

THE LIGHT

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." – John 8

In This Issue

The Dormition of the Virgin Mary
Fast begins August 1st

The Dormition is August 15th

Register for Sunday School!
Classes start August 30th

Backpack Blessing
August 16th

**Holy Apostles
Greek Orthodox Church**

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**"Christ is in our midst!
He is and always shall be!"**

This summer, our youth had a wonderful week at Camp Good Shepherd Virginia 2026, where the theme was "Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!" Inspired by this beautiful Orthodox greeting, campers grew in their faith through worship, fellowship, learning, recreation, and lifelong friendships centered on Christ.

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Message from Fr. Thomas continued...

This year, Camp Good Shepherd welcomed 100 campers from more than a dozen Orthodox parishes throughout Virginia, supported by 24 dedicated staff members and 4 clergy. We are especially grateful that Holy Apostles was so well represented, with 27 campers and 4 staff members participating in this life-changing ministry.

We thank God for a blessed week of faith, fun, and fellowship, and we pray that the seeds planted at camp will continue to grow in the hearts of our youth throughout the coming year.

"Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!"

Fr. Thomas



Message from the Parish Council President

Dear Holy Apostles Family,

I hope you are all having a wonderful, restful, and safe summer! As we navigate these warmer months and approach the beautiful feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos in August, I am grateful for the continued fellowship and dedication of our parish family here in Chantilly. Even with the typical summer travel and vacations, our community remains vibrant and active.

Summertime is always a special season for our youth ministries, and this year has been no exception! I want to highlight the tremendous success of our Vacation Church Camp (VCC), which took place the week of June 22nd. A massive thank you to our incredible VCC coordinator, Marina Zagaris, and all the dedicated volunteers who spent their week sharing our Orthodox faith and creating a fun, engaging environment for our children.

Our youth have also been incredibly blessed by our wider Metropolis ministries. Earlier this month, Father Thomas and a wonderful group of our church youth traveled to Camp Good Shepherd Virginia. We are so incredibly proud that Father Thomas leads this vital camp, and it was a joy to see so many of our own youth attend to grow in their faith alongside their peers.

I also want to recognize a major milestone for our parish family. In late June, surrounding the Feast of the Holy Apostles, Father Thomas blessed four of our parishioners—Luke Kendrat, Angelo Dacey, Peter Pollatos, and Chris Hall—as they prepare to head off to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology this fall. Please continue to keep these outstanding young men in your prayers and consider supporting their journey to the seminary.

Throughout July and August, many of our regular classes are on a summer break, but our ministries are still going strong. The St. Andrew's Brotherhood Men's Group recently gathered for a social and discussion on July 13th, and our Young Adult League (YAL) has a fantastic event coming up on July 23rd. Additionally, as we look toward the fall, I want to deeply thank Dena Kozanas, who retired as our Sunday School Director in June, for her incredible three years of service, during which she oversaw rapidly growing enrollment, put vital processes in place, and successfully established our program in our new church location. We are thrilled to introduce Natalia Stepanov as our new Sunday School Director! Natalia is actively looking for volunteers to join our teaching team this fall, so please reach out to her if you can help nurture the faith of our wonderful students.

Finally, a quick reminder regarding our Sunday fellowship: we are currently holding our "coffee only" summer Coffee Hour. As part of our upcoming relaunch of the full Coffee Hour this fall, we are actively looking for new volunteers to help organize our weekly fellowship. Please let us know if you are interested in stepping into this wonderful ministry!

May the rest of your summer be blessed, safe, and rejuvenating. I look forward to seeing you all at Liturgy!

In Christ,

Greg Joiner
Parish Council President
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

Stewardship

We hope you are all enjoying a fun and active summer, surviving the heat and spending time with the people you love. We have seen so many exciting developments at Holy Apostles with over a year now in our beautiful new church and, of course, the many new families we have welcomed this year.

We currently have 124 pledged stewards, a huge accomplishment for our parish. A strong, enduring stewardship program is critical to our success.

If you haven't yet, please fill out a pledge card and you can even set up recurring payments online at using the support link on the Holy Apostles website or just just send me an email at Ron.baldinger@gmail.com telling me your 2026 pledge and I will take care of the rest!

