



KOINONIA

NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH
North Wildwood, NJ

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WELCOMING FATHER MICHAEL PASTRIKOS TO ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH

Father Michael L. Pastrikos, new Protopresbyter of St. Demetrios Church, North Wildwood, N.J., poses on Holy Friday with the children of the congregation.

*Read Fr. Michael's
welcome letter
on page 2.*





a letter from

FR. MICHAEL L. PASTRIKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER



WELCOMING ADDRESS FROM FATHER MICHAEL

It is with great pleasure and honor to address you all for the first time as your new Parish Priest. I would like to begin by expressing my deep filial gratitude to our spiritual Father and inspired Leader His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America for entrusting me to serve you from this distinguished office. I would also like to express my thanks to His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia for his love and guidance which gave me the opportunity to take on this spiritual challenge and responsibility. I also wish to thank the Very Reverend Archimandrite Fr. Christoforos Oikonomides Chancellor of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey for his love and foresight to give me the opportunity to lead the parish of St. Demetrios to its spiritual potential. It's been a month

since I took this position, and can tell you that I am so happy and proud to be here with you at St. Demetrios in the great city of North Wildwood, New Jersey. My first impression when I arrived here in Wildwood was that I was gifted something that I always dreamt to receive a "Parish in Paradise." I always thought of my retirement and what it would look like in the future, but I never expected something like this. This is truly a gift from God from heaven above. I feel so humble to receive this beautiful community and I promise that I will give my best even though being retired I will continue to challenge myself as always that I have done in my 47 years of priestly ministry to accomplish this task that His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has given to me: the opportunity to work hard and bring the parish to the height of its success. I believe that with showing love, respect and compassion to each other we will collectively be able to reach together continuing the glory and legacy of this historic church of St. Demetrios. I consider this common ministry shared by us both a challenge and a great blessing from God. This affords me the opportunity to express my sincere love and gratitude to everyone here for welcoming and embracing me and my Presvytera Dimitra. I feel truly blessed to have been chosen to serve this Community, and I hope to continue serving here for as long as the Lord would have me. I view all of you as my dear family, and I am sincerely grateful to be your parish priest here together with you. I also ask for your prayers and blessings as we take this memorable journey together celebrating with you this great occasion as a united family.

Extending my deep love and gratitude to each and every one of you, collectively and individually, for your love, support and friendship, I wish you great success in the bright future that we have ahead of us.

With much love and respect,

Fr. Michael L. Pastrikos
Protopresbyter

in memory - in honor

Going forward, anyone wishing to donate in memory of or in honor of a loved one will have a special area in the newsletter notating the name(s) of your loved one and your name.

Please contact Julie Reeb, Church Secretary, at 609-522-0152. or email frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com with your memorial information and donation.



Example:
In Memory of Firstname Lastname
Mr & Mrs. Firstname Lastname



The St. Demetrios altar boys welcome Fr. Michael during Holy Week services.

a letter from

PRESIDENT NICK KONIDES

On behalf of the members of the Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Fr. Nicholas Rafael for his many years of service to our Parish, and to wish him well with his new assignment in Jersey City.

Our community has gone through many transitions in the past, however I feel that we are headed in a very positive direction. And with all of us working together we are going to succeed in all our goals.

As we embark on new beginnings, I would like to welcome on behalf of the entire community Fr. Michael Pastrikos as our Protopresbyter. He brings to our Parish many years of wisdom and experience. He is a true theologian, a man of great faith, a wealth of knowledge, and a man with tremendous energy, and total commitment to all his parishioners. I truly believe that if we give him our complete support he will lead us to extraordinary levels, both spiritually and economically.

The Parish Council would like to also welcome our new church secretary Julie Reeb. We are delighted to have her in the office.

Wishing you all a very healthy and prosperous summer.

