



NEWSLETTER OF ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH North Wildwood, NJ

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

2 | Letter from
Fr. Michael Pastrikos

5 | Holy Ascension

19-25 | Holy Week Services

31 | Thoughts from Eva Lallas

32 | Greek Corner

49 | Children's Corner by
Presvytera Alexandra Houck

XRISTOS ANESTI!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!



thoughts from

FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER



CHRIST IS RISEN - TRULY HE IS RISEN!!

"Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life." Our St. Demetrios Community as well as the whole Orthodox Christian world celebrated and continues to celebrate our Lord's Glorious "Pascha" - His passing over from death to life. By conquering death's eternal power which held His creation captive, He paved the way for us as well to enter His Kingdom of Eternal Life. Pascha is a celebration of Christ's victory over death and our hope for Eternal Life. It also is the most positive day in the year, a day of joy and sunshine, a day of happiness, for He not only paved the way, but He is the Way. It is for this reason that we commemorate the saving events which lead to His death and ended in His Resurrection. It is also for this reason that we humbly fast and go through Great Lent.

As Orthodox Christians we should be proud of the fact that we have kept our 2,000 years traditions strong and vibrant. Every year that passes, the spiritual experience of celebrating "Pascha" has strengthened our minds, souls, and bodies, and that we experience our own personal (Passover). But we have to pause for a moment; Yes, we went through this spiritual journey; yes, we experienced His Glorious Resurrection.

But is Pascha over? Is it something that came and went? Does it continue in our lives? We live in a society that quickly forgets the event which just happened and jumps on to the next event. Every year when we begin the Great Lenten period, we go into it with so much zeal and enthusiasm. It is the same feeling that the disciples had when they met Christ for the first time. After they met Him, they left everything and followed Him. They spent 3 years with Him, hearing His sermons, witnessing His miracles, gaining spiritual knowledge, and just in a quick moment of time, they see Him crucified on the Cross. At that moment when they saw their Master hung on a Cross, all of their dreams and expectations died with them. All of their hopes and everything they believed in. The disciples gave up everything to follow Him--their wives, their jobs, their children, their families, their past, present, and future and up to 3 days ago it seemed like a pretty good bargain. The disciples had seen the impossible, they had seen blind men see, lame men walk, and saw dead men come alive.

They believed with all of their hearts, but not anymore now their beliefs were as dead as their Master was. And there was nothing to do but leave their hopes and dreams in Jerusalem and just to go home. They had seen Jesus beaten, humiliated, crucified, killed and buried. But they also found out that early Sunday morning when the women went to the Tomb to anoint Christ that the Tomb was empty. What a relief to everyone, their dreams were not shattered and destroyed. Mary Magdalene gave them hope because she saw the empty Tomb, she saw the clothes left in the Tomb, but the most important was that she saw Jesus alive. So, the empty tomb would change the lives of those closest to Christ and ultimately would change the face of the world.

It is for this reason that "Pascha" must not be a fading view in our lives. In the gospel of Saint John we read; "For as the Father has life in Himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in Himself and has given Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment."

We should share with the world the light, hope, and joy that came through the Cross of Christ. For it says in John 3:16 - "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting Life." But in order to accomplish this, we must constantly be obedient to taking up our Cross and continue to work acts of mercy in His name to forgive, and to love our neighbor. We sing during the Paschal night service that Christ is the new Passover, the living sacrifice, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.

As I conclude, let us worship Him, the Lord of life and death, the Lord who is Risen and who bestows Resurrection upon all creation, who is the "Bread of Life," Who has come down from heaven, and Who is given "for the life of the world." Let us also glorify God with thanksgiving and with great joy, let us greet each other with the Holy Kiss, repeating the sacred word:

"CHRIST IS RISEN - TRULY HE IS RISEN!"

It is time to wake up my brothers and sisters. It is time to come closer to our Resurrected Lord. No more doubting. No more unbelieving. Commit yourself to Christ and you will see your life and future take on a different endeavor.



ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

‘Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωή χαρισάμενος’
 Η Κοινότητά **μας** ... καθώς και ολόκληρος ο ορθόδοξος χριστιανικός κόσμος εόρτασε και συνεχίζει να εορτάζει το ένδοξο “Πάσχα” του Κυρίου μας. Το πέραςμα του από τον θάνατο στη ζωή. Με την κατάκτηση της αιώνιας δύναμης του θανάτου, που κράτησε τη δημιουργία Του αιχμάλωτη, μας άνοιξε το δρόμο να εισέλθουμε στη Βασιλεία Του της Αιώνιας Ζωής. Πάσχα είναι η εορτή της νίκης του Χριστού κατά του θανάτου και τη ελπίδα μας για την Αιώνια Ζωή. Είναι επίσης η πιο θετική ημέρα του έτους, μια ημέρα χαράς και ηλιοφάνειας, μια ημέρα ευτυχίας, διότι όχι μόνο μας άνοιξε το δρόμο, αλλά Αυτός είναι ο Δρόμος. Γι’ αυτό το λόγο, εορτάζουμε τα γεγονότα της σωτηρίας που Τον οδηγούν στο θάνατό και τελειώνουν με την Ανάστασή Του. Αυτός είναι ο λόγος που ταπεινά νηστεύσαμε κατά τη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Σαρακοστής. Ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί θα πρέπει να είμαστε υπερήφανοι για το γεγονός ότι τηρήσαμε τις Πάραδόσεις μας 2.000 χρόνων, ισχυρές και ζωντανές. Κάθε χρόνο που περνάει, η πνευματική εμπειρία του εορτασμού του «Πάσχα» ενισχύει το μυαλό μας, τις ψυχές και τα σώματά μας, διότι βιώνουμε το προσωπικό μας Πάσχα. Πρέπει όμως να σταματήσουμε για μια στιγμή. Ναι περάσαμε από αυτό το πνευματικό ταξίδι, να βιώσαμε την ένδοξη Ανάστασή Του, αλλά πάλι τελείωσε το Πάσχα; Είναι κάτι που ήρθε και έφυγε; Ή συνεχίζει στη ζωή μας; Ζούμε σε μια κοινωνία που ξεχνάει γρήγορα το

γεγονός που μόλις συνέβη και πάει παρακάτω στην επόμενη εκδήλωση. Κάθε χρόνο, όταν ξεκινάμε την περίοδο της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής, την ξεκινάμε με πολύ ζήλο και ενθουσιασμό. Είναι το ίδιο συναίσθημα που είχαν οι μαθητές όταν συνάντησαν τον Χριστό για πρώτη φορά. Αφού Τον συνάντησαν, άφησαν τα πάντα και Τον ακολούθησαν. Πέρασαν 3 χρόνια μαζί Του, ακούγοντας τα κηρύγματα Του, μαρτυρώντας τα θαύματα Του, κερδίζοντας πνευματική γνώση, και μόλις σε μια σύντομη χρονική στιγμή, τον είδαν να κρεμάται επί του Σταυρού, εκείνη τη στιγμή, όταν είδαν τον Δάσκαλό τους να κρέμεται στο Σταυρό, όλα τα όνειρα και οι προσδοκίες τους πέθαναν μαζί του. Όλες οι ελπίδες τους και ό, τι πίστευαν. Οι μαθητές εγκατέλειψαν τα πάντα για να Τον ακολουθήσουν, τις συζύγους τους, τις δουλειές τους, τα παιδιά τους, τις οικογένειές τους, το παρελθόν, το παρόν και το μέλλον, και μέχρι πριν 3 μέρες φαινόταν σαν μια θαυμάσια ευκαιρία. Οι Απόστολοι είδαν το αδύνατο, είχαν δει τυφλούς να βλέπουν, χωλούς να περπατούν, και νεκρούς να ανασταίνονται. Πίστευαν με όλη τους την καρδιά! Όχι πια. Τώρα οι πεποισθήσεις τους ήταν εξίσου

νεκρές με τον Δάσκαλό τους. Και δεν μπορούσαν να κάνουν τίποτα άλλο, παρά να γυρίσουν στη πατρίδα τους, να φύγουν από την Ιερουσαλήμ, να ξεχάσουν τις ελπίδες και τα όνειρά τους και έτσι απλά, να γυρίσουν στη πατρίδα τους. Είχαν δει τον Ιησού χτυπημένο, εξευτελισμένο, σταυρωμένο, σκοτωμένο και θαμμένο. Αλλά ανακάλυψαν επίσης ότι νωρίς το πρωί οι γυναίκες πήγαν στον Τάφο για να αλείψουν το σώμα του Χριστού με μύρο και βρήκαν τον Τάφο άδειο. Οποία ανακούφιση για όλους, τα όνειρά τους δεν γκρεμίστηκαν και δεν καταστράφηκαν. Η Μαρία τους έδωσε την ελπίδα διότι εκείνη είδε τον άδειο Τάφο, είδε τα ρούχα Του μέσα στον Τάφο, αλλά το πιο σημαντικό ήταν ότι είδε τον Ιησού ζωντανό. Έτσι ο άδειος Τάφος θα άλλαζε τη ζωή τους πιο πλησιέστερα στον Χριστό, τελικά θα άλλαζε το πρόσωπο του κόσμου.

Για το λόγο αυτό το «Πάσχα» δεν πρέπει να είναι μια ξεθωριασμένη άποψη στη ζωή μας. Στο κατά Αγίου Ιωάννη Ευαγγέλιο διαβάζουμε: “Επειδή ο Πατέρας έχει μέσα Του ζωή, έχει παραχωρήσει και στον Υίο, να έχει ζωή μέσα Του, και του έχει δώσει την δύναμη να κρίνει επειδή είναι ο Υιός του Ανθρώπου. Μην το θαυμάζετε διότι έρχεται η ώρα που όλοι όσοι βρίσκονται στους τάφους θα ακούσουν τη φωνή Του και θα βγουν, και όσοι έχουν κάνει αγαθοεργίες, στην ανάσταση της ζωής και εκείνοι που έχουν κάνει κακό, στην ανάσταση της κρίσης”.

Πρέπει να μοιραζόμαστε με τον κόσμο το φως, την ελπίδα και τη χαρά που ήρθε μέσω του Σταυρού του Χριστού. Διότι αναφέρεται στο κατά Ιωάννη 3:16 ότι: “ούτως γαρ ηγάπησεν ο Θεός τον κόσμον ώστε τον Υιόν Αυτού τον μονογενή έδωκεν ίνα πας ο πιστεύων εις Αυτόν μη απολήται αλλ’ έχη ζωήν αιώνιον ου γαρ”.

“Τόσο πολύ αγάπησε ο Θεός τον κόσμο, ώστε παρέδωσε στο θάνατο το μονογενή του Υιό, για να

μη χαθεί όποιος πιστεύει σ’ αυτόν, αλλά να έχει ζωή αιώνια.” Για να το πετύχουμε αυτό όμως, πρέπει να είμαστε υπάκουοι να σηκώσουμε το Σταυρό μας και να συνεχίζουμε να εκτελούμε αγαθοεργίες, πράγματα του ελέους στο όνομά Του, να συγχωρούμε και να αγαπάμε τον πλησίον μας. Ψάλλουμε στην Ακολουθία της Πασχαλινής Νύχτας, ο Χριστός είναι το νέο Πάσχα, η ζώσα θυσία, ο Αμνός του Θεού ο αίρων τις αμαρτίες του κόσμου.

