



NEWSLETTER OF ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH North Wildwood, NJ

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- 2 | Letter from
Fr. Michael Pastrikos
- 4 | Presentation of Our Lord
- 6 | Epiphany Celebration
- 7 | New Parish Council
- 17 | Question & Answer
- 21 | Thoughts from Eva Lallas
- 23 | Children's Corner by
Presvytera Alexandra Houck

EPIPHANY AT ST. DEMETRIOS



*St. Demetrios celebrated Epiphany with the
Blessing of the Waters.*





a letter from

FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER



Just look how fast the month of January has passed us by, we are now in the month of February. Boy, how time flies. We need to look back in time and remember the positive as well as the negative things that happened in our parish in the last year. On December 10, 2023 we elected the new parish Council, and that is always something positive that we have to go on. With new members we are now able to fulfill our new goals and mission for the coming years. We are trying to be transparent as to what lies ahead, and what we as a Community must do to continue down the path of fulfilling our mission, while protecting and ensuring our future. I am thankful that so many people from our parish gave their Time, Talent, and Treasure, in all areas of the community to have this great success that we have seen throughout the years at St. Demetrios. We are heading on a steady path to create new challenges that will carry us through these coming years. But aside from the financial achievements, we must look out and care for the nourishment of our spiritual souls. God has been so good to us, that we forget that HE exists. Praise be to God for all His gifts, or perhaps, Glory be to God for all things, but whatever has transpired in our lives

during the past year good or bad, joys or sorrows, it is now past, and we can and must look forward to the new year. How will it go? What will it bring to us and our lives and to our Church family? Our memories of past years may be fond ones, or maybe decidedly “un fond” but they are now part of our lives, and we must accept them as part of our spiritual journey upon which we are traveling as we seek our way to heaven and the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I remember reading this statement: “Although the past can hurt, we can either run from it, or learn from it.” In this day and age, we need to really find ourselves. From now on, we need to begin living our lives solely for our own salvation with Christ. We need to abandon our former habits, we need to cut off all sinful passions and lustful dispositions and take on the works of strict self-denial. We need to create a spiritual outreach program to bring back those who have strayed for one reason or another, and to reach out to our children, relatives and friends who do not attend church services. This would be the greatest gift if we could bring back home a stray that has been lost. It is not always the responsibility of the Parish Priest to bring back the people, it is everyone’s responsibility to make sure that our families are spiritually enlightened and reaching out to our friends and neighbors and showing them respect, love, and compassion. We need to create a community that worships together and engages in fellowship. There has been so much that has been accomplished in our Community, but there is much more to be excited about and even more to be proud of. We can never say that we are comfortable with what we have, we need to continue to do more spiritual work not only for ourselves but for others who have no hope, and no future.

I always felt that there are choices we can make in life. And I know two of them. First, we can decide to do nothing and let life pass us by. That might be the easier way out of caring and having any sort



a letter from

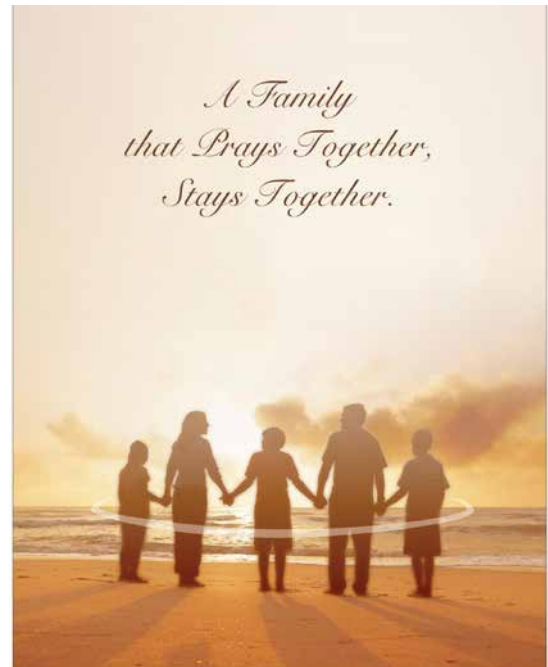
FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER

CONTINUED...

of responsibility. Or secondly, we can take time to look deeper in our own personal relationship with Christ. By the way, I would like to ask those who are reading this article, “Do you have a relationship with Christ?” Let’s look at the Pros and Cons! By doing nothing, we get back nothing. For example, what have we done to encourage one another in our relationship with others, our marriages, our friendships, the investment toward our children’s spiritual future, the workplace, our Church and Communities. If we put nothing into these relationships we will get back a BIG “0-nothing” in return. But if we work hard at all these things, we can accomplish everything that we put our minds to. Just imagine if we put some effort and work hard to create a better relationship and a better environment for our family members, our relatives and our friends. Imagine if we all worked together to support our Church and her Ministries. Some might say, “Can this be true?” “Can this happen?” “Are we dreaming?” and the answer is, “Of

course not!” All these things that we are asking for, CAN be reached, but only if we work together as a family. Remember this beautiful and meaningful statement: “A FAMILY THAT WORKS AND PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.”

May the Lord continue to bless our families here at St. Demetrios with much love, joy, and happiness!



In memory - In honor

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





The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple **February 2**

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



Reading

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2;

Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave

glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

The Apodosis of the Feast of the Meeting in the Temple is usually on

the 9th of February. This, however, may vary if the Feast falls within the period of the Triodion. Should this occur, the Typicon should be consulted for specific information concerning the Apodosis of the Feast.

[Apolytikion of Presentation of Our Lord](#)

First Tone

Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from you, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in your arms, the Deliverance of our souls, who grants us Resurrection.

[Kontakion of Presentation of Our Lord](#)

First Tone

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.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

**Μήνυμα του Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Αποστόλου
για τους Τρεις Ιεράρχες.
Ιανουάριος 2024**

Η μεγάλη και λαμπρά εορτή των Τριών Μεγίστων Φωστήρων της Τρισηλίου Θεότητος, των Οικουμενικών Διδασκάλων, Βασιλείου του Μεγάλου, Γρηγορίου του Θεολόγου και Ιωάννου του Χρυσοστόμου έχει τις απαρχές της στον 11^ο αιώνα. Καθιερώθηκε από τον Επίσκοπο Ευχαΐτων Ιωάννη Μαυρόπουλο σε μια εποχή εξίσου ταραγμένη όπως και η σημερινή, με πολλές ανατροπές και παγκόσμιες εξελίξεις. Στις αρχές του 11^{ου} αιώνα έγινε το μεγάλο σχίσμα μεταξύ της Ανατολικής και της Δυτικής Εκκλησίας. Οι Σελτζούκοι τούρκοι εισήλθαν στην Ρωμαϊκή Αυτοκρατορία (Βυζαντινή) μετά την μάχη του Ματζικέρτ και όλα τούτα αποτέλεσαν κοσμογονία για την εποχή εκείνη. Το Ορθόδοξο πλήρωμα της αυτοκρατορίας χρειάστηκε ενίσχυση και παρηγορία και τότε ο Επίσκοπος Ευχαΐτων Ιωάννης Μαυρόπουλος αφουγκραζόμενος τα σημεία των καιρών, με θείο φώτισμο, καθιέρωσε τον κοινό εορτασμό των Τριών Αγίων Ιεραρχών επαναφέροντας στο προσκήνιο την καταλύτικη δράση που είχαν οι Οικουμενικοί αυτοί Διδάσκαλοι κατά τον τέταρτο και στις απαρχές του πέμπτου αιώνα.

