food & beverages and socialize in the fellowship hall while the kids play! Activities & food/drink will be provided for the children. Please RSVP your children so we have a headcount for the kids!



<https://stjohnkidssportnight24.cheddarup.com>

We are excited to announce that we will be going to Alstede Farms for a fun day of apple and pumpkin picking. The kids will be able to explore the farm and pick out their apples and perfect pumpkin just in time for the fall season. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 12th at 3pm.



Join the PTO at Alstede Farms

Save The Date

APPLE/PUMPKIN PICKING

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12

3PM \$23 per person

TICKET INCLUDES
HAYRIDE, APPLE & PUMPKIN
PICKING, CORN MAZE,
& PETTING ZOO

More Details to Come with Registration

We look forward to having a wonderful and fun school year, with many more new events being planned. If you have not already signed up for Greek Dance you still can join, and Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 23rd.

The PTO is always looking for more members to help out with the kids events and community activities. If you are interested in helping out, even for a few events, you can reach out to us at kiriakoud@gmail.com . Also follow us on Facebook (PTO St. John's Cathedral) for updates and event information.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe school year!

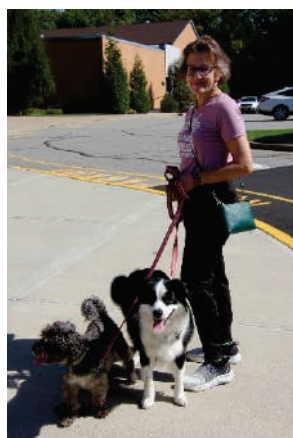
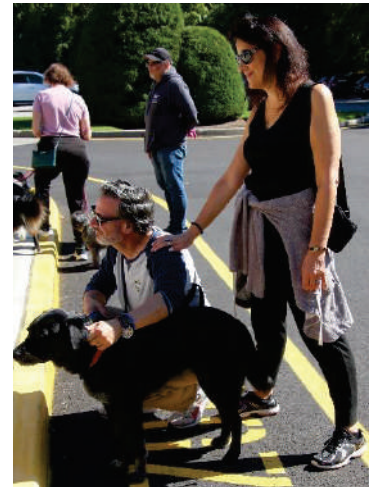
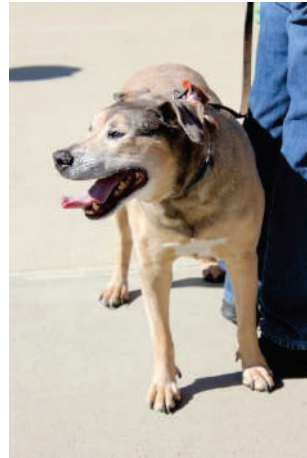
Demetra Kiriakou and Mariella Kapsaskis

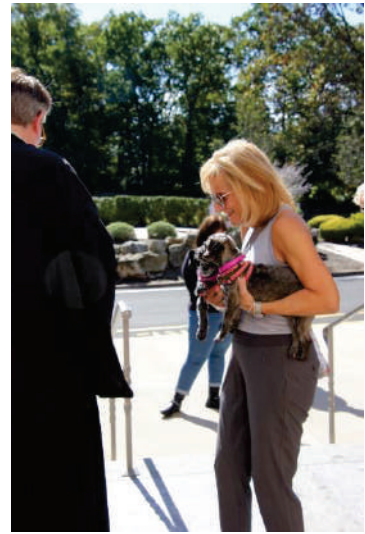
AHEPA:

Our Bergen Knights Chapter #285 has a few goals. One is to promote Hellenism in our Community. A second goal is Philanthropy to many causes. A third is Education, of today's and past Hellenic issues. These are but a few. We welcome you to join our chapter to further these causes.

Our Philanthropy was evident in our recent event, our Dog/Animal Blessing event held outside of the front of the Church. Our goal was to raise funds for sponsoring another Service Dog for Veterans with PTSD.

This cause is so important due to the amount of Veterans who suffer from PTSD and the many suicides that result from that. It has been proven that veterans with properly trained Service Dogs receive so much benefit that suicides do not happen with them. Our reward that day was spending time with fellow animal lovers and having them blessed in a wonderful prayer service from Father Gregory. Thank you all that attended or donated.





GOYA:

GOYA held its first meeting back on September 8th, welcoming many newcomers and returning Goyans. Father Gregory started us off with an opening prayer, and we discussed upcoming events like the Harvest Dance on September 27th and Oratorical Festival submissions due on December 30th. We talked about the importance of attending church at the right time (before the gospel) and showing up to the GOYA meetings.

The board members introduced themselves:

- Christo Timotheou as President;
- Vice Presidents Marianna Rakkou and Lauren Phemsint;
- Directors of Philanthropy, Eleni Papageorgiou and Nefeli Miltiadou;
- Athletic Director Peter Stathis;
- Recording Secretaries Melina McKelvey and Eftihia Giannikos;
- Corresponding Secretary Panagiota Anamisis;
- Historians Dimitria Giakoumatou, Eleni Nikas,
and Dimitria Frangiskou.



Participating GOYANs introduced themselves as well, detailing their names, ages and where they attend school.

In other news, we had our annual Holy Cross Celebration on Sunday, September 15th, at St. George Church in Ocean, New Jersey. Our senior divers were Peter Stathis and Marianna Rakkou and Theo Gilbert and Angie Zervoudis as our junior divers. We are looking forward to a year full of philanthropic activities and fun!





