



St. Demetrios *Parish Newsletter* December 2013

41-47 Wisteria St., Perth Amboy, N.J. (732) 826-4466 Fr. Angelo J. Michaels

Nativity of Christ Jesus - December 25



Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Luke 1:14 -
"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6 KJV



Καλα Χριστουγεννα

St. Demetrios will be celebrating Stewardship Sunday on December 15, 2013

Feast Day of Saint Nicholas - December 6

Born to a wealthy, Christian family in the Greek Lycia (today's Turkey) in 280, Saint Nicholas showed very early signs of being a holy man. When both his parents suddenly died of the plague, young Nicholas gave away most of the family wealth to the poor and soon became a priest.

Saint Nicholas became Archbishop of Myra, not far from his home town, and eventually served under Constantine the Great, the first Roman emperor to make Christianity a state religion and founder of Constantinople (today's Istanbul). He was very much a loved priest, and said to have been very gentle and understanding.

The list of acts of compassion and miracles during his lifetime are endless: saving himself and his fellow prisoners when arrested and tortured during the emperor Diocletian's rule, resurrecting three babies that had been murdered, exorcising a demon from a young man etc. Saint Nicholas donations were always anonymous and it was this secret gift giving that eventually turned him into Santa, albeit not in Greece (here, Saint Basil is Father Christmas). One story tells us that Saint Nicholas once provided three maidens with enough dowries to marry, thus saving them from slavery. He threw bags of gold through their window and the money landed in their socks, which later turned into the custom of hanging out socks for Christmas.

SERVICES (unless otherwise stated)

Sunday Orthros 9:00 A.M.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

No Baptisms will be scheduled during any of the Great Feast Days of the Lord.

Community members are invited to bring their completed 2014 Pledge Cards to church so we may seek God's blessings on all of the ministries for the coming year, just as Jesus blessed and multiplied the five loaves and two fish. Our goal is to have 100% of our members submit a completed 2013 Pledge Card. Contributions in fulfillment of 2013 pledges will be received through the end of December.

DECEMBER 2013 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

- 12/1 14th Sunday of Luke
Gospel Matthew 28:16-20
Κατα Ματθαιον 28.16-20
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10
Προς Εφεσιους 2:4-10
- 12/6 Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra
Gospel Luke 6:17-23
Κατα Λουκαν 6.17-23
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21
Προς Εβραιους 13:17-21
- 12/8 10th Sunday of Luke
Gospel Mark 16:1-8
Κατα Μαρκον 16.1-8
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22
Προς Εφεσιους 2:14-22
- 12/15 11th Sunday of Luke
Gospel Mark 16:9-20
Κατα Μαρκον 16.9-20
Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18
Προς Τιμοθεον Β' 1:8-18
- 12/22 Sunday before Nativity
Gospel Luke 24:1-12
Κατα Λουκαν 24.1-12
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40
Προς Εβραιους 11:9-10; 32-40
- 12/24 Eve of the Nativity
Gospel Luke 2:1-20
Κατα Λουκαν 2.1-20
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-12
Προς Εβραιους 1:1-12
- 12/25 The Nativity of Our Lord
Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12
Κατα Ματθαιον 2.1-12
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7
Προς Γαλατας 4:4-7
- 12/29 Sunday after Nativity
Gospel Matthew 2:13-23
Κατα Ματθαιον 2.13-23
Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19
Προς Γαλατας 1:11-19



Message from Father Angelo

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Demetrios Church,

Christmas is a time of rejoicing and sharing. We rejoice at the glad tidings that the Son of God came into the world to destroy the power of Satan and thus, once again, make it possible for us to be in communion with God, our Creator and Provider.

Jesus left His heavenly glory to be born by the Virgin Mary, not in a palace or a home, but in a stable, outside of Bethlehem. His royal birth was not announced by the media, nor was it celebrated with the joy and exuberance it deserved. Jesus was born in a humble dwelling, by humble parents, to teach us what great virtue humility is; to encourage us to enjoy life in God's presence regardless of what position we hold in society or how many earthly possessions we have. In the eyes of God, even the poorest and the most humble person is treated royally because he is the true Son of God and our Savior Jesus Christ. This indeed calls for rejoicing.