Κάτοχοι της ελληνικής παιδείας οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες αποτόλμησαν ένα μεγάλο εγχείρημα όταν ουσιαστικά βάπτισαν τον ελληνισμό στα νάματα του Χριστιανισμού και τον απάλλαξαν από την ειδωλολατρεία. Βεβαίως η επιτυχία τους αυτή στηρίζεται στο γεγονός ότι οι ίδιοι διέθεταν εμπειρία πνευματική και συνείδηση εκκλησιαστική διότι με συνέπεια ακολούθησαν την οδό της καθάρσεως και του φωτισμού της Εκκλησίας μας δια τούτο όχι απλώς από γνώση και οξύνοια αλλά κυρίως από αγιοπνευματική εμπειρία και θείο φωτισμό μεγαλούργησαν κατά την δύσκολη εκείνη εποχή όπου η Εκκλησία άρχισε να εξέρχεται από τις κατακόμβες και τα τους ανηλεείς διωγμούς. Οι Τρεις Ιεράρχες ανεδείχθησαν πανεπιστήμονες για την εποχή τους, αφού σπούδασαν πολλές από τις τότε γνωστές επιστήμες όπως ιατρική, νομική, ρητορική, φιλοσοφία κ.α. Όμως παράλληλα όλοι τους είχαν εν Χριστώ ζωή και πολιτεία γι' αυτό διέθεταν πνέυμα διακρίσεως, συνέσεως, ευσεβείας και δεν απολυτοποίησαν ούτε θεοποίησαν την επιστήμη. Χρησιμοποίησαν την ελληνική φιλοσοφία και την ελληνική γλώσσα, που τότε ήταν η παγκόσμια ομιλούμενη γλώσσα όπως σήμερα είναι τα αγγλικά, ως όχημα για να μεταδώσουν την αλήθεια του Ευαγγελίου του Χριστού σε ολάκερη την οικουμένη. Οι δύο μεγάλοι Καππαδόκες Πατέρες Βασίλειος ο Μέγας και ο Θεολόγος Γρηγόριος θεολόγησαν περί του Μυστηρίου της Αγίας Τριάδος και η διδασκαλία τους, καταχωρωμένη και



αναγνωρισμένη από Οικουμενικές Συνόδους, κατευθύνει την ζωή της Εκκλησίας μας μέχρι και σήμερα. Ο έτερος μεγάλος Ιεράρχης, ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος, συνέταξε την γνωστή σε όλους μας Θεία Λειτουργία αποκαλύπτοντας έτσι τις θεοπτικές του εμπειρίες και ουδείς εκκλησιαστικός Πατήρ μέχρι της σήμερα δεν έχει να επιδείξει κάτι ανώτερο αυτής της Θείας Λειτουργίας.

Η Εκκλησία μας και σήμερα στους δύσκολους αυτούς καιρούς των παγκοσμίων ανακατατάξεων προβάλλει το φωτεινό παράδειγμα των Αγίων Τριών Ιεραρχών, οι οποίοι σύζευξαν με θαυμαστό τρόπο, την εν Χριστώ ζωή με την ελληνική φιλοσοφία και γνώση. Η σημερινή παγκόσμια κοινωνία έχει ανάγκη από προσωπικότητες ενχριστωμένες που θεραπεύουν τα πάθη τους, έχουν θείο φωτισμό και μαθαίνουν εν τέλει να χρησιμοποιούν τις επιστήμες και την γνώση για να ευεργετήσουν τους ανθρώπους και όχι να τους πνίξουν μέσα στα αίματα των πολέμων και της αμαρτίας. Ο Θεός, ταις πρεσβείαις των Αγίων Τριών Ιεραρχών, ας μας χαρίσει και στην δύσκολη αυτή εποχή αξίους μιμητές της ζωής και της πολιτείας των Μεγάλων αυτών Οικουμενικών Διδασκάλων και Ιεραρχών.

Μετά πατρικών ευχών,

† Ο Νέας Ίερσέης Απόστολος



RCA CONGRATULATES FATHER STEVEN VLAHOS

We recognize Father Steven Vlahos who has been recently honored for his decades of service in his Priesthood and his serving of parishes.

One recent article noted:

On Saturday, November 4, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in North Wildwood, New Jersey, at the Saint Demetrios feast day Day dinner dance, in addition to honoring some church volunteers, dedicated a portrait of Father Steven Vlahos in recognition of a quarter-century ministry.

It was a beautiful event crowned by the love of the parish. Speakers included parish council president Nicholas Konides and parish secretary William Mitchell. Parish Legal Counsel Marcus Karavan was also specially honored for his volunteer services. Following a delicious Greek dinner prepared by parish members and delicious homemade Greek desserts, the beautiful evening ended with Greek music and dancing. Father Steven – who is the vice-president of the Retired Priests Association, served the Saint Demetrios parish from 1992, in addition to his civil position as special deputy surrogate of Camden County, and oversaw several educational, spiritual, and building enhancements and iconography, including the building of the sea wall by the State of New Jersey.

Another recent article also commented:

The occasion, set against the backdrop of the Saint Demetrios feast day dinner dance, was marked by myriad festivities, including the dedication of a portrait of Father Steven in recognition of his unwavering commitment.

The festivities unfolded with a delectable Greek dinner prepared by parish members, accompanied by homemade Greek desserts that added a touch of authenticity to the celebration. The joyous occasion reached its pinnacle with Greek music and dancing, uniting the community to celebrate shared faith and camaraderie.

Father Steven's impact extends beyond the church walls, evident in his efforts to enhance the local infrastructure, attract summer vacationers, and foster the growth of the Saint Demetrios community. Father Steven's family life includes his marriage to Presvytera Chrysi and their proud parenthood of son Demetrios Troy, daughter Dana Anastasia (Joseph) DiAntonio,

*"Thou art a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek."
—Psalm 110:4*



and their grandson Joseph Steven.