Finally, as always, we thank you for your incredible generosity. Your pledge is as important as ever with a full slate of ministries this Fall with Bible Studies, GOYA, Sunday School, and many more! We look forward to a wonderful Fall season!

Stay tuned... we will be announcing our Annual Stewardship Picnic date soon!

In your service,
Ron and Mina Baldinger
HAGOC Stewardship Chairs



2026 PLEDGE CARD

HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

2026 Pledge: _____ per month / quarter / semi / year (circle one)

Once this card is submitted, you will receive an email with information on available payment options. Thank you for your support!!

If you would prefer to pledge or donate online, please visit:
<https://www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/donate>

Instead of filling out a pledge card, you can also just email your pledge and information to Ron Baldinger at Ron.Baldinger@gmail.com

A FEW PLEDGE FAQs

- **Does a stewardship pledge make me a Steward in Good Standing?**
 - YES, an annual pledge makes you a Steward in Good Standing
- **What benefits come with being a Steward in Good Standing?**
 - Eligible to vote at General Assemblies – have a voice in decisions
 - Participation in church sacraments
- **Is there a minimum pledge amount?**
 - There is no minimum, however a good guideline is the “3 Penny Rule”... give 3 cents for each dollar of your take home income
- **Can I change my pledge during the year?**
 - Life brings new challenges and opportunities every day. If you want to decrease/increase your pledge, just let us know, no issue
- **What does my stewardship contribution fund?**
 - Stewardship allows us to have a parish priest and church, and many ministries available to you and all Orthodox Christians

Please print out this form
and leave it by the church
office, or email it to
Ron.Baldinger@gmail.com.

You can also pledge by
emailing Ron directly, or go
to our website at:
www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org/stewardship



**BACKPACK
BLESSING**
Sunday, August 16
after Liturgy

Students will receive
a special blessing for
the start of the
school year.



First day is August 30th



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

**Register as soon as possible in our parish email, on
our website, or at <https://tinyurl.com/mwurb7r3>.**

New year updates:

- Pre-K Program for children ages 3–4 (children must be potty trained and able to participate independently).
- Junior Assistant Program for students entering 11th and 12th grade, offering leadership opportunities and community service hours while assisting in Sunday School classrooms.

GOYA Highlights (ages 13-18)

GOYA had their annual pool party on June 13th. Thank you to the Ayoubes for hosting such a wonderful event. It was a great opportunity for fellowship and to wish our two graduating seniors, John and Marianna, all the best as they begin their next chapter. We gave a heartfelt thank you to Lia Economou for her dedication and hard work. Her impact on GOYA has been tremendous and we are so grateful for all she has done.



AHEPA

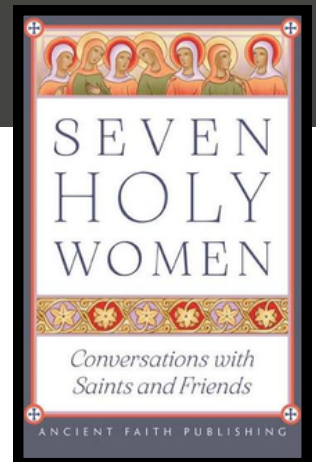
AHEPA Chapter 542 gave scholarship awards to graduating seniors in the AHEPA family: John Economou, Marianna Drapas, and Theodore Darras. AHEPA also extended the awards this year to support our four young men going to Holy Cross School of Theology this Fall: Chris Hall, Peter Pollatos, Angelo Dacey and Luke Kendrat. Rami Elsarraf accepted the awards on behalf of Angelo and Luke who were not present.



PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos wrapped up its final meeting on June 14th before the summer break with a wonderful time of fellowship. The group finished its discussion of *Seven Holy Women*, sharing reflections and conversation inspired by the book. After the meeting, everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch and the chance to spend time together. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall!

In Christ,
Alexis Wenzel



2026 Vacation Church Camp (VCC)

This past June, 30 of our parish youth participated in our annual week long Vacation Church Camp (VCC) and the first VCC at our new church property. It was amazing to have ample classroom space for lessons and crafts, a decorated themed multipurpose room for snack time and substantial outdoor space for recess time.