At the same time, Christmas is a time of sharing. It is the time to exchange gifts and show each other how much we care and love one another. In the words of the great Apostle Paul, "It is more blessed to give than to receive..." If the sole reason for the celebration is to receive, then we miss the mark of the Spiritual meaning of Christmas. Since it is Christ's birthday, we have to think of what gifts will we bring to Him. We have to bring our sins, our repent, our financial obligation and to have leave room in our hearts and in our homes that He may dwell in us for the rest of our lives. Our celebration has no spiritual value. We see that Christ came to share with us his divine nature in order for us to become God-like beings and then share our new image with each other through love, forgiveness, caring, encouraging and sharing.

May this Christmas season and the year 2014 be full of joy, good health, happiness and prosperity for everyone.

Spiritual love in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Reverend Father Angelo J. Michaels, Protopresbyter

Αγαπητοι Ενοριτες και φιλοι του Αγιου Δημητριου,

Τα Χριστουγεννα ειναι περιοδος χαρας και αγαπης. Οι ανθρωποι ερχονται πιο κοντα και μοιραζονται τα αγαθα τους διχως ανταλλαγματα προσφεροντας σε ολους ενα κομματι χαρας και ευτυχιας. Γενικα τα Χριστουγεννα εορταζουμε την γεννηση του Υιου του Θεου που ηρθε στον κοσμο για να καταστρεψει την δυναμη του Σατανα και με αυτον τον τροπο, για ακομη μια φορα, να μας δωσει την δυνατοτητα να ενωθουμε με το Θεο, τον δημιουργο μας.

Ο Ιησους αφησε την επουρανια δοξα Του για να γεννηθει απο την Παρθενο Μαρια, και μαλιστα σ'εναν μικρο σταβλο εξω απο τη Βηθλεεμ. Η βασιλικη Του γεννηση δεν ανακοινωθηκε ουτε απο τα μεσα ενημερωσης, ουτε γιορταστηκε με τη χαρα και την τιμη που αξιζε. Αντιθετως, ο Ιησους γεννηθηκε σε μια ταπεινη κατοικια, απο ταπεινους γονεις, για να μας διδαξει ποσο μεγαλη αρετη ειναι η ταπεινοτητα μας; για να μας δωσει το θαρρος να ζησουμε ευτυχισμενοι με την παρουσια του Θεου, ανεξαρτητα απο την κοινωνικη μας θεση η απο την ποσοτητα των επιγειων αγαθων που διαθετουμε. Στα ματια του Θεου, ακομα και ο πιο φτωχος και ο πιο ταπεινος ανθρωπος αντιμετωπιζεται με μεγαλοπρεπεια, επειδη Αυτος ειναι ο αληθινος Υιος του Θεου και ο Σωτηρας μας. Αυτος ο στοχασμος αξιζει πραγματικο πανηγυρισμο.

Την ιδια στιγμή τα Χριστουγεννα ειναι μια περιοδος αλληλεγγυης και ανταλλαγης αγαθων. Ειναι η εποχη που ανταλλαζουμε δωρα και δειχνουμε στον καθενα φροντιδα και αγαπη. Συμφωνα με τα λογια του Αποστολου Παυλου, «Μεγαλυτερη ευλογια ειναι να δινεις παρα να παιρνεις...» Αν ο μονος λογος αυτης της εορτης ηταν μονο να λαμβανουμε δωρα, χανουμε ουσιαστικα το πνευμα των Χριστουγεννων. Αφου ειναι η γεννηση του Χριστου, θα ηταν καλο να σκεφτουμε τι δωρα θα μπορούσαμε να Του προσφερουμε. Θα μπορούσαμε να Του προσφερουμε τις αμαρτιες μας, τις μετανοιες μας, τις οικονομίες μας και να αφησουμε χωρο στην καρδια μας και στο σπιτι μας για να μπορεσει να κατοικησει μεσα μας για την υπολοιπη ζωης. Η εορτη αυτη δεν εχει πνευματικη αξια. Παρατηρουμε οτι ο Χριστος ηρθε στον κοσμο για να μοιραστει μαζί μας την θεια Του φυση ετσι ωστε οι ανθρωποι να ενωθουμε με τα θεια και στην συνεχεια να μοιραστουμε την νεα μας εικονα και ταυτοτητα με τους συνανθρωπους μας με την αγαπη, την συγχωρεση, τη φροντιδα, την ενθαρρυνση και με την αλληλοβοηθεια.