Nicholas D. Konides
Parish Council President

directory

PROTOPRESBYTER | FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS

CHURCH SECRETARY | JULIE REEB

PARISH COUNCIL:

PRESIDENT | NICHOLAS D. KONIDES

VICE PRESIDENT | DR. GEORGE KOUMARAS

TREASURER | THEODORE KATSIKARIS

SECRETARY | WILLIAM MITCHELL

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

KOSTA BILIOS

SPIRO KELLIS

GEORGE MALLOUS

GEORGE TSAMIS

GEORGE PAPAGEORGIOU

ATTORNEY: MARCUS KARAVAN, ESQ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL | MARIA KELLIS

GREEK SCHOOL | GEORGE PLAMANTOURAS

J.O.Y. | FR. MICHAEL PASTRIKOS

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

PHILOTOCHOS | DINA BILIOS

CHANTERS | RITA EFTHIMIOU, DEMETRI TSAMIS, CATHY WOLFE

CHURCH: 1.609.522.0152

321 ST. DEMETRIOS AVE, NORTH WILDWOOD, NJ 08260

Holy Pentecost June 4

COURTESY OF THE ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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After the Saviour's Ascension into the Heavens, the eleven Apostles and the rest of His disciples, the God-loving women who followed after Him from the beginning, His Mother, the most holy Virgin Mary, and His brethren—all together about 120 souls returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Entering into the house where they gathered, they went into the upper room, and there they persevered in prayer and supplication, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as their Divine Teacher had promised them. In the meanwhile, they chose Matthias, who was elected to take the place of Judas among the Apostles.

Thus, on this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.

The multitudes that had come together from various places for the feast, most of whom were Jews by race and religion, were called Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and so forth, according to the places where they dwelt. Though they spoke many different tongues, they were present in Jerusalem by divine dispensation. When they heard that sound that came down from Heaven to the place where the disciples of Christ were gathered, all ran together to learn what had taken place. But they were confounded when they came and heard the Apostles speaking in their own tongues. Marvelling at this, they said one to another, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how

hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" But others, because of their foolishness and excess of evil, mocked the wonder and said that the Apostles were drunken.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven, and raising his voice, spoke to all the people, proving that that which had taken place was not drunkenness, but the fulfilment of God's promise that had been spoken by the Prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28), and he preached Jesus of Nazareth unto them, proving in many ways that He is Christ the Lord, Whom the Jews crucified but God raised from the dead. On hearing Peter's teaching, many were smitten with compunction and received the word. Thus, they were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added to the Faith of Christ.

Such, therefore, are the reasons for today's feast: the coming of the All-holy Spirit into the world, the completion of the Lord Jesus Christ's promise, and the fulfilment of the hope of the sacred disciples, which we celebrate today. This is the final feast of the great mystery and dispensation of God's incarnation. On this last, and great, and saving day of Pentecost, the Apostles of the Saviour, who were unlearned fishermen, made wise now of a sudden by the Holy Spirit, clearly and with divine authority spoke the heavenly doctrines. They became heralds of the truth and teachers of the whole world. On this day they were ordained and began their apostleship, of which the salvation of those three thousand souls in one day was the comely and marvellous first fruit.

Some erroneously hold that Pentecost is the "birthday of the Church." But this is not true, for the teaching of the holy Fathers is that the Church existed before all other things. In the second vision of



The Shepherd of Hermas we read: "Now brethren, a revelation was made unto me in my sleep by a youth of exceeding fair form, who said to me, 'Whom thinkest thou the aged woman, from whom thou receivedst the book, to be?' I say, 'The Sibyl.' 'Thou art wrong,' saith he, 'she is not.' 'Who then is she?' I say, 'The Church,' saith he. I said unto him, 'Wherefore then is she aged?' 'Because,' saith he, 'she was created before all things; therefore is she aged, and for her sake the world was framed.'" Saint Gregory the Theologian also speaks of "the Church of Christ ... both before Christ and after Christ" (PG 35:1108-9). Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus writes, "The Catholic Church, which exists from the ages, is revealed most clearly in the incarnate advent of Christ" (PG 42:640). Saint John Damascene observes, "The Holy Catholic Church of God, therefore, is the assembly of the holy Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, and Martyrs who have been from the very beginning, to whom were added all the nations who believed with one accord" (PG 96, 1357c). According to Saint Gregory the Theologian, "The Prophets established the Church, the Apostles conjoined it, and the Evangelists set it in order" (PG 35, 589 A). The Church existed from the creation of the



Holy Pentecost

CONTINUED...

Angels, for the Angels came into existence before the creation of the world, and they have always been members of the Church. Saint Clement, Bishop of Rome, says in his second epistle to the Corinthians, the Church “was created before the sun and moon”; and a little further on, “The Church existeth not now for the first time, but hath been from the beginning” (II Cor. 14).

