

While at sea, a terrible storm blows in, threatening to overturn the boat. Jonah knows that this is a direct result of God being angry with him for his disobedience. He asks the sailors to throw him in the water, and he is swallowed by a great fish. Immediately, the storm subsides.

Jonah spends 3 days and 3 nights inside the whale. He prays fervently to God, expressing his sorrow for not following the Lord's command. He vows that if he were delivered from the belly of the whale, he would now obey. God is merciful to Jonah. He causes the whale to spit him out and He commands Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn them of their impending doom. This time, Jonah obeys, declaring to the people that within 40 days they would all be destroyed by God because of their sinfulness.

When the King hears Jonah's words, he immediately takes off his royal robes and puts on a sackcloth garment. He orders his subjects to do the same, calling upon them to pray and fast.

Amazingly, Jonah is now upset because God doesn't destroy the people of Nineveh! In his mind, they don't deserve God's mercy. Jonah goes to the outskirts of town, builds a small shelter and waits for God to change His mind. The climate in Nineveh is brutally hot, so God causes a plant with large leaves to grow on the top of this shelter to shield Jonah from the sun. The next day, He causes the plant to wither and die, and the scorching sun is once again beating down on Jonah. God then says to him: "You are angry because I caused a single plant to die. And yet, you didn't want me to feel sorry for an entire city of 120,000 who needed to be taught the difference between right and wrong?"

The behavior of Jonah is typical of ours. He expects God to be merciful to him, but he becomes judgmental of God's response to others in need of forgiveness. The lesson is clear: if we expect forgiveness, we must be willing to show it.

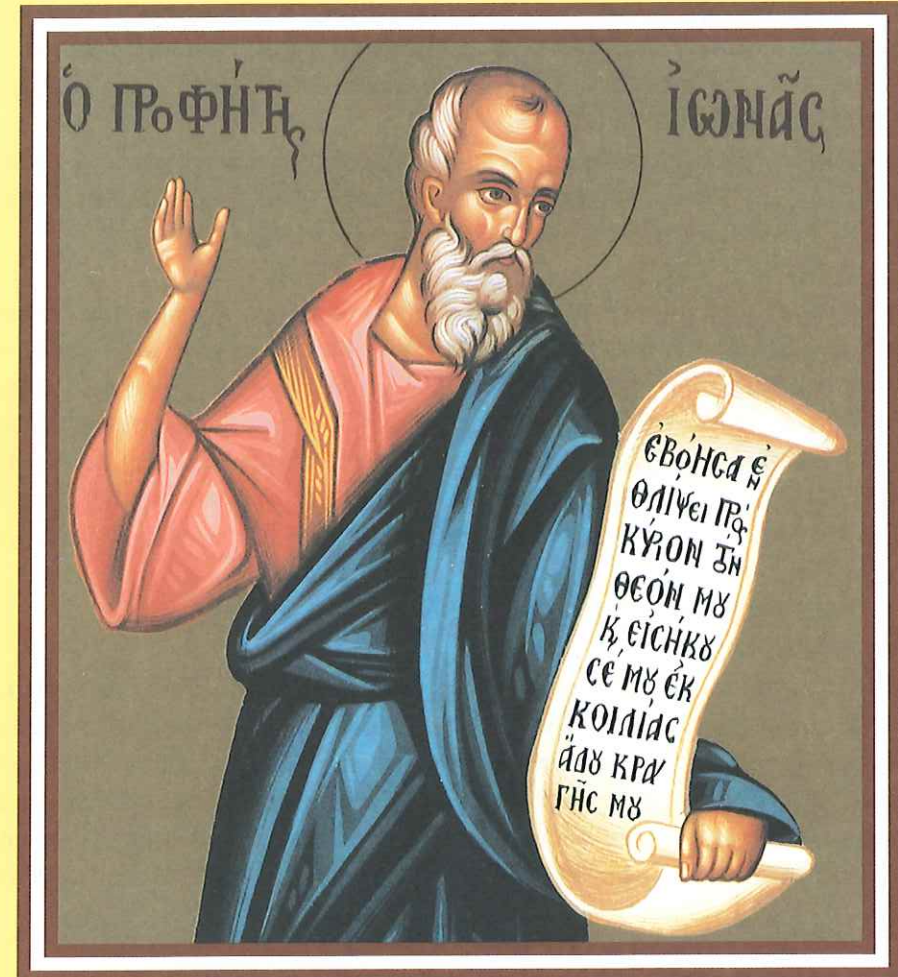
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THE RELUCTANT PROPHET