Our theme this year was “Stewards of the Garden”. Our children enjoyed daily lessons throughout the week, learning about various saints who show us how to be good stewards through their care of God’s creation. They also planted basil seeds which they were encouraged to care for throughout the summer and bring back for the feast day of the Holy Cross in September. Hopefully everyone’s seeds have started to sprout by now!

Camp also included music lessons, learning various hymns of the church, daily crafts, snack time, recess and even a special treat on our final day which was a visiting petting zoo! We got to practice being good stewards to God’s creation as we learned about and pet some furry friends such as rabbits, ducks, guinea pigs, a tortoise named speedy and an adorable pot belly pig.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all of the volunteers that gave of their time and energy to be with our youth all week at camp. Camp is not possible without all of your hard work and dedication. Thank you so much for all that you do!

I wish everyone a wonderful rest of your summer and look forward to the youth ministries resuming again in the fall.

With love in Christ,
Marina Zagaris



Financial Summaries and Building Fund Report

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church Budget vs. Actuals: FY26 Budget - FY26 Profit & Loss January - June 2026

	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income			
41000 Church Donations	223,911	406,000	55.15%
42000 Fundraising Event Revenues	111,389	133,000	83.75%
43000 Program Service Revenues	2,650	9,500	27.89%
45200 Interest Checking	790	1,500	
46000 Facility Rental Revenue	54,250	108,000	
Total Income	\$392,989	\$658,000	59.72%
Expenses			
52000 Fundraising Event Expenses	52,689	74,025	71.18%
60000 Payroll	85,649	186,550	45.91%
61000 Professional Services	12,922	31,000	41.69%
64000 Church/Office Operating Expenses	29,429	49,100	59.94%
65000 Information Technology	1,195	5,650	21.15%
66000 Occupancy Expenses	30,112	73,400	41.02%
67000 Ministry Expenses	1,754	11,700	14.99%
68000 Conferences and Meetings	2,715	5,000	54.29%
90000 Parish Obligations & Charitable Giving	10,888	23,000	47.34%
Total Operating Expenses	\$227,353	\$459,425	49.49%
Mortgage Expense	\$172,797	\$392,955	
NET INCOME	(\$7,161)	(\$194,380)	

Building Fund Activity

Jan - June 26

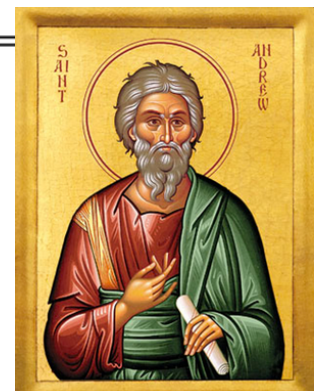
Income

41000 Church Donations	108,840
45100 Interest Building Fund	10,698
Total Income	\$119,538
Repairs/Move Costs	23,921
	\$23,921
NET INCOME	\$95,617

Bank Accounts

On
6/30/2026

Operating Accounts	620,885
Escrow for Property	32,897
Building Fund	745,535
TOTAL	\$1,399,318
MORTGAGE BALANCE	\$4,697,116



Men's Group: St. Andrew's Brotherhood

St. Andrew's Brotherhood has enjoyed another season of fellowship and spiritual growth as the men of the parish gather each month for discussion, prayer, and encouragement. A recent highlight was a successful outdoor barbecue using the parish grill from the Greek Festival, providing a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood.

In Christ, Artem Koker



Feeding the Hungry Ministry

The Feeding the Hungry ministry remains active in serving members of the community through its monthly outreach. Volunteers prepare and serve meals on 4th Monday at the shelter, offering not only food but also compassion and fellowship to those in need. The dedication of our volunteers continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.

In Christ, Artem Koker

Holy Apostles YAL (Young Adults League)

The Holy Apostles Young Adults League has reached several exciting milestones in recent months. The ministry has established its first leadership team, providing a strong foundation as the group continues to grow and serve the young adults of the parish. The group also remains grateful to have St. Nectarios as its patron saint.

As we look ahead, we also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Luke Kendrat for his faithful service and inspiring talks to our young adults. While he will be greatly missed, we are excited for him as he begins the next chapter of his journey by entering seminary this August. Please keep Luke in your prayers as he prepares for this new calling.