That which came to pass at Pentecost, then, was the ordination of the Apostles, the commencement of the apostolic preaching to the nations, and the inauguration of the priesthood of the new Israel. Saint Cyril of Alexandria says that “Our Lord Jesus Christ herein ordained the instructors and teachers of the world and the stewards of His divine Mysteries ... showing together with the dignity of Apostleship, the incomparable glory of the authority given them ... Revealing them to be splendid with the great dignity of the Apostleship and showing them forth as both stewards and priests of the divine altars . . . they became fit to initiate others through the enlightening guidance of the Holy Spirit” (PG 74, 708-712). Saint Gregory Palamas says, “Now, therefore ... the Holy Spirit descended ... showing the Disciples to be supernal luminaries ... and the distributed grace of the Divine Spirit came through the ordination of the Apostles upon their successors” (Homily 24, 10). And Saint Sophronius, Bishop of Jerusalem, writes, “After the visitation of the Comforter, the Apostles became high priests” (PG 87, 3981B). Therefore, together with the baptism of the Holy Spirit which came upon them who were present in the upper chamber, which the Lord had foretold as recorded in the Acts, “ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence” (Acts 1:5), the Apostles were also appointed and raised to the high priestly rank, according to Saint John Chrysostom (PG 60, 21). On this day commenced the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by which we become “partakers

of the Divine Nature” (II Peter 1:4). For before Pentecost, it is said of the Apostles and disciples only that they abode in “prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14); it is only after the coming of the Holy Spirit that they persevered in the “breaking of bread,” that is, the communion of the Holy Mysteries—“and in prayer” (Acts 2:42).

The feast of holy Pentecost, therefore, determined the beginning of the priesthood of grace, not the beginning of the Church. Henceforth, the Apostles proclaimed the good tidings “in country and town,” preaching and baptizing and appointing shepherds, imparting the priesthood to them whom they judged were worthy to minister, as Saint Clement writes in his first Epistle to the Corinthians (I Cor. 42).

Apolytikion of Pentecost Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

Kontakion of Pentecost Plagal of the Fourth Tone

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men (Babel), He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.

upcoming events

JOY (AGES 8-10)
HOPE (AGES 3-7)
TWO SATURDAYS PER MONTH

PHILOPTOCHOS
1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

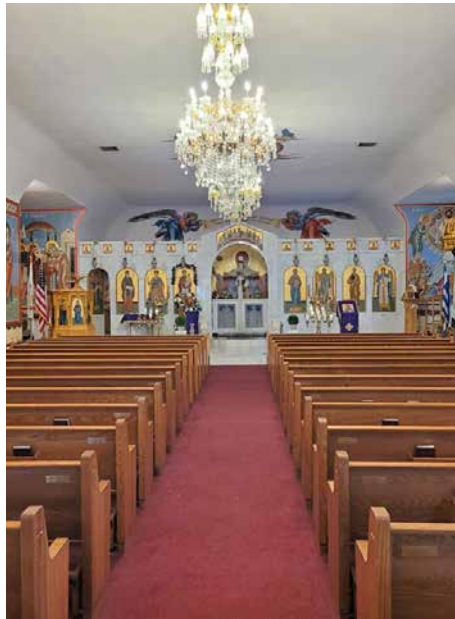
GREEK SCHOOL
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT FROM
4:30 - 7:30 P.M.

PARISH COUNCIL
NO MEETINGS
JUNE, JULY &
AUGUST 2023

Church Participation

How often does it happen in life that a person has one thing in his/her heart and another upon their lips and wears two faces at the same time.

As your parish priest, I've encountered untold numbers of people who say, "I am not in Church, but my heart is with you and the church and if I can do anything for you just call me, because I'm so busy with my work." Sadly these individuals are fooling themselves! If their heart is in church their body should also be too. People who possess saving faith find a way to be with Christ. We cannot separate our faith from our body and mind. There are others who faithfully participate in church regularly with their children and families. To give you a vivid picture of what is happening in our parish we are still lacking in participation. Slowly but surely we will get there. But we can only do this together as a family. In the Gospel according to St. Mark, we read the account of men who took their friend who was a paralytic up on the roof of a crowded house. They removed a portion of the roof and lowered their friend to be in the presence of Christ, who healed the man of his infirmity. Where is our zeal and our enthusiasm to be in the presence of Christ? Are we ready to forfeit and sacrifice certain things in our lives to pay more attention to the needs of our spiritual soul? Today, we are too busy doing other things that we forget our responsibilities to Christ. Are we willing to raise the roof to be with Christ and to bring others with us? Most people are ready to raise the roof for money, a new home, a new car, a big party or a wedding, for tickets to a ball game, a concert or a new job. How many of us are willing to raise the roof to come to church? We have proven this throughout the years that our concentration or focus is not on Christ but for the sinful world that is out there ready to destroy and kill us. How many of us are ready to raise the roof to hear the word of God? How many are ready to worship Him and to be in the presence of Him, His angels and the Holy Saints of the Church? Year after year, we see that in all denominations of churches that the percentage of church participation is dropping. We see the lack of faith in parents who don't care for their children's spiritual welfare and only care basically



for themselves. That's why, so many live a life of superficial faith, a faith that shows little or no enthusiasm. I would like to ask our readers a few simple questions? When was the last time you attended church? When was last time you received the Holy Sacraments of the Church? When was the last time you participated in an important meeting or function of the Church? When was the last time you helped a less fortunate person come to church. When was the last time you involved yourself in the life of the church? When was the last time you gave your financial support to the church through tithing or stewardship? Take a few moments and think about these questions, because this is the only way we can measure where our faith is with God. Yes, one may claim to be religious, live a life of outward formalities, even be on a church mailing list, or just send a check in to say that you are a member of the church, but it all means little if we are not living a heart-centered faith that bears good fruits of the Holy Spirit. People with real faith cannot be stopped from finding a way to be with Jesus Christ. We all find ways to be with people we love. There is a famous saying: "Where there is a will... there is a way!" Living a sinful life is always the infection of impurity. Sin will take the innocent heart and make it a guilty heart. It will take a pure mind and

make it impure. Have you been paying attention to what's surrounding us every day? Is this the example that we want to expose our children to? We as parents have to make these important decisions. We all realize that sin is a behavior against the will of God and that Temptation will always be around us making us feel terrible about the sinful acts we do daily. In our Orthodox experience learning theology or reading a good book means very little. "It must be lived." We must live our faith in Christ. Words can only move us or touch us emotionally, but action is the right verb to get you in the presence of God.

We all need to be like the friends who brought the paralytic to Christ. They portrayed the true spirit of Christianity. The greatest gift we can give to a person who has no faith related religion is to bring them to Christ. Many will say, well, that is the priest's responsibility. But the truth of the matter is that this is everyone's responsibility. Don't always blame or wait for the priest to do everything for the lack of your participation, because we are always trying to find excuses or blame someone else for our failure to come to church and have a relationship with Christ. There is a story from the Desert Fathers that a monk picked up a rock and said: "If this rock could heal people would you put it in your pocket or attempt to touch as many people as possible with it? The answer was... yes. The monk went on to say that the rock symbolizes Christ and that we should touch as many people as possible with Christ's love.

I hope and pray that this article has touched you in some way. We have a Community to run and this cannot be done by just a few parishioners. We must all pitch in and help, that we can also say that through the effort of many, our church and parish will continue to grow spiritually and become a safe haven for our children; an institution for learning; a place where we can call home and visit anytime that we feel like it. I look forward to seeing you and your families in church more frequently in the coming months and years.



Sunday of All Saints June 11

COURTESY OF THE ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, “But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord” (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of “Martyr” in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the

friends of God, for they are keepers of God’s commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the “much fruit” brought forth by that “Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died” (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as “the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour” (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honour and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been



added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honour today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

liturgical calendar

JUNE

Saturday, June 3:	THE SATURDAY OF SOULS: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30
Sunday, June 4:	SUNDAY OF HOLY PENTECOST: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30
Sunday, June 11:	THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30
Sunday, June 18:	2nd SUNDAY OF MATTHEW: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30
Sunday, June 25:	3rd SUNDAY OF MATTHEW: Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30
SUMMER HOURS:	Orthros: 8:30 am Divine Liturgy: 9:30



*His Eminence Archbishop
Elpidophoros Archpastoral
Exhortation to the Metropolis
of New Jersey Clergy Laity
Assembly and Philoptochos
Convention*

May 15, 2023 | The Venetian – Garfield, NJ

Represented by Father Michael Pastrokos
Parish Council President Nicholas Konides
Parish Council Vice President Dr. George Koumaras





GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS OF AMERICA
INVITES YOU TO



*Great Vespers for the Feast of
Saint Bartholomew the Holy Apostle*

PATRON SAINT OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH
325 PARK AVE, NEW YORK CITY