PROPHET JONAH lived some 800 years before the birth of Christ. The Book of Jonah begins with God instructing him to go to the city of Nineveh in Assyria to warn the people that if they did not change their sinful ways, they would be destroyed. But Jonah does not obey God - he gets onto a ship and heads in the opposite direction!



ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
September 17, 2023
SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

WELCOME ALL VISITORS:

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church office –Monday-Wednesday-Friday (609) 522-0152 or contact Parish Council President Nick Konides (609) 425-0179.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

55th FALL "GLENDI" DINNER DANCE:

CHANGE OF DATE

Mark your calendars! Saturday, November 4, 2023, 7:00 pm until 12:00 am. On the occasion of Saint Demetrios Name Day. The evening will include: 6:00 pm Hors D'oeuvres and Cocktails, followed by a Mezedakia-Dinner. Cash bar, dancing and singing. Live Music Provided. Tickets are being printed and will be available next week. Please call Parish Council President Nick Konides 609-522-0152 ext 103 or the Church Office at ext 102.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:

Fr. Michael is looking for a few Sunday school teachers that would offer their time and talents to the children of the parish. If anyone is interested please contact Fr. Michael 609-522-0152 ext 101 or cell 667-328-1083.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING:

The first meeting for the Youth Group of the parish will be on Saturday September 23rd at 11:00. The children will learn about the Feast Day of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The children will enjoy fellowship which always brings the children together for a fun-filled Saturday. *Parents make sure that you put this event on your calendars.*

NEW ST. DEMETRIOS WEBSITE:

Exciting news! We have a new website! Please add www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com as a favorite on your devices. Be advised that the new website is now LIVE. Please review and enjoy. Donations are able to be processed on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).



ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY

September 17, 2023

SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

Sunday September 24, 1st Sunday of Luke

Orthos-8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

WINTER SCHEDULE

(For Sunday Hours -9:00 am Orthos and 10:00 am Divine Liturgy)

(For Weekday Services -9:00 am Orthos and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy)

(For Vesper Services-6:00 pm)

**Sunday October 1st, 2nd Sunday of Luke-Orthos 9:00 am-Divine Liturgy
10:00 am**

**Sunday, October 8th, 3rd Sunday of Luke-Orthos 9:00 am-Divine Liturgy
10:00 am**

**Sunday, October 15th, Sunday of the Holy Fathers (7th Ecumenical Council)
Orthos 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy 10:00 am**

**Sunday October 22nd, 6th Sunday of Luke-Orthos 9:00 am-Divine Liturgy
10:00 am**

**Wednesday, October 25th, St. Demetrios Name Day-Great Vespers 6:00 pm
(small reception after church)**

**Thursday, October 26th, St Demetrios Feast Day Celebration-Orthos 8:45
am-Divine Liturgy 9:30 am (reception after church)**

**Saturday, October 28th, Holy Protection of the Theotokos/OXI Day –Orthos
9:00 am-Divine Liturgy 9:30 am-Doxology will take place at the end of the
Divine Liturgy.**

**Sunday, October 29th, 7th Sunday of Luke-Orthos 9:00 am -Divine Liturgy
10:00 am**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Month of September:

Parish Life Meeting-Saturday, September 16, 4:00 pm

Youth Group- Saturday, September 23, 11:00 am

Month of October:

Philoptochos Meeting-Monday, October 2nd, 7:00 pm

Parish Council Meeting-Saturday, October 7th, 4:00 pm

General Assembly Meeting-Sunday, October 17, 12:00 pm

Great Vesper Service-Wednesday, October 25th, 6:00 pm

**Celebration of the Feast Day of St. Demetrios- Thursday, October 26th, 8:45
am- Orthos 9:30 am Divine Liturgy**

Month of November:

**55th Fall Glendi Dinner Dance-Saturday, November 4, 7:00 pm until 12:00
am.**

Parish Council Mtg- Saturday November 4th, 4:00 pm

Philoptochos-50/50 Drawing, November 6th

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ήχος πλ. β'.