The recognition bestowed upon him during the feast day dinner dance is a well-deserved tribute to a lifetime of service, dedication, and unwavering faith. In the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "Priests have received a power which God has not given to angels or archangels." Through five decades of service, Father Steven Vlahos has exemplified this divine power, bringing spiritual guidance, community enrichment, and a legacy of love to Saint Demetrios Church and beyond.

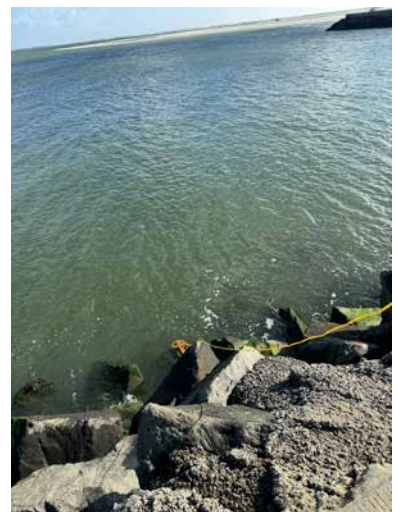
Our sincerest congratulations to Father Steven!





Epiphany

The Blessing of the Waters





Swearing in of the new Parish Council Officers



2024-2026 Parish Council Members

President | Nicholas D. Konides

Vice President | Dr. George Koumaras

Treasurer | Theodore Katsikaris

Assistant Treasurer | Spiro Kellis

Secretary | William Mitchell

*Members | Kosta Bilios, George Mallous,
George Papageorge, George Tsiamis*





St. Demetrios Happenings



*Vasilopita Sunday
Celebration*



*Welcome Herman Murnaghan in the
Christian Orthodox Faith!*

Herman and his proud mother.



*Christmas Caroling with St. Demetrio's Youth in church
and around the island!*





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.

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

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

KOSTA BILIOS
SPIRO KELLIS
GEORGE MALLOUS
GEORGE TSAMIS
GEORGE PAPAGEORGIOU

ATTORNEY: MARCUS KARAVAN, ESQ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL | SOPHIA KINIROPOULOS

GREEK SCHOOL | GEORGE PLAMANTOURAS

J.O.Y. | FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS

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

PHILOPTOCHOS | 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



Greek Corner

In this issue you will find some more sayings that are common among Greeks. We hope to be posting several in each issue of the Koinonia and invite YOU to share those which are familiar to you.

Please submit them to Father Michael: frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com Thank you.

1). Μεγάλωσε η κολοκυθιά, και έστριψε ο λαιμός της!

The squash, gourd grew very large and it's neck became twisted!

One has gotten too big for his britches, or.....one acts like he's now high on the social scale,
or.....now keeping up with the Jones'.

2). Φασούλι το φασούλι, γεμίζει το σακούλι. (One of Father's favorites!)

Bean by bean, the sack is filled!

When we all chip in, little by little, our goal is accomplished!

3). Έρθαν τα άγρια, να διώξουν τα ήμερα.

The wild ones came to oust the tame ones!

A new group of "know-it-alls" has come to take over, to upset the current procedure.

4). Κάλιο αργά, παρά ποτέ!

Better late than never!

5). Της νύχτας τα καρώματα, τα βλέπει η μέρα και γελάει.

Work that is done at night is laughable when viewed during the day!

Often refers to intricate work that needs good lighting.



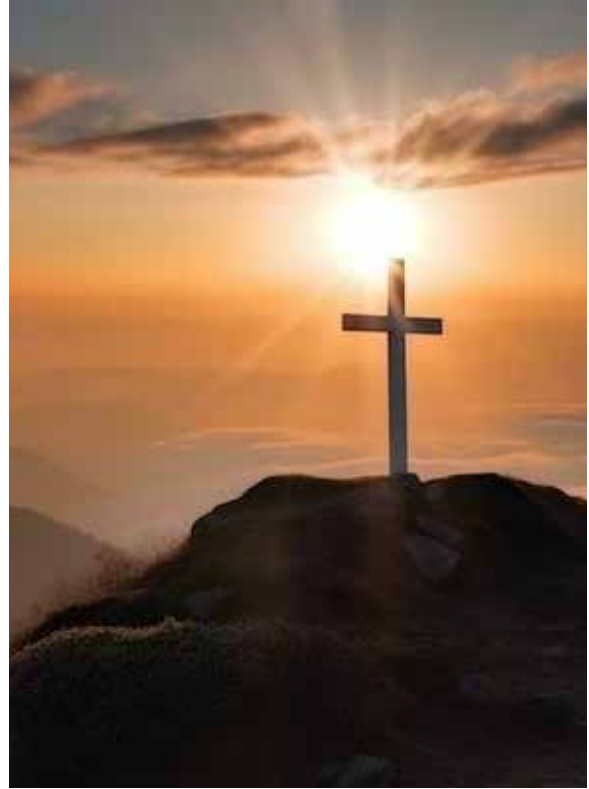
Go Claim Your Mountain

If you think you are beaten, you are,
If you think you dare not, you don't
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost,
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will
It's all in the state of mind

If you think you're outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battle doesn't always go
To the swifter or faster man
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man "who thinks he can."



"...All things are possible to him that believeth," said Jesus (Mark 9:23)
Is this just a good reading, or does it really work?
Those who have tried it have...

subdued kingdoms
wrought righteousness
Obtained promises
Stopped the mouths of lions
Quenched the violence of fire
Escaped the edge of the sword
Out of weakness were made strong
Waxed valiant in fight
-Hebrews 11:33,34

Now this quality of confidence has to be learned.
Those who have a mountain they want to claim must struggle with doubt, failure, and discouragement.

Your belief in the ability that you can accomplish things must have the mind of St. Paul,
"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me..." (Phil. 4:12).



liturgical calendar

Sunday, February 4th	15th Sunday of St. Matthew Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, February 11th	16th Sunday of St. Matthew Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, February 18th	Sunday of the Canaanite Woman Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, February 25th	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Sunday, March 3rd	Sunday of the Prodigal Son Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Saturday, March 9th	First Saturday of the Souls Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Memorial services for the Saturday of the Souls will take place near the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Make sure that you clearly print out the names of your departed loved ones. Two more services of the Saturday of the Souls will follow the next two Saturdays.

