

## HEROES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

**O**n the Orthodox calendar, our Holy Church honors the memory of 3 of her greatest saints together: **BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN & JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.** These Holy Hierarchs are rightly referred to as "giants" of faith, courage, holiness and learning. They were well-known in the early Church as teachers, preachers, liturgists & administrators.

There is an interesting story behind why the Church elected to honor these 4th century saints on the same day. Up until the 11th century, a dispute existed among the faithful as to who was the greatest of these three Church Fathers. All three had unique qualities, and no one could agree on who deserved primacy of honor. By God's divine providence,

however, the issue was finally resolved in a dream that Bishop John of Galatia had one evening in 1081 A.D. While deep in sleep, the bishop had a vision of Basil, Gregory and John together in all of their glory. In unison, they greeted Bishop John with these words: **"WE ARE ONE IN GOD, AND THERE IS NO DISPUTE AMONG US... NEITHER IS THERE A FIRST OR SECOND AMONG US."**

Awaking from sleep, Bishop John viewed this as a sign that these three saints should be honored equally with one common feast. Thus ended centuries of controversy. From that day forth, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian & John Chrysostom were commemorated together, with all of their many accomplishments noted by the Church.

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**ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**JANUARY 28th, 2024**

**SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS**

**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 Philoptochos. Please contact Dina Bilios (609) 675-8786 or Bessie Giouros at (609) 602-8545.

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS:**

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2024 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.

**GREEK SCHOOL:** Classes are every Friday night 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to notify parents that Sunday school has already started! We would like all parents to have their children at the church by 9:45 am. Every Sunday after the Gospel reading the children will go to their Sunday school classroom and then come back to receive their Holy Communion.

**OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE:** Attention everyone: We have a new website! Please add [www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com](http://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 process on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).

**LITURGICAL 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)*

**LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

Sunday, January 28: 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

**DVYC SKI TRIP: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2024:**

**BIG BOULDER:** 357 Big Boulder Dr. Lake Harmony, PA 18624 If anyone is interested in going and joining this Ski Trip please call Fr. Michael to make the necessary arrangements. You must purchase Tubing and Ski lift tickets and Rentals IN ADVANCE. Also at the end of the trip there will be a group picture taken in front of the Big Boulder Café.

**BLESSING YOUR HOME:**

In the month of January, we celebrate a Great Feast within the Orthodox Church. Epiphany, the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It is the season of the blessing of the Holy Waters, when also the parish priest through his very rich custom brings the Blessed Holy Water to the faithful in their homes and business establishments. This enables everyone to receive the Great Blessing of our Lord for the New Year of 2024.

I feel as your priest, that this is a beautiful custom, bringing the Blessed Holy Water of Epiphany to you, my parishioners, allows me to remain close to you and your family. Fr. Michael requests that you please contact him at his cell phone # 1-(667)-328-1083, to make arrangements for the blessing of your home/business.

**TEACHING OF THE DAY:**

~~A man dreamed that he went to church with an angel as guide. The church was filled, but oddly, there was no sound. The organist played, but no music could be heard; the choir's lips moved, but no song came forth. The pastor went through the motions of preaching, but the man heard nothing. He asked the angel, "Why?" The angel's reply: "This is the service as God sees it. When there is no heart in it, there is no sound." Then in the back pew he heard a child pray,~~

The angel said, "You are hearing the only part God hears, that which comes from the heart." (W.B. Knight, Treasury of 2000 Illustrations, p. 447).

If you want to connect with God, it's more than just coming and going through a few motions, moving your lips to sing a few songs, sitting in a seat and hearing a few words by the preacher. You've got to connect with God in SPIRIT, if you want to get the strength that you need.

**YOUTH GATHERING:** Fr. Michael would like to have a Youth gathering on Saturday, February the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am. Discussion Bible Bowl and Oratorical festival.



## Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος α'. Αὐτόμελον.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν  
Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων  
τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος  
Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ  
τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι  
Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ,  
δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου,  
μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

Τοῦ Ὁσίου.

Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

Ταῖς τῶν δακρύων σου ῥοαῖς, τῆς  
ἐρήμου τὸ ἄγονον ἐγεώργησας, καὶ τοῖς ἐκ  
βάθους στεναγμοῖς, εἰς ἑκατὸν τοὺς πόνους  
ἐκαρποφόρησας, καὶ γέγονας φωστήρ τῇ  
οἰκουμένῃ, λάμπων τοῖς θαύμασιν, Ἐφραίμ  
πατὴρ ἡμῶν ὅσιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ,  
σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

### Κοντάκιον Ἦχος α'.

Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν ἀγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ σου, καὶ  
χεῖρας τοῦ Συμεὼν εὐλογήσας ὡς ἔπρεπε,  
προφθάσας καὶ νὺν ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός. Ἄλλ'  
εἰρήνευσον ἐν πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κραταίωσον  
Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἠγάπησας, ὁ μόνος φιλάνθρωπος.

## Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode 1. Automelon.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος.

The stone having been sealed by the  
Pharisees and chief priests, \* and Your all-  
immaculate body being guarded by soldiers,  
\* You rose on the third day, O Lord and  
Savior, granting life unto the world. \* Then  
the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O  
Giver of Life, and shouted, \* "Glory to Your  
resurrection, O Christ! \* Glory to Your eternal  
rule! \* Glory to Your plan for saving us, only  
benevolent God!" [GOASD]

For the Devout Man.

Mode pl. 4.

With the rivers of your tears you made  
the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs  
from deep within, you made your labors bear  
their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a  
star, illuminating the world by your miracles,  
O Ephrem, our devout father. Intercede with  
Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

### Kontakion Seasonal : Tone 1.

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly  
blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come  
and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your  
commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in  
authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

## Ἐπιστολὴ: Τιμόθεον α' 4:9-15

-Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

-Ἐγένκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐγένκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ  
δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

-Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τό Ἀνάγνωσμα.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς  
ἄξιος. Εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ  
ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἡλίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν  
σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε  
ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος  
καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν  
ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνεΐᾳ.  
Ἔως ἔρχομαι, πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ  
διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοι  
διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ  
πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ  
προκοπὴ φανερά ᾖ ἐν πᾶσιν.

## Εὐαγγέλιον: Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 19.1-10

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο τὴν Ἱερικὴν καὶ ἰδοὺ  
ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν  
ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν  
Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ  
ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμὼν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ  
συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐκείνης ἡμέλλε  
διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ  
Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας  
κατάβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μέναι. καὶ  
σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες  
πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἁμαρτωλῷ ἀνδρὶ  
εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν  
Κύριον· ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε,  
δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα,  
ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι  
σήμερον σωτηρίᾳ τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ  
αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν. ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου  
ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.

## Epistle Reading: Timothy 1 4:9-15

-The Lord will give strength to his people.

-Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord  
honor and glory.

-The Reading is from St. Paul's 1st. Letter to Timothy.

TIMOTHY, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of  
full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive,  
because we have our hope set on the living God, who is  
the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.  
Command and teach these things. Let no one despise  
your youth, but set the believers an example in speech  
and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend  
to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to  
teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was  
given you by prophetic utterance when the council of  
elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties,  
devote yourself to them, so that all may see your  
progress.

## Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing  
through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus;  
he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see  
who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd,  
because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and  
climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to  
pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he  
looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and  
come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he  
made haste and came down, and received him joyfully.  
And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in  
to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus  
stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my  
goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one  
of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him,  
"Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a  
son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to  
save the lost."



Lord, now let your servant depart in peace!



# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, January 28, 2024

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A Ministry of the  
Orthodox Christian Network



## Seeing Jesus

Do you like learning how to do things for yourself? Maybe you know how to make a little snack when you come home from school, or maybe you can clean your own laundry. You might have heard your parents tell you, "You have to do some things on your own!"

But as a kid, you still have some things you depend on others for—like if you want to learn about our Lord. Right now, you probably hear about Jesus and about His Church from your parents. Or you might be blessed to have church school each Sunday, when you learn even more. When you are older, you will still want to grow closer to God, but how will you do that?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about a man named Zacchaeus. He was the one who climbed up into a tree so he could see Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to know more about Jesus, so he went out of his way to see Him!

In a way, we are like Zacchaeus too. Sometimes people will tell us about God, but sometimes we have to go out of our way to "see" Him, or to learn more about Him! One great way is by reading your Bible. Do you have your own Bible you can read sometimes? Another great way is by coming to church as much as we can. We can go out of our way too, just like Zacchaeus!



"Zacchaeus, Come down!"

## WAITING, WAITING, WAITING

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD INTO THE TEMPLE

Sometimes it's hard to wait, isn't it?

Waiting for your birthday, waiting for a friend to come over, waiting for school to get out, waiting for dinner to be ready.

We're always waiting for something. But imagine waiting for something bigger. Imagine waiting for heaven to open. Imagine waiting for Christ to be born. Imagine waiting for somebody to save the world!

This Friday, we celebrate one of the 12 Great Feasts of our Orthodox Church. We will celebrate the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple.

When baby Jesus was still a baby, only 40 days old, His parents took Him to the Temple for the first time. The elder there was named Simeon, and he was very old. He was waiting. Waiting for the Savior. All his life he had been waiting.

When he saw baby Jesus and when he held Him in his arms, he said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation." After all these years of waiting, Simeon knew that he could die in peace. He had finally seen the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ! Let's thank God again that He sent His Son to us!



We celebrate this great feast on Fri., February 2nd (OC: February 15th).

Ἔχος γ'. Θείας πίστεως.

Μέγαν εὐρατο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις, σὲ ὑπέρμαχον ἢ οἰκουμένην, ἀθλοφόρε τὰ ἔθνη τροπούμενον. Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου καθεῖλες τὴν ἑπαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύνας τὸν Νέστορα, οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς Δημήτριά, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἱκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τό μέγα ἔλεος.

Third tone

You have proved to be for all the world the great champion in time of peril, as the victor in routing the barbarians. Thus as you put down the boasting of Lyaïos, imparting courage to Nestor in the stadium; so, O holy One, great Martyr Demetrios, beseech Christ our God for us that we may know the gift of His great mercy.

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Bible  
Growing  
Learning  
Presentation  
Savior  
Simeon  
Temple  
Tree  
Waiting  
Zacchaeus

K N W Q R F I D J E H V V T H  
E E K Z C H P E D Q I U T T B  
M Y L K A S A V I O R T H C H  
U F M P L C X P Z C R N H W V  
B T L X M R C G W E L Y Z Y E  
R H O U P E D H E P O Z X S Z  
E B P O S G T C A K C P I E O  
N O I T A T N E S E R P Q V O  
K Z O J A Y G I C I U X N G A  
O D T B K N B A W N E S S I B  
I Q M L I Z I L K O I U N W L  
S D E T T T B I H E R X C H R  
T M I J B D L N H M S G A X T  
P A I O A A E G N I N R A E L  
W U H W A C X U Q S O P W I O

## WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a detail of the icon of the feastday of the Presentation of the Lord into the Temple (see page 3).

We can see Mary, the Theotokos, and Joseph. Do you see what Joseph has in his hands? Two doves. They brought them to the temple as an offering, a gift.