Αγγέλikai Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημῖά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἵστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου σῶμα. Εσκέλευσας τὸν Ἀδὴν, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπὴνττας τῇ Παρθενῳ, ὠρουμενος τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ ἀνάστας ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κυριε δοξά σοι.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Σταυροῦ. Ἦχος α'.

Σῶσον, Κυριε, τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νικᾷς τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωροῦμενος, καὶ το σὸν φυλαττῶν διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολιτεῦμα.

Απολυτίκιον Αγίου Δημητρίου

Μέγαν εὐρατο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις, σέ
υπέρμαχον ἡ οἰκουμένη, ἀθλοφόρε τὰ ἔθνη
τροποῦμενον. Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου καθείλας τὴν
ἐπαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύνας τὸν
Νέστορα, οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς
Δημήτριε· Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν ἰκέτευε,
δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος δ'.

Ο ὕψωθεις ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ ἐκουσίως, τῇ ἐπαυνίῳ σου καινῇ πολιτείᾳ τοὺς οἰκτιρμούς σου δώρησαι, Χριστέ, ὁ Θεός· εὐφρανον ἐν τῇ δυνάμει σου τοὺς πιστοὺς βασιλεῖς ἡμῶν, νικᾶς, χορηγῶν αὐτοὺς κατὰ τῶν πολεμίων· τὴν συρμακίαν ἔχοιεν τὴν σπῆν, ὅπλον εἰρήνην, αἰτήτην τροπαίων.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 2.

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

Apolytikion For the Cross. Mode 1.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

Apolytikien/Dismissal Hymn

The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to naught the boasts of Lyones, imparting courage to Nestor in the stadium, in like manner, Holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion. Mode 4.

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, * O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions * upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. * Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, * granting them the victories against their adversaries. * And for an ally, Lord, may they have You, * peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.

Ο ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Γαλάτας 2:16-20

-Σὺ, Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τῆς γενεᾶς ταυτῆς καὶ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

Στίχ. Σώσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκέλειπεν ὁστος, ὅτι
ὠλιγωθήσαν αἱ ἀληθείαι ἀπὸ τῶν υἱῶν τῶν
ἀνθρώπων.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Αδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιούνται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, εἰ μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς· εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπίστευσάμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου· διότι εἰ ἔργων νόμου οὐ δικαιωθείσεται πᾶσα σὰρξ. Εἰ δὲ ζητούentes δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; μὴ γενοίτο! Εἰ γάρ, ἃ κατέλυσα, ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβᾶντι ἐμαυτὸν συνίστημι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νομῶ ἀπέθανον ἵνα Θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταυρωμαί· ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῇ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ Υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντος με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

Κατὰ Μάρκον. 8:34-38; 9:1

Ἐπεὶ ὁ Κύριος· Εἰ τις θέλει ὅπως μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτόν καὶ ἀράται τον σταυρον αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθεῖτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θελήῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἐνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἂν κερδήσῃ τον κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὅς γὰρ ἔαν ἐπαισχυνηθῇ με καὶ τὸς ἔμους λογούς· ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἀμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνησεται αὐτόν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δοξῇ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰς τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστῆκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γευσωσιν τὸ θάνατον ἕως ἂν ἰδοῦσιν τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

THE EPISTLE Galatians 2:16-20

-You shall guard us, O Lord; You shall preserve us from this generation forever.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the holy man has
ceased; the truthful are diminished from among
the sons of men.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Mark. 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."