In Christ, Artem Koker





Congratulations to our Holy Apostles high school seniors, John Economou and Marianna Drapas, who received the Washington Metropolitan Area AHEPA - Daughters of Penelope Scholarship at the awards banquet on May 17, 2026.

John and Marianna were among 31 students selected in the DC Metro area for their academic, athletic, civic, and cultural activities and accomplishments.



We are seeking Sunday School teachers for the upcoming year. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact us at sundayschool@hagoc.org. Thank you for your continued support.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

**The schedule is subject to change Please check our website for any updates.*

AUGUST

Dormition Fast begins August 1-15

1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12^h, 13th -
Paraklesis (Supplication) to the Theotokos
Evenings at 6:00PM

5th - Vespers for Transfiguration, 6:00PM

6th - Transfiguration, 8:30AM Orthros,
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

14th - Vespers for the Dormition (at
Dormition of the Theotokos in
Winchester), 6:00PM

15th- Dormition of the Virgin Mary
8:30AM Orthros, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy

29th - Beheading of St. John the Baptist
8:30AM Orthros, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy





STEWARDSHIP

The Three Pennies Challenge



If you were walking down the street and saw 3 pennies on the ground, would you stop to pick them up?

Probably Not!...how much of a difference can 3 pennies make?

Take the 3 Pennies Challenge and find out!

We are asking our families to consider offering at least 3 Pennies out of every 1 dollar of their monthly income to support our Church. You keep 97 cents!...and you give just 3 Pennies to support your Church!

Click on the videos and information provided below to learn more, and take the 3 Pennies Challenge.



Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops.
Proverbs 3:9



How Do We Give?

Giving our First Fruits to God...not giving left-overs from our disposable income!

Trying to give God 10% back as it says in the Bible (see below)

Begin by trying to give at least 3%

That's just 3 Pennies out of every \$1...and that's the 3 Pennies Challenge!

TABLE OF MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME & PERCENTAGE OF STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$1,000	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$2,000	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30
\$4,000	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$200	\$160	\$120	\$80	\$40
\$5,000	\$500	\$450	\$400	\$350	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$50
\$6,000	\$600	\$540	\$480	\$420	\$360	\$300	\$240	\$180	\$120	\$60
\$6,500	\$650	\$585	\$520	\$455	\$390	\$325	\$260	\$195	\$130	\$65
\$7,000	\$700	\$630	\$560	\$490	\$420	\$350	\$280	\$210	\$140	\$70
\$7,500	\$750	\$675	\$600	\$525	\$450	\$375	\$300	\$225	\$150	\$75
\$8,000	\$800	\$720	\$640	\$560	\$480	\$400	\$320	\$240	\$160	\$80
\$8,500	\$850	\$765	\$700	\$595	\$510	\$425	\$340	\$255	\$170	\$85
\$9,000	\$900	\$810	\$720	\$630	\$540	\$450	\$360	\$270	\$180	\$90
\$9,500	\$950	\$855	\$760	\$665	\$570	\$475	\$380	\$285	\$190	\$95
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$900	\$800	\$700	\$600	\$500	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
\$11,000	\$1,100	\$990	\$883	\$770	\$660	\$550	\$440	\$330	\$220	\$110
\$12,000	\$1,200	\$1,080	\$964	\$840	\$720	\$600	\$480	\$360	\$240	\$120
\$13,000	\$1,300	\$1,170	\$1,044	\$910	\$780	\$650	\$520	\$390	\$260	\$130
\$14,000	\$1,400	\$1,260	\$1,125	\$980	\$840	\$700	\$560	\$420	\$280	\$140
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$1,350	\$1,205	\$1,050	\$900	\$750	\$600	\$450	\$300	\$150

How do I take the challenge?...

- Keep an open mind and think about your role as Christ's steward.
- Don't decide on a random dollar amount and pay a "membership fee" or make an annual "donation" to the Church.
- Take the 3 Pennies Challenge and offer at least 3% of your household income to support your Church.
- If you have already made your pledge...Thank You! But it's still not too late to take the 3 Pennies Challenge!
- Please make your 2021 Stewardship pledge TODAY!

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE & PAYMENT

2026 Pledged Stewards

Marina and George Afentakis
 Nicholas Alexander
 Christos and Tracey Alexandrou
 Gregory Allis
 William and Nancy Aubin
 Luke and Valerie Avramides
 Tom and Patti Ayers
 Jack and Sandy Ayoub
 John and Kristina Ayoub
 Vasilios Bakopanos
 Ronald and Mina Baldinger
 Daniel and Barbara Balkey
 Kaio Rafael De Souza Barbosa
 Ankhbayar Bathkurel
 Carolyn and Eric Blaylock
 John and Penelope Broening
 Matthew and Noelle Bryce
 Chad and Julie Burke
 William and Smaro Caras
 Ariane Casper and Matthew Cleveland
 Edward and Alexis Cleveland
 John Connolly
 Dean and Maria Coulopoulos
 Anton Dolgopopov and Irina Mikula
 Ezra Dotson
 John and Maria Drapas
 Nick Ducich
 Jackson Iakovos Dulgarian
 Dean and Lia Economou
 Paris Economou
 Alvaro Encinas
 Liza Faour
 Michael Farabaugh
 Vasilios and Joan Fotopoulos
 John and Caroline Gabriel
 Angela Galanos
 Matthew Geist
 Joanna and Sharbel Gerdak
 Juan and Ioanna Gisone
 Jim and Cynthia Glakas
 Michael and Constantina Glover
 Cameron Gressly
 Carson Gressly
 William and Mary Louise Grias
 Jeffrey Gruntz
 Alexander and Christina Hajost
 Meghann and Austin Hall
 Nadim and Vera Hawa
 Dan Hong
 Matthew and Melissa Mimidis Horwatt
 Alissa and Philip Iatridis
 Christopher Jesuele
 Neil and Alexandra Jesuele
 Greg and Ashley Joiner
 Ben and Rebecca Kampa
 Alex and Trisha Kantsios
 Jaime and Jill Karalis
 Spiros Karousos
 Dimitri and Jolanda Kesari
 Artemy Koker
 Clifford and Marina Koker
 Eleftheria and George Koklanaris
 Ray Bonaquist and Maria Koklanaris
 Ioanna and Gerald Konieczki
 Michael and Effie Koutsourais
 Dena Kozanas and Tim Murtaugh
 Hal and Alexandra Lampros
 Sam LaVey
 Nikoleta Lelis
 Nabil and Mary Louh
 Nakhleh Jack & Eleni Louh
 Nick and Nyla Louh
 Patricia Lyrstis
 Pearl and Robert Maalouf
 Andrew and Colleen Makridis
 Eleni Malliaros
 Fr. Thomas & Presv. Elizabeth Manuel
 Maria Marshall
 Gregory and Georgia McKinney
 Andrei and Maria Mitran
 George and Debra Mokhiber
 Dane Musil
 Elaine Nejadian
 William Ogle
 Jonathan Osborne
 Panayiotis and Cynthia Panagopoulos
 Bill and Beth Papanastasiou
 Claudette and Dennis Papathanasopoulos
 George and Coleen Pappas

Tara and Michael Pastis
 Anatoli Peredera
 Jonathan and Janet Perezcos
 Maria Plevrakis
 Jerry and Helen Pollatos
 Peter Pollatos
 Fred and Jane Porter
 Nicholas and Anastasia Ramfos
 Joel and Ann Petriashvili Reye
 Joshua Serian
 Timothy Shadid
 Brieann Sobieski
 Constantine Sofologis
 William Springer
 Nick and Elizabeth Spyros
 Constantine Stanovich
 David and Anna Strafford
 Dwaine and Irene Thomas
 Peter Thomas
 Petriani and Basil Trikas
 Austin and Samantha Trought
 Ramon and Christina Vazquez
 Vasileios and Jenny Vlachopoulos
 Scott and Alexis Wenzel
 Doug and Stefania Whittington
 Nathalie Winters
 Andreas Xenos
 Costas and Marina Zagaris
 George and Timea Zangos
 Maria Zangos
 Nicholas and Carol Zangos
 George and Lindsay Zenelis
 John and Penny Zenelis
 Zander Zwart

THANK YOU
 TO OUR 2026
 STEWARDS!



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“WHOEVER IS
 GENEROUS TO
 THE POOR
 LENDS TO THE
 LORD, AND HE
 WILL REPAY HIM
 FOR HIS DEED.”
 PROVERBS 19:17

The Light is published bi-monthly by
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