



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS of NEW JERSEY

SAINT ANNA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΑΝΝΗΣ

Protopresbyter Anastasios Kousoulas, Proistamenos

November 1, 2023

Dear St. Anna Family,

We hope this note finds you well as we begin the new ecclesiastical year together. Our shared vision for St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church is to be “An Orthodox Christian family where we strive to support each other on our journey of salvation through Jesus Christ.” You are a valued member of the St. Anna Family, and we look forward to engaging with you through worship, Parish ministries, volunteer and philanthropic efforts, and many cultural and social activities. As one family under Christ, we seek to support each other and collectively support our beloved Community's current and future needs for years to come.

Today, we are writing to you about parish engagement and the Annual Stewardship Appeal for 2024. Parish engagement in the form of time, talent, and treasure supports the mission and programs of our church. As we embark on our church's future and continued progress, we recognize the incredible volunteer efforts of so many individuals over the past 20 + years that have led to remarkable accomplishments for our humble Community. To continue to build and maintain our momentum, and to achieve our vision for St. Anna, we depend heavily on parish engagement and stewardship.

With your heartfelt pledges, we can maintain our Church facilities, do God's work, and grow in Christ together. To fulfill both short and long-term needs, financial as well as time and talent, we've researched strategies to increase engagement and enhance communication within our Parish and the broader community. The Stewardship Committee, in concert with the Parish Council and Father Anastasios, has identified the following priorities aligned with our parish vision:

- Embrace digital technologies to better engage and communicate with parishioners.
- Facilitate connections and introductions among all members of the Parish.
- Increase our understanding of how we can better meet our vibrant community's unique and evolving needs.

These are just a few exciting elements of our vision roadmap for St. Anna's future. We welcome your feedback and ideas! You will have the opportunity to hear updates and contribute to the conversation about our Community's plans, progress, and priorities at the General Assembly Meeting and Stewardship Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, November 19, 2023 immediately after Church Services. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a lovely luncheon at 12:30 p.m. immediately afterward. The link to register for the luncheon is <https://app.wooclap.com/stanna>. We hope you can attend this gathering and share your thoughts. If you cannot attend, please let us know if you would like to be contacted by a member of the Parish Council or the Stewardship Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss your thoughts in person or by phone.

Please consider submitting the attached 2024 Stewardship pledge card by November 18, 2023. While we have included potential pledge amounts, every pledge helps us reach our goals. The card also includes a list of potential volunteer opportunities to help you more fully engage with your St. Anna parish family.

We thank you in advance and look forward to seeing (or hearing from) you soon!

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee