

† COME FORWARD WITH FAITH AND LOVE! †

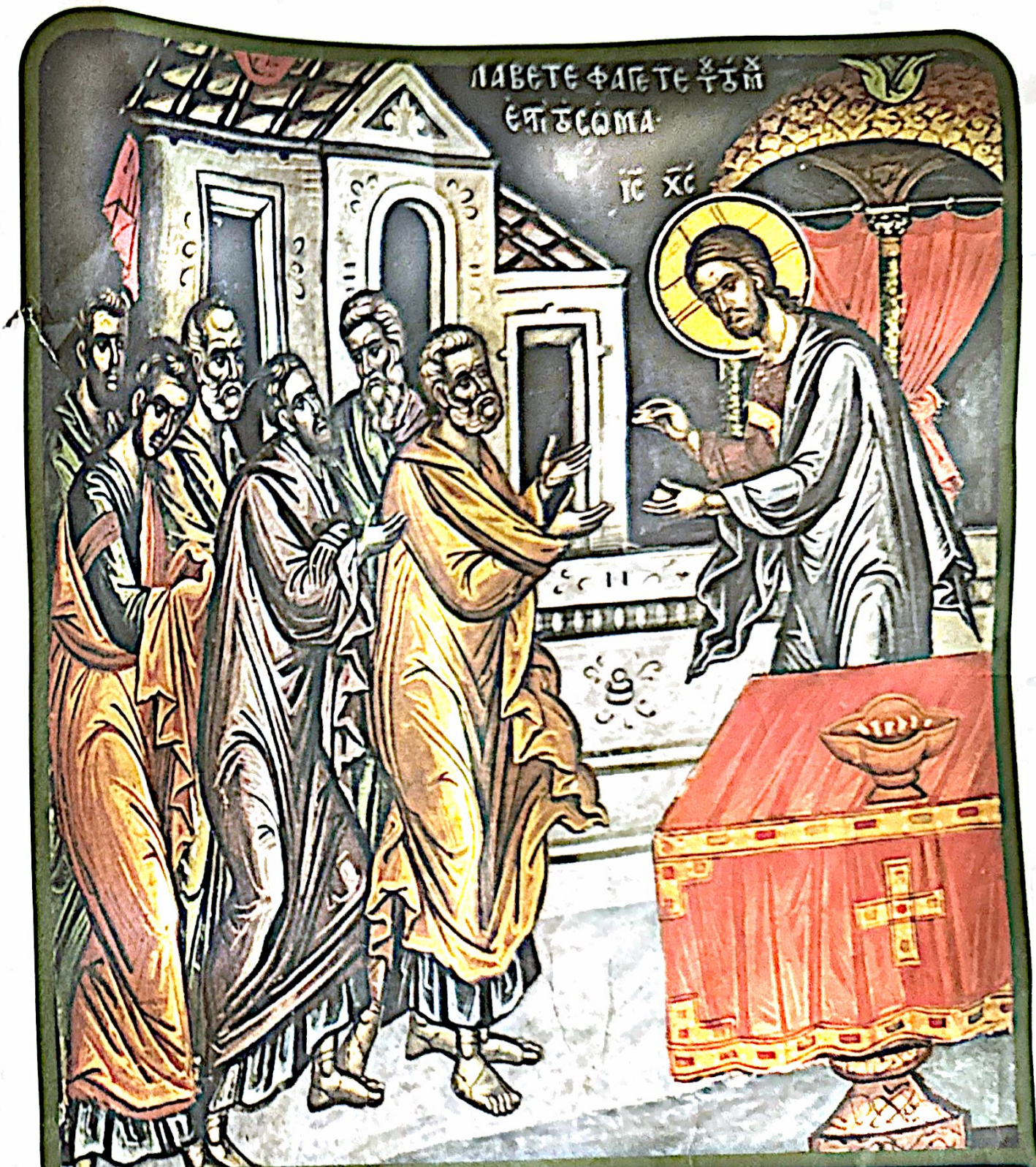
While the Church is a spiritual institution, it still must exist in a material world filled with contemporary problems. In recent years, concern over the spreading of the dreaded COVID virus has had a profound affect on one of the Church's most sacred of liturgical practices: the reception of Holy Communion. An alarming number of Orthodox Christians may question the "health risk" involved with the reception of the Eucharist. Others have called for changes in the method of distributing Holy Communion to the faithful, so that receiving the Sacrament will be "safer."

In examining this important issue, we must begin by stating our belief that the Holy Eucharist is the **BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**. We cannot explain **HOW** bread and wine takes this form during the Divine Liturgy. We simply believe that it **DOES**. In His public ministry, our Lord often spoke of **EATING THE FLESH** and **DRINKING THE BLOOD** of the Son of Man. He was quick to point out to His followers that those who obeyed this command would find eternal life. He further taught that this was the means of being united with Him. **"HE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM."** (John 6:56)

The reception of Holy Communion, therefore, is completely a **MATTER OF FAITH**. If we truly believe Christ's words, how could we think for a moment that our Saviour would put us at risk by doing something so vital to our salvation? Do we not pray each time we approach the chalice that the partaking of this Mystery is for the **HEALING OF OUR BODY AND SOUL**?

No harm will **EVER** come to us from this most intimate contact with our Lord. Continue to **COME FORWARD WITH FAITH AND LOVE!**

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



HOLY COMMUNION

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
November 5th, 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

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.

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 starts TODAY! 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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

Fr. Michael would like to meet with the Youth of the Parish on Saturday, November the 11th at 11:00 am. The topic of the Discussion will be on the Christmas Nativity Lenten Period.

OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE: Attention everyone: 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).

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

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Sunday, November 12th: The 8th Sunday of St. Luke- Orthos 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00

Wednesday, November 15th: Christmas Nativity Fast Begins: From the 15th of November

until the 12th of December the Church permits us to eat fish on the days prescribed. On

Wednesdays, and Fridays, fish is not permitted. From the 12th of December until

Christmas Day we must follow a strict fast, meaning no consumption of any meats or

dairy products. Have a blessed Christmas Nativity Fast.

Sunday, November 19th: The 9th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthos 9 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Thursday, November 23: On behalf of the entire Community we would like to wish our St. Demetrios families a Happy and Blessed "THANKSGIVING DAY".

Sunday, November 26th: The 13th Sunday of St. Luke: Orthos 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:00

Month of November:

Monday, November 6th: The Ladies Philoptochos Society will have their monthly meeting at the Church. Time- 7 pm. Also the Annual Philoptochos 50 -50 drawing will take place during this meeting.

Friday, November 10th: We must always remember on this Veterans Day Memorial, our brave Men and Women who fought for the freedom our of our country and all wars. May their souls rest in peace and may their memory be eternal.

Saturday, November 11th: Fr. Michael will be meeting with the Youth Group at 11:00 am.