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND TO ALL FAITHFUL



My name is Julie Reeb and I am the newly hired secretary for the Church. Many of you may already know me. I have worked on the island for over 30 years. Mostly in banking but I have also waitressed when I was younger. I went to Farleigh Dickinson University (online) and received a Master's Degree in Science. I am married and I have two daughters. One is a teacher and the other is pursuing a career in law enforcement. I will be working for the Church part time as I also do book keeping work and projects for other establishments. I like to keep busy. I enjoy walking along the bay near my home in Lower Township, reading and enjoying time with my family and pets. It is very nice to meet all of you!

a letter from

JULIE REEB
CHURCH SECRETARY



**** WE ARE ASKING ALL PARISHIONERS TO
SUPPLY THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS. THIS WILL
ASSIST IN DELIVERING FUTURE NEWSLETTERS
AND CORRESPONDENCE IN A TIMELY FASHION.**



On April 29th, the Greek School organized a fun outing of bowling. Afterwards everyone ate pizza. Fr. Michael enjoyed getting to know the youth of St. Demetrios and hopes to continue the activities. Thank you to all that helped to bring this to fruition!



guests



Parish Council President, Nicholas D. Konides; Fr. Michael Pastrikos; Fr. Dr. Deacon Luke Carpenter; Presvytera Chrissy Vlahos; Fr. Steven Vlahos; Parish Council Secretary, William Mitchell



Chantor, Cathy Wolfe; Fr. Steven Vlahos; Chantor, Rita Efthimiou; Father Michael Pastrikos

We were extremely happy to have several guests within our midst and to have a photo opportunity as well.

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!



Stewardship News

I am writing to you today in the name of our friendship and your longstanding love for the church to personally appeal to you to support our church stewardship program.

The contributions you make have very tangible benefits for our community. They are critical not only in supporting our parish ministries and operating expenses, but also in allowing us to engage in a range of new projects and programs for 2023. However, we have had parishioners who have not taken care of their financial support for 2022 and previous years.

Fr. Michael and the Stewardship Committee are always listening to you and we continue to strive to offer as many new programs as possible for all ages.

The Christian work of our St. Demetrios Church is made possible through the support of its **Stewards**. Your financial support is vital; to our Sunday school, our Greek school, our Youth Programs, our seniors, and to everything we do.

If you haven't supported our Stewardship Program-Please make your pledge. Please

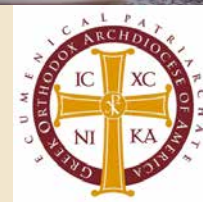
don't delay in your financial contribution because the church needs your financial support throughout the year. Just like we take care of our financial expenses; in our homes and businesses, the church also has financial expenses and needs your help in paying its bills and affording necessities.

The church does not have an individual owner it has its **Stewards** who are responsible to keep the doors of the church open for everyone in the parish. For over 50 years the doors of the St. Demetrios has always been open supporting all the needs of its parishioners.

The Stewardship Committee would like also to thank those **Stewards** of the church who gave their commitment for 2022. Our goal this year is to double our Stewardship members. If you have been a **Steward** in the past, please recommit. And if you have never had the opportunity to become a **Steward**, for whatever reason, do it now.

Only through our faith and commitment can our community thrive and be successful.

Giving Thanks Eucharistic Stewardship



Sunday School News

As another Sunday school year comes to an end, we hope that each of our students here at St. Demetrios learned

more about their Orthodox faith. The classroom is not the only place a Sunday School Student learns about their faith, attending church provides them with an important lesson of being a part of The Mystical Body of Christ.

The students along with their family should continue to come to church every Sunday even after Sunday school ends for the year. Where else can you go to be in company of the Saints, Prophets, Apostles, Choirs of Holy Angels and also the most holy

Theotokos (Mother of our Lord); but in the house of the lord....His church. In times of personal grief, in times of national disasters, in times of horrible tragedies, where do we all go to feel safe and pray....we go to church.

Fr. Michael along with the Parish Council members would like to thank the students, and their parents who understood the importance of bringing their sons and daughters to Sunday School every Sunday throughout their school year. Also we would like to thank the Sunday School Teachers and congratulate the aides and the staff for a job well done!





