



KOINONIA

NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH
North Wildwood, NJ

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- 2 | Letter from
Fr. Michael Patrikos
- 6 | Entrance into the Temple
Our Most Holy Lady the
Theotokos - November 21
- 7 | Ambassador Awards Banquet
- 12 | Thanksgiving Service Nov. 23
- 17 | Question & Answer
- 24 | St. Demetrios Reliquary Shrine
- 25 | Thoughts from Eva Lallas
- 26 | Children's Corner by
Presvytera Alexandra Houck

CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS



Congratulations to Anna Zografaki on her USCG basic training graduation. God Bless Her & keep her safe as she starts her assignment in Virginia Beach, VA. on the USCG Cutter Pompano.





a letter from

FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER



A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

As the national “Thanksgiving Day” approaches we do well to remember the spiritual roots of this a “Holy Day.”

As we near the end of 2023, November is a special period in which we all look forward to that special day of Thanksgiving.

This is a time in history where we look back to the Pilgrim Fathers of America, seeking not only the freedom to worship in a new land, but believing that they have a God ordained mission to fulfill.

We know that through history the Pilgrims had their own problems just like we do today. But they needed something to complete their lives. They wanted to forget hatred, the battles that they went through, the lives that were lost; they felt that they needed one day to bring peace and harmony among the many enemies

that they fought; to bring freedom to this land, that we call today, America.

So they gathered together and they called this day “A Thanksgiving Day” meaning that they dedicated this day to God to give thanks to him that they survived the harshness of the past years.

They wanted to make a proclamation to thank God for their beliefs, their values, and the blessing to be able to survive together as one body and one nation.

But today, there is a subtle, diabolic and life threatening trap. Secular society has ever increasingly come to believe in a different God. This one has always been around, even back then with the Pilgrims. And they faced the same difficulties that we face today.

Isn't it true that in our society, we have everything that we can think of and yet we forget that all of these gifts come from God.

The Pilgrims at least knew their difficulties, but they realized that they need a change. A change that would bring them together as a family and as a nation; so they picked this day of “Thanksgiving” with family and friends in mind.

Today, though we tend to give thanks for abundance. Do we ever get around to thanking our Lord, for all the bounties and blessings that he bestows on each of us every day?

To me my brothers and sisters, the significance of this Thanksgiving Day is a day to put away all hatred. It is to share with each other the essence of true fellowship and love.

Let's not forget what happened and is still happening to all nations all over the world. We cannot forget what all nations went through with the Corona Virus where millions of people died from this destructive disease. Not only did it kill millions of people all over



a letter from

FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER

CONTINUED...

the world but it also brought destruction to the world economy and also to the way we even live today.

Let's not forget what is still happening in Ukraine. The people of Ukraine need our prayers and our support. Millions of people have left their homes and country because of the continuous bombings and killings that have destroyed thousands of homes. Families are destitute and separated and have no place to live.

What kind of (Thanksgiving) will they be celebrating during these difficult days.

Apostle Paul tells us to give thanks to God in all things not merely when things are good. (1 Thess. 5:18)

We should be thankful to God that we live in this country called "America" the

beautiful. This country is truly the land of opportunity and blessed by God.

Remember (America) gives us the true way in celebrating this "Holy Day." We can reach out and pray for others who need our help especially during these difficult and trying times, moments and events that this world is going through.

Today even in our churches no matter what domination, we have the right to pray and to exercise our religious freedoms. We are able to chant and sing hymns of (Praise), to discuss openly the issues of our faith and partake freely the Holy Sacraments of the Church.

So we owe the (Pilgrims) who took the courage to stop-and think of what tomorrow will bring them and to dedicate one day called "Thanksgiving Day" that somewhat has changed the world to bring peace and harmony back to our everyday life.

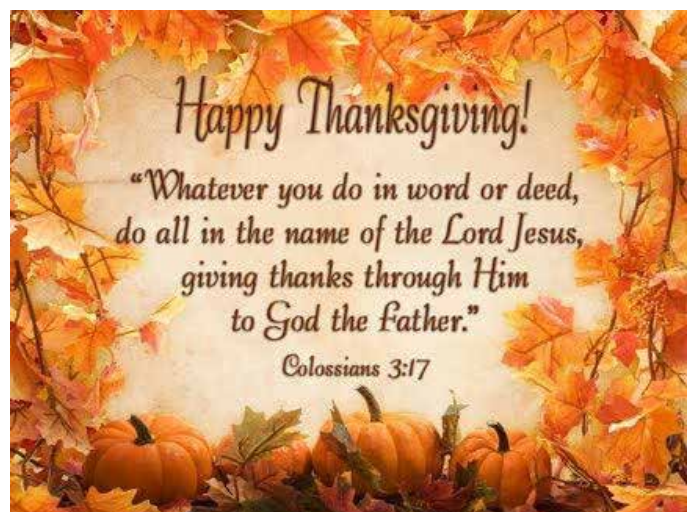
In closing during the holiday season we know that thousands of families are going to be without food and other general necessities. When we help those in need, our Lord Jesus Christ will reward us a hundredfold.

This is what Thanksgiving is all about, Thanking God for the blessings, he has given us and that we are also Gods Instruments to help those who are needy and less fortunate. We can be the expression of God's presence and love in the lives of others. Our Thanksgiving will strengthen our spirit of generosity.

May God bless all of you and have a blessed "Thanksgiving Day."

Please Stay Safe!

Fr. Michael Pastrikos
Protopresbyter





In memory - In honor

Please contact the church at 609-522-0152. or email frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com with your memorial information and donation.



Thanksgiving Prayer

For each new morning with its light,

For rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food,

For love and friends,

For everything Thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



directory

PROTOPRESBYTER | FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS

CHURCH SECRETARY | TBD

PARISH COUNCIL:

PRESIDENT | NICHOLAS D. KONIDES

VICE PRESIDENT | DR. GEORGE KOUMARAS

TREASURER | THEODORE KATSIKARIS

SECRETARY | WILLIAM MITCHELL

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SUNDAY SCHOOL | SOPHIA KINIROPOULOS

GREEK SCHOOL | GEORGE PLAMANTOURAS

J.O.Y. | FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS

H.O.P.E. | FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS

PHILOTOCHOS | DINA BILIOS

CHANTERS | FOTINI ANDY, RITA EFTHIMIOU, CATHY WOLFE

CHURCH: 1.609.522.0152

321 ST. DEMETRIOS AVE, NORTH WILDWOOD, NJ 08260

STDEMETRIOSNEWJERSEY.COM

ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE KOINONIA MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR



Congratulations Anna Zografaki



William Mitchell, Parish Council Secretary, attended Anna Zografaki's USCG basic training graduation ceremony & was fortunate to meet her family afterwards.