SCOUTS:

Troop 25 spent the summer at two different camps in upstate New York. In the beginning of July the troop attended Camp Turrell where we had a beautiful lake, large wooded areas and a campsite at the top of the hill affectionately called "Blueberry Hill".

The food was delicious in the dining hall and the troop started the day with the "Polar Bear Swim", a dip in the lake at 6:45am.

They spent the rest of the day in various classes earning Merit Badges and learning valuable lessons, such as Cooking, First Aid, Electronics, Canoeing, Swimming, Lifesaving and many more. We had a few scouts earn the Mile Swim award.

Then, in the end of July, a few of our scouts attended the high adventure camp in the Adirondacks, Camp Floodwood. They spent the week canoeing through one lake to another, setting up camp in the middle of nowhere and making all their meals. They had a wonderful time.

Our next event is Oct 12th weekend for the EOCS Scouting Religious Retreat up at St. Basils. We will join other Orthodox units from the Metropolitan area and be led by the Seminarians from Holy Cross and a group of priests.

This fall our 8th graders have started working on the highest of the Scouting Orthodox Religious awards, the Alpha Omega. They are taught by one of Troop 25's original eagle scouts, John Lignos.

So, these are just some of the events that you could be part of if you join the scouts. CUB SCOUTS go from grade K-5, and Boy Scouts is 6-12. Believe it or not, females are now part of Scouting, as they have been around the world for a while. If interested please contact Peter Hilaris at 551-486-7489 or Hilarispb@aol.com





In June we handed out the Tony Triant Memorial Scholarship to Stratos Chandras, Theodosios Staphos & Athena Ferrentino. Members of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts of St. John the Theologian who have earned the Alpha Omega Religious award and Either Eagle or Gold Awards are eligible

SACRAMENTS:

BAPTISMS:

6/29/24 Augustus Fillipo, son of Constantine & Nora (Galioto) Callas, with Andreas Callas as Sponsor.

6/30/24 Fotis Nectaros, son of Matthew & Georgia (Tsismenakis) Bechtold, with Kostas & Irene Papadakis as Sponsors.

8/24/24 Nathan Joseph, son of Daniel & Debra (Mahony) Casiraro, with Joanne Kontos as Sponsor.

9/1/24 Luca John, son of Michael & Diana (Kulanusorstit) Katsigeorgis, with John and Eugenia Katsigeorgis as Sponsors.

9/7/24 Maria Margaret, daughter of Theodoros & Jennifer (Schiess) Perides, with Savvas Stavrou as Sponsor.

9/7/24 Konstantina Carroll, daughter of Theodoros & Jennifer (Schiess) Perides, with Savvas Stavrou as Sponsor.

9/15/24 Nikolas, son of Rafaell & Anastasia (Georgas) Rodrigues, with Alexis Pagonis as Sponsor.

9/21/24 Melina Georgia, daughter of Angelo & Eleni (Stavrou) Terra, with Stephen & Anastasia Gnardellis as Sponsors.

9/29/24 Santino Thomas, son of Alexander and Alexandra (Demetrakis) Napolitano, with Nicole Demetrakis as Sponsor.

NA ZHSOYN! CONGRATULATIONS!

WEDDINGS:

6/13/24 Mark Philip Apidopoulos and Anna (Anastasia) Nicole Sellis with Mastorakis Theodoros and Yvonne as Sponsors.

NA ZHSOYN! CONGRATULATIONS!

FUNERALS:

6/18/24 Betty Savvas

8/2/24 Sotiria Mikelis

8/21/24 Apostolos "Paul" Rodas

9/20/24 Emmanuel Maniotis

AIΩNIA H MNHMH AYTΩN! MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Peter B. Hilaris, D.P.M.

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The Greek Orthodox
Metropolitan Cathedral
of

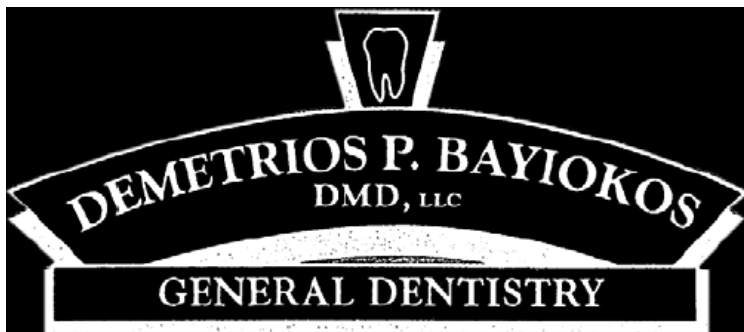
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- Ankle sprains
- Lumbar & Cervical Radiculopathy
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Shoulder pain
- Patellofemoral Syndrome



bar lounge



dining room



wine cellar



gallery loft

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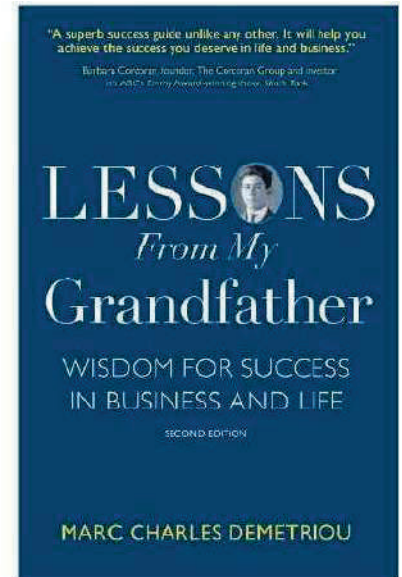
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