Ολοκληρώνοντας, ας Τον λατρεύουμε, τον Κύριο της ζωής και του θανάτου, το Κύριο που Ανέστη και ο οποίος παραχωρεί Ανάσταση σε όλη τη δημιουργία Του, ο οποίος είναι ο «Άρτος της Ζωής» ο οποίος κατήλθε εκ των ουρανών, και ο οποίος θανατώθηκε «για το ζωή του κόσμου”. Ας δοξάσουμε επίσης τον Θεό με ευχαρίστηση, και με μεγάλη χαρά ας χαιρετούμε ο ένας τον άλλον με το Άγιο Φιλί, επαναλαμβάνοντας τα ιερά λόγια!

“ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!!



Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the Apostles **May 21**

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



Reading

This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or

standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he

gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were

transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him (see Homily XXVI on Second Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom).

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.

Apolytikion of Constantine and Helen Plagal of the Fourth Tone

He beheld the image of Your Cross in the Heavens and, as Paul, he too did not receive the call from men. Your Apostle among Kings placed the care of the Royal City in Your hands. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Loving Lord, keep it ever in peace.

Kontakion of Constantine and Helen Third Tone

Today, Constantine with his mother Helen present the Cross, the most precious wood. It shames unbelievers. It is a weapon of faithful kings against their adversaries. A great sign has come forth for us which is awesome in battle.



The Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ **May 29**

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



Reading

The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait

there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples,

who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples,

they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God.

Apolytikion of Holy Ascension

Fourth Tone

O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion of Holy Ascension

Plagal Of The Second Tone

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."



PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL
FOR HOLY PASCHA

PROT. NO. 251

+ B A R T H O L O M E W

By God's Mercy

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church:

May the Grace, Peace and Mercy of Christ Risen in Glory be with you All

Most honorable brother Hierarchs,

Dearly beloved children,

By God's mercy and strength, we have journeyed through prayer and fasting across the ocean of Holy and Great Lent, finally reaching the splendid feast of Pascha, and we praise the Lord of glory, who descended to the depths of Hades and "achieved the entrance for all to Paradise" through His raising from the dead.

The Resurrection is not the remembrance of an event from the past, but the "good change" of our existence, "another birth, an alternate life, a different kind of living, the transformation of our very being."¹ And in the

¹ Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Resurrection of our Lord*, PG 46.604.



Risen Christ, the entire creation is renewed together with humanity. When we chant in the 3rd Ode of the Paschal Canon, that “Now everything is filled with light—heaven, earth, and all things beneath the earth; therefore, let all creation celebrate the resurrection of Christ, in which everything has been established,” we proclaim that the universe is founded on and filled with unfading light. The phrases “before Christ” and “after Christ” ring true not only for the history of the human race, but also for the sake of all creation.

The Lord’s raising from the dead constitutes the nucleus of the Gospel, the stable point of reference for all the books of the New Testament, as well as for the liturgical life and devotion of the Orthodox Christians. Indeed, the words “Christ is Risen!” summarize the theology of the Church. The experience of the abolition of the dominion of death is a source of ineffable joy, “free from the bonds of this world.” “All things are filled with joy upon receiving the taste of resurrection.” The resurrection is an explosion “of great joy” and permeates the entire life, ethos and pastoral ministry of the church as the foretaste of the fullness of life, knowledge and life of the eternal kingdom of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Orthodox faith and pessimism are contradictory phenomena.

Pascha is for us a feast of freedom and victory over alienating forces; it is the churchification of our existence, an invitation to collaborate for the transfiguration of the world. The history of the Church is rendered “a great Pascha” as the journey toward “the liberation in glory of the children of God” (Rom. 8.21). The experience of resurrection reveals the center and



eschatological dimension of freedom in Christ. Biblical references to the Savior's resurrection demonstrate the power of our freedom as believers; it is in this freedom alone that the "great miracle" is manifested, which remains inaccessible to every oppression. "The mystery of salvation belongs to those who desire it freely, not to those who are tyrannized against their will."² Accepting the divine gift as a "transition" of the believer toward Christ is the voluntary existential response to the loving and saving "transition" of the Risen Lord toward humankind. For "without me, you cannot do anything" (Jn 15.5).

The mystery of the Lord's resurrection to this day continues to shatter the positivistic certainties of those who deny God as "the denial of human will," as well as the advocates of "the fallacy of self-fulfillment without God" and the admirers of the contemporary "man-god." The future does not belong to those imprisoned in a self-sufficient, stifling and narrow earthly existence. There is no authentic freedom without resurrection, without the perspective of eternity.

For the Holy Great Church of Christ, one source of such resurrectional joy is also found this year in the common celebration of Easter by the entire Christian world, along with the commemoration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, which condemned the heresy of Arius, who "diminished within the Trinity the one Son and Word of God," and which

² Maximus Confessor, *On the Lord's Prayer*, PG 90.880.



established the way of calculating the date for the feast of our Savior's resurrection.

The Council of Nicaea inaugurates a new age in the conciliar history of the Church, the transition from the local to the ecumenical synodal level. As we know, the First Ecumenical Council introduced the non-biblical term "homoousios (of one essence)" to the Symbol of Faith, albeit with a clear soteriological reference, which remains the essential characteristic of church doctrines. In this sense, the celebrations of this great anniversary are not a return to the past, inasmuch as the "spirit of Nicaea" exists unspoiled in the life of the Church, whose unity is associated with the correct understanding and development of its conciliar identity. Discussion on the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea reminds us of the common Christian archetypes and the meaning behind the struggle against the perversion of our spotless faith, encouraging us to turn toward the depth and essence of Church tradition. The joint celebration this year of the "most holy day of Pascha" highlights the timeliness of the subject, the solution of which not only expresses the respect of Christianity for the decrees of the Council of Nicaea, but also the awareness that "there should be no differentiation in such sacred matters."

With these sentiments, filled with the light and joy of the Resurrection, while proclaiming "Christ is Risen!" with jubilation, let us honor the chosen and holy day of Pascha with a heartfelt confession of our faith in the Redeemer, who trampled down death by death and granted life to all people and all creation, through our faithfulness to the sacred traditions of the Great



Church as well as through sincere love for our neighbor, for the glorification by us all of the heavenly name of the Lord.

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2025
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent suppliant for you all
to the Risen Lord

To be read after the Holy Gospel during the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Pascha.



ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ
ΕΠΙ ΤΩΙ ΑΓΙΩΙ ΠΑΣΧΑ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 251

† Β Α Ρ Θ Ο Λ Ο Μ Α Ι Ο Σ
ΕΛΕΩΙ ΘΕΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ
ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ - ΝΕΑΣ ΡΩΜΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ
ΠΡΟΣ ΟΛΟ ΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΧΑΡΗ, ΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΟΣ
ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΕΝΔΟΞΩΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΝΤΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟ

* * *

Τιμιώτατοι ἄδελφοὶ Ἱεράρχες καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ εὐλογημένα,

Ἀφοῦ ταξιδέψαμε στὸ πέλαγος τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς μὲ τὸ ἔλεος καὶ τὴ δύναμη τοῦ Θεοῦ, μὲ προσευχὴ καὶ νηστεία, καὶ φθάσαμε στὸ ὁλόφωτο Πάσχα, ἀνυμνοῦμε τὸν Κύριο τῆς δόξας, αὐτὸν ποὺ κατέβηκε μέχρι τὰ ταμεία τοῦ Ἄδη καὶ μὲ τὴν ἀνάστασή του ἀπὸ τοὺς νεκροὺς «ἔκανε τὸν παράδεισο προσιτὸ σὲ ὅλους τοὺς ἀνθρώπους».

Ἡ Ἀνάσταση δὲν εἶναι ἡ ἀνάμνηση ἑνὸς γεγονότος ἀπὸ τὸ παρελθόν, ἀλλὰ «καλὴ ἀλλοίωση» τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας, «ἄλλη γέννηση, βίος ἕτερος, ἄλλο εἶδος ζωῆς, μεταστοιχείωση αὐτῆς τῆς ἴδιας τῆς φύσεώς μας»¹. Μὲ τὸν ἀναστημένο Χριστὸ ἀνακαινίζεται μαζί μὲ τὸν ἄνθρωπο ἡ σύμπασα κτίσις. Ὅταν ψάλλουμε τὴν Γ' ᾠδὴ τοῦ Κανόνος τοῦ Πάσχα, τὸ «Νῦν πάντα πεπλήρωται φωτός, οὐρανός τε καὶ γῆ καὶ τὰ καταχθόνια· ἐορταζέτω γοῦν πᾶσα κτίσις τὴν ἔγερσιν Χριστοῦ, ἐν ἣ ἑσπερέωται», τότε διακηρύσσεται ὅτι ὁλόκληρο τὸ σύμπαν εἶναι στερεωμένον καὶ πλήρες ἀνεσπέρου φωτός. Ἡ διάκριση «πρὸ Χριστοῦ» καὶ «μετὰ Χριστόν» ἰσχύει ὄχι μόνον γιὰ τὴν ἱστορία τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους, ἀλλὰ καὶ γιὰ τὴν ὅλη δημιουργίαν.

Ἡ ἐκ νεκρῶν ἔγερση τοῦ Κυρίου ἀποτελεῖ τὸν πυρῆνα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, τὸ σταθερὸ σημεῖο ἀναφορᾶς ὅλων τῶν κειμένων τῆς Καινῆς Διαθήκης, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῆς λειτουργικῆς ζωῆς καὶ τῆς εὐσεβείας τῶν ὀρθοδόξων. Ὅντως, ἡ θεολογία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας συνοψίζεται στὸ «Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη». Ἡ βίωση τῆς καταργήσεως τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ θανάτου εἶναι πηγὴ ἀνείπωτης χαρᾶς, «ἐλεύθερης ἀπὸ τὴς δεσμεύσεως αὐτοῦ τοῦ κόσμου». «Χαρᾶς τὰ πάντα πεπλήρωται, τῆς ἀναστάσεως τὴν πείραν εἰληφότα». Ἐκρηξὴ «χαρᾶς μεγάλης» ἡ Ἀνάσταση, διαποτίζει ὁλόκληρη τὴν ἐκκλησιαστικὴ ζωὴν, τὸ ἥθος καὶ τὴν ποιμαντικὴ δράση, ὡς πρόγευση τῆς πληρότητας ζωῆς, γνώσεως καὶ χαρᾶς τῆς αἰώνιας Βασιλείας τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Ὁρθόδοξη πίστις καὶ ἀπαισιοδοξία εἶναι μεγέθη ἀσύμβατα μεταξύ τους.

¹ Γρηγορίου Νύσσης, *Περὶ τῆς τριημέρου προθεσμίας τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ*, PG 46, 604.