Church NEWS

greek school

On Sunday, May 21st the Greek School students received their end of the year Diplomas after Church. On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, the Church Staff, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to congratulate our Greek School Teacher, George Plamantouras for his love and dedication to his students. All of our Greek School students have worked hard throughout the year to learn not only the Greek Language but also to enhance their faith and heritage. We wish George and his students a deserved rest for the summer. God bless our Greek School Teacher and all of our students.

youth group

Fr. Michael would like to inform all parents that on Saturday, May 27th he scheduled with the youth group (A SPECIAL AFTERNOON WITH FR. MICHAEL). This new youth program will give our children an opportunity to with Fr. Michael and learn more about their faith. This gathering included different exciting games that were shared with all the kids. It was a wonderful event for the children.

special news

Fr. Michael along with the members of the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for attending our sacred services during Holy Week. We are grateful for your faith, for your church membership and for your generous offerings and support. Also to the wonderful people who donated the different items that were needed for the Holy Week services. We also want to thank the family who donated the wreath for the Cross of Christ and all the families and parishioners who donated the Easter Lilies that made are church so beautiful during the services. May the Lord continue to bless everyone with much health, joy, and happiness.

philoptochos

The Ladies Philoptochos Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parishioners and friends who donated towards the flower campaign that helped decorate the beautiful Epitaphio that stood so beautifully in the church during the Holy Friday Lamentation Service. Also on behalf of Fr. Michael, the Parish Council members, and the entire family of St. Demetrios for honoring our MOTHERS during the Mother's Day Celebration which took place in the Church. We would also like to congratulate once again, the (Mother of the Year) Mrs. Ellie Stavropoulos and to convey to her our deepest love and appreciation for her. God Bless you, and all the Mothers of our St. Demetrios parish.

stewardship

All of our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

attention all parishioners

We have established our (NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER) which will be named "KOINONIA". Fr. Michael is asking for any pictures that have been taken during the 40 day Lenten period, (example) Holy Week pictures of the Epitaphio, the young Myrrhbearers, the Altar boys, the procession on Holy Friday, the youth events and other organizational events that were held during the year. These pictures will be included in the June Newsletter. But in order for our parishioners to be able to read the Newsletter,

you must submit your E-mails so we can send the newsletter out to your computers. We will have a few newsletters printed for those who have no computers or smart phones.

welcome to our new church secretary

It is our privilege and honor to welcome and introduce to the Community our new Church Secretary, Mrs. Julie Reeb. This is a major step upwards for our Community knowing now that we have a Secretary in the church to facilitate all the needs of the Parish. We will also establish a new outside security system which will give all of our parishioners the opportunity to come to the church for all church affairs. Everyone will be able to visit the church and pray and light their candles whereas before the entrance to the church was very limited. Julie will be in the church office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from the hours of 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please come and meet and welcome our new Secretary of the church. Again a warm welcome to Julie!

metropolis "beach blast" is coming to our parish

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND PARENTS: The DVYC invites all youth to the DVYC Beach Blast which will take place on Saturday, June 17 here at our Parish. This program will begin at 10:00 am and will finish at 4:00 pm. A late Lunch/Dinner will be provided for all the youth at our St. Demetrios Cultural Center. This will be provided by the DVYC.



a letter from

EVA LALLAS



as June has opened the summer season in this “vacation land”. so will June be our “opening season” bringing us closer to Christ as we worship and praise Him regularly at our St. Demetrios Church.

Many noteworthy blessings come to us during June: weddings, baptisms, graduations, anniversaries, birthdays, reunions, and Father's Day. Perhaps the most important day of celebration in June for every American is Father's Day~~~ a blessed gift to every person. We each think of our dad as being the very best! We love and honor him because he has always been our friend, guardian, and provider supporting us since we were infants. Those of us who are fortunate to still have our father with us must thank our God for this blessing daily.

Father Michael must think that every day has been Father's Day since the day he arrived in Wildwood! He and Presvytera Toulia have been warmly welcomed by everyone at St. Demetrios and have been made to feel at home. Even neighbors and residents in town whom Father has met during his weekends have enthusiastically greeted him, inviting him to join them. So, it has been with the business owners when meeting them as they have been opening their establishments for the season.

The author is not at all surprised at these warm receptions because Father Michael is a “people person”. He connects and relates with each person upon meeting them. As our spiritual father he cares deeply for his flock, his children as he refers to them. When he asks, “How are you”, this is not merely lip service. This attribute draws Orthodox Christians to participate in worship services; it encourages them to become involved in their church and thus develop a closer relationship to Christ. In the few weeks that Father Michael has been at St. Demetrios his boundless energy has shown forth as he is laying the foundation for more church centered activities.