God Bless Her & keep her safe as she starts her assignment in Virginia Beach, VA. on the USCG Cutter Pompano.

St. Demetrios celebrated OXI day with a program by our Greek School.



Chantors Appreciation Sunday was celebrated on the first Sunday of October





A Feast of the Entrance into The Temple of Our Most Holy Lady The Theotokos **November 21**

COURTESY OF THE ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA WWW.GOARCH.ORG



INTRODUCTION

The Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on November 21 each year. The Feast commemorates when as a young child, the Virgin Mary entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

PROTEVANGELION STORY

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the

time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, “It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days.”

Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching

an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.

ICON OF THE FEAST

The icon of the feast tells the story of Mary’s entry into the Temple. The High Priest, Zacharias, is in his priestly robes standing on the step of the Temple. His arms are outstretched, ready to greet and receive the Virgin. Mary is shown as a small child, standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him. In some icons the young maidens who served as her escort are depicted standing behind her. Also, we see her parents, Joachim and Anna, offering their child to God and His divine service. In the upper center portion of the icon, the Virgin is seated on the steps of the Holy of Holies. An angel is there, attending to the one chosen by God to bring the Savior into the world.

The Entry of The Theotokos Into the Temple

November 21

The story of the entry of the Theotokos into the Temple is found in the book of the *Protevangelion of James*. The Orthodox Church celebrates this event on November 21.

Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were very religious. They had promised that they would dedicate their child to God. The custom, at that time, was that all children who were dedicated to God, were taken to the Temple when they were three years old. There they were taught and cared for by the holy men and women of the Temple. These children stayed in the Temple for twelve years where they received an excellent education. Many young virgins and aged widows lived in the Temple. These widows had dedicated their lives to the service of the Lord. They studied the Word of God and taught others.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna took their daughter to the Temple. She was to be separated from her parents. To prepare Mary for her trip to the Temple, her father, Joachim called the young girls of the neighborhood together. He gave each one a lighted candle and had them walk in front of Mary. The three year old Mary was so excited to see the candles that she followed them to the Temple. Not once did she look back to her parents, nor did she cry when she left her parents. Her parents wanted her to go happily to the Temple.

When they arrived at the Temple, the High Priest Zacharias greeted Mary. Zacharias took Mary into the Temple and into the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies was a very special place of the Temple. Only Zacharias, the High Priest, had the right to enter the Holy of Holies and he could only do this once a year. The High Priest Zacharias took Mary into the Holy of Holies, because he, like other prophets, understood what God had planned for His people. Zacharias knew that Mary was to become the Mother of Jesus, our Savior.

The icon tells the story of Mary's entry into the Temple. The High Priest Zacharias, in his priestly robes, is standing on the step of the Temple greeting the young child. Mary, is painted as a small child. She is standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him. The young girls who escorted her to the Temple are behind her. Joachim and Anna are presenting their child to Zacharias.

At the upper left of the Holy Icon, Mary, the Theotokos is sitting on the highest step. This indicates the Holy of Holies. An angel is there to assist her.

This story of Mary's entry to the Temple shows her dedication and devotion to God. In addition, it shows that she is willing to accept the awesome task as the Mother of our Lord. From this icon we understand that God was with her from a very early time of her life.



"The Story of Icons," by Mary Paloumpis Hallick.



His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Cordially invites you
to the

**2023 DELAWARE VALLEY REGION
AMBASSADOR AWARDS BANQUET**

on

Sunday, December 10, 2023

at

“The Adelphia”

1750 Clements Bridge Road, Deptford, NJ 08096

Your presence will be greatly appreciated

Cocktail Hour: 4:00pm

Program and Dinner: 5:00pm

Tickets: Adults: \$100.00, Children: \$50.00

Please contact and make checks payable to your local
parish to purchase tickets.

RSVP by November 27, 2023



Parish Council Elections

Sunday, December 10th

Dear Parishioners,

“ELECTION FEVER” is beginning to grip our Country. During the month of November we will be voting for officials that we elect every four years. I hope that all of you will participate in this Democratic process. Also another election will be taking place in December of this year. It is the election of the members of the St. Demetrios Parish Council. I hope that this also gives us some Election Fever to vote for the new members of the Parish Council. This election will impact our church and Community and the spiritual life of the men and women we elect to help the Parish Priest in the administration of the parish. Are we prepared to give it the same thought effort and consideration as we give the National Elections?

We should be extremely grateful to the Men and Women who have served the Parish Council in past years. With God's blessing their hard work, dedication and sacrifice has given us a Church and facilities that is known far and wide for its beauty and Christian environment. We cannot thank them enough for all they have accomplished. Now if you look carefully at these men who have dedicated their

whole life to this Community, you will see that some of them are in their 30's 40's 50's 60's 70's and 80's. So we do have a wonderful group of members that are serving presently, and hopefully in these elections coming, we will be able to add more people to the Parish Council.

I have always said that it is time that the younger generation to step up to the plate, and get involved in the administration of the parish and learn from these dedicated individuals. Our faith is not a spectator sport without action, involvement, dedication, sacrifice and commitment our faith is in vain.

These Elections will take place on the second Sunday of December 2023. Mark this date on your calendars and come to church ready to vote for the new members of the Parish Council.

Respectfully,

Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
Protopresbyter





St. Demetrios

NEW WEBSITE!



Check out St. Demetrios Church's new website for a variety of information, stewardship and donations, bulletins and newsletters, links, and more!

www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com

Sponsor a Coffee Hour

Attention All Parishioners:

We have resumed the coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour in memory of a loved one, for the health of your family, or in honor of our St. Demetrios Church.

Please call the office at 609-522-0152 to schedule. Thank you.



upcoming events

JOY (AGES 8-10)

HOPE (AGES 3-7)

TWO SATURDAYS PER MONTH

PHILOPTOCHOS

1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

GREEK SCHOOL

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM

4:30 - 7:30 P.M.

PARISH COUNCIL

NOVEMBER:

SATURDAY 4TH

PARISH COUNCIL MTG 4:00 PM

DECEMBER:

SATURDAY 2ND

PARISH COUNCIL MTG 4:00 PM

SUNDAY 3RD

CHURCH ELECTIONS 12:00



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PRESENTS
THE ANNUAL
55th FALL “GLENDI” DINNER DANCE

Saturday, November 4th, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm till 12:00 am

Where: St. Demetrios Cultural Center
321 Saint Demetrios St
North Wildwood NJ

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

Donation \$40.00 per person
Children under 12 the cost is \$10.00
Everyone is welcome!