Τὸ Πάσχα εἶναι γιὰ τὸν ἄνθρωπο ἑορτὴ ἐλευθερίας καὶ νίκη κατὰ τῶν ἀλλοτριωτικῶν δυνάμεων, ἐκκλησιοποίηση τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας, πρόσκληση σὲ συνέργεια γιὰ τὴ μεταμόρφωση τοῦ κόσμου. Ἡ ἱστορία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας γίνεται «ἓνα μεγάλο Πάσχα», ὡς πορεία πρὸς «τὴν ἐλευθερία τῆς δόξας τῶν παιδιῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ»². Τὸ βίωμα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως ἀποκαλύπτει τὸ κέντρο καὶ τὴν ἐσχατολογικὴ διάσταση τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἐλευθερίας. Οἱ βιβλικὲς μαρτυρίες περὶ τῆς ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Σωτῆρος ἀναδεικνύουν τὴ δύναμη τῆς ἐλευθερίας τῶν πιστῶν, στὴ ὁποία καὶ μόνη φανερῶνεται τὸ «μέγα θαῦμα», τὸ ὁποῖο παραμένει ἀπρόσιτον σὲ κάθε καταναγκασμὸ. «Τὸ μυστήριον τῆς σωτηρίας ἀνήκει σὲ ἀνθρώπους μὲ ἐλεύθερη βούληση καὶ ὄχι σὲ ἀνθρώπους ὑπὸ καθεστῶς τυραννίας»³. Ἡ ἀποδοχὴ τῆς θείας δωρεᾶς ὡς «διάβαση» τοῦ πιστοῦ πρὸς τὸν Χριστό, εἶναι ἡ ἐλεύθερη ὑπαρκτικὴ ἀπάντηση στὴν ἀγαπητικὴ καὶ σωστικὴ «διάβασιν» τοῦ ἀναστημένου Χριστοῦ πρὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπο. «Χωρὶς ἐμένα τίποτα δὲν μπορεῖτε νὰ κάνετε»⁴.

Τὸ μυστήριον τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Κυρίου συνεχίζει καὶ σήμερα νὰ κλονίζει τὶς θετικιστικὲς βεβαιότητες τῶν ἀρνητῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ ὡς «ἀρνήσεως τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης ἐλευθερίας», τοὺς ὁπαδοὺς τῆς «φενάκης τῆς αὐτοπραγματώσεως χωρὶς Θεό» καὶ τοὺς θαυμαστὲς τοῦ συγχρόνου «ἀνθρωποθεοῦ». Δὲν ἀνήκει τὸ μέλλον στὸν ἐγκλωβισμὸ στὴν αὐτάρεσκον, συρρικνωτικὴ καὶ κλειστὴ ἐνθαδικότητα. Δὲν ὑπάρχει ἀληθινὴ ἐλευθερία χωρὶς ἀνάσταση, χωρὶς προοπτικὴ αἰωνιότητος.

Πηγὴ ἀναστάσιμης εὐφροσύνης γιὰ τὴν Ἀγία τοῦ Χριστοῦ Μεγάλῃ Ἐκκλησίᾳ ἀποτελεῖ ἐφέτος καὶ ὁ κοινὸς ἑορτασμὸς τοῦ Πάσχα ὑπὸ σύμπαντος τοῦ χριστιανικοῦ κόσμου, μαζὶ μὲ τὴν χιλιοστὴ ἑπτακοσιοστὴ ἐπέτειο τῆς Πρώτης ἐν Νικαίᾳ Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου, ἡ ὁποία καταδίκασε τὴν κακοδοξία τοῦ Ἀρείου, αὐτοῦ ὁ ὁποῖος «κατασμίκρυνε τὸν ἓνα τῆς Τριάδος, ὁ ὁποῖος εἶναι Υἱὸς καὶ Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ», καὶ θέσπισε τὸν τρόπο τοῦ καθορισμοῦ τῆς ἡμερομηνίας γιὰ τὴν ἑορτὴ τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Σωτῆρος.

Ἡ Σύνοδος τῆς Νικαίας ἐγκαινιάζει μία νέα περίοδο στὴ συνοδικὴ ἱστορία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, τὴ μετάβαση ἀπὸ τὸ τοπικὸ στὸ οἰκουμενικὸ συνοδικὸ ἐπίπεδο. Ὡς γνωστόν, ἡ Πρῶτη Οἰκουμενικὴ Σύνοδος εἰσήγαγε στὸ Σύμβολο τῆς πίστεως τὸν «ἄγραφον» ὄρο «ὁμοούσιος», μὲ σαφὴ σωτηριολογικὴ ἀναφορά, ἡ ὁποία παραμένει τὸ οὐσιῶδες χαρακτηριστικὸ τῶν δογμάτων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Ὑπὸ τὴν ἔννοια αὕτη, οἱ ἑορτασμοὶ τῆς μεγάλης ἐπετείου δὲν εἶναι στροφὴ πρὸς τὸ παρελθόν, ἐφ' ὅσον τὸ «πνεῦμα τῆς Νικαίας» ἐνυπάρχει ἀδιάπτωτα στὴ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἡ ἐνότητα τῆς ὁποίας συναρτᾶται μὲ τὴν ὀρθὴ κατανόηση καὶ ἀνάπτυξη τῆς συνοδικῆς ταυτότητάς της. Ὁ λόγος περὶ τῆς Πρώτης ἐν Νικαίᾳ Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου ὑπενθυμίζει τὰ κοινὰ χριστιανικὰ ἀρχέτυπα καὶ τὴ σημασία τοῦ ἀγῶνα κατὰ τῶν διαστρεβλώσεων τῆς ἀμώμητης πίστεώς μας καὶ μᾶς προτρέπει νὰ στραφοῦμε πρὸς τὸ βάθος καὶ τὴν οὐσία τῆς παραδόσεως τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Ὁ δὲ κατὸ τὸ παρὸν ἔτος κοινὸς ἑορτασμὸς τῆς «Ἀγιωτάτης τοῦ Πάσχα ἡμέρας» ἀναδεικνύει τὴν ἐπικαιρότητα τοῦ θέματος, ἡ λύση τοῦ ὁποίου ὄχι μόνον ἐκφράζει τὸ σεβασμὸ τῆς Χριστιανοσύνης πρὸς τὰ θεσπίσματα τῆς

² Ρωμ η', 21.

³ Μαξίμου Ὁμολογητοῦ, *Εἰς τὴν προσευχὴν τοῦ Πάτερ ἡμῶν*, πρὸς ἓνα φιλόχριστον, PG 90, 880.

⁴ Ἰωάν. ιε', 5.



Συνόδου τῆς Νικαίας, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὴν συνείδηση ὅτι «δὲν πρέπει νὰ ὑπάρχει κάποια διαφορὰ στὴν ἀγιότητα αὐτῇ».

Μὲ τέτοια αἰσθήματα, γεμᾶτοι μὲ τὸ φῶς καὶ τὴ χαρὰ τῆς Ἀναστάσεως καὶ ἀναβοώντας τὸ κοσμοχαρμόσυνο «Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη», ἂς τιμήσουμε τὴν κλητὴ καὶ ἀγία ἡμέρα τοῦ Πάσχα μὲ τὴν ὁλόψυχη ὁμολογία τῆς πίστεώς μας σὲ αὐτὸν ποὺ πάτησε τὸν θάνατο μὲ τὸν θάνατο, στὸν Λυτρωτὴ ποὺ χάρισε ζωὴ σὲ ὅλους τοὺς ἀνθρώπους καὶ σὲ ὅλη τὴν κτίση, μὲ τὴν πιστότητά μας στὶς τίμιες παραδόσεις τῆς Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας καὶ μὲ τὴν ἀνυπόκριτη ἀγάπη πρὸς τὸν πλησίον, ὥστε νὰ δοξάζεται καὶ διὰ πάντων ἡμῶν τὸ ὑπερουράνιο ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου.

Φανάρι, Ἅγιο Πάσχα 2025

† Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
διάπυρος πρὸς τὸν ἀναστημένο Χριστὸ
εὐχέτης ὅλων σας.

Νὰ ἀναγνωσθεῖ στὶς Ἐκκλησίες κατὰ τὴ Θεία Λειτουργία τῆς ἐορτῆς τοῦ Ἁγίου Πάσχα, μετὰ τὸ Ἱερὸ Εὐαγγέλιο.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 135/2025

Archiepiscopal Encyclical on Great and Holy Pascha, 2025

Holy Pascha, 2025

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

*You raised with Yourself the whole race of Adam,
when You arose from the tomb.
(Canon of Pascha, Ode 6)*

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

When our Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead, not a single witness is recorded as having seen this most monumental event in the history of the human race. His crucifiers, who posted sentries to ensure that no one tampered with the seal that had been set upon the Stone that covered His tomb, only felt the earthquake and bore false witness against the truth of His Resurrection (Matthew 27:62-66). But the Lord had no need to break that seal or roll away any stone, for His Arising from the grave transcended all categories of human understanding. Rather, the earthquake and the stone's rolling away by the angel happened for the astonished guards, the myrrhbearers and His perplexed disciples.

The Church, in Her divinely inspired wisdom, has given us a picture of this moment with the icon that is simply named, "Anastasis." The most famous version of this icon in the world, which has inspired countless reproductions, is in the *Parecclesion* of the Chora Church in



Constantinople. Notably, it depicts the resplendent and risen Lord of Glory lifting Adam and Even out of their tombs by their wrists, and not their hands. This dramatic detail of humankind's rescue from death and Hades manifests that, as the Apostle Paul says, "by grace we are saved" (Ephesians 2:8). It is not by our efforts that Eternal Life is won for us. It is the Sacrifice of the Cross and its only possible conclusion – the Resurrection – that usher us into the Mansions of Heaven. God holds onto us with His fierce and glorious love! He will not let us go, and He does not depend on our strength to hold onto Him. For again, as the Apostle says, even "the weakness of God is mightier than any human power" (I Corinthians 1:25).

My dear Christians,

If this is how God loves us, how should we love one another? In this season of Pascha, when we sing: "let us forgive everything in the Resurrection" (*Doxastikon* of the Matins), what possible negativity could we hold on to? Rather, let us take hold of one another and lift up each other through love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy. For God lifted us up first, so that we might share the exaltation of love with everyone around us. Because only then can we sing with true integrity and unfettered joy the gladsome Paschal anthem:

*Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death,
and to those in the tombs He has granted life!*

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

Holy Pascha 2025,

+ ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 135/2025

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για τὸ Ἅγιο Πάσχα.

Ἅγιο Πάσχα 2025

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρους καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Απογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὁργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Συνανέστησας παγγενῇ τὸν Ἀδάμ, ἀναστὰς ἐκ τοῦ τάφου».

(Κανόνας τοῦ Πάσχα, ὠδή 6^η).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν τῷ ἀναστάντι Χριστῷ,

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!

Τὸ μέγιστο γεγονός ἐπὶ τὴν ἱστορία τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους, δηλαδὴ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ συντελέσθηκε χωρὶς τὴν παρουσία μαρτύρων τῇ νύχτᾳ ἐκείνῃ. Οἱ σταυρωτές του, ποὺ ἔβαλαν φρουροὺς γιὰ νὰ σιγουρευτοῦν ὅτι κανεὶς δὲν θὰ ἀγγίξει τὸν σφραγισμένο λίθο ποὺ σκέπαζε τὸν τάφο του, ἔνιωσαν μόνο τὸν σεισμὸ καὶ ἔδωσαν ψευδῇ μαρτυρία γιὰ τὰ γεγονότα ἐκείνης τῆς νύχτας (Ματθ. κζ' 62-66). Ὅμως ὁ ἀναστημένος Κύριος δὲν χρειαζόταν νὰ ἀποκυλήσει τὸ λίθο καὶ νὰ παραβιάσει τὴ σφραγίδα, καθὼς ἡ ἀνάστασίς του ὑπερβαίνει κάθε ἀνθρώπινη λογικὴ κατανόηση. Ὁ σεισμὸς ἔγινε καὶ ὁ λίθος ἀποκυλίστηκε ἀπὸ τὸν ἄγγελο ἀποκλειστικὰ καὶ μόνο γιὰ τοὺς ἀποσβολωμένους στρατιῶτες, τὶς μυροφόρες καὶ τοὺς ἀπορημένους μαθητές του.



Ἡ Ἐκκλησία, με τὴ θεόπνευστη σοφία της, μᾶς προσφέρει μία ἀναπαράσταση αὐτῆς τῆς στιγμῆς στὴν εἰκόνα ποὺ φέρει τὸν τίτλο «ἡ ἀνάστασις». Ἡ διασημότερη ἐκδοχὴ αὐτῆς τῆς εἰκόνας παγκοσμίως, ἡ ὁποία ἔχει ἐμπνεύσει ἀναρίθμητα ἀντίγραφα, βρίσκεται στὸ παρεκκλήσιο τῆς Μονῆς τῆς Χώρας στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη. Ἐκεῖ, ὁ ἔνδοξος καὶ ἀναστημένος Κύριος τῆς Δόξης ἀνασύρει τὸν Ἀδὰμ καὶ τὴν Εὐὰ ἀπὸ τοὺς τάφους τους, κρατώντας τους ὄχι ἀπὸ τὸ χέρι, ἀλλὰ ἀπὸ τὸν καρπὸ. Αὐτὴ ἡ δραματικὴ λεπτομέρεια τῆς λύτρωσης τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀπὸ τὸ θάνατο καὶ τὸν Ἄδη δείχνει, ὅπως λέει ὁ Ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ὅτι «τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι» (Εφ. 2, 8). Διότι δὲν ἀπόκειται στὴ δική μας προσπάθεια νὰ κερδίσουμε τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ. Εἶναι ἡ θυσία τοῦ σταυροῦ μὲ κατάληξή της τὴν ἀνάσταση, ἡ ὁποία μᾶς εἰσάγει στὶς μονὲς τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. Ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς κρατάει μὲ φωτεινὴ καὶ δυνατὴ ἀγάπη! Δὲ μᾶς ἀφήνει νὰ φύγουμε ἀπὸ κοντὰ του καὶ δὲν ἐξαρθᾶται ἀπὸ τὴν δική μας δύναμη γιὰ νὰ κρατηθοῦμε κοντὰ του. Γιατί, ὅπως ξαναλέει ὁ ἀπόστολος, «τὸ ἀσθενὲς τοῦ Θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστί» (Α΄ Κορ. 1, 25).

Ἀγαπητοὶ μου χριστιανοί,

Ἐὰν ἔτσι μᾶς ἀγαπᾷ ὁ Θεός, πῶς ἄραγε ἐμεῖς ὀφείλουμε νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε ἀλλήλους; Τὴν περίοδο τοῦ Πάσχα, ὅταν ψάλλουμε: «Συγχωρήσωμεν πάντα τῇ ἀναστάσει» (Δοξαστικὸ τοῦ ὁρθρου τῆς ἐορτῆς), πῶς μπορούμε νὰ ἔχουμε ἀρνητικὰ συναισθήματα γιὰ τοὺς ἄλλους; Ἄς κρατηθοῦμε ὁ ἕνας ἀπὸ τὸν ἄλλον καὶ ἄς ἀνυψώσουμε ἀλλήλους μὲ ἀγάπη, συμπόνια, συγχώρηση καὶ ἔλεος. Διότι ὁ Θεὸς πρῶτος μᾶς ἀνύψωσε, ὥστε νὰ μοιρασθοῦμε τὴν ὑψωση αὐτὴ τῆς ἀγάπης μὲ ὅλους γύρω μας. Μόνο τότε μπορούμε νὰ ψάλλουμε μὲ πληρότητα καὶ ἀνεκλάλητη χαρὰ τὸν θριαμβευτικὸ πασχάλιο ὕμνο:

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν,
θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι
ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

Greek Independence Day Parade





Palm Sunday Preparations





Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday



Above Right - Fr. Steven Vlahos, Presvytera Chrysi Vlahos, Fr. Michael, Archon Nicholas Konides, and standing Archon Bill Mitchell. We would like to thank Fr. Steven and Presvytera Chrysi Vlahos who came from Cherry Hill and honored our community with their presence. Fr. Vlahos served St. Demetrios for 24 years and we are so glad to have them visit us throughout the years.



We would also like to thank our kitchen crew for their tireless effort on both the Palm Sunday Luncheon and the Resurrection Dinner after the Anastasi Service. God bless our kitchen crew.



Holy Friday Service



We are so proud of our Ladies Philoptochos Society for their love and dedication to St. Demetrios. In the photos are a few ladies that decorated the Epitaphio for Friday's Holy Week Service. God bless our St. Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society for the work and dedication that they perform for the less needy and also for our parish and community.



Many thanks to our dedicated altar servers.



Holy Friday Service





Holy Friday Service





Holy Pascha Service



*Easter Sunday
Agape Service.
Gospels were
read in different
languages.*



Fr. Dr. Deacon Luke Carpenter's Priestly Ordination



We have great news!

Fr. Dr. Deacon Luke Carpenter's Priestly Ordination will be held on **Wednesday May 28th, 2025**. Fr. Dr. Carpenter will be ordained at St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church. The Vesper Service will begin at 5:00 pm, the Matins Service at 6:00 pm and the Divine Liturgy of the Feast of the Ascension will be at 7:00 pm. The church's address is 1970 Clearview Rd., Souderton, PA 18964.

We would also like to extend an invitation to all of our parishioners who would like to be present at his ordination.

On behalf of the entire family of St. Demetrios we would like to extend and wish him Congratulations on his ordination to the Priesthood.

May he always be worthy!

Πάντα Ἀξιος! Ἀξιος Ἀξιος!!!

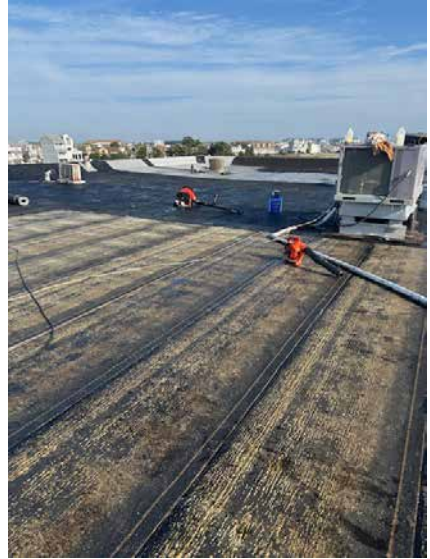
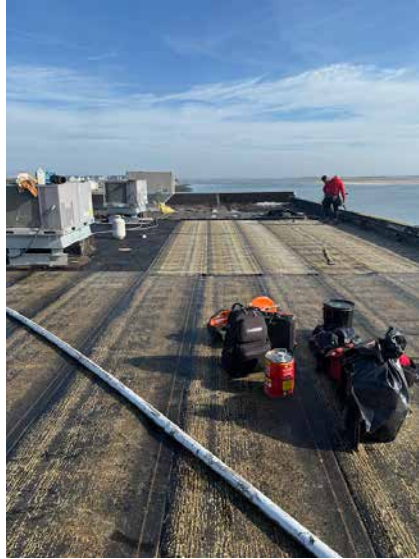


St. Demetrios Annual Picnic





St. Demetrios Roof Fundraiser



With the construction of our new roofs we have a debt of \$50,000. With your support we can together as a family to take care of that great expense. We are a small community but we are a proud community. We are asking for your support concerning the new project of the two new roofs. Please make your donation as soon as possible so we don't have that huge expense over our heads. We are the caretakers of our church and facilities just as we are caretakers of our homes and businesses. As you can see we have started the fundraiser and both roofs are finished. The faster we receive your donation the faster we can pay off the bank where we received the loan for the construction project.

Again, we would like to thank our donors for their love and support. God bless our faithful donors.





St. Demetrios Roof Fundraiser _____

*Thank you to our generous Donors for
the Roof Repair Special Fund
as of 4/27/25*

1. Marybeth-our neighbor
2. Angelo & Bessie Giouros
3. Irene Karros
4. Fr. Michael Pastrikos
5. Ted Margarites
6. Melpo Daglis
7. Bill & Helen Mitchell
8. John & Ellen Manetas
9. Fr. Steven Vlahos
10. Kosta & Roula Papaspanos
11. Richard Saad
12. George & Arianna Karavangelos
13. Boulageris Family
14. Ted & Despina Katsikaris
15. Steve & Anna Pavlou
16. Evan & Mary Avgerinos
17. Anna Karavangelos
18. George & Stella Papageorge

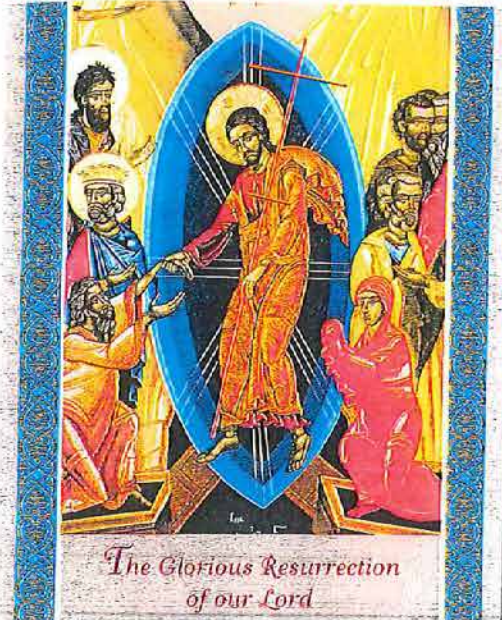


METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

Nicholas D. Konides
President
Board of Trustees
Bus. (609) 522-5800
Res. (609) 523-9300

SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

321 Saint Demetrios Street • North Wildwood, New Jersey 08260 • Tel. (609) 522-0152



William A. Mitchell
Secretary
Board of Trustees
Bus. (609) 465-7510
Res. (609) 522-4098

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR PARISHIONERS

AS EXPLAINED AT OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARCH 16, OUR COMMUNITY CENTER HAS A BADLY LEAKING ROOF WHEN EXPERIENCING HEAVY RAINS. THIS SITUATION CAN CREATE POTENTIALLY UNSAFE AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AND NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED QUICKLY. WE RECEIVED BIDS FOR THE ROOF REPAIRS FROM THREE RESPONSIBLE LOCAL FIRMS AND CHOSE THE LOWEST BID OF \$47,875.00 FROM MANNY CONSTRUCTION CO., AN INSURED, BONDED LOCAL COMPANY. AS WE DO NOT HAVE AVAILABLE FUNDS, WE WILL TAKE A SHORT TERM LOAN FROM CREST SAVINGS BANK WEALTH MANAGEMENT DIVISION WHERE WE HAVE AN INVESTMENT ACCOUNT OF APPROX. \$54,000.00. WE CAN BORROW HALF OF THAT AMOUNT(\$27,000) TO START THE PROJECT. WE HAVE INITIATED A FUND RAISER. LED BY OUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS, WITH THE HOPES THAT OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WILL RESPOND WITH GENEROSITY AND LOVE IN THEIR HEARTS FOR OUR BELOVED ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH. THIS FUND WILL ALLOW US TO COMPLETE THE WORK AND, HOPEFULLY PAY OFF THE LOAN QUICKLY.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT PRESIDENT NICK KONIDES AT 609-425-0179 OR SECRETARY BILL MITCHELL AT 609-425-4000. THANK YOU.



St. Demetrios Happenings



Angelo Bilios with his second soccer team winning the championship game. Congratulations to Angelo, his teammates and coaches.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY !!!



On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to wish all of our Mothers in the Community a "Happy Mother's Day."

All that we have achieved in this life, we owe it to our Mother's. They have taught us our values, morals, manners, heritage, and most importantly, our faith. Aside from the many sacrifices that our mothers have made for us, along with the unconditional love and care they give, they are the ones who first express the message of the Gospel to us. Along with the innumerable roles that our mothers play in our lives, they are also "Apostles." If we are Christian today, it is because our mothers took us to church to receive Holy Communion, taught us how to do our cross and pray, and first introduced us to God. St. Nectarios teaches us that the key to the success of the Three Hierarchs' academic and spiritual greatness were their mother's advice and guidance.. Aside from their schooling, it was their mothers who instilled in them the love for God and virtues. St. Nectarios goes on to say that the mother's everywhere provide the key to the psychological and spiritual make up of a child. They are the greatest teachers and they always provide love and compassion to their children. Let us take this opportunity to especially reflect on the immense impact and importance our mothers have on our lives. We must honor and love them every day of our lives, as our mother's, educators, Apostles, and the finest example of God's love. Even the church gives all mother's the great gratitude for their invaluable service to Christianity, and we today convey our deepest love and respect for them. God bless all the Mothers of our community and of the world for their love, dedication, and guidance that made us who we are today. To those Mothers who are no longer with us, May their memory be eternal. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.



Liturgical Calendar

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2025

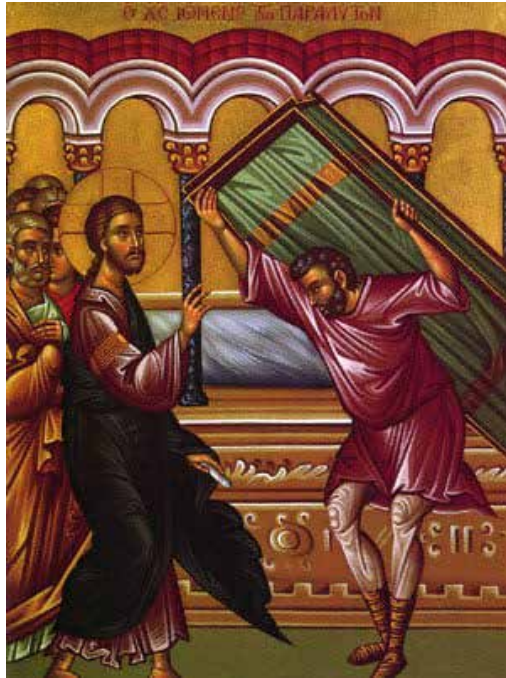
Sunday, May 6: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, May 11: Sunday of the Paralytic: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, the Church Staff, and the entire Family of St. Demetrios, we would like to honor and wish all the Mothers of our Community A HAPPY AND BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY!

Sunday, May 18: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman: Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, May 25: Sunday of the Blind Man: Orthros 9:00 am Divine liturgy 10:00 am



Sunday of the Paralytic

In memory - In honor

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





thoughts from

EVA LALLAS



MAY! CELEBRATING NATURE!!

We welcome May as winter in the mid Atlantic region has finally departed! May, the month during which the author's thoughts are harnessed in full force toward Nature. Being a biologist, with the astrological sign Taurus, the emphasis is on the new life that has emerged from the earth and surrounds us. No matter where we look we see lawns which were somewhat drab are now vibrant and verdant! Brown tree branches are now sprouting delicate bright green leaves and flowers! Birds who had been preparing their nests are now feeding their new hatchlings! Honey bees that had been somewhat dormant are now busy searching for unfurling flower buds that will provide nectar and pollen to take back to their hives! Seeds that had been planted in freshly plowed symmetrical rows are now sprouting and begin to look like fields of patchwork quilts!....." The hills are alive...." to quote from "The Sound of Music"!!!

All of Nature, animals large and small, have emerged! Nature is in full swing! It is the Cycle of Life which our Heavenly Father has meticulously created for us, to enjoy and from which to learn. Since the "Dawn of Man", through trial and error we have learned and continue to learn many of life's valuable lessons by observing how all the participants of God's world live and fit into His tapestry. We need only to pay attention to our physical environment and we will become more aware of how this enlightens our spiritual world.

Even in our limited understanding we will stand in awe and appreciation of our miraculous world that God's handiwork has created. Hopefully, this will encourage us to protect and preserve all forms of life from the smallest to the greatest and thus maintain the balance in Nature.

Knowing that the author has a strong affinity for gardening and planting a friend sent a greeting card entitled "Advice from a Garden", author unknown, which you may find interesting:

Cultivate lasting friendships
Sow seeds of kindness
Listen to sage advice
Don't let the little things bug you
Be outstanding in your field
Take thyme for yourself!

The author's sundial has this message to uplift our spirit:

The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
than anywhere else on earth!

A thought by Joseph Addison: "What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity!"
...and one last one...

On a lighter note that you may have heard:
"Don't tell secrets in the garden...the potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears, the beanstalk."

In conclusion, gardening and farming the land not only provide us with bountiful harvests of nutritious foods but also with the flowers we enjoy throughout the year; especially the flowers in May that we give to our mothers and all those who have mothered us on - - - MOTHER'S DAY!

**Wishing a
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all!!!**



As we know our Greek culture is very rich as is the Greek language. Through the ages from ancient to modern times parables and sayings have survived and are often found in today's conversations. We offer several of these each month and invite you to submit those that are familiar to you.

1.) Τέλειο και παύλα!

Once and for all! It's over! End of conversation. Finis! I have no more to say on the subject!

2.) Κάνη το βάρη πεπόνι!

Ignores others; ignores the situation; is unaware; dissociates oneself. Acts like he doesn't care.

3.) Υπομονή που σκάφη γαϊδαρο!

His patience would outlast a donkey.

Donkeys are known to be very stubborn. Perhaps it means that they are patient???

4.) Το πανί από την ούγια φαίνεστε!

You can tell the quality (of a bolt) of fabric from the selvage.

The selvage gives the strength, quality of the goods without examining the entire piece.

You can tell much about the quality of a person, his character, who he really is, simply by observing him in a few actions....perhaps unrelated, insignificant actions.

5.) Ρώτησαν τον λύκο, <<Γιατι είναι ο λαιμός σου τόσο κοντρός;>>

<<Γιατί κάνω την δουλειά μου μοναχώς!>>

The wolf was asked why his neck was so large (well fed).

He answered, "Because I conduct my business by myself!"

When there are no partners to split the profits, the person in charge reaps all the income.



Dear reader, Here are a few more common American sayings, phrases for you to enjoy:

1.) On your dime - at your expense... You're footing the bill.

**2.) Right on the money - exact point! Precise! Turning on a dime!
Within very narrow limits!**

**3.) (Handle with) kid gloves! Handle carefully, be polite!
In Greek "Με το γάντι." May mean: To a tee! Perfection, upper crust!**

4.) Bite your tongue - avoid saying something that you really want to say.

**5.) A dime a dozen - very common, cheap
In Greek - "δέκα στον παρά!" - cheap - 10 for a buck!**



**AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE • SPIRITS
FOLK DANCING • LIVE MUSIC • GREEK DJ
GREEK MARKET ITEMS & MUCH MORE**

FESTIVAL HOURS

**Friday, August 22
4pm - 11pm**

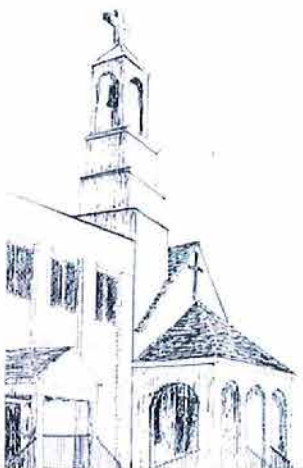
**Saturday, August 23
11am - 9pm**

**Sunday, August 24
12pm - 6pm**

***All Proceeds benefit our Beloved
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church***

For Inquiries please contact
609-602-2153

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
321 Saint Demetrios St.
North Wildwood, NJ 08260



Proudly Sponsored by
Orama
DIGITAL DESIGN



Raising Kids Who Care

By: Tina Oshaana

From PRAXIS Volume 17 Issue 1: Listening to Suffering

Courtesy of goarch.org



A one-year-old might show subtle and tender expressions of empathy and compassion toward someone who appears to be in some sort of pain. You can see his facial expressions change as his eyes look worried. Empathy is even observed among infants who begin to cry upon hearing the distress of another baby, a condition appropriately called contagious crying. Children are able, and perhaps even eager, to show compassion and empathy toward another person, even with their limited ability to physically express or verbally communicate this part of themselves that they are still learning to discover and understand.

How do we teach empathy to our children? In a society of “me, me, me,” it seems like an uphill battle to instill such virtues as kindness and generosity into the hearts of our young ones. We expect our children to share from a very young age. It’s likely that you have heard or even said the word “share” frequently at home, school or the playground. But is empathy something that is learned, something we’re born with or both?

In 1 John 4:8, we read three short words that sum it all up: God is love. When we read this, we are filled with wonder and hope. This sublime description of the Holy Trinity gives us an essential starting point to understanding ourselves because we are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, empathy and compassion are not behaviors foreign to us that we must learn or acquire, but rather they reside in our very being and are waiting to be revealed. However, these natural emotions and behaviors can only blossom, thrive and be expressed through personal encounters in relationships with others.

For example, the ability to comfort others is directly acquired through our own experience of needing comfort. In other words, the instinctual desire to pick up and soothe a crying baby was instilled in us when we were that crying baby and someone soothed us. It’s not surprising to see the adverse effects on emotional well-being and its long-term consequences on a person who was not shown love and compassion as a child, even through something as basic as being held and soothed when crying.

As a mother of four, I witness firsthand many of their interactions on a daily basis along with a roller coaster of emotions at any given time. Along with the typical sibling squabbles, there are golden moments when I see them care for and respond to each other in beautiful ways. Although interactions are never perfect, their hearts are what I’m most concerned about, and I look for and rejoice in their ability to turn toward each other with love and patience.



How can we, as Orthodox Christians, help our children reveal, nurture and cultivate the love and empathy hidden within their hearts in a society plastered with messages of selfseeking and self-fulfillment?

How can we raise children who will become adults with a desire to care for and serve others wholeheartedly? Scripture repeatedly exhorts us as “the elect of God, holy and beloved” to always show “tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering” (Colossians 3:12).

We can help cultivate these virtues in our children and thereby help them reject the enticements of a destructive, selfseeking culture. Here are some practical ways we can encourage them to grow in their self-realization as beloved children of God who were made to love and be loved.

Lead by Example

Parents are the greatest example and first teachers of their children. We set the tone for their emotional health through our own words and by our actions and reactions. I can model empathy by giving my attention and time when my child is struggling with something instead of thinking he or she is being overly dramatic. I can model empathy for others in the way I care for my spouse or my parents or a person in need. Our children are always paying attention to how we respond when these times for empathy arise. Make the best of these opportunities.

Give Them Opportunities

What better way to learn something than to actually do it? There are many community organizations that are in need of help. As a family, you can decide where you feel called to serve. Give back to the community at a soup kitchen, animal rescue center, retirement home or environmental cleanup day to give children an opportunity to cultivate a heart of service. Encouraging your children to contribute a dollar or two from their allowance during the passing of the tray after Liturgy is a great way to instill a sense of gratitude for God's blessings and the responsibility of caring for His Church.

Start in the Home

Siblings or nearby cousins are our first friends (or can be) and this is a great starting point to help children learn empathy and love for others. These expressions of love for their own siblings and extended family are essential in the development of their Christian identity. Children can make each other cards when they are not feeling well or are having a bad day, older siblings can help younger ones tidy up their rooms and younger siblings can learn to respect the personal space of older siblings. By encouraging them to help each other, empathy can be expressed and experienced in the home.

Pray Together as a Family

Making time each day to gather together as a family to pray, whether around the dinner table or in front of your icon corner, in the car on the way to piano practice or to a soccer game, is how we can continually invite God's presence—His grace, peace and joy—into the often hectic and stressful daily routines of our lives. During your prayer time, remember others who may be struggling and are in need. What better way to teach our children empathy than to pray for family, friends or even strangers. Make it a point every time you pray together to say the names. Encourage children to give a list of names to your priest to commemorate during the proskomide. During this service before the Divine Liturgy, the priest prays for the living and the departed while preparing the elements that will become the holy body and blood of Christ.

As we raise our children, we do everything in our power to meet their basic needs, including food, shelter and a good education. How we help shape their characters and instill the value of empathy and love for others is not always easy to figure out.

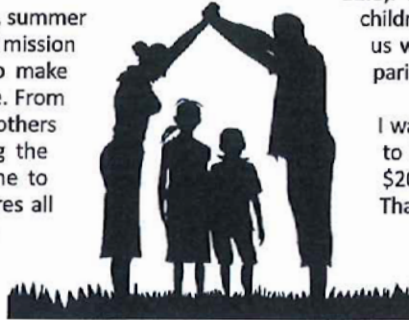
Taking small steps toward this goal in our daily lives will set them in the right direction and bring out the love that is already in them. And this love is God's gift to us.

The Church in the Home *By Fr. Alexander Veronis*

Courtesy of the Orthodox Archdiocese of America - www.goarch.org

"Father, my teenager is losing interest in Sunday School and in the Church," a parent comments with obvious frustration. **"What can I do?"** Her concern is prompted following a sermon on John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Sunday School, the Divine Liturgy, youth ministries, summer camps, Bible studies, pilgrimages, monasteries, and mission trips—all represent ways the Church attempts to make John 3:16 a reality in peoples' Christian experience. From birth to death, we use these avenues to bring others to love and follow Jesus Christ, especially during the formative years of their youth. We want everyone to experience God's love and to know that He "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4).



Where can young people experience this better than in a Christ-centered home? We need the home environment that includes parents, grandparents, and relatives to manifest this love of God. St. Paul speaks of the 'church in the home.' The Church depends on the 'church in the home' to fortify its teaching of the gospel.

What does a Church in the Home look like? Here are some ingredients:

It is a home where there are plenty of icons.

At least one icon of Christ should be displayed in a prominent place in our homes. This immediately tells every guest that Jesus Christ is Lord of this home and family. Icons of the Theotokos and patron saints of our family members should also be present. By displaying icons, we let others know that our home is a sacred and holy place—a place of faith, love, rest, and renewal—just like the Church.

It is a home where the family prays.

Some families create a prayer corner or area where everyone can gather to pray. An easy-to-read Bible in a modern translation, a children's Bible, a book of Orthodox saints, and an Orthodox prayer book make it possible for children to share in the readings during family devotions. Children will remember for the rest of their lives that they once prayed together in their home with their parents and siblings.

It is a home where the family speaks positively of the Church.

They discuss the good things that take place in Church, in the atmosphere of grace. This includes talking about the Liturgy and Holy Communion or a particular sermon that taught or inspired the parish. Children can learn to be positive and optimistic about Church or they can turn negative and critical depending upon what they hear. It is often written of the saints that they grew up in a pious home with parents who loved the faith and taught their children to also respect and honor it.

It is a home that is hospitable.

The Bible says, "Be hospitable to one another" (1 Peter 4:9). A family enriches its members by inviting people into their home and offering them Christian hospitality. Over the years, we've received many blessings by having in our home neighborhood children, schoolmates of our children, foreign students, college students, monks, nuns, missionaries, retreat speakers, priests, bishops, Sunday School teachers, choir members, parish council members, visitors, and friends! They left a positive influence on our family. More importantly, our children realized that their home was open to everyone. There is no limit to

showing Christian love to others. Our Lord said, "Inasmuch as you do it for the least of my brethren, you do it for me." (Matthew 25:40).

It is a home where the family relates their faith to the surrounding world.

"The poor you shall always have with you," Jesus says (John 12:8). Our cities and neighborhoods have needy adults and children who beg to be loved and accepted. They bless us when we reach out to them in the name of Christ. A parishioner once shared this story:

I was passing by a street person, an elderly man clinging to his knapsack. Suddenly I had the urge to pull out a \$20.00 bill and gave it to him. "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" he repeated over and over. "I'll pray for you! Do you believe in prayer? Prayer really helps! We all need prayer! Do you believe in prayer?" he asked. "Yes, yes, I certainly do!" I said.

As the parishioner told this story in a Bible study group, she related it with tears in her eyes because of the blessings she had received from the street person. "I think it was Christ himself blessing me with such enthusiasm at that moment!" she said. And it probably was. "Blessed is the one who considers the poor," the Psalmist writes (41:1)

St. John Chrysostom says, "A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives remains his forever." There are so many ways to serve the poor, the refugees, the hungry, the homeless, and the foreigner—especially in times of high unemployment. Some parishes do it through CROP/CWS Hunger Walks, building homes through Habitat for Humanity, serving in a local Soup Kitchen, becoming Big Brothers or Big Sisters, or tutoring those who need guidance.

It is a home where children learn to be givers.

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). When parents teach their children at an early age to fill their Sunday School offering envelopes, to give a generous portion of their money to charity, and to offer some of their time in service for others, those children will grow up as givers. On the other hand, it is sad when parents fail to teach their children to give to charity and the work of the Church. Those children are more likely to grow up self-centered and indifferent to charitable requests. Later on as young adults, they resent the Church for asking for a stewardship contribution. Yet they will think nothing of spending \$50,000 for their wedding.

Recently, a lovely mother of five children died unexpectedly of a heart attack at the relatively young age of 47. She and her husband were active in their parish. Over 1,000 people came to her funeral. She and her family had touched so many people through their strong faith and example as Orthodox Christians. In the eulogy her priest said: "Elisabeth and her husband John and their five beloved children have made their home a 'church in the home.' One feels the presence of Christ as much in their home as in the Church."

What a tribute it will be for each of us, when we appear before the Lord one day, to present a record of living the faith and walking the walk as this devout woman did.

Remember the 'church in the home.' Help make it alive and vibrant in Christ. The children raised in such homes will reflect a Christian life.



St. Demetrios 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

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

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!





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.





Support Our Church's Mission Through eGiving



- Give anytime, anywhere using your computer, tablet or mobile phone
- Make regular church offerings without writing a check or preparing envelopes
- Give in the moment with a fast, one-time donation
- Schedule recurring contributions so they arrive even when you can't attend services
- Pay for events and activities using your debit/credit card or banking information

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website or contact the church office.

GivePlus Powered By Vanco Payment Solutions



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 2024 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 _____

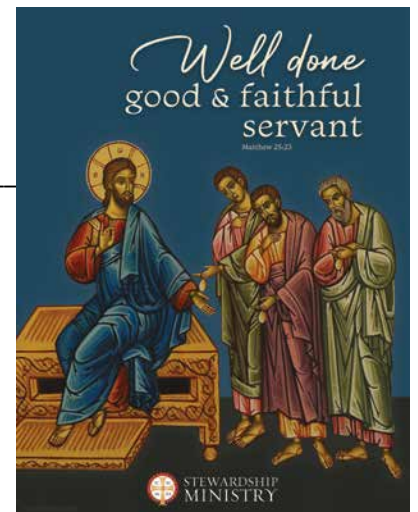
Single/Individual \$500.00

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 _____



Stewardship News

Evan & Mary Avgerinos Markos & Ann Pittoulis Gary & Donna Padussis
Peter & Margot Chlectos Dean & Jennifer Kraras Christ Kraras
Mauro & Angel Cammarano Bernard & Tula Donahue Stavanna Donahue
Scott & Marisa Hunsicker Drew & Sophie Cammarano Greg & Steph Labe
Steve & Michelle Murianka Ted & Despina Katsikaras Melpo Daglis
George & Stella Papageorge Peter & Bessie Lazos Jerry & Marinna Kolaitis
Ted & Alexandra Nannas Nick & Kathy Kantios David & Kathy Wolfe
Bill & Helen Mitchell Lester & Eleni Katsanis Bill Wallgren
Stavros & Eleni Antonakakis Antonio Kolovos Yianni & Anna Augoustides
Paul & Olga Zografakis Nick & Jennifer Konides George & Beverly Mallous
George & Tula Tsiamis Kosta & Roula Papaspanos Glyka Papaspanos
Sal & Vaia Zampirri Fr. Michael & Dimitra Pastrokos Melissa Bennett
Gerald & Elaine Ermentrout Marios & Maria Phili Ethel Kallos
Bill & Irene Sheets George Tsiartsionis Stelios & Tina Papaioannou
Emmanuel & Evanthea Fournaris Presbyteria Katina Pantelis
Alexandra Boulageris Evanthea Boulageris Athena Mallous
Carl Gogats Angelo & Bessie Giouros Irene Karros Anna Butler
Louis & Ellis Squicimara John & Rini Holton Anastasios & Denise Karros
Ted Margarites Ellie Stavropoulos Bill & Eleni Stamatacos
Mr/Mrs Marcos Pittoulis Peter & Vasiliki Kellis Catherine Kardas
Calvin & Maria Jordan Emmanouil & Efthymia Kantzios

