

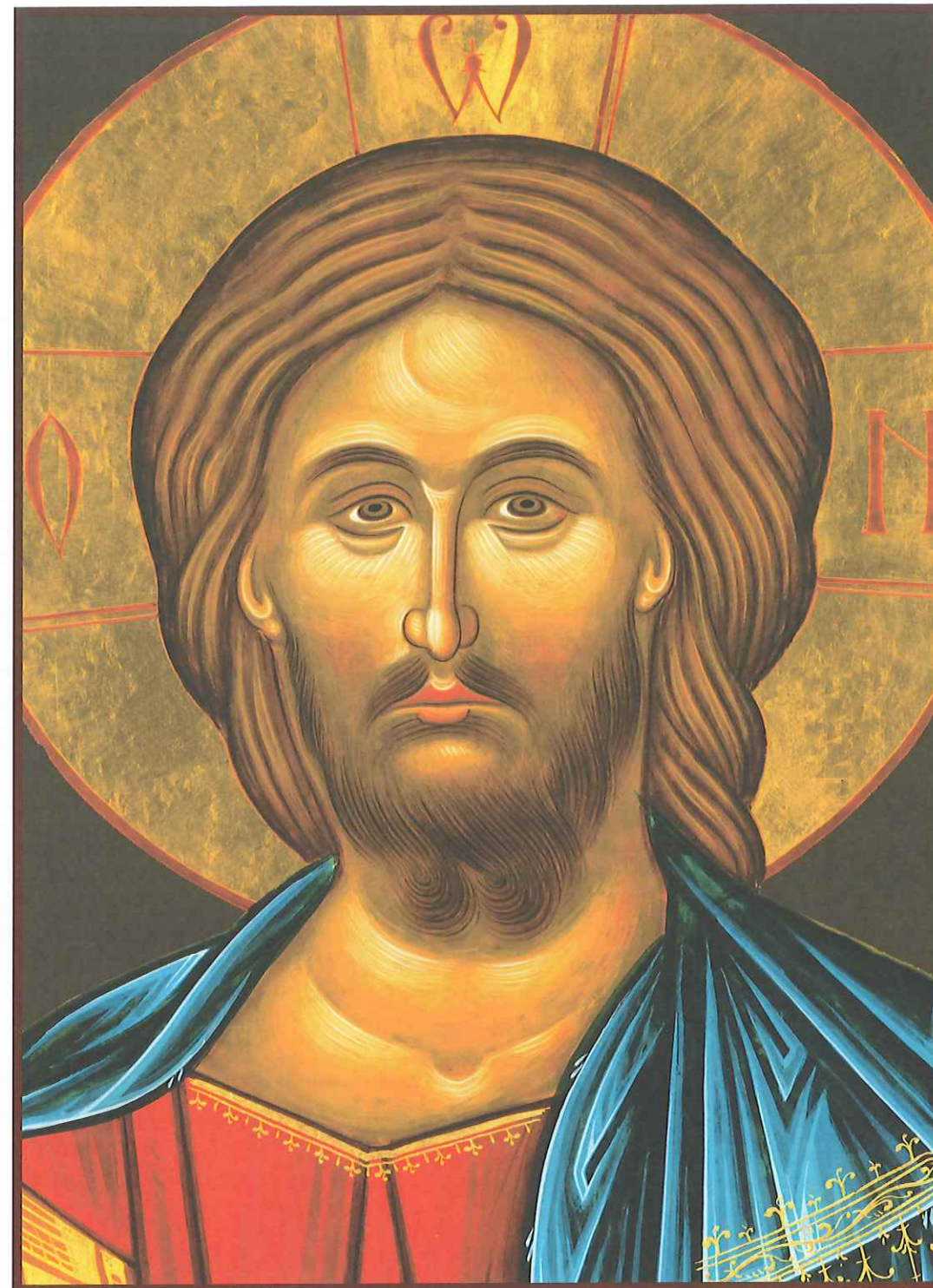
PRIDE IS A DEADLY ENEMY

In Proverbs 16:18, we hear these powerful words: **"PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL."** Countless times, pride has proven to be a person's downfall. Because of his prideful desire to be like God, Satan, once an angel, was driven from heaven -- banished for all eternity. Adam and Even, pridefully believing that they could possess the knowledge and wisdom of their Creator, ate the fruit from the one tree they were forbidden to touch, causing them to be cast out of Paradise. Yes, the consequences can be of epic proportions.