Ευχομαι τα Χριστουγεννα και το νεο ετος να μας φερει χαρα, υγεια, ευτυχια και ευημερια.

Καλα Χριστουγεννα σε ολους.

Με πνευματικη αγαπη στον Κυριο Ιησου Χριστο,
Αιδεσιμοτατος Πατερας Αγγελος Ι. Μιχαλιος, Πρωτοπρεσβυτερος



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Deadline for submissions for the
January 2014 bulletin is
December 10, 2013.

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Newsletter Editorial Board

Fr. Angelo J. Michaels
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Dino Kusulas
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Mary Lou Rivera

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the New Year, let us look back and ask ourselves "Have we done all we can to enable our church to continue with its mission?" Are we true stewards and given all that we can give? December 15 is Stewardship Sunday. Let us all fulfill our 2013 commitment and make a pledge for our 2014 Stewardship.

December brings with it one of the happiest days of the year. We are all very busy buying gifts for our family and friends. Stop, take time and consider the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior. Let us rejoice in His birth and remember to give thanks to Him. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14).

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and invite everyone to join together as one family at the New Year's Dance.

Yours in Christ,
Kateina Ganiaris
Parish Council President

Καθως πλησιαζομε τον Καινουργιο Χρονο, ας κοιταξομε πισω μας και ας ρωτησουμε τους εαυτους μας "κανωμε ολα οτι χρειαζεται ωστε η εκκλησια μας να συνεχιση την αποστολη της;" Ειμαστε ειλικρινεις συνδρομητες της εκκλησιας και προσφεραμε ολα οτι χρειαζεται; Τις 15 Δεκεμβριου ειναι η Κυριακη της επιστασιας για την προσφορα μας. Ας εκπληρωσουμε την οικονομικη μας υποχρεωση του ετους 2013 και ας δωσουμε την προσφορα μας για το 2014.

Ο Δεκεμβριος φερνει μαζι του τις πιο ευτυχισμενες ημερες του ετους. Ολοι ειμαστε απασχολημενοι για να αγορασουμε δωρα για την οικογενεια και τους φιλους μας. Σταματησε και σκεψου το αληθινο νοημα των Χριστουγεννων, την Γεννηση του Σωτηρος Χριστου. Ας χαρουμε με την Γεννηση Του και ας Τον ευχαριστησουμε για ολα τα αγαθα. "Δοξα στον Υψιστον Κυριον και ειρηνη στη γη για ολον τον κοσμο." {Λουκα 2:8-14}.

Θελω να ευχηθω σε ολους Καλα Χριστουγεννα και ευτυχισμενο το Νεον Ετος και να προσκαλεσω τον καθενα σας να ελθη κοντα μας σαν οικογενεια στην χοροεσπεριδα της Πρωτοχρονιας.

Με την εν Χριστω αγαπη,
Κατινα Γανιαρη
Προεδρος Δ. Συμβουλιου



The Community of St. Demetrios would like to extend its sincerest condolences to the families of John Andreadis, Chrisoula Corodemus and Dimitrios Kakadelis.

May their memories be eternal.

Want to know more about your Orthodox faith?

Tune in Discovering Orthodox Christianity, a 26-part talk-show video series continues, Through a grant by LEADERSHIP 100:

www.goarch.org/ourfaith/discovering and www.youtube.com/greekorthodoxchurch



Η Γέννηση του Χριστού



Τα Χριστουγεννα είναι η μεγαλύτερη γιορτή της Χριστιανοσύνης. Η γέννηση του Θεανθρώπου πραγματοποιήθηκε για την σωτηρία του ανθρώπου.

Ο Ιωσήφ και η Θεοτοκος Μαρία ξεκίνησαν ταξίδι από την Ναζαρέτ για την Βηθλεέμ, που ήταν ο τόπος καταγωγής τους. Όταν έφτασαν, βρήκαν πιασμένα όλα τα δωμάτια του πανδοχείου. Αναγκάστηκαν να πάνε σε ένα σπηλαιο που χρησίμευε για σταβλούς των ζώων.