*Thank you to our
faithful stewards!*

11:12 AM

04/12/25

Accrual Basis

St. Demetrios Church
Profit & Loss
 January through March 2025

	Jan - Mar 25	Jan - Mar 24
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income		
Pledges / Membership		
Vanco Pledges	13,513.03	67.10
Pledges / Membership - Other	35,300.00	25,160.00
Total Pledges / Membership	48,813.03	25,227.10
Collections & Candles	8,541.00	9,507.00
Canisters	77.77	155.16
Christmas	100.00	0.00
Easter	0.00	1,275.00
Memorial	2,085.00	4,155.00
Total Income	59,616.80	40,319.26
EVENTS		
Gala & Ad Book 2024	0.00	10,480.00
Apokratiko Dance	3,699.00	0.00
Total EVENTS	3,699.00	10,480.00
SPECIAL COLLECTION		
Tree Of Life	1,000.00	0.00
SPECIAL COLLECTION - Other	3,800.00	0.00
Total SPECIAL COLLECTION	4,800.00	0.00
INTEREST		
General Account	6.18	3.89
Total INTEREST	6.18	3.89
Refund	44.03	0.00
Total Income	68,166.01	50,803.15
Gross Profit	68,166.01	50,803.15
Expense		
Donation	0.00	1,000.00
Advertising and Promotion	0.00	332.00
PARISH EXPENSE		
News Letter	750.00	1,200.00
Payroll Tax	8,200.00	8,200.00
Clergy	17,492.00	14,914.00
G. O. Archdiocese Commitment	4,725.00	3,899.00
Total PARISH EXPENSE	31,167.00	28,213.00
OPERATIONS		
Annual Repot	30.50	60.50
Flowers	0.00	107.50
Candles	0.00	2,133.75
Bank Service Charges		
Vanco Payments Fee	46.80	23.95
Bank Service Charges - Other	9.00	296.01
Total Bank Service Charges	57.80	319.96
Postage and Delivery	73.00	132.00
Office Supplies	449.52	0.00
Printing and Copying	122.64	622.09
Supplies	1,059.97	3,854.75
Total OPERATIONS	1,793.43	7,230.55
FACILITIES EXPENSE		
Utilities		
Cable, Telephone and Internet	2,985.96	1,586.53



11:12 AM

04/12/25

Accrual Basis

St. Demetrios Church Profit & Loss

January through March 2025

	Jan - Mar 25	Jan - Mar 24
Electric	679.39	477.91
Gas	1,259.64	3,317.63
Water/Sewer	136.35	163.30
Total Utilities	5,061.34	5,545.37
Repairs and Maintenance	6,364.50	13,639.47
Insurance Expense	5,134.68	4,001.17
Total FACILITIES EXPENSE	16,560.52	23,186.01
YOUTH MINISTRY EXPENSE		
Faith, Hope, Joy and Goya	1,000.00	0.00
Total YOUTH MINISTRY EXPENSE	1,000.00	0.00
EVENT EXPENSES		
Apokriatiko Gala		
PNC	0.00	500.00
Total Apokriatiko Gala	0.00	500.00
Picnic Facility fee	150.00	0.00
EVENT EXPENSES - Other	127.97	2,122.97
Total EVENT EXPENSES	277.97	2,622.97
TRAVEL AND MEETINGS		
Parade	2,200.00	250.00
Clergy Laity	1,000.00	500.00
Total TRAVEL AND MEETINGS	3,200.00	850.00
Total Expense	53,998.92	63,434.53
Net Ordinary Income	14,167.09	-12,631.38
Net Income	14,167.09	-12,631.38

\$ A FOCUS ON FINANCES \$

BEST VACATION PLACES

BALI

If you're looking into an exotic long-haul trip, Bali offers a ton of high quality experiences for a great value. You can easily stay in a private villa overlooking stunning rice paddies with a private pool for around \$50 per night (Airbnb is a great way to go.) However, if you want to splurge a bit but not go overboard, a stay at a high-end luxury resort will still cost you less than a stay at a luxury resort, for example, in Maui. Not to mention, spa and transportation costs are quite low relative to other exotic locales, as well as the amazing and healthy



food options that end up being a fraction of the cost elsewhere in the world.

SAN LUIS POTOSÍ, MÉXICO

Picture a perfect class III white water rafting experience through a limestone canyon of turquoise waters, a visit to a living Garden of Eden, complete with art sculptures, hidden pools, butterflies and waterfalls, a hike to the largest known cave shaft in the world, which you can rappel into, and a series of waterfalls for cliff jumping. Top this all off with a plate of homemade tacos and a local beer for \$2, and you've got yourself a piece of adventure paradise on a budget. Still very much under the radar to anyone outside of Mexico, San Luis Potosí could be compared to Costa Rica in terms of adventure and Cambodia in terms of affordability. Since Election Day, the dollar has been especially strong in Mexico, offering an even better excuse to travel south of the border.

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

Take advantage of the weak Canadian dollar and travel north for a 25% discount on prices. Enjoy a slice of Old Europe without the jet lag or the cost of a transatlantic flight. Indulge in some of the best French food outside France—steak-frites, oysters and pastries at a bargain price. Stroll and shop in the narrow cobblestone streets of the picturesque Old Town and



enjoy night parades and ice canoe races during the colorful Winter Festival in January and February.

INDONESIA

With 17,000 islands, you are bound to find the ideal paradise to suit your travel style and budget in Indonesia. There are stunning untouched beaches that offer world-class snorkeling and scuba diving in Raja Ampat, fascinating Unesco World Heritage Sites dating



back to the 9th century in Yogyakarta and—everywhere you turn—the friendliest locals. In Raja Ampat, we found a homestay that included breakfast, lunch and dinner—plus it was right on the beach for around \$29 USD per person per night.

MOZAMBIQUE

This country is one of Africa's best budget travel destinations, with some extremely affordable accommodation situated along white sand beaches and next to an azure ocean. (Check out Villa Sands or Terraço das Quitandas.) There's great scuba diving, too, and you can easily feel like a millionaire here for nothing!



HEALTHY BODY AND MIND

STROKE: REMEMBER THE 1ST THREE LETTERS..... S. T. R.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

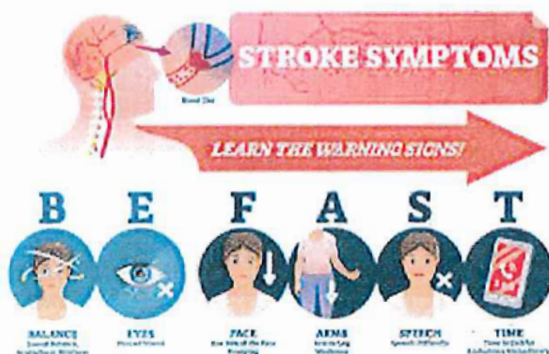
During a BBQ, a woman stumbled and took a little fall—she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics)—she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Jane went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Jane's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital—(at 6:00 pm., Jane passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Jane would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke... totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.



RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)
(I.e. It is sunny out today.)

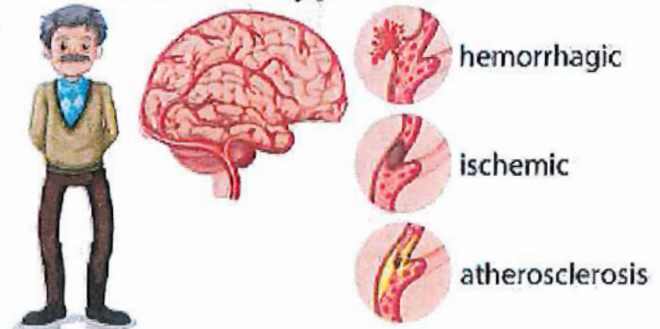
R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

NEW SIGN OF A STROKE: STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is "crooked," if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

Common Types of Stroke



**"April has put a spirit of youth
in everything."**

—William Shakespeare



A BREAK IN YOUR DAY

People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.

A sports reporter asked a football coach, "How's the team this year?"

"Awful," the coach replied. "Our players are so unfriendly they won't even talk to each other."

"Are they really that hostile?" the reporter asked.

"Yep. We can't even make our ends meet."

Why is it hard for a communist to tell a joke? It's not funny until everyone gets it.

I got a new job last week as the top dog at Old MacDonald's farm. I'm the new C-I-E-I-O.

A man is flying in a hot-air balloon and realizes he is lost. He descends a bit and spots a man below. He lowers the balloon farther and shouts, "Excuse me! Can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says, "Yes, you're in a hot-air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am," replies the man. "How did you know?"

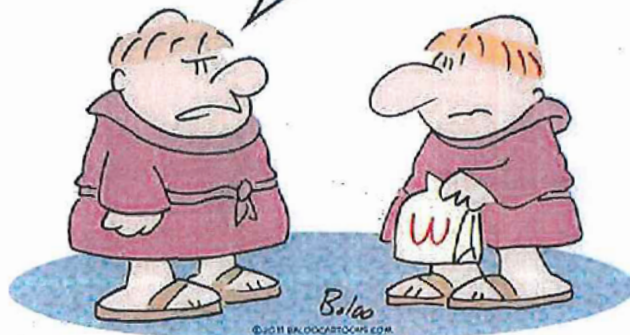
"Well, everything you've told me is technically correct, but it's no use to anyone."

"You must be in management."

"I am, but how did you know?"

Did you hear about the marathoner who left his math homework at the starting line? He thought he could run away from his problems.

"Fasting" doesn't mean eating fast food!



After all is said and done, more is said than done.

Two neighbors are not on speaking terms. One gives the other a can of oil to use on his lawn mower when he starts to cut the grass early in the morning. The other sends it back to the first man, telling him to use it on his wife when she sings late at night.

Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen.

"I don't know much about grammar, but I think kale salad is what they call a 'double negative.'"

—Jim Gaffigan

A man was lost in the desert, moving slowly and barely able to stay on his feet. Suddenly, at the top of the hill, another man on a camel appeared with a number of ties draped over his arm.

"Water!" the first man cried.

"I don't have any water," the other man replied.

"I can sell you a nice tie for \$15."

"I don't want a tie! I want water!"

"OK, two for \$25."

"No ties!" the wanderer exclaimed. "Just tell me where I can find some water."

"Oh, all right. Go in the direction I came from. In a straight line from here, you'll see a small palm tree. About 50 yards past the tree, you'll find your water."

The camel walked off. The wanderer followed the directions and eventually found himself facing another man. "Water!" he said hoarsely. "Do you have water?"

"Plenty," the new man replied.

"Thank goodness! Can I have some?"

"Sorry, but we don't serve anyone not wearing a tie."

When you're dressed all in black and some wise guy asks you who died, look around the room and say, "I haven't decided yet."



WHEN IGNORANCE SCREAMS

The donkey told the tiger, "The grass is blue."