To reserve your table or to purchase tickets please contact:

Bill Mitchell at 609-425-4000 or Nick Konides at 609-425-0179

Or the Church office, Secretary Julie Reeb 609-522-0152 ext. 102

Seats are limited to first come, first served.



liturgical calendar

NOVEMBER

WINTER SCHEDULE:

Sunday Hours | 9:00 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Weekday Services | 9:00 am Orthros - 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Vesper Services | 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 5	Sunday of Luke: Orthos 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, November 12	Sunday of Luke: Orthos 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, November 19	Sunday of Luke: Orthos 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Thursday, November 23	Happy Thanksgiving Day to everyone in the Parish - 9:00 am
Saturday, November 25	St. Catherine The Great Martyr: Orthos 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Sunday, November 26	Sunday of Luke: Orthos 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

***On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael,
Presvytera Dimitra, the Church Staff,
we would like to wish everyone in the
Community of St. Demetrios a Happy and
Blessed Thanksgiving Day.***

Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

October 19, 2023

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Metropolis Council, Beloved Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood, And all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of the sacred Metropolis of New Jersey

My beloved,

The grace of your words illuminated the universe like a shining beacon. It amassed treasures of munificence in the world. It demonstrated the greatness of humility, teaching us by your own words; therefore, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede to Christ the Logos for the salvation of our souls.

Apolytikion of St. John Chrysostom

May the grace and love of Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be upon you. On Monday, November 13, 2023 the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey celebrates the Feastday of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, the Patron Saint of our sacred Metropolis. Unfortunately, I will not be able to be present to celebrate with all of you on this joyous day in the life of our sacred Eparchy, as I will be traveling to Constantinople for the Meetings of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. However please know that the Orthros and Divine Liturgy will still be offered at the Metropolis Chapel of St. John Chrysostom with the following schedule:

Monday, November 13, 2023

9:00am Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Reception to Follow

Please know that I invite all of you to be present on this beautiful day in the life of our sacred Metropolis, so that we may join together as one spiritual family and worship together in honor of our beloved Patron Saint.

Praying that our loving Lord, through the intercessions of St. John Chrysostom, continues to bless all of you and all the faithful of the Metropolis of New Jersey, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings

Met. Agostolo
† APOSTOLOS

Metropolitan of New Jersey



Thanksgiving Service



ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΩΝ

Είναι μια θαυμάσια περίοδος όπου οικογένεια και φίλοι συγκεντρώνονται με αυτή την ευκαιρία για να ευχαριστήσουν τον Θεό για τις ευλογίες και τα δώρα που μας έχει χαρίσει. Επίσης να ευχαριστήσουμε τους προγόνους μας που ευχαρίστησαν τον Κύριο πριν χρόνια. Αυτή η ετήσια παράδοση είναι μια από τις πιο αγαπημένες μου, επειδή μας φέρνει όλους πιο κοντά, μας κάνει να σταματήσουμε την καθημερινότητά μας, να περάσουμε αυτή την ημέρα όλοι μαζί με καλό φαγητό και καλή παρέα. Επειδή επίσης είμαστε πολύ απασχολημένοι με την καθημερινότητά μας, τις δουλειές μας, τους φίλους μας και τους αγαπημένους μας, δεν υπάρχουν πολλές ευκαιρίες που μπορούμε να συναντιώμαστε σαν οικογένεια. Είναι μια από εκείνες τις εορτές που προετοιμάζουμε το παραδοσιακό δείπνο της Γαλοπούλας, ως κύριο γεύμα μας, με γέμιση, και όλες τις σάλτσες και τα επιδόρπια που τη συνοδεύουν. Γεγονός είναι ότι η Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών πηγάζει από πνεύμα ευγνωμοσύνης προς τον Θεό και ικανοποίηση για όλα τα αγαθά που Εκείνος μας έχει χαρίσει. Είναι επίσης μια εποχή που θυμόμαστε τον Θεό για όλα όσα έχει κάνει για μας, και εκφράζουμε την ευγνωμοσύνη σ' Αυτόν. *Με αυτό το πνεύμα καλείστε να συμμετέχετε στη Θεία Λειτουργία την Ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών, την Πέμπτη 23 Νοεμβρίου. Η Λειτουργία θα αρχίσει στις 9:00 π.μ.*

This is a wonderful period in time where family and friends get together on this occasion to give thanks to God for the blessings and gifts that He has bestowed on us. Also to thank our forefathers who gave thanks to the Lord a long time ago. This yearly tradition is one of my favorites because it brings us all closer together, makes us stop our daily lives, to spend this day together over some good food and lots of company.

We are also busy with our daily lives, our jobs, our friends, and loved ones, that there are not that many occasions that we get together as a family. It's one of those Holidays that we prepare the traditional Turkey dinner as our main meal, with stuffing, and all the dressings and desserts that come with it. True, Thanksgiving comes from a spirit of gratitude toward God and contentment with what He has provided. It also is a season of remembering God for all He has done and expressing gratitude to Him. With this in mind everyone is invited to attend the *Annual Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy that will be held on Thursday, November 23rd. This service will begin at 9:00 am.*



stewardship news

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I become a member of the parish? Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ. Our Archdiocese requires each parish to distinguish between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years of age and turns in a signed stewardship commitment card, committing a portion of time, talent and treasure to the

Church. The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Keep in mind that true membership in the Body of Christ involves living according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount? Please keep in mind that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence. However, we do compile the amounts anticipated to better plan our budget. What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, circumstances because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment - we are glad you are a part of this parish.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS ...

... learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

... our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

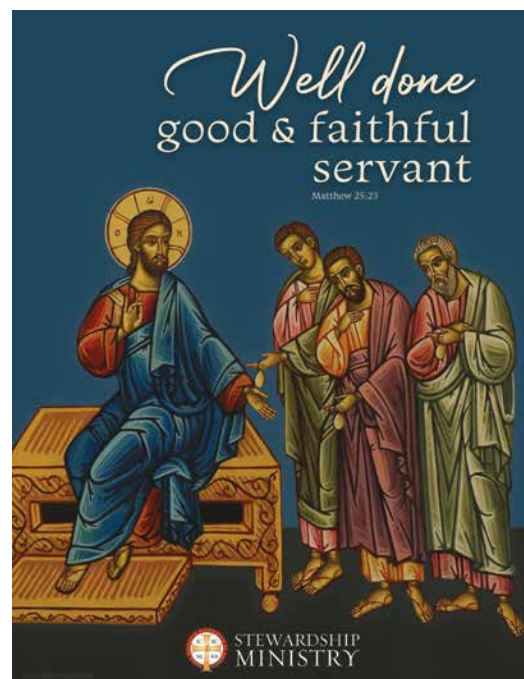
... caring for the needs of others.

... offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

... what a person does after saying "I believe ...", as proof of that belief.

... devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leadership





help us grow with **VANCO GIVING**

It's through your contributions that we are able to carry on important work both spiritually and in our community. Electronic Giving – is the way to go today. It is also a convenient, easy way to support St. Demetrios.

BY GIVING ELECTRONICALLY YOU CAN:

- Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, cell phone or tablet.
- Donate easily for special projects of the Church.
- Give towards your stewardship pledge or other donations such as memorial, endowment and others.
- Set up reoccurring or one time pledges and you will never need to worry if you have your check book or cash on you. VANCO will store your information.
- It is important to note that if you are using a credit card, you may be able to accumulate rewards by your provider.

Show your support and try E-Giving through our VANCO QR Code (located below). Or you can find this code on our website under the DONATE TAB www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com and even easier.... There is a button that states “click here” that will take you directly to the VANCO page. It is as simple as that.

To use the QR code- open your camera on your phone and hover over the code. The VANCO website will appear and then tap on it.

Thank you for all you do to support our St. Demetrios family throughout the year. May God bless you and keep you well and strong.





Stewardship News

STEWARDSHIP PLEA 2023

Dear Parishioner,

We at Saint Demetrios are thankful to have you and your family here in our church. You are a vital part of our church community. **Unfortunately, the Parish is in great need of your financial help!!**

Your financial support provides the foundation for our parish ministries and our efforts in meeting the challenge of spreading Christ's Word and our Orthodox Faith.

Stewardship also means more than just making a monetary donation. Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the vineyard of our Lord. Giving is not a substitute for commitment. It is an expression of your commitment.

Please note there are several ways to pledge: besides printing this form, our Stewardship Pledge forms are also in the Narthex, you may complete one and give it to Parish Council Secretary, William Mitchell. He can also be contacted at 609-425-4000. If you would like to mail your Stewardship Commitment, our mailing address is:

St. Demetrios
300 St Demetrios St
North Wildwood NJ 08260

If Stewardship payment has been made for 2023 please disregard this notice and except our gratitude.

Please respond out of faith and love and help keep our church vibrant for many years to come. **This is YOUR CHURCH! Please, if you have yet to send in your Stewardship, please do so now. Remember the Church is not just here when you need it! Its open every week! If we don't support the Church, who else will?**

Respectfully,
Fr. Michael & The Stewardship Committee

_____ Cut here _____

Please make checks payable to: Saint Demetrios Church

My Stewardship Commitment is \$ _____ Year _____

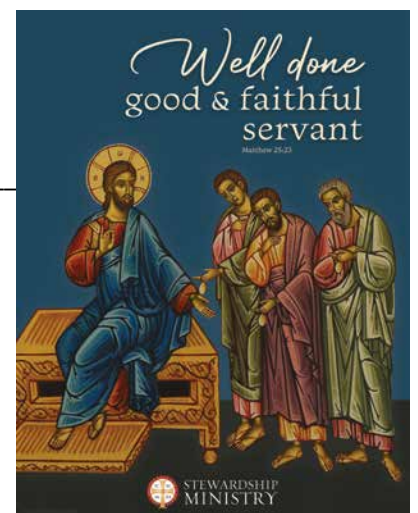
Single/Individual \$500.00

Family \$750.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email** _____





SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

321 Saint Demetrios Street – North Wildwood, New Jersey 08260

PARISH REGISTRY INFORMATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

PLACE OF BIRTH _____

DATE OF ORTHODOX BAPTISM/CHRISMATION _____

PROFESSION/OCCUPATION _____

BUSINESS NAME & ADDRESS _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

SPOUSE'S 1ST NAME & MAIDEN NAME _____

SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH _____

SPOUSE'S PLACE OF BIRTH _____

DATE OF ORTHODOX BAPTISM/CHRISMATION _____

SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

DATE & PLACE OF ORTHODOX MARRIAGE _____

NAME OF PRIEST WHO DID MARRIAGE _____

CHILDREN'S NAMES & DATES OF BIRTH _____

DATE OF ENTRY INTO PARISH _____



QUESTION & ANSWER:

*How can we find Christ?
How can we change the way we live to come closer to God?*

The answer is very easy! We need to pray more and fast more.

The other day I heard someone say, I don't believe in fasting. Nor do I believe that we must pray in order to be better Christians.

There are millions of people in this world that don't believe what our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us. In today's society we like or dislike about Christ's teachings.

There is a tendency with people today to mold Christ into what we think he should be.

Christ will always be the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We cannot change him to fit our ideas.

Let's not forget that God has given us that choice to believe in Him. Meaning that he has given us the free will to follow whom we choose. I always believe in the value of wisdom is an important ingredient that we could use as a weapon to armor ourselves against the evil one.

So where do we find this wisdom?

Answer: By reading the Holy Bible. When was the last time you opened the Bible to read?

The Holy Bible is filled with the wisdom of God. When Society or even our own members go elsewhere to look for something more meaningful and substantive, it is often due to two things. First, whether we have failed as a Church and second, people's lives are not grounded here and wish to believe something else. No one can force anyone to believe in Christ. This is something that we take very seriously in our choice of direction we want our spiritual life to follow.

There are so many religions and beliefs in this world and the evil one surely has the control of this misdirection that people are going through.

But this can also be true, if we look in our bookshelves at home how many religious books are found there?

If you have a lot, then you are going in the right direction, if not then we are losing the race. My answer is trust we need to get back to the basic principles that Christ taught his disciples. We must focus more on the needs of our spiritual fulfillment than our physical or materialistic well-being.

The disciples did that. They left everything to follow Christ. Did they make a mistake, of course not, they followed him to the end and they received their (Crown of Glory). If they received their reward, we can also receive the gift of eternal life from our lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But remember-when was the last time we did something charitable? Give food to the hungry water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, visited the shut-ins and visiting the sick in the hospitals. These and other spiritual deeds are the kind acts of Love that God wants us to be a part of. Remember. All things other than our faith, leads to death and nothingness.

Only faith in Christ. So let us cling to our faith as the only real tangible thing we can always carry with us.

"The truth endures forever."

Psalms 117:2





You Are Called To Be Saints!

A saint is anybody who is in heaven, whether we put the title “saint” before his or her name or not. A saint is a person or soul who has been saved through Christ.