Είχαν περάσει εννιά μήνες από τον Ευαγγελισμό και η Μαρία περιμένει από στιγμή σε στιγμή να γεννηθεί. Και τη νύχτα εκείνη, μέσα στο ταπεινό σπηλαιο, πραγματοποιήθηκε η προαιωνία υποσχέση του Θεού – Γεννήθηκε ο Χριστός! Η Θεοτοκος τον τυλίγει στα σπαργανα και τον εβαλε μέσα στην φατνη που εβαζαν τροφή για τα ζώα. Κατά την Γέννηση του Χριστού ένα αποκοσμο φως ξεχυθήκε στη φύση.

Μα αν η γη προσφέρει το ταπεινό σπηλαιο σ'Αυτον που τον περιβάλλει με νεφέλες, ο ουρανός εστείλε τον πνευματικό κόσμο να δοξολογήσει τον αιώνιο Θεό. Ήταν οι στρατιές των αγγέλων που ανεβόκατεβαιναν στον ουρανό ψάλλοντας: “Δοξα εν υψιστοις Θεώ και επί γης ειρηνή, εν ανθρωποις ευδοκία...” Δηλαδή, “Άς είναι δοξασμένος ο Θεός στους ουρανούς, άς βασιλεύει ειρηνή πάνω στη γη και άς έρθει στους ανθρώπους σωτηρία.” Οκτώ ημερες μετά την Γέννηση Του έγινε η τελετή της περιτομής και δόθηκε το όνομα στο νεογεννητό. Ονομαστήκε Ιησους, δηλαδή, Σωτήρας, σύμφωνα με την εντολή του αρχαγγελου.

Η Αγία Βαρβάρα

Η Αγία Βαρβάρα, Μεγαλομάρτυρας, ήταν Χριστιανή Αγία και μάρτυρας. Η μνήμη της Αγίας Βαρβάρας εορτάζεται στις 4 Δεκεμβρίου.

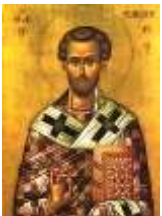
Ο πατέρας της Αγίας, Ο Διοσκορός, ο ειδωλάτρης, την είχε κλεισμένη σε ένα πύργο για να τη διαφυλάξει από μνηστήρες όταν εφυγε για το ταξίδι του. Κατά την διάρκεια του εγκλεισμού της, ανακάλυψε την αληθινή θρησκεία μόνι της και έτσι έγινε Χριστιανή. Φευγοντας ο πατέρας της, έδωσε εντολή να κατασκευαστεί ένα λουτρό στον πύργο και να ανοιχτούν δυο παραθύρα. Η Αγία Βαρβάρα έδωσε εντολή να ανοιχθεί και τρίτο, θέλοντας να μαρτυρήσει την πίστη της στον τριαδικό Θεό.



Γυρνώντας από το ταξίδι του, και βλέποντας το τρίτο παράθυρο, θυμώσε. Στον θυμό του πάνω, ο πατέρας της προσπάθησε να την αποκεφαλίζει αλλά η Αγία τραπήκε σε φυγή. Έτσι βρέθηκε στο βουνό όπου κρυφτηκε σε ένα βράχο που ανοίξε θαυματουργικά στα δυο. Ένας βοσκός που την είδε, το αναφερε στον πατέρα της, ο οποίος τελικά την συνέλαβε. Εκεί η Αγία ομολόγησε για μια ακόμη φορά την πίστη της. Ο επάρχος προστάξε τον βασανισμό της και έπειτα τη φυλακίσει της. Το βράδυ εμφανίστηκε ο Χριστός και θεραπεύσε όλες τις πληγές της και την παροτρύνει να διατηρήσει την πίστη της.

Ο επάρχος βλέποντας την άλλη μέρα την Αγία θεραπευμένη, αντί να πιστέψει στον Χριστό, διατάξε να συνεχιστούν το βασανιστήρια. Ένα από αυτά ήταν και η περιφορά της στους δρόμους γυμνή. Όταν όμως πήγαν να την γυμνώσουν, ένα νεφός κατέβηκε από τον ουρανό και τυλίξε το σώμα της. Μια γυναίκα, η Ιουλιανή, βλέποντας το θαύμα θέλησε να ομολογήσει κι αυτή την πίστη της. Ο επάρχος διατάξε τον αποκεφαλισμό και των δυο γυναικών. Ο πατέρας της Αγίας Βαρβάρας θέλησε να εκτελέσει με τα ίδια του τα χέρια την κόρη του και έτσι η Αγία παρέδωσε το πνεύμα της στον Ιησού Χριστό ενώ η Ιουλιανή παρέδωσε το πνεύμα της αποκεφαλισμένη από τα χέρια του δημίου.

Ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος



Ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος γεννήθηκε τον 2ο αιώνα μ. Χ. από πλούσιους γονείς. Ο πατέρας του ήταν αξιωματικός του κράτους, και η μητέρα του, η Ανθία, ήταν μαθήτρια του Αποστόλου Παύλου. Πολύ νωρίς έμεινε ορφανός από πατέρα κι η μητέρα του τον αναθρεψε με πολλή στοργή και φροντίδα.

Η Ανθία, όταν γεννήσε το παιδί της, το ονόμασε Ελευθέριο. Τον διαπαιδαγόγησε στην ευσεβεία και στην αρετή. Η Ανθία του έδωσε χριστιανική ανατροφή και τον συνέδεσε με τον επίσκοπο της Ρώμης Ανίκητο (155-166). Ο επίσκοπος βλέποντας την θερμούργο πίστη και την ενάρετη ζωή του εφηβού Ελευθερίου τον χειροτόνησε διάκονο 15 χρόνων. Στη ηλικία των 17 ετών χειροτόνησε σε πρεσβύτερο τον αφοσιωμένο στην αποστολή του Ελευθέριο και στην ηλικία των 20 ετών του ανέθεσε τον επισκοπικό θρόνο της περιοχής του Ιλλυρικού.

Ο αυτοκράτορας Αδριανός έμαθε τη δράση του Αγίου στην Ιλλυρία και έστειλε ένα στρατηγό του, τον Φηλικά, να τον συλλάβει. Ο Ανδριανός τον υπεβάλει σε πολλά βασανιστήρια. Στο τέλος διατάξε τον αποκεφαλισμό του ομολογητή της πίστης μέσα στην αρένα. Τη σκηνή του μαρτυρίου παρακολούθησε η μητέρα του. Ετρέξε τότε και αγκάλιασε το αψυχο σώμα του Αγίου και το φίλησε, «ησπάζετο το γλυκό τέκνον, η καλώς γεννησαμένη και θρεψαμένη». Εκείνη τη στιγμή οι ασπλάχοι δήμιοι την αποκεφάλισαν και έτσι την οδήγησαν «εις ουρανίους θαλάμους» μαζί με τον γιο της.

Ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος θεωρείται βοηθός των εγκύων γυναικών. Τους δίνει «καλή λευτεριά». Η Εκκλησία μας εορτάζει την μνήμη του Αγίου Ελευθερίου τις 15 Δεκεμβρίου μαζί με την μητέρα του, την Αγία Ανθία.



Τα ιερα Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας μας

Το ιερο Μυστήριο της Εξομολογήσης

Ενα απο τα πιο βασικα στοιχεια της πνευματικης μας προετοιμασιας ειναι το μυστηριο της εξομολογησης. Η μετανοια και η εξομολογηση ειναι μεγαστη δωρεα του Θεου *αλλα* και χρεος καθε πιστου, που αισθανεται τα μεγαλεια του Θεου και συνειδητοποιει την αμαρτωλοτητα του, την φτωχεια της ανθρωπινης φυσης. Ολη η ζωη του χριστιανου ειναι μια ασταματητη μετανοια, μια συνεχης στροφη και επιστροφη στον Θεο.

Η εξομολογηση ειναι ενα μεγαλο μυστηριο της Εκκλησιας μας, το κατεξοχην μυστηριο της αγαπης και της φιλανθρωπιας του Θεου. Με το μυστηριο αυτο παρεχεται η αφηση των αμαρτιων απο τον ιδιο τον Θεο μεσω του Ιερα, ο οποίος, δια της επιθεσεως των χειρων και της συγχωρητικης ευχης, δωριζει τη συγχωρηση των αμαρτιων στον εξομολογουμενο.

Η αμαρτια ειναι αρρωστια της ψυχης και ο ανθρωπος που αμαρτανει, που παραβιαζει το θελημα του Θεου, ειναι πνευματικα αρρωστος. Η Εκκλησια μας, με το μυστηριο της εξομολογησης, επουλωνει τις πνευματικες πληγες που ανοιγουν στο ανθρωπο τα βελη της αμαρτιας. Ιδρυτης και θεμελιωτης αυτου του μυστηριου, οπως και καθε μυστηριου, ειναι ο ιδιος ο Κυριος μας. Με τη φραση «μετανοειτε, ηγγικε γαρ η βασιλεια των ουραων» (Ματθ. 4,17) αρχισε το κοσμοσωτηριο εργο Του, για να παραδωσει στους μαθητες Του – λιγο μετα την ανασταση Του - την πνευματικη εξουσια να συγχωρουν τα αμαρτηματα των ανθρωπων λεγοντας τους: «Λαβετε πνευμα Αγιον. Αν τινων αφητε τας αμαρτιας αφιενται αυτοις, αν τινων κρατητε κεκρατηνται». (Ιωαν. 20,23).

Το πνευματικο αυτο Ιατρειο της Εκκλησιας μας ειναι διαρκως ανοιχτο για καθε ανθρωπο. Το προσκλητηριο του Χριστου απευθυνεται σε ολους ανεξαιρετα: «Ελατε ΟΛΟΙ σε εμενα, εσεις που ειστε φορτωμενοι και κουρασμενοι και εγω θα σας αναπαυσω, θα σας ξεκουρασω» (Ματθ.11,28).

Κατα τη διαρκεια του Μυστηριου θα πρεπει να αναλογιζομαστε πως δεν βρισκομαστε μπροστα σε εναν ανθρωπο, *αλλα* μπροστα στον ιδιο το Θεο, που παρευρισκεται πνευματικα και ακουει την εξομολογηση μας. Αυτο θα μας βοηθησει να ξεπερασουμε το αισθημα της ντροπης και να ειμαστε απολυτα ειλικρινεις, *πραγμα* απαρατητο για την εξομολογηση. Η ειλικρινεια και η βαθια συναισθηση των αμαρτιων μας γεννα την ταπεινωση και η ταπεινωση με τη σειρα της την αληθινη συντριβη και μετανοια. Ο Θεος δεν ξεγελιεται οπως οι ανθρωποι, γιατι γνωριζει οχι μονο τα βαθη της ψυχης μας, *αλλα* ακομα και την παραμικρη λεπτομερεια του βιου μας και των σκεψεων μας. Επισης οφειλουμε να εξομολογουμαστε μονο τις δικες μας αμαρτιες, με συντομια, σαφηνεια, σοβαροτητα και ειλικρινεια. Δεν παμε στον Ιερα-Πνευματικο για να του πουμε τα αμαρτηματα των αλλων, *αλλα* μονο τα δικα μας.

Οι Αγιοι Αποστολοι

Ο Ανδρεας, ο Πρωτοκλητος



Ο Ανδρεας ηταν ο πρωτος απο τα δωδεκα που καλεσε ο Χριστος για μαθητη του και για αυτο ονομαζεται «Πρωτοκλητος». Καταγοταν απο την κωμοπολη Βηθσαϊδα της Γαλιλαιας. Οι γονεις του ονομαζονταν Ιωνας και Ιωαννα. Με τον αδελφο του, Σιμωνα Πετρο, μετερχοταν το επαγγελμα του ψαρα στη λιμνη της Τιβεριαδος.

Ο Αγιος Ανδρεας εγγυε απο το πατρικο του σπιτι και εγινε μαθητης του Αγιου Ιωαννη του Προδρομου. Μετα την συλληψη του Αγιου Ιωαννη, ο Αγιος Ανδρεας επεστρεψε στην λιμνη Γεννησαρετ και συνεχισε να ασκει το επαγγελμα του, μεχρι την στιγμη που συναντησε τον Ιησου. Ο Αγιος βρεθηκε στην πολη Αμινσο και διδαξε τον Λογο του Κυριου και πολλοι απο τους παρευρισκομενους πιστεψαν στον Ιησου και βαπτιστηκαν Χριστιανοι. Ο Αγιος Ανδρεας ξεκινησε να κανει θαυματα, θεραπευοντας αρρωστους απο διαφορες ασθeneies. Πηγε και σε αλλα μερη, στην Τραπεζουντα στη Βιθυνια και στη Σινωπη.

Η ιστορια της ζωης του Ανδρεα μεχρι την Σταυρωση, την Ανασταση και την Αναληψη, υπηρξε σχεδον ιδια με εκεινη των αλλων μαθητων. Μετα την Πεντηκοστη και το σχηματισμο της πρωτης Εκκλησιας, με τον αδερφο του και αλλους μαθητες βρεθηκαν στη Σινωπη του Ευξεινου Ποντου και εκει εδρασε αναμεσα στους Εθνικους και Ιουδαιους, εχοντας ως ορμητηριο μια νησιδα κοντα στη Σινωπη. Απο τη Σινωπη, ο Ανδρεας μαζι με το Ματθαιο και αλλους μαθητες πηγαν στην Αμισο (Σαμψουντα), οπου ιδρυσαν Εκκλησια.

Κηρυξε το Ευαγγελιο σε πολλες χωρες. Τον εκτελεσαν οι ειδωλολατρεις της Πατρας, σταυρωνοντας τον αναποδα σε σταυρο με σχημα Χ. Στο ναο του Αγιου Ανδρεα, που βρισκεται στην Πατρα, μπορειτε να προσκυνησετε τον σταυρο στο οποιο αφησε ο Αγιος την τελευταια του πνοη. Τη μνημη του εορταζεται στις 30 Νοεμβριου.



Απολυτικό:

«*Η Γεννησις σου Χριστε ο Θεος ημων
ανετειλε τω κοσμο τω φως τω της γνωσεως
εν αυτη γαρ οι τοις αστροις λατρευοντες
υπο αστερος εδιδασκοντο
Σε προσκυνειν τον ηλιον της δικαιοσυνης
και Σε γινωσκειν εξ υψους ανατολην
Κυριε δοξα Σοι.»*

Μεταφραση:

Η γεννηση σου, Χριστε και Θεε μου,
ανετειλε στον κοσμο τω φως για την αληθινη γνωση του Θεου.
Με αυτην, οσοι λατρευαν τα αστρα,
εμαθαν απο ενα αστρο να προσκυνουν Εσενα,
τον ηλιον της αγιοτητας και της αρετης,
και να Σε αναγνωρισουν ως θεια ανατολη.
Κυριε, ας εισαι δοξασμενος.

St. John Chrysostom's Christmas Homily

BEHOLD a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him Angels, nor Archangels, nor Thrones, nor Dominations, nor Powers, nor Principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb.

Since this heavenly birth cannot be described, neither does His coming amongst us in these days permit of too curious scrutiny. Though I know that a Virgin this day gave birth and I believe that God was begotten before all time, yet the manner of this generation I have learned to venerate in silence and I accept that this is not to be probed too curiously with wordy speech. For with God we look not for the order of nature, but rest our faith in the power of Him who works.

What shall I say to you; what shall I tell you? I behold a Mother who has brought forth; I see a Child come to this light by birth. The manner of His conception I cannot comprehend.

Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.

Christ, finding the holy body and soul of the Virgin, builds for Himself a living temple, and as He had willed, formed there a

man from the Virgin; and, putting Him on, this day came forth; unashamed of the lowliness of our nature.

For it was to Him no lowering to put on what He Himself had made. Let that handiwork be forever glorified, which became the cloak of its own Creator. For as in the first creation of flesh, man could not be made before the clay had come into His hand, so neither could this corruptible body be glorified, until it had first become the garment of its Maker.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infant's bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit, that He may save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Ghost, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

St. John Chrysostom, "Homily on Christmas Morning"



Dear Father Angelo, Presbytera Eva, fellow Parishioners and friends.

Peter and I would like to thank you for your good wishes and words of encouragement you have expressed, in your cards and telephone calls, for my suffering due to the accident I had about two months ago. Peter is relaying your messages of concern you have sent me and I am overwhelmed with your love and kindness. I pray to God to bless all of you with good health and happiness. I've missed you very much and look forward seeing you in Church as soon as I get better.

With much love and appreciation to all of you,
Tessie and Peter Christopoulos



The **Christmas Nativity Scene** is brought to life by our precious **Sunday School** children during our Christmas Pageant. Our boys and girls portray the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through role-play, music, poetry and special readings directed by Helen Cotelanos.