The tiger replied, "No, the grass is green."

The discussion became heated, and the two decided to submit the issue to arbitration, so they approached the lion.

As they approached the lion on his throne, the donkey started screaming: "Your Highness, isn't it true that the grass is blue?"

The lion replied: "If you believe it is true, the grass is blue."

The donkey rushed forward and continued: "The tiger disagrees with me, contradicts me and annoys me. Please punish him."

The king then declared: "The tiger will be punished with 3 days of silence."

The donkey jumped with joy and went on his way, content and repeating "The grass is blue, the grass is blue..."

The tiger asked the lion, "Your Majesty, why have you punished me, after all, the grass is green?"

The lion replied, "You've known and seen the grass is green."

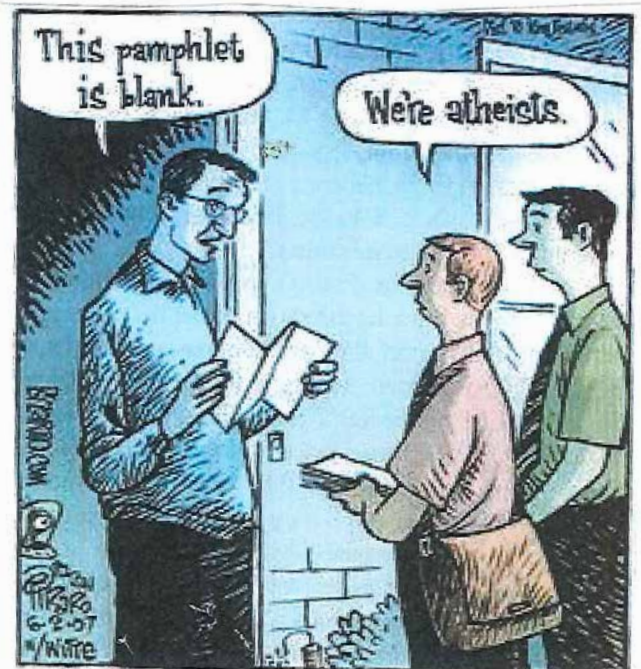
The tiger asked, "So why do you punish me?"

The lion replied, "That has nothing to do with the question of whether the grass is blue or green. The punishment is because it is degrading for a brave, intelligent creature like you to waste time arguing with an ass, and on top of that, you came and bothered me with that question just to validate something you already knew was true!"

The biggest waste of time is arguing with the fool and fanatic who doesn't care about truth or reality, but only the victory of his beliefs and illusions. Never

waste time on discussions that make no sense. There are people who, for all the evidence presented to them, do not have the ability to understand. Others who are blinded by ego, hatred and resentment, and the only thing that they want is to be right even if they aren't.

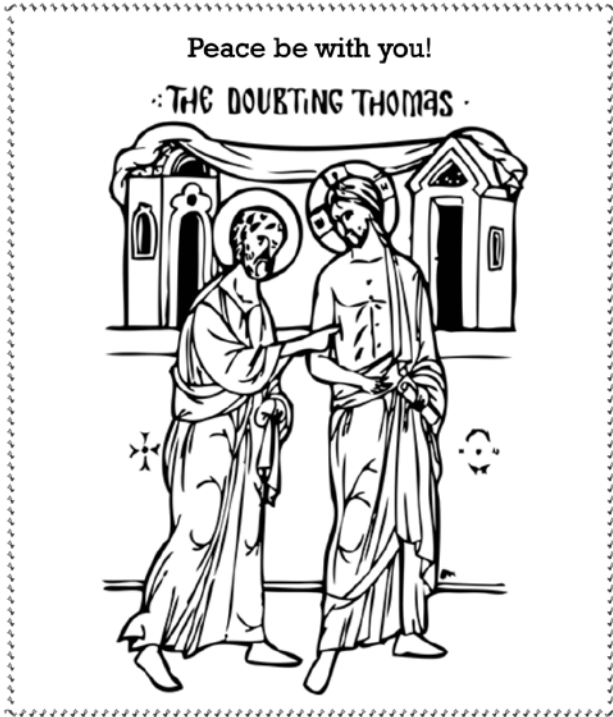
When ignorance screams, intelligence move on.



Children's Corner

More available on stdemetriosnewjersey.com!

Courtesy of Presvytera Alexandra Houck



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck. Email is [orthodoxchildrensword\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxchildrensword(at)gmail.com). Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensword.org.

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, April 27, 2025

Volume 13, Issue 17

We have seen the Lord!

Have you ever had a guest come to your house, somebody you were so happy to see? Maybe you had a visitor you weren't expecting, somebody who brightened up your day!



Just last week, we celebrated the greatest feast, when our Lord, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Jesus's followers had heard that Christ had risen, but some of them weren't sure what to think. Some of them weren't sure if the story was true. Most of them were scared. And all of them missed their teacher, Jesus Christ. They were sad that He was not there anymore.

So, can you imagine how happy Jesus's disciples were when they looked up and saw Jesus with them again? He stood with them, and said "Peace be with you." The Bible says, "the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord." They were glad, because Christ was with them again! Christ turned their sadness into joy. They had a visitor—the best visitor of all!

We know that God is with us all the time. In another part of Bible, we read how Jesus promises His followers, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." When we know that God is with us, we also know that God will turn our sadness into joy too. Christ is a visitor we always want to have with us!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Believing
Corfu
Jason
Kerkyra
Peace
Saints
Sospater
Thomas
Visitor

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Kerkyra learned from Saints Jason and Sospater. They preached the Gospel on her island in Greece.

We celebrate them together with her this week too!



SAINT KERKYRA

LEARNING THE GOOD NEWS



Do you remember who taught you about Jesus Christ? Who taught you how to be a Christian? For most of us, it was our parents, and they started teaching you when you were very, very small!

But this week, we celebrate a saint who did not learn to be a Christian from her parents. In fact, Saint Kerkyra had a father who was furious that she was a Christian!

Saint Kerkyra lived on the island of Kerkyra, which is also called Corfu (in Greece). Her father was the governor of the island, and he was a pagan who worshipped false gods.

It just so happened that when Kerkyra was a young woman, she met two apostles (Saints Jason and Sospater). They were preaching the good news of Jesus Christ there, and they were following the Lord's command to spread the Gospel everywhere. Saints Jason and Sospater told Kerkyra about Christ—how He died for us, and how He rose from the dead.

When Kerkyra became a Christian, her father was terribly angry. He had a criminal live with her to scare her, but then he became a Christian too! She was hurt and even killed, but she always stayed faithful to God. Let's learn how to be a brave Christian from her too!

We celebrate Saint Kerkyra on Tuesday, April 29th (OC: May 12th).

© Alexandra Houck 2025

Notices



GOYA OLYMPICS

DATE:
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 24-25
2025

LOCATION:
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
WEST LONG BRANCH,
NEW JERSEY

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.NJ.GOARCH.ORG/GOYA-OLYMPICS](https://www.nj.goarch.org/goya-olympics)




GOYA OLYMPICS 2025

Memorial Day Weekend May 24-25, 2025
Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey

Events Include:
Swimming, Track and Field,
Volleyball and 5K Run

For registration information or questions, contact:
Andy Hios, Chairman (201) 538-1975 Arch Deacon Konstantinos Loukas (443) 813-1731

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY 2025 GOYA OLYMPICS

The Olympics are open to registered GOYANS from all 55 parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey which includes New Jersey, Philadelphia area, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

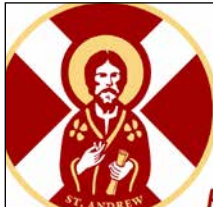
SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 24, 2025

8:00 - 9:00 am	Arrival/Check-In Pick-up dorm keys/wrist bands at check-in tables in parking lots 1 and 3 Luggage drop-off at assigned residence halls.
9:00 - 9:30am	Arrive at Kessler Stadium. Mandatory Coaches meeting
9:30am	Opening Ceremony/Parish Parade
10:00am	Track events begin at Kessler Stadium
12:00 - 3:00pm	Lunch available at Samuel Hays Magill Commons
3:00pm	Volleyball and swimming begin at Boylan Gym
7:00 - 9:00pm	Dinner available at Samuel Hays Magill Commons
9:00 - 11:00pm	GOYANS Outdoor Activity Hangout
11:00pm - 11:30am	Everyone returns to residence halls/lights out.

Sunday, May 25, 2025

8:30 - 10:00am	Divine Liturgy at the Pollak Theater - mandatory attendance for all
10:00 - 11:30am	Churches will be staggered to brunch based on what time they arrived at liturgy and Breakfast at Samuel Hays Magill Commons Breakfast at Samuel Hays Magill Commons
10:45-12noon	Churches will switch, those that ate brunch will Check out of Residence Halls, those that have already checked out will eat breakfast.
12:30 noon	Track events begin at Kessler Stadium
2:00 - 3:00pm	Return all room keys to MU staff at Boylan Gym
3:00 - 4:00pm	Chris Gacos Memorial 5K run at Kessler Stadium
4:00 - 6:00pm	Father Dean Martin Award Ceremony




Archons
OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®


The Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate
Educational Global Initiative
Sunday School Sprout Program

Learning about
His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



IN CELEBRATION OF ARCHON SUNDAY

archons.org/sprouts



Notices



DON'T MISS BASEBALL'S GREATEST RIVALRY!
JUNE 6, 2025 @ 7:05PM

 **VS.** 

**GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT
 AT YANKEE STADIUM**

**EACH TICKET INCLUDES A DONATION TO THE
 NHS HERITAGE GREECE® PROGRAM & CAMP ST. PAUL
 AND A SPECIAL EDITION GREEK YANKEES HAT!**

 **GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY AT
 BIT.LY/NHSNYY**



**CAMP GOOD
 SHEPHERD**



Maryland	Virginia	New Jersey
June 15 - 21, 2025	July 6-12, 2025	July 13 - 19, 2025

Registration Opens February 2025

More Information

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

 908-301-0500

Are you a high school junior or senior?

**Fill Your
 Summer
 With What
 Counts**



**EXPLORE
 WHAT'S
 NEXT**


Application Deadlines
 Priority: January 21, 2025
 Regular: February 18, 2025

Four Sessions
 Session 1 | Boston June 7-17
 Session 2 | Boston June 21-July 1
 Session 3 | New York July 5-15
 Session 4 | SoCal July 20-30

**CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive
 summer program designed for YOU as
 you prepare to make big life decisions
 and start new adventures.**

By connecting with the Orthodox Christian
 theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and
 meaningful way, you will find a place to form
 authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard
 questions, and explore what it means to be an
 Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

 **APPLY TODAY:
 CrossRoadInstitute.org**




**Orthodox
 Youth Take
 the Challenge**

MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT

Are you an 11th or 12th grade high school student?

You are invited to the CrossRoad Summer Program! Choose from
 multiple locations to immerse yourself with other Orthodox Youth
 from around the country. This 10-day academic and fun-filled time
 is focused on making big life decisions.

Ask hard questions, build lifelong friendships, and explore your
 calling as an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

 Explore further at
crossroadinstitute.org
 to discover more!