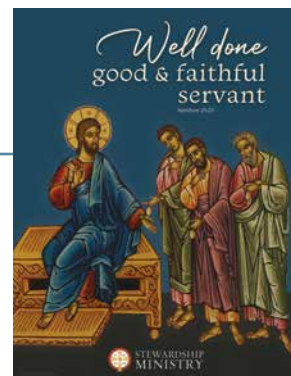
The Great Lenten Period will begin this year on Clean Monday (Kathera Deftera) Monday, March 18th, 2024



Saturday of the Souls



stewardship letter



As we enter into another productive year, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. As a community we have a lot of work to do, the groundwork has been started, and we must work even harder to promote a better Christian environment for ourselves and our children. God has blessed our community with parishioners like you, who have supported the church throughout the years. But to continue this success that we have experienced, we need to focus on something very important. We need to understand what “STEWARDSHIP” means.

Our main concern in writing this letter is to have a better communication with the members of our St. Demetrios family. Somewhere down the line we have forgotten what it means to be a Good Standing Member of the Church. At the care of any Stewardship Program, the main characters and pillars of the church are the Stewards. A good steward is neither a miser nor a spendthrift person. A good steward is not one who economizes but one who is a good manager of what has been entrusted to him/her.

Some of us have forgotten what it means to be a Good Standing Member of the Church. As members of our St. Demetrios Parish, we have by our own choice undertaken a responsibility to become a good member of the Church. That means we must love it, care for it, be concerned about it, support it, and promote its Christian work and mission. How well we are going to accomplish these major tasks is solely up to all of us as Christian Stewards.

We have the opportunity and the responsibility to help our St. Demetrios Community grow. But we have “Steward’s that for years have never made any attempts to send in their Pledge Cards...We send out Stewardship information every three months to all our registered families, and along with that information, we also include a Pledge Card. It brings us to the question “WHY”. Most of our parishioners were raised in the parish of St. Demetrios. You went to Greek School, Sunday School, Joy, GOYA, Dance Groups, and etc. Talking to people in the parish, you hear stories about how proud they are to have grown up in the Church of St. Demetrios and that they also want their children to experience that same tradition that their parents felt growing up in the parish. Many of our young people, who are out of college, single, married and raising their families, are the groups that we need to communicate with, giving them the understanding that we truly need their help and support. Our young people need to step up to the plate and make their commitment to the church.

Remember when we give to God, we must give with the attitude of how much we can give...not with the attitude of how much should we give...or how much did John Doe give and so I will give. This is why it’s called (fair share), because, everyone is part of the puzzle and everyone is responsible for their share.



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

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 _____

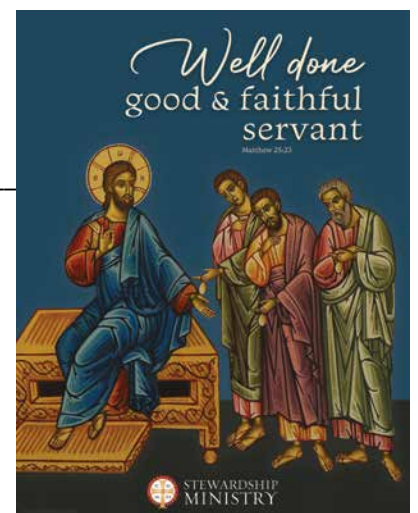
Single/Individual \$500.00

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 _____



PLEDGES FOR 2023

ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ 2023

MRS ANDY FOTINI
 DR/MRS AUGOUSTIDES YIANNI & ANNA MARIA
 MR/MRS AUGUSTINOS ROB & LISA
 MR/MRS BARALOS MILTON & YIANNA
 MR/MRS BILIOS NICK & DINA
 MR/MRS BILIOS KOSTA & FOTINI
 MRS BOULAGERIS ALEXANDRA
 MRS BOULAGERIS EVELYN
 MRS BUTLER ANNA
 MR/MRS CAMMARANO ANDREW & SOPHIA
 MR/MRS CAMMARANO MAURO & ANGELA
 DRS CARPENTER JEFFREY & JUDY
 MR/MRS CHLETCOS PETER & MARGOT
 MRS DAGLIS MELPO
 MR/MRS DECTIS PETER & JULIE
 MR DONAHUE BERNARD & PATRICIA
 MRS EFTHIMIOU ELEFThERIA
 MR/MRS ERMENTROUT GERALD & ELAINE
 MRS ERMENTROUT JULIE
 MR/MRS FOURNARIS EMMANUEL & EVIE
 MR/MRS GIOUROS EVANGELOS & BESSIE
 MR/MRS HOLTON JOHN & KATERINI
 MR/MRS HUNSICKER SCOTT & MARISA
 MR/MRS JORDAN CALVIN & MARIA
 MR/MRS KANTZIOS EMMANUEL & EFTHYMIA
 MR/MRS KANTZIOS NICK & KATHY
 MRS KARAPANAGIOTIS FAY
 MR KARAVAN MARCUS
 MRS KARAVANGELES ANASTASIA
 MRS KARAVANGELOS ANNA
 MR/MRS KARDAS JAMES & KATHY
 MR/MRS KARROS JOHN & IRENE
 DR/MRS KATSANIS LESTER & ELENi
 MR/MRS KATSIKARIS THEODORE & DESPINA
 MR/MRS KELLIS PETER & VASSO
 MR/MRS KELLIS SPIRO & MARIA
 MR/MRS KINIROPOULOS STEFANO & SOPHIA
 MRS KLINGOS ELENi
 MR KLINGOS GEORGE
 MR/MRS KOKOS THEODORE & STEPHANIE
 MR/MRS KONIDES NICHOLAS & JENNIFER
 DR/MRS KOUMARAS GEORGE & MARIA
 MR/MRS KOUTSIMIRIS ANTONIOS & ELENi
 MR/MRS KRARAS CHISTOS & ANN

MR/MRS KRARAS DEAN & JENNIFER
 MR/MRS KYRTATAS EVANGELOS & ANTONIA
 MR/MRS KYRTATAS JOHN & EVIE
 MR/MRS LOMAS RAYMOND & KRISTEN
 MR/MRS LAZOS PETER & VASILIKI
 MR/MRS LOUNTZIS NEKTARIOS & CHRISA
 MRS MALLOUS ATHENA
 MR/MRS MALLOUS GEORGE & BEVERLY
 MR/MRS MANETAS JOHN & ELLEN
 MRS MANGOS CLAUDETTE
 MR MARGARITES THEODOROS
 MR/MRS MERCADO LUIS & DEMETRIA
 MR/MRS MITCHELL WILLIAM & HELEN
 MR/MRS MURIANKA STEPHEN & MICHELLE
 MR/MRS NANNAS TED & ALEXANDRA
 MR/MRS PADUSSIS GARRY & DONNA
 MRS PANTELIS KATINA
 MRS PAPADOPOULOS ANGELA
 MR/MRS PAPAGEORGE ANTONIOS & ELISAVET
 MR/MRS PAPAGEORGE GEORGE & STELLA
 MR/MRS PAPAIOANNOU STELIOS & TINA
 MR/MRS PAPASPANOS KOSTAS & ROULA
 MR/MRS PARSON JAMES & NIKKI
 MRS PAVLOU HELEN
 MRS PITTAKAS ARGYROS
 MR/MRS ROYER MICHAEL & CHRISTINA
 MR/MRS SAKOULAS NICK & ALINA
 MR/MRS SAKOULAS JOHN & ELIZABTH
 MR/MRS SHEETS WILLIAM & IRENE
 MR/MRS SQUICCIMAIA LOUIS & ELLIE
 MR/MRS STAMATACOS VASILIOS & ELENi
 MRS STAVROPOULOS ELLIE
 MR/MRS THOMAS EDWARD & KATHY
 MR/MRS TRAFICANTE CHRIS & ROSE
 MR/MRS TSIAMIS GEORGE & DIMITRA
 MR/MRS TSIARTSIONIS GEORGE & ALEKA
 MR WALLGREN WILLIAM
 MR/MRS WOLFE DAVID & KATHY
 MR/MRS ZAMPIRRI SALVATORE & VAIA
 MR/MRS ZOGRAFAKIS PAUL & OLGA

**TOTAL STEWARDSHIP
FOR 2023: \$70,215**

Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

On February 25, the Greek Orthodox Church will introduce us to the paschal season with the Triodion, a series of 3 beautiful parables given to us by Jesus Christ in preparation for the Great Lenten period. While most of us know the events of Holy Week, there are others who have actually lived these events during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Let's take a quick tour of the holy places visited during a pilgrimage taken in June of 2010 led by our beloved Father Michael Pastrokos.

On June 15, 2010 a group of 25 pilgrims left Baltimore from the BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport for a spiritual pilgrimage. After a slight delay, the group arrived safely in Tel Aviv Israel where we met our very knowledgeable and well-educated Orthodox Christian guide, Raed Makhoul. After a good night's rest in our comfortable hotel in Jerusalem, we started our pilgrimage bright and early, as we did every morning.

As we boarded the modern bus and approached the ancient walled city of Jerusalem, we caught glimpses of the gold domes of the Russian St. Mary Magdalene Church, the Golden Gate, and the golden Dome of Rock. It can be said that the 4,000-year-old city of Jerusalem is very rich in history for all 3 major monotheistic religions.

The first stop was the Church of All Nations which is built over the rock where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Once inside the grounds, we were transported spiritually to the night when our Lord was praying to His Father to take away the cup. It is also here where our Lord was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and subsequently arrested. The ancient olive trees are gnarled and twisted with huge trunks, dating back to the time of our Lord. Inside the church, we knelt and prayed at the rock where Jesus prayed. Once outside, we stopped at the Mount of Olives for a spectacular wide-angle view of the Old City as well as the newer parts of Jerusalem. Here we found some camels being offered for tourists to sit on and get a picture taken. Some of our group members got very friendly with their camel! ***To be continued next month!...***



Church of All Nations in Jerusalem with the gold domes of St. Mary Magdalene Russian Church.



Inside the Church of All Nations and the rock of agony



Ancient olive tree in the Garden of Gethsamene



Overview of Jerusalem with a camel

By:
Tina Harris



QUESTION & ANSWER:

WHAT DOES JESUS CHRIST SAY ABOUT HAVING EARTHLY POSSESSIONS?

DON'T BE OBSESSED WITH POSSESSIONS!

It may surprise you to know that these very Christ-like words were uttered by the pagan Greek philosopher Socrates, who lived some 400 years before our Lord came into the world! It is said that Socrates loved to visit the market place, where he would spend considerable time admiring the great abundance of wares for sale and on display. When asked by a friend why he did this, Socrates replied, "I love to discover how many things I am perfectly happy NOT having!"

Sadly, we live in a society that is totally the opposite in its thinking. The more we have, the more we seem to want. Advertisers easily convince us that we need a bigger home, a faster car and every new electronic gadget imaginable if we are to be truly happy. But what does the Lord say about this? Read Matthew 6:19-20:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But rather lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."

Our Lord also warns us about worrying too much about what to eat, drink and wear,

reminding us that our Heavenly Father is very much aware of our needs. Listen to what St. Paul writes to his young disciple Timothy:

"Those who desire to be rich fall into the temptation and into a snare and into many foolish and harmful lists...for the love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Tim. 6:9-10)

Indeed, don't be obsessed with possessions, but rather,

"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous, and all things will be given to you." (Matthew 6:33)





church 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 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.

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!





The New Year for many is filled with new beginnings, proclaiming new resolutions, and making new (or making good on) promises.

Like all good things, starting with yourself is always a good starting point. As we all embark on a new year, let's make sure we do a self check with where we stand with ourselves first, before we make any new year resolutions/promises.

Where does your faith lie? How about your trust? Faith and trust are two key components in having a solid relationship with yourself. If you don't have faith and trust in yourself, how are you able to exercise it in your relationship with God? Or, with your partner? Or, with your children/family/friends?

Faith and trust, go hand in hand. Having faith is the precursor to trust. Faith, is the invisible component, it's the belief. Trust, is the visible component, it's the action.

Trust, as I see it, is a verb. And, this is how I believe it works-

We are notorious for making promises with ourselves.

For example, how many times have you said things to yourself, such as... "Tomorrow I will start to eat better" or "I'm going to start to go to the gym after the holidays", or "I'm not going to raise my voice next time I get angry", "I'm going to go to church next Sunday", "I'm going to do all the house chores this weekend", "After work today, I'm going to call my friend who I haven't talked to in forever", "I'm going to volunteer next month", etc., etc., etc.

When we make these promises to ourselves, and then we don't execute (or follow through on) what we told ourselves we were going to do, we start to build a mistrusting relationship with ourselves. It is these silly, often times, daily and mundane promises we make with ourselves that creates a mistrusting relationship with ourselves. We continuously demonstrate to ourselves that what we say to ourselves we're going to do, we don't do.

It's very important to pay attention to this. To pay attention to your self talk.

Creating mistrust with yourself makes it very challenging when bigger, more important decisions and promises have to be made. Mistrust with self is the foundation of self doubt, wish-washy decision making skills, and negative self talk.

Working on building trust with yourself is simple....what you tell yourself you're going to do-make sure you do! It's really that easy! Make sure you do everything in your power to execute what you say to yourself you're going to do. And, in doing so, make sure your promises to yourself are realistic and manageable.

When you have faith and exercise trust with yourself it permeates to all of your relationships.....with God, with family and with friends. When you have faith and trust in yourself you know that what ever happens in your life, be it at the hands of God, a loved one, or a stranger, that you will be okay.

BY: DR. FAYE

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

2024 YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Saturday, April 13, 2024

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

229 Powell Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082



SIGHTS & SOUNDS 2024 YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL TIMELINE

For boxes with **, advisors need to set internal deadlines earlier than the final dates listed in the *Advisor Packet*.

January 2, 2024	Approximately 15 weeks before the event: Registration forms and packets distributed to advisors of each parish. Packet includes rules, requirements, categories of participation and deadlines. Each parish is requested to submit names of two (2) GOYA Advisors who are designated as official parish contacts.
**	Deadline for Parish Registration Forms & Fees for all participants. Submit to: St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church ATTN: Iliana Giouvannoulis / Sights & Sounds Registration 229 Powell Lane Upper Darby, PA 19082
**	Deadline for submission of Literary entries. All entries must be submitted to your own Advisor/Parish priest for review, then postmarked and mailed by this date to Literature Committee: St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church ATTN: Chrissy Katsapis / S+S Literature Committee 35 N. Malin Road, Broomall, PA 19008
March 21, 2024	Deadline for submission of "SOUNDS" SPREADSHEET —submit online to: DVYCSightsandSounds@gmail.com (Spreadsheet to be provided)
March 28, 2024	Deadline to submit "Memory Book" forms and payment to Memory Book Committee: St. George Greek Orthodox Church ATTN: John Galiatsatos / S+S Memory Book 30 E. Forge Road, Media, PA 19063
**	All "SIGHTS" entries properly labeled MUST be delivered to St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA. Advisors should deliver only items that have been <u>pre-approved by parish priests</u> . ONLY bring items that meet all rules for category; authenticity; appropriate and acceptable content; correctly matted or mounted, etc. IF SIGHTS ARE NOT PROPERLY LABELED, THEY WILL NOT BE DISPLAYED OR JUDGED.
April 4, 2024	Deadline for submission of "SIGHTS" SPREADSHEET —submit online to: DVYCSightsandSounds@gmail.com (Spreadsheet to be provided)
April 4, 2024	1st draft of 'SOUNDS' schedule will be distributed at DVYC meeting at St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA.
April 8, 2024	Deadline/final notice to withdraw from 'SOUND' entries.
April 9, 2024	1) Delivery of CAKE entries to St. Demetrios. Deliveries will be accepted all day up until 7:00 pm. Other times may be arranged by special appointment. 2) Final 'SOUNDS' schedule will be distributed. 3) "SIGHTS" display set up at St. Demetrios
April 10, 2024	Judging of the 'SIGHTS' categories will take place. The annual Judges Reception will be held at 7:00pm for all Clergy, Parish Council Presidents and Youth Commission members at St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA
April 13, 2024	DVYC SIGHTS AND SOUNDS 2023 – St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA

thoughts from

EVA LALLAS



FEBRUARY - MONTH OF TRANSITION Yes? No?

We in the northern hemisphere know that we are in the depth of winter: the only difference we may now be noticing day to day is that the daylight hours have been increasing one minute since the Winter Solstice December 21.

The daily routine may occasionally be broken by an approaching or the anticipation of a winter storm. At times February May feel like a never ending extension of winter sandwiched between the hustle bustle of the Christmas holiday and the reappearance of Spring. To break their monotony some may seek to vacation at a winter resort enjoying relaxation and fun on the slopes. Others may opt for a brief reprieve on a cruise to warmer climates, or to Southern States for some fun in the sun. Nature's world is still in hibernation.

Behind the scene, however, much activity is taking place, all in preparation for the coming of Spring and warmer weather. Designers are busy making arrangements for Spring Fashion Shows; travel agents are actively advertising travel packages for their clients; throughout the country workers are planting seedlings in greenhouses to provide us with plants for our Spring and Summer gardens; building developers' projects are being finalized for construction to begin when the weather will allow; school and church communities are involved in planning for year end and summer activities. Yes, while Nature sleeps lots of action behind the scene is taking place.

So too, the liturgical calendar of our Orthodox Church is not humdrum during this time. Beginning on February 2nd we observe the great feast of The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. According to the Law of Moses, forty days after the birth of Christ his parents the Virgin Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to dedicate Him to God, along with a sacrifice of two turtle doves. Present

in the Temple was Simeon the aged and devout priest who had prayed throughout his life and awaited that he would one day see the Lord's Messiah who would come to deliver Israel from their oppressors. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he first saw the Messiah. Recognizing that the infant Jesus was the Lord's Messiah, Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God for allowing him to behold the Lord and was now prepared to die. Once again we see that God's Word was revealed

before the very eyes of those present.

On the tenth of February we memorialize the beloved St. Haralambos one of our early Orthodox priests who lived during the 3rd Century and died a martyr's death. He defended and spread Orthodoxy converting many to Christianity, including the daughter of Servios, Emperor of the Roman Empire; performing miracles of healing during epidemics of cholera and typhus. For this, he was repeatedly brought to trial and tortured severely in brutal ways during his 113 years. Each night his wounds were miraculously healed while he constantly prayed that God grant physical health and spiritual salvation to all people. Even in modern times during the Nazi occupation of WWII miracles of healing have been attributed to his relics. It is interesting for the author to learn that the priest St. Haralambos lived in Magnesia of Asia Minor, the city of her mother, where St. Haralambos was later elevated to Bishop of Magnesia. St. Haralambos is also known as the patron Saint of beekeepers, honey being a valuable commodity. Is it not fitting that that the saint's name in Greek means Glowing With Joy!

In the secular world there are several days which add sparkle to the often monotonous days of February. Sports fans look forward to the hyper advertised NFL Super Bowl and all the festivities that accompany it, which is sometimes not played in January but in early February.

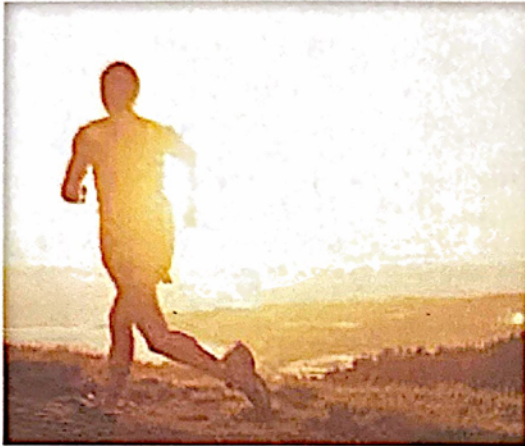
On the 14th of February St. Valentine's Day uplifts everyone as expressions of LOVE abound from the very young to the young at heart!

Lest we forget, since 1970 we celebrate Presidents Day on the third Monday in February honoring all of our presidents; giving federal employees a three- day weekend. (Previously we observed George Washington's Birthday on February 22nd.)

As we end the month of February, the shortest month of the year, the question is: is it a month of transition or does it remain deep in the heart of winter?

HEALTHY BODY AND MIND

HOW EXERCISE AFFECTS MENTAL HEALTH



Exercise has many mental health benefits, including a reduced risk of depression and anxiety, improved brain and cognitive function, better quality of sleep and overall quality of life. Many veterans have found fitness activities a way to better cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and other service-connected conditions.

It's not just veterans, servicemembers or first responders suffering from traumatic events, however. There is a mental health epidemic in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that in the decade preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, feelings of persistent sadness and hopelessness, as well as suicidal thoughts and behaviors, increased by approximately 40% among young people.

Research also shows that comorbid physical and mental health problems continue into adulthood.

A recent study in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that teens with physical and mental health disorders are more likely to have very low quality of life as adults. Mental illness may also have a direct or indirect effect on physical health. For instance, mental disorders, such as depression, may directly lead to physical illness by weakening or altering the immune response. There is also evidence suggesting that stress can lead to decreased immune function.

The CDC recommends 150 minutes per week of

moderately intense physical activity. That may sound daunting, but if you break it up into five days of 30 minutes of activity, it's quite manageable.

DON'T THINK OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AS HARD-CORE RUNNING OR INTENSE WEIGHTLIFTING.

Choose 30 minutes of activity that meets your current fitness level. That might be brisk walking, light jogging, swimming, biking, using an elliptical, yoga or similar exercises.

JOIN A COMMUNITY AS A WAY TO STAY MOTIVATED AND HAVE FUN.

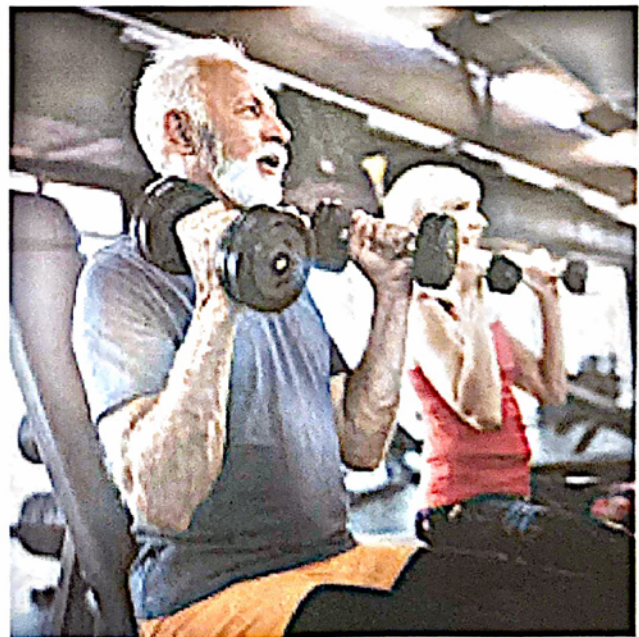
Try a recreational sport like pickleball, volleyball, tennis, golf or bowling. Making exercise a social activity can be very beneficial for mental health outcomes, and doing it outside is a real mood booster.

ENGAGE FAMILY MEMBERS, PERHAPS EVEN A YOUNGER PERSON WHO MAY BE SHOWING SIGNS OF DEPRESSION OR ANXIETY.

A walk, bike ride or canoe trip are all great ways to reconnect via a shared experience while also getting in some physical fitness.

KEEP SHOWING UP.

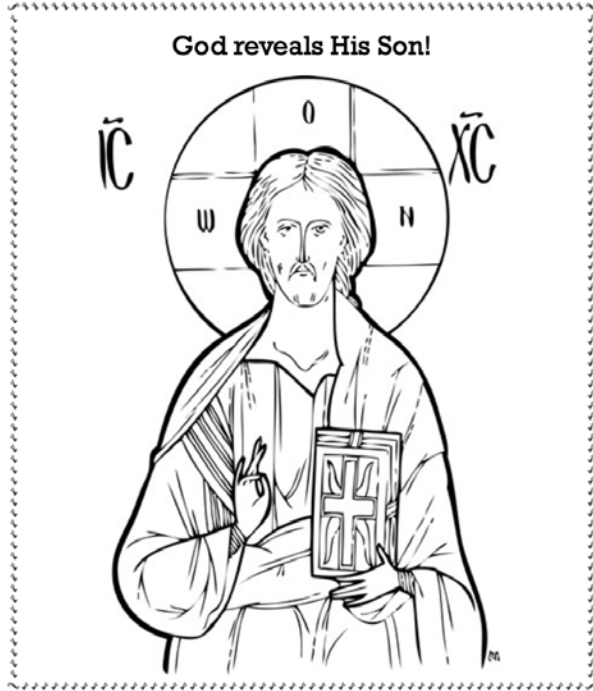
It may be challenging at first. But once you rebuild a base level of fitness, you will begin to enjoy your chosen activity more, improve physically and boost your mental wellness.



Children's Corner

More available on stdemetriosnewjersey.com!

Courtesy of Presvytera Alexandra Houck



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, December 31, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 53

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



I have finished the race!

Have you ever run in a race

before? How did you do? Do you remember how fast you ran? Do you think you could have done better?

We Christians are in a race too! Did you know that? We are in a race to grow close to God! In today's epistle, Saint Paul tells us how he was doing in this very special and very important race. "I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Saint Paul knew that he had worked hard to be a strong Christian. He had worked hard to stay close to the Lord.



It's always a good idea to think about how we're doing in our race, the race to be close to God. But today is the very last day of the year, December 31st, so it's a *really* good time to think about how we can make changes. How did we do in our race last year? Could we have done better? What are we going to try to do differently in this new year?

Our Lord Jesus Christ loves us. He invites each one of us to be with Him. Let's think about how we're doing in the race, so that one day, we can say what Saint Paul said. "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Epistle
- Fight
- Humility
- Keep the faith
- Melania
- Race
- Rome
- Saint
- Salvation
- Theophany
- Wealth
- Wisdom

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?



If you ever go to Jerusalem, you can visit a little chapel of Saint Melania. That is where her relics (her body) is.

In this picture, you can see a priest with an icon of Saint Melania. Do you see how it is decorated with flowers for her feastday?

SAINT MELANIA, THE YOUNGER

THE NUN OF ROME

Have you ever ridden by some super fancy, super huge houses, and wondered what it would be like to live there?