Can Anybody Become a Saint?

A person does not become a saint only when the church of God solemnly declares him to be in heaven and raises him to the honors of the altar. There are thousands of saints who will never be declared saints by the Church, and they may never be in some of the highest places in heaven.

To be a saint, you need not be perfectly free from every fault all during your life. Although some saints never lost their baptismal innocence, there are many saints who were penitents, converts from sin; and they had to struggle mightily to keep from falling back into sin.

Must you go through life with a long, gloomy face, never smiling, always seeing evil in everything around you? No! There is no heart more joyful than the heart of a saint.

But, what is a saint? A saint is a person who keeps the commandments of God, the laws of the Church, practices the virtues and duties of his vocation or state in life. Anyone who lives and dies this way in the friendship of God is a saint. It is a person who loves God and tries to imitate Him. It is a person who fights the good fight in life and wins. It is a person who truly tries to love everyone. In today’s society that is the most difficult thing to do. That might be the one thing that I can

think of (I’m sure there are plenty of others) that would keep someone out of heaven.

After reading to this point one might think, “Is that all I have to do to become a saint?” Yes. But, all of it. And all this must be done for the love of God. That is why all of us can save our souls and become saints; the rich the poor, the broken-hearted, the little children whose reason is just in bloom and the old man who needs a cane to guide his steps, the farmer in the fields, the merchant in the store, the housewife in the kitchen, the mechanic in the shop, the policeman on his beat and the fireman in the midst of flames.

The soul’s life here upon the earth is always unfinished, it is like a place where a church is under construction, where mortar and stones lie scattered about, where there is constant digging and hammering and working, until the Church raises its dome like folded hands to heaven.



Look up to heaven! Look up to the saints! Tell yourself: They were just human as I am. And if they challenged life through

their uncertainties and if they fought their battles and won, so can I. Remember, there is no “can’t” in God’s vocabulary; you can accomplish anything in life if you focus on what you want to do. Accomplishments in life can only be successful if you put your whole soul and mind into it.

Look up to heaven to your brothers and sisters, because we belong to them and they belong to us. You can not only be better than you are: *You can be a saint.*



church NEWS

parish council news

It takes a dedicated person to make the right choice...

If you are interested in becoming an active member of the St. Demetrios Parish Council and want to know more about what it takes to be active in Church and Community, please contact Fr. Michael for more information. Perhaps you are talented in youth development, marketing, fundraising, finances, management, catering, education, or other activities. If you are interested, we really need parishioners that care about the Church, and have the time, and talent to offer their services for the continued success of St. Demetrios.

St. Demetrios is a very active Community, and we would like to keep the progress going in the right direction. We have come so far, and we can't afford to go backwards, we need to go forward and continue the success that the previous Priests and Parish Council have done in the past as well as the present. We need more of the Young Adults of the Parish to step up to the plate and offer their time, talent, and treasure. Become a Catalyst and let us bridge our ideas for the future of St. Demetrios. We need to work together and empower each other to develop programs for the elderly, for our Youth, and to create a mission and outreach program for the parish. You can become a part of the solution and make a difference by becoming involved in your Church and Community.

THIS IS A REALISTIC WAY FORWARD...COME AND BE A PART OF THE FUTURE!

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.

youth group

We all love our Youth and we work very hard to make sure that the Youth of the Community will continue to learn and experience the fullness of the Orthodox Faith. We want our children to have a better spiritual relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our children meet with Fr. Michael once a month and are instructed to participate in all aspects of the Orthodox Faith allowing them to grow and experience all the wonderful and spiritual principles by coming to church, worshipping with their peers, having fellowship with one another, and receiving together the sense of unity and the opportunity to grow with these morals and values. We also encourage all parents to involve themselves with the many activities that the children of the Parish are undergoing.

donation opportunity

The Parish Council would like to bring to your attention the Golden Leaf Giving Tree. Very few have participated in this memorable way to create **a lifetime tribute for generations to see and enjoy**. Please take the time to view this lovely Giving Tree and consider displaying your family's name, a remembrance of a loved one or an achievement.

We would like to see the tree grow with more care and love!



PASTORAL THOUGHTS

A Reflection On Parenthood

By Fr. George Orfanakos

Without a doubt, one of the most challenging and yet most rewarding experiences in life is to be a parent. Helping your children grow and mature is truly a gift from God worthy to be treasured. Yet, as many parents know, it may not always feel that way. It can be very difficult at times, especially when you see your kids hurting...and no matter what you do, you just can't seem to help them.

Parenting includes more than just those who have children born to them. Rather, because of the influence we can and do have on many young people – whether we have children or not – each and every one of us is a parent too. So this day, let us reflect on the parental characteristics that every “parent” should have.

I begin by saying that I am very confident that none of us would ever intentionally hurt or injure a child. And I believe that, many times, negative experiences in a child's life can be directly attributed to parents who didn't know any better.

Let me give you an example. One recent morning on WFAN (Sports Talk Radio), they were discussing coaching tactics in Little League baseball. One mother called in and said that her son had been completely humiliated by his coach.

Apparently her son had been on the team and had not been playing as much as he was supposed to. He talked about it with his parents, and in an effort to help him solve his own problems, they discussed the situation with him and encouraged him to go respectfully to the coach to speak to him about his concern. He did that, and it seemed that things did change for a while.

At the end of the season, however, the coach held a pizza party for the team and gave out some of his own personal awards. The boy and his parents were in shock when the coach proudly announced to the team that the boy had been chosen to receive the “Cry Baby” award for not getting enough playing time during the season. You can only imagine the impact that this had on that boy.

And it doesn't stop there. How many times have we heard or even personally experienced parents making poor decisions and tremendously impacting their own kids. I have seen parents forbid their child to decorate his own room because some religious extremist told them that to do so would be teaching children idolatry. This child grew up without a sense of creativity and could not make decisions in his adult life without calling his parents for affirmation.

There are parents who control the long-term aspirations of their teenage children, deciding for them not only where they would go to college (threatening not to pay for college if they don't obey) but also going so far as to tell them what their major area of study was to be. The result in this situation is animosity toward the parents manifested in one of two ways – either through deep depression or by living an unrestrained lifestyle without concern for consequences.



We know that children are not born with instructions, and quite frankly, it can be very difficult to raise them – never mind when they are not our own. But we must understand that whether we are their mother or father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, coach, older friend – whatever we are to them – we have a tremendous influence not only on who they are now, but ultimately on who they will become.