Sadly, pride continues to claim its victims. We are driven by a multitude of goals and aspirations. When we achieve success in our endeavors, we are often reluctant to give credit where credit is due. We quickly forget that without God's help, we can accomplish nothing. To be proud of our own works is nothing more than a failure on our part to recognize our place on the "Ladder of Creation." The Lord is our Master; we are His servants. In the words of the Blessed Augustine: "God created us for Himself, and our soul is lonely without Him."

We must remember the words spoken by Moses to the Israelites after receiving the Ten Commandments. While reassuring them that God will lead them into a land of plenty, he issues this warning to them as well: "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God, that when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, you do not say in your heart: MY power and the might of MY hands have gotten me this." Indeed, may we, as well, never forget what God does for His faithful children.

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ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY
July 16, 2023.

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

WELCOME ALL VISITORS:

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

COFFEE HOUR:

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. We would like to thank the Ladies Philoptochos Society for their generous offering to the Church. Everyone is invited to come and share fellowship during the Coffee Hour.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

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

ECCLESIASTICAL DECREE:

Attention All Parishioners: It has come to the attention of Fr. Michael that we have parishioners that have been divorced (civilly) and have not taken care of their Ecclesiastical responsibilities to the church. If you are in this situation, please contact Fr. Michael and he will begin the application for an Ecclesiastical Divorce from the Church. If this does not occur, then you will be deprived of certain Ecclesiastical necessities within the Church. For further details please contact Fr. Michael. Thank you.

SICKNESS AND HOSPITALIZATION:

Whenever someone is sick particularly with a terminal illness or hospitalized, Fr. Michael should be notified so that he may visit the sick, offer prayers and give Holy Communion and anoint with Holy Unction.

KOINONIA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

We have established our (NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER) which is named "KOINONIA". This newsletter was distributed via email. Going forward, please send all Church event related pictures via email to the Church Secretary, Julie Reeb, at frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com Most importantly, 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. You can submit these to the email listed above or you can give this information to our Parish Council Secretary, William Mitchell. We will also have a few newsletters printed for those who have no computers or smart phones.

LITURGICAL SUMMER HOURS:

From July through September, worship services are on the summer schedule.

8:30 AM –ORTHOS 9:30 AM – DIVINE LITURGY

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:

Altar Boys are needed. In an endeavor to reach out to the next generation of Orthodox Children in our community and prepare them as our future leaders, Fr. Michael would like to invite all boys (ages 7 and above) to join the Altar Boys Church Group. An Altar Boy Seminar conducted by Fr. Michael, will be held on Saturday July 22nd, at 11:00 am. The day will begin with a formal meeting that will review our responsibilities at the Altar during the Divine Liturgy and Orthos Services. Also the children will independently be able to ask questions to Fr. Michael and share their ideas in ways which we can better communicate with each other. Altar Boy attire must include a white shirt, slacks, a tie, and black shoes (please no sneakers). If any parent would like to send their child or children to help in the altar, please contact Fr. Michael at (609)522-0152 or email at frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com with the following information: Parents name(s), child's name(s), address, city and state, email address, home and/or cell phone to register. Please make every effort to attend. Serving the Altar is a labor of love that gives each child the opportunity to serve the Lord in a spiritual capacity.

YOUTH GROUP PROGRAM:

Since the children are out of school for their summer vacation, Fr. Michael would like to continue to have the Youth Program even in the summer months. This event will happen once a month on Saturday July 29th at 1:00 PM.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος πλ. α'. Αυτόμελον.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ
Ἰνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς
ἰωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ
προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκί,
ἐνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον
πομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐν τῇ
νδόξῳ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Τῶν Πατέρων. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

Υπερδεδοξασμένος εἶ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν,
ὁ φωστῆρας ἐπὶ γῆς τοὺς Πατέρας ἡμῶν
θεμελιώσας, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν πρὸς τὴν ἀληθινὴν
πίστιν, πάντας ἡμᾶς ὁδηγήσας· πολυεύσπλαγχνε,
δόξα σοι.

Τῶν Πατέρων.

Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

Υπερδεδοξασμένος εἶ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς
ἡμῶν, ὁ φωστῆρας ἐπὶ γῆς τοὺς Πατέρας
ἡμῶν θεμελιώσας, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν πρὸς τὴν
ἀληθινὴν πίστιν, πάντας ἡμᾶς ὁδηγήσας·
πολυεύσπλαγχνε, δόξα σοι.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ.

(Τὸ Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ.)

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος β'.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε,
μεσιτεία, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ
ταρίδης, ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ
τρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν,
τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι· Τάχυνον
εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἱκεσίαν, ἢ
προστατεύουσα ἀεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων
σε.

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode pl. 1. Automelon.

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate,
* so the Word, who was born from the Virgin
for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and
let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was
pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to
undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by
His glorious resurrection. [GOASD]

Apolytikion For the Fathers. Mode pl. 4.

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God.
You established the holy Fathers upon the
earth as beacons, and through them You have
guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful
One, glory be to You.

For the Fathers.

Mode pl. 4.

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our
God. You established the holy Fathers upon
the earth as beacons, and through them You
have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly
merciful One, glory be to You. [SD]

Apolytikion of the Parish Church

(Apolytikion of the Parish Church.) [GOA]

Kontakion. Mode 2.

O Protection of Christians that never falls,
intercession with the Creator that never fails,
we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices
of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore
you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry
out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession,
and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who
protect now and ever those who honor you. [SD]

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ: Τίτον - 3:8-15

-Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων
ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας
ἡμῖν.

Πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

Τέκνον Τίτε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων
βούλομαι σε διαβεβαιοῦσθαι, ἵνα
φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προϊστασθαι οἱ
πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστιν καλὰ καὶ
ὠφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ
γενεολογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς
περίστασο, εἰσὶν γὰρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι.
αἰρετικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν
νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ
τοιούτος καὶ ἁμαρτάνει, ὢν αὐτοκατάκριτος.
Ὅταν πέμψω Ἀρτεμῶν πρὸς σέ ἢ Τυχικόν,
σπουδάσον ἔλθειν πρὸς με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ
γὰρ κέκρικα παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν
καὶ Ἀπολλὼν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν
αὐτοῖς λείπῃ. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι
καλῶν ἔργων προϊστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας
χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ᾧσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ
μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. Ἀσπασαί τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς
ἐν πίστει. ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

Ματ ε' 14-19

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς·
Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου. οὐ δύναται
πόλις κρυβῆναι ἐπάνω ὄρους κειμένη· οὐδὲ
καίουσι λύχνον καὶ τιθέναι αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τὸν
μόδιον, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν, καὶ λάμπει· πᾶσι
τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ οὕτω λαμψάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν
ἐμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσιν ὑμῶν
τὰ καλὰ ἔργα καὶ δοξάσωσι τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν
τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον
καταλῦσαι τὸν νόμον ἢ τοὺς προφῆτας· οὐκ
ἦλθον καταλῦσαι, ἀλλὰ πληρῶσαι. ἀμὴν γὰρ
λέγω ὑμῖν, ἕως ἂν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ
γῆ, ἰὼτα ἓν ἢ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ
τοῦ νόμου ἕως ἂν πάντα γένηται. δις ἂν οὖν
λύσῃ μίαν τῶν ἐντολῶν τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων
καὶ διδάξῃ οὕτω τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἐλάχιστος
κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν· δις δ'
ἂν ποιήσῃ καὶ διδάξῃ, οὗτος μέγας κληθήσεται
ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν.

EPISTLE: Titus - 3:8-15

-Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers.

Verse: For You are righteous in all You did for
us.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to Titus.

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you
to insist on these things, so that those who
have believed in God may be careful to apply
themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and
profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies,
genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the
law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a
man who is factious, after admonishing him once
or twice, have nothing more to do with him,
knowing that such a person is perverted and
sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send
Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come
to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend
the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the
lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they
lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply
themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of
urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are
with me send greeting to you. Greet those who
love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Mt 5:14-19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are
the light of the world. A city set on a hill
cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and
put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it
gives light to all in the house. Let your light so
shine before men, that they may see your good
works and give glory to your Father who is in
heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish
the law and the prophets; I have come not to
abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say
to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an
iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all
is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of
the least of these commandments and teaches
men so, shall be called least in the kingdom
of heaven; but he who does them and teaches
them shall be called great in the kingdom of
heaven." [MSV]