In no time at all, as each member of St. Demetrios participates in the liturgies, sacraments, and activities of the church, he will see and feel the love that Father Michael has and generates for Christ and His Church; just as the author and those of the previous parishes he has served can attest.

So as Father's Day approaches and we plan celebrations for our dads be sure to include prayers of thanks to God for each of our beloved dads and prayers of thanks to God for sending Father Michael to St. Demetrios to be with us, to teach, and guide us.

Happy Father's Day, Father Michael!

JUNE'S BLESSINGS

June.....Oh! What a beautiful month! Each year June heralds the long-awaited opening season at North Wildwood, a destination town for fun in the sun and surf for residents and vacationers alike.

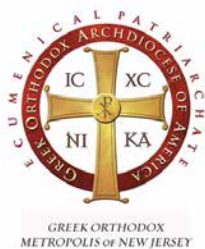
This year June brings additional joy to the parishioners of our St. Demetrios Church - Reverend Father Michael Pastrikos! His assignment began in April during Great and Holy Lent, the busiest period in the Orthodox Church, when he was warmly embraced by the president, parish council, and parishioners. Likewise, by the devout Orthodox Christians beyond St. Demetrios who attended the solemn services of Holy Week and the glorious Easter service of our Lord's Resurrection; who also expressed their appreciation of Father Michael's moving church services.

With Father Michael another blessing has come to St. Demetrios this June, the launching of the *Koinonia*, the monthly newsletter. Father had very carefully chosen the name *Koinonia* for the church newsletter in each of his former parishes because it engulfs the essence, the core meaning of Community: communion among the members of the parish, communion of each parishioner with God.

In this newsletter future planned activities of the various ministries of St. Demetrios will be given as will be the religious services and programs. Being aware of and knowing more about the workings of the church will promote more involvement in the religious activities thus drawing each parishioner closer to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Just



Events



BEACH BLAST & MISSION WALK



**ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**



SAT

JUNE 17 2023

10AM: BEACH ACTIVITIES

LOCATION: E. 2ND AND OCEAN AVENUES


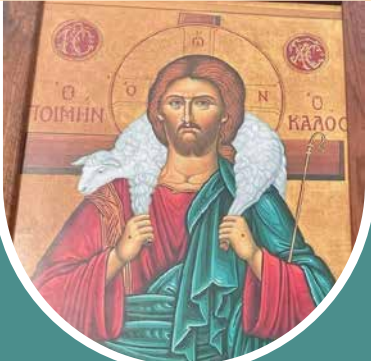

4PM: MISSION WALK

5PM: VESPERS & DINNER


[Click Here to Register!](#)




Summer Camp

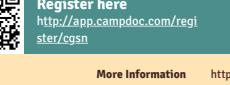
CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD



Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Wo-Me-To, Jarrettsville, MD



Virginia July 9-15
Ages 10-18
Location: Camp Piankatank, Hartfield, VA



New Jersey July 16-22
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Linwood Macdonald, Sandyston, NJ

Register here
<http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn>

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



CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

New Jersey

JULY 16-22, 2023

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Sign up today: <http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn>
\$600 per camper

For more info email: cgsnewjersey@gmail.com




Join in on the fun, faith, and fellowship!



CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD-CHESAPEAKE BAY

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Overnight Camp: Ages 8-18 yrs.*
*if the camper is still in school

Join us for a week of fun, friendship, and FAITH! Days will be filled with activities such as swimming, arts & crafts, athletics, campfire, a dance, and more!

For more information or any questions email campgoodshepnb@gmail.com

Overnight Campers Early Bird Special \$525
On or before April 15th 2023

Registrations received on or after April 16th 2023 increase to \$600

Overnight Staff Application:

- Boost your resume
- Grow in your faith
- Build meaningful relationships
- Stipend Offered!
- Apply Here: nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd

Day Camp: Ages 5-7
Thurs, July 6th 8:45 - 2:15
\$75

Camp Wo-Me-To
1200 Knopp Rd.
Jarrettsville, MD
21084

Register:
<http://app.campdoc.com/register/cgsn>

Registration QR Code



3 JULY

7 JULY



Camp Good Shepherd Virginia

July 9-15

Registration Open! 5th-12th Grade

Scan QR Code to Register!



Pricing:

- 1 Camper - \$450
- 2 Campers - \$425
- 3+ Campers - \$400

Contact:
CGSVirginia@gmail.com
for details