For this reason, I offer three basic rules when dealing with young people. First, keep them involved in the life of the Church. Surround them constantly with activities in the community of faith. This is important not only for their salvation, but if children grow up in the Church, they will have a place to turn in times of trouble, and will feel comfortable coming to the priest or another Christian adult to share their difficulties.

Second, always let them know that you have a listening ear. You have to be able to listen to your children without judgment, and they need to know that you will not use it against them later on. Do not keep a record of their wrongs. Just listen to them patiently and allow them to express themselves. You don't have to solve all their problems. Being a good listener for your children will allow them to think out loud and often to find solutions on their own.

Finally and most importantly, don't pretend to have all the answers. Do not act like an expert on life! Do not think that you know everything there is to know about your children. Don't compare your life to their life. And don't use the phrase that your parents may have used, "TI THA PEI O KOSMOS" – "What will people say?" When situations get complex, reach out for help. Come and speak to your priest for guidance. Always remember that we were once our child's age, but we were never their age during these times.

Think of Christ who did not reject the Samaritan woman at the well. Rather he came close and had an intimate conversation with her, even asking her to draw water from the well that he might drink. Knowing that she was an outcast among her peers, he doesn't judge her, but rather engages her in conversation, looking into her eyes, listening as she spoke. In the end, our Lord brings the Samaritan woman to salvation, and with her, the entire city. By utilizing the parenting skills we have discussed, Jesus empowers the Samaritan woman whom we know as St. Photini, to reach her potential.

It is with these words that I challenge all of us to accept with great joy this tremendous responsibility that has been set before us. Remember that we are all parents in one way or another. Never forget that kids have to experience for themselves both the joy and the frustration of this life. They need to know what it feels like to burn their finger on a hot stove, and what it feels like to have their heart broken. It is not your responsibility to protect your children from all hurt in life. It is your responsibility to help them to get up, dust themselves off and to learn from their mistakes.

May our heavenly Father bless each and every one of us and guide us to do all these things, so that together with our children we may praise His holy name. Amen.



Prosforo Bread The Seal

In preparing the Prosforo Bread, a special seal is stamped on top of the bread before it is baked. The priest will know where you can borrow or purchase such a seal.

The middle part of the seal contains a square piece of bread with the words IC, XC, NIKA. This is a Greek abbreviation for JESUS CHRIST CONQUERS. Since this is the piece that will be changed into the Body of Christ, it is called the Lamb of God.

A large triangular piece is removed from the left of the Lamb of God and placed on the paten. This represents the Virgin Mary, our Lord's mother. Then nine smaller triangular pieces are removed from the seal to commemorate the angels, prophets, apostles and saints of the Church. These are placed on the paten to the right of the Lamb of God. Following this, the priest prays for the living members of the congregation especially for those whose names have been submitted to him. As he prays for each name he cuts a small piece of bread, representing the person prayed for, and places it immediately below Jesus, the Lamb of God. Finally, he removes a piece of bread for each deceased person for whom we have requested prayers. Thus, around the Lamb of God on the paten is gathered the entire Church consisting of the angels, saints, and loved ones in heaven together with members of the local congregation. ALL are alive in God's presence and all constitute the one living Body of Christ. (You may purchase a seal in the St. Haralambos Bookstore)



Preparing Prosforo Bread for The Divine Liturgy

This is the recipe for the preparation of Prosforo bread, which is then to be brought to the Church for offering in the Divine Liturgy.

PROSFORO BREAD

Ingredients:

- 6 cups flour (sifted)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups warm water (110 degrees)
- 2 cakes or packs of yeast
- 1 Prosforo seal for imprinting seal of bread

Dissolve the yeast in warm water. Add salt and flour and knead until smooth. Place in the bowl, cover, and let rise. When it doubles in size, knead again. Then divide dough in half and put in cake pans that have been floured only (no grease). Dip seal in flour and stamp bread firmly to leave a clean imprint. Use a toothpick to place a few small holes around the edge of the seal. Let rise again about 1 hour. Bake for about 30 minutes at 350 degrees or until light brown. Prepare a list of names of Orthodox Christians who you would like commemorated in the service. Use first names only. On the left side, write "Living" at the top and list the names below. On the right side, write "Departed" and write the names of departed below. Bring the list and the bread to the Church before the start of Orthros (or the day before).

(Note: It is traditional to have an icon and a lighted candle in the area where the Prosforo is being prepared, as it is an offering of faith. The Jesus Prayer may be used during the preparation.)



ORTHODOX TEACHINGS ABOUT SACRED RELICS

Relics (in Greek: LEIPSANA), are the bodily "remains," the material remains of a saint after his or her death. Relics may also be any sacred object or article of clothing that may have had contact with the saint's body. The relics in our sacred shrine are slivers from the bones of the saints.

From the earliest of times, sacred relics of saints have been objects of reverence and honor. The theological foundation for relics is found in sacred scriptures and in holy tradition. The reverence, respect and honor expressed to the bodies of saints are grounded on the teaching that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul writes: "Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you and who was given to you by God?" (1 Corinthians 6:19) Scriptural examples are found in the miracles worked through the mantle of Elijah (2 Kings 2:14), through the bones of the Prophet Elisha (2 Kings 13:21), through the handkerchiefs that had contact with St. Paul's body (Acts 5:14-15) and even by the shadow of St. Peter as he passed by the sick (Acts 5:14-15). The most treasured relic of the Church is the true cross upon which our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ was crucified on Golgatha and which was discovered by Saint Helen in the fourth century.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (4th century) writes: "Though the soul is not present, a power [the Holy Spirit] resides in the bodies of the saints because the righteous soul has for so many years dwelt in it or used it as its minister." (Catechetical Lectures XVIII, 16).

In the Orthodox Church we praise, glorify, honor and worship Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also reverence, venerate, respect and honor saints as heroes of our faith and as reflections of the image of Christ. Our worship and prayers are directed to the All Holy Trinity first and foremost. We also petition the intercessions of the Most Holy Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary, the power of the Life-giving Holy Cross, the protection of the holy, heavenly, bodiless powers, the supplications of the glorious forerunner John the Baptist and the prayers of all the apostles, martyrs and saints.

Redeemed, cleansed, sanctified by the blood of Jesus and consecrated by the Holy Spirit we believe that the saints are drenched to their very bones with divinity and for this reason we reverence and venerate their sacred relics and petition their prayers.

Bishop Kallistos Ware reminds us that the veneration of the relics of Saints in the Orthodox Church proceeds from a highly developed theology of the body:

"Belief in the deification of the body and its eventual resurrection helps to explain the Orthodox veneration of relics. Since the body is redeemed and sanctified along with the soul, and since the body will rise again, it is only fitting that Christians should show respect for the bodily remains of the saints. Reverence for relics is not the fruit of ignorance and superstition, but springs from a highly developed theology of the body."