Angels rejoicing and welcoming all, shining stars leading the way, shepherds with their flock of sheep and even "The Little Drummer Boy" will delight our parishioners through this wonderful event.

Please join us on Sunday, December 15, 2013 directly after liturgy the Divine Liturgy to experience the joy of the season with us.



2013 Community Christmas Card

Don't forget to submit your name and donation for this season's St. Demetrios Community Christmas Card.

Checks can be made out to:

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church - 2013
Community Christmas Card

Please mail or submit your name and donation to the church office no later than December 2nd to be included in this year's Christmas Card.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL/PTO NEWS

Please mark your calendars!

The Christmas Pageant has been scheduled for **December 15**. The Pageant will be performed immediately following Divine Liturgy Services. Mandatory Rehearsal is scheduled for **December 14**. "Brunch with Santa" will follow downstairs in the church hall. This is a great opportunity for children and grandchildren to take a picture with Santa! Volunteers are needed to set up/clean up, donate goodies, juices, etc. Please see Liz DaCunha (PTO President) or one of the Sunday School teachers. Additional information about the pageant and the Brunch will be provided to the Sunday School students. There will be no Sunday School classes scheduled on Sunday, **December 29, 2013**.

CORRECTION: I had inadvertently omitted the following GOYA NEWS from last month's newsletter. The oversight was mine and unintentional. My sincerest apologies to the GOYA, along with my encouragement to continue sharing your news and accomplishments in this forum. - Dino Kusulas

GOYA NEWS

We have kicked off this year with our first event Mr. and Miss GOYA. Representing our youth is Katina Vosinas as Miss Perth Amboy accompanied by Zack Giannakopolous on October 13th. On October 18th our GOYA attended the Harvest dance hosted by Westfield. We have a lot of exciting things in store for our GOYA and we hope to do more charity work than ever this year. We created a list of helpful things we can get involved in such as sending Christmas cards to the US military, helping at soup kitchens, raising money for "Restore the Shore", care packages or visits to nursing homes, the breast cancer walk and much more. If anyone has any other charity ideas feel free to give us some! Anyone in the grades 7-12 interested in being part of our St. Demetrios GOYA, should attend our next scheduled meeting or reach out to a current GOYA member. We always welcome new members with open arms!

On behalf of the GOYA and our Advisors we wish everyone a Blessed and Holiday Season!

Nicolette Dulin
GOYA Secretary

Blessing of your home or business

Dear Parishioners:

With the New Year quickly approaching, we sometimes set goals for ourselves and hope for new beginnings. We sometimes change our ways or promise to devote more time to our faith. The beginning of the New Year is always a good time for a fresh start. If you wish to have your home or business blessed for the New Year please complete and return the form below with the date and time that is convenient for you so that we may add you to the schedule.

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone# _____

Date you would like Father Angelo to come: _____

Time: _____

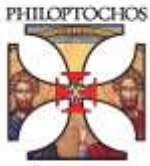
As you all know Father has a very busy schedule and emergencies occur. Father will do the best he can to keep your appointment but according to emergencies he may have to reschedule.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Protopresbyter Father Angelo Michaels



Philoptochos News



On Sunday, **November 10, 2013**, the Philoptochos hosted a Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser in order to provide financial assistance to those impoverished individuals who are suffering as a result of the crisis occurring in Greece and Cyprus at this time. A big thank you goes out to Helen Catelanos and her committee (Tana Kizides, Evelyn Mariolis, Diane Kostulakis, JoAnn Xidias and her husband Foti, and Argiro Ahladianakis), as well as George Seitis and Angelo Kostulakis who volunteered to cook the delicious pancakes that were served to our parishioners. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to this noble cause.

On Tuesday morning, **November 26**, the ladies of the Philoptochos came to church to put together the Thanksgiving Baskets for those individuals in need. A total of 14 baskets were put together. Thanks go to all of you who donated items, money, and/or time to prepare these baskets. Your assistance is always appreciated.

A Membership Drive to join the St. Demetrios Philoptochos Society is underway in order to continue our mission to help those in need. The bigger our organization is, the more we can do! Feel free to come to a General Meeting and learn more about what