Today we celebrate Saint Melania, a person who *did* live in one of those kinds of houses, and she gave it all up. One historian wrote about her life, just a few years after Melania died. He wrote about how much money and land her family had when she was a child. "On one side lay the sea and on the other some woodland with animals for hunting, so that when she was bathing in the pool, she could see ships passing by and animals in the woods. The property also included 60 large houses, each with 400 servants." Wow! 60 houses, and 24,000 servants. Can you even imagine that?

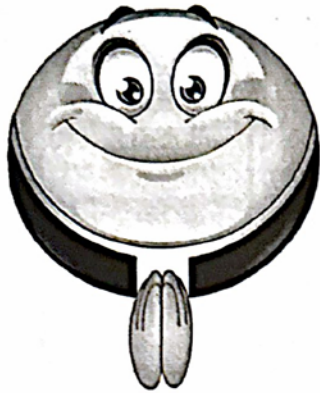


But Saint Melania wasn't impressed! Saint Melania wanted to dedicate her life to Christ. When she was a young woman, she got married, but sadly, her two children died. She and her husband gave away all that treasure to the church and to the poor. Then they traveled far away from Italy, to Africa and later to the Middle East. They started convents and a church.

Sometimes when we have something, we might want to have more and more. Saint Melania didn't want to have more and more money. She wanted to have more and more of Christ's love! And isn't that a better thing?

We celebrate Saint Melania today, December 31st (OC: January 13th).

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A BREAK IN YOUR DAY

FUNNY ONE-LINERS

What do you call a chicken who crosses the road, rolls in the mud and then crosses back again? A dirty double-crosser.

Why did the chicken go to the séance? To get to the other side.

Why did the rooster cross the road? To prove he wasn't a chicken.

I used to believe that all things must pass—until I got stuck behind a school bus.

What did the zookeeper say after the python broke free? Nothing.

A new wine has been made for cats. It won't be long before they start sending regrettable texts and waking up with headaches.

Why don't cats play poker in the jungle? Too many cheetahs.

At which school did Sherlock Holmes get so smart? Elementary.

Two men walk into a bar. You'd think at least one of them would have ducked.

The morning after, Dave wanted some hair of the dog that bit him. He's at the hospital getting checked for rabies now.

What do you call a guy who's had too much to drink? A cab.

Where does a winemaker get his gossip? Through the grapevine.

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backward? A receding hare line.



"Mr. Norlander, as your gift assessment placement consultant, I have the task of connecting you with the ministry of the church that you have tested most gifted to perform. After much deliberation, it is my conviction that the church best as a pew sitter."

© 1999 Dan Lafferty. More at lafferty.com/danandcarol.com



We've got a newcomer in Sector C. Blue blazer, plaid shirt. Falcon that's your greeting area.

Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert? Because he was stuffed.

I went to buy some camo pants, but I couldn't find any.

I was addicted to the hokey pokey, but then I turned myself around.

What did one DNA say to the other DNA? "Do these genes make me look fat?"

My IQ test results came back. They were negative.

Adam and Eve were the first to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.

Why did the doughnut maker retire? He was tired of the hole business.

When I see a line on an employment application asking who to contact in an emergency, I write, "A very good doctor."

A banker fell overboard from a sailboat. A friend grabbed a life preserver and held it up, not knowing if the banker could swim, and shouted, "Can you float alone?"

"Obviously," the banker replied, "but this is a heck of a time to talk business!"





APOKRIATIKO GLENDI GREEK MARDI GRAS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024
6PM

HONORING JOHN LYNCH

A True Friend of the Greek American Community



RAFFLE

SILENT AUCTION

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**FULL COURSE GREEK DINNER
& DESSERT**

**ADULTS \$65
CHILDREN \$25**

321 Saint Demetrious Street, North Wildwood, NJ 08260



DVYC JOY/HOPE

BIBLE BOWL

FEBRUARY 10TH 10AM

JOIN US FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION SHOWING OUR SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE

Kindly bring laundry soap, dish soap, baby wash or baby ointment for donation to support the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
900 S. Trooper Road
Jeffersonville, PA 19403

annlep31@gmail.com
kari0827@gmail.com

RSVP BY 2/7/24

DVYC SKI TRIP!

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church is organizing a ski trip for our youth.

You MUST purchase Tubing and/or Ski lift tickets and rentals IN ADVANCE!

WHEN? -Saturday, FEB. 3, 2024

WHERE? - BIG BOULDER
357 Big Boulder Dr.
Lake Harmony, PA 18624

PLEASE email if interested to dvyouthcommision@gmail.com

Ski Holiday

SPARTAN FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR

IRA's-Individual Retirement Accounts
ROTH's 401K/Tax Planning
Buy/Sell Agreements/Executive Key Plan
IBLOC-Insurance Backed Line of Credit
College/University Fund Planning

Income/Index Annuities
ILIT-Individual Life Trust
COLI-Corporate Owned Life Insurance
BOLI-Bank Owned Life Insurance
Asset Protection/Family Living Trust

Join us for a discussion on the importance of planning for Retirement Strategies, as well as Tax-Advantaged programs and platforms, for Individuals and Businesses. Focus remains on Approved Tax Codes and Benefits available to Families and/or Corporations.

StefanoKiniropoulos@ffig.com. (610) 504-1026

www.spartangroupfinancial.com

Camp Good Shepherd

Experience the Best Week of Your Summer!

CGS: MARYLAND
June 16-22, 2024
Ages 8-18
Camp Wo-Me-To
1200 Knopp Rd, Jarrettsville, MD 21084
Registration Fee: \$400 (Early Bird Discount until May 1, then \$475)

CGS: NEW JERSEY
June 25-29, 2024
Ages 8-18
Camp Linwood MacDonald
1 Flatbrook Rd, Sandyton, NJ 07826
Registration Fee: \$625

CGS: VIRGINIA (2 SESSIONS)
Week 1: July 7-13 (Completed 5th Grade - 8th Grade)
Week 2: July 14-20 (Completed 9th Grade - 12th Grade)
Camp Planktonak
1586 Stompers Bay Rd Box 455, Hartfield, VA 23071
Registration Fee: \$500

REGISTER TODAY!

[HTTP://APP.CAMPGOC.COM/REGISTER/CGSH](http://app.campgoc.com/register/cgsh)

MORE INFORMATION [HTTPS://WWW.NJ.GOARCH.ORG/CAMP-GOOD-SHEPHERD](https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd)

CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

JOIN OUR STAFF!

STAFF APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Chesapeake
15-22 JUNE 2024

New Jersey
22-29 JUNE 2024

Virginia
6-20 JULY 2024

Are You...

- Looking to grow your Faith?
- Hoping to make meaningful relationships?
- Seeking to boost your resume?

Registration Link: Scan or Click Below

More Information: <https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>