THE SAINT DEMETRIOS RELIQUARY SHRINE

The Reliquary rests in the sacred bier located in the left front alcove of our Church nave.

AHEPA commissioned the painting of the icon depicting the fifteen men and women whose relics are in our Sacred Reliquary with the addition of Saint Kyrikos the Child Martyr and Saint Bonafatios, the Martyr whose relics are resting in the Holy Altar Table of our Church together with the relics of Saint Panteleimon, the Great Martyr.

HISTORY OF THE RELIQUARY SHRINE

After the death of Ignatius Koutroulelis, for many years the Chanter at Sts. Constantine & Helen Church in Reading, PA, his wife gave Gust Kraras two reliquaries with the request that one be given to Sts. Constantine & Helen Church in Reading, PA and the other be given to Fr. Christ Efstathiou, who was then Pastor of St. Demetrios Church in Wildwood. Both were delivered circa 1973. Although the relics were a sacred gift to Fr. Efstathiou, they remained in our Church following his passing and aid us in recalling his sacred ministry.

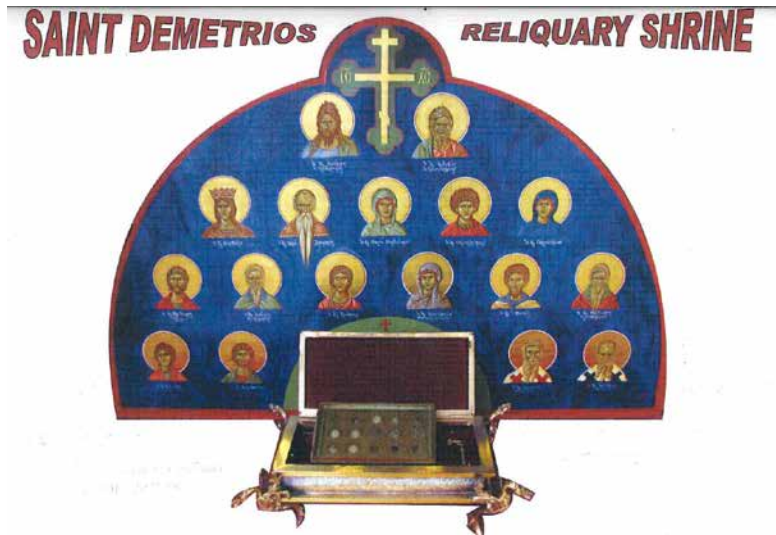
THE RELIQUARY SAINTS

The relics of the following Saints are in our Sacred Reliquary and their respective feast days:

St. John the Baptist (August 29)
 St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30)
 St. Barbara (December 4)
 St. Haralambos (February 10)
 St. Mary Magdalene (July 22)
 St. Panteleimon (July 27)
 St. Paraskevi (July 26)
 St. Theodore of Perga (April 21)
 St. John the Merciful (January 31)
 St. Tryfon (February 1)
 St. Anastasia the Pharmacolytria (December 22)
 St. Fokas (July 22)
 St. Theodore the Holy (May 16)
 St. Kyrikos (July 15)
 St. Bonafatios (December 19)
 St. Ignatios of Methymna (October 14)
 St. Ierotheos of Athens (October 4)



St. Demetrios Reliquary Shrine



Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Reliquary Shrine of the Saint Demetrios Church.

I invite you to venerate the sacred relics of the fifteen saints who repose in our shrine and to petition their intercessions for your intentions. You may also submit the names of your loved ones that you wish to have commemorated and remembered at the Holy Altar Table at the liturgy and in prayers at the Reliquary Shrine.

Faithfully yours,
Father Michael L. Pastrikos, Protopresbyter



You cannot *drink*
from an empty cup.

FILL YOURSELF UP. YOU'RE WORTH IT.

faykara^{PhD}

As the holidays quickly approach, it's easy to get swept up into the hustle & bustle of all the preparations. The planning, the shopping, the decorating....the lists are endless. During these weeks, the majority of people operate from a place of auto pilot as they navigate lengthy to-do lists and tackle other obligatory tasks. Less frequently, is this time seen as a time for pause and reflection. Yet, it is during this hectic time that rich opportunities exist to connect with one's self and God.

In order to have a fulfilling connection with yourself and with God, navigating from a place of intention (and not auto pilot) is crucial. What does this mean? It means exercising a few instrumental steps in order to ensure personal fulfillment and deep connection with yourself, God and the ones around you.

Step one- implementing healthy boundaries (for example, saying "no" to taking on more responsibilities to an already full plate)

Step two- creating space to reflect (on lessons learned from good and bad choices that either you have made or have witnessed)

Step three- creating time to worship God and to pay gratitude to God, as well as showing gratitude to the loved ones around you

These are all easy and crucial steps in creating and sustaining connection with one's self, with God, and of course, with others.



thoughts from

EVA LALLAS

GIVING THANKS

The falling colorful leaves...the crisp morning frosts... Autumn has surely arrived; as has the highlight of the season, Thanksgiving Day! This truly American holiday was established by the United States Congress and is now celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday in November.

What does this holiday mean to you? Is it merely a day off from work or school, a time to chill out? Is it an opportunity to visit with family and friends whether they live near or far? Is it a day to enjoy a bountiful traditional dinner followed by competitive football games, anticipating the many late hour Christmas sales? This is how most of us enjoy Thanksgiving Day.

We need to be aware, however, of the reason that this day has officially been set aside to be observed throughout America. (Actually, EVERY day should be Thanksgiving Day!) Based on their Judeo-Christian principles, giving thanks to Almighty God for providing a sanctuary in the new land was a priority for the early settlers in the new American colonies. As our country became established, even during the presidency of George Washington, Congress issued a proclamation naming Thanksgiving Day because giving thanks to God and acknowledging His mercy was of utmost importance.

Our founding fathers were guided by their belief and reliance on God. They sought religious freedom for all and put forth the idea that each person could worship God as he or she pleased without persecution or the threat of persecution by the governing authorities, as was the case in the countries from which they had fled.

Thanksgiving Day continued to be observed in various States on different days in November until 1941 when the fourth Thursday in November was officially established as the federal Thanksgiving Day holiday throughout the land.

It is of importance to note that Thanksgiving Day is uniquely American; but once again America has set the pace as other countries have picked up the baton and celebrate an official day of giving thanks. We must not forget what necessitated and gave birth to this day: our country is deeply rooted in the belief and worship of God. Nor should we take our freedom of religion for granted for in recent years we have seen that it is being greatly threatened from many segments of society.

Wherever we may be on Thanksgiving Day a more meaningful observance should include attending church when possible and special prayers to God for all the blessings He has bestowed on America and on each of us. Happy Thanksgiving!

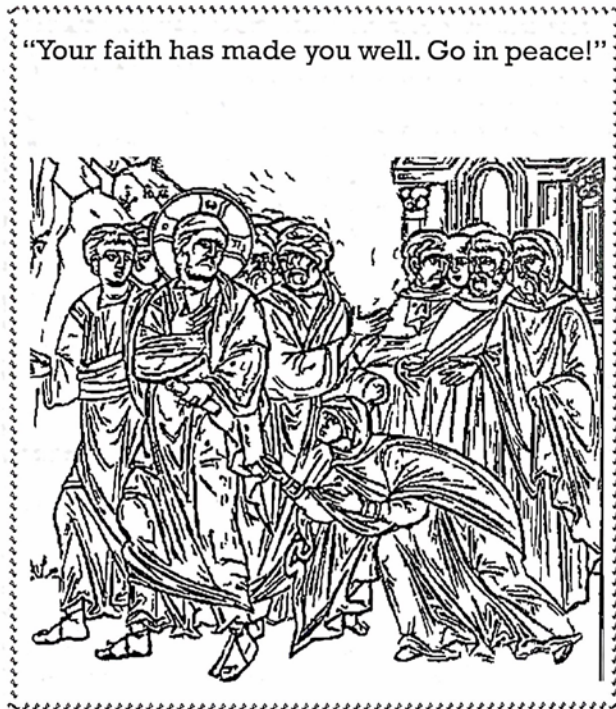
November offers us additional joy and cause for celebration as we honor the Archangel Michael on his feast day November 8th! He is a guardian of the Church, whose icon is on the iconostasis of every Orthodox Church; a spiritual warrior of good versus evil, a champion of justice. We honor him and extend our best wishes for good health and joyful moments to our Very Reverend Father Michael on his Name Day and to all who celebrate! *Χρόνια Πολλά!*



Children's Corner

More available on stdemetriosnewjersey.com!

Courtesy of Presvytera Alexandra Houck



"Your faith has made you well. Go in peace!"

The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is [orthodoxchildrensword\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword(at)gmail.com). Find it each week at myocn.net.

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, October 29, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 44

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Our Lord's Touch

Can you think of a time you got hurt?

Maybe your father or mother gave you a hug or touched you, and you felt better!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about how Jesus touched people—and they felt better too! We hear about two miracles that our Lord did to heal people. In the first story, a girl had even died. Her father found Jesus and said, "Come and lay your hand on her and she will live." Our Lord did just that. He touched the girl, and she did live. He made her better.



In the other miracle, a woman had been sick for 12 years. She looked for Jesus too and said, "If I only touch His cloak, I will be made well." And Jesus made her better too! When we read the Bible, we can find lots of other miracles that our Lord did. Lots of times, he touched the sick person, and healed him or her. He touched them, and they got better.

God wants us to get close to Him. He lets us touch Him and taste even His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. When we receive Holy Communion, we can get better too. Jesus can make us better when our bodies are sick. Our Lord can also make us better when we feel like we are far away from Him, and when we do the wrong thing. God wants to help us and heal us. Let's come close to Christ, just like the two people in the miracle stories today!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Demetrios
Epistle
Faithful
Galatians
Martyrs
Mission
Nestor
Saint Paul
Sharing
Thessaloniki
Tradition

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saints Demetrios and Nestor.

Saint Demetrios is blessing Saint Nestor. Do you see the little icon of our Lord, Jesus Christ? These two remembered the Lord, even in prison.



HOW TO BE A GOOD FRIEND SAINT NESTOR AND SAINT DEMETRIOS

Do you have a good friend? This

week we will celebrate one great saint, and the day after, we will celebrate the nameday of his good friend. Long ago, in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece, Christians were not allowed to be Christians. Well, they *could* be Christians, but they had to do it in secret or they could be hurt or killed.

St. Demetrios was a Christian soldier. He was sent to prison because he wouldn't worship idols. He said he would only worship our one, true God... the same God that you and I worship! The general, who was in charge of that whole land, held a cruel game sometimes—he would send Christians into a stadium to fight a huge, strong man named Lyaeus.

Another Christian, named Nestor, decided to fight him, even though he wasn't even close to Lyaeus's size! Nestor wanted to show that God was on his side. He visited his friend, St. Demetrios, in prison, and asked if he should. St. Demetrios gave him his blessing, and told his friend, Nestor, to always love God.

What wonderful friends St. Demetrios and St. Nestor are! They knew that the best thing they could do was to help each other love God. Can you help your friends do that, too?

We celebrate these saints on Thurs. and Fri., the 26th and 27th (OC: Nov. 8 and 9th).

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Notices



ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS

Nameday Gala

Benefiting the Archdiocesan Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023

Capitale, 130 Bowery Street, New York, NY 10013

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

TICKETS

\$300 PER PERSON

or SPONSOR A TABLE OF 10

\$5,000 SPONSOR *Listed on Sponsor Board*

\$7,500 BENEFACTOR *Preferred Table Location, Listed on Sponsor Board, Electronic Greeting on Screen in the Room*

\$10,000 GRAND BENEFACTOR *Exclusive Table Location, VIP Reception, Listed on Sponsor Board, Electronic Greeting on Screen in the Room*

\$25,000 DIAMOND BENEFACTOR *Deluxe Table Location, VIP Reception, Listed on Sponsor Board, Electronic Greeting on Screen in the Room*

*For more information visit goarch.org/nameday
or call (212) 570-3567*



ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS

Nameday Gala

Benefiting the Archdiocesan Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

If you do not plan on attending but would still like to make a donation we offer the following options:

BRONZE CAMP DONOR \$1,000

GOLD CAMP DONOR \$2,500

SILVER CAMP DONOR \$5,000

PLATINUM CAMP DONOR \$10,000

DIAMOND CAMP DONOR \$25,000

Please make checks payable to

*Archdiocese Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Fund
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
8 E 79th Street,
New York, NY 10075*

*For more information visit goarch.org/nameday
or call (212) 570-3567*





Notices



**CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD**

SAVE THE DATE!

CGS MD: JUNE 15-22
CGS NJ: JUNE 23-29
CGS VA SESSION 1: JULY 7-13
CGS VA SESSION 2: JULY 14-20

REGISTRATION
INFO COMING
SOON!



Faith!



Fun!



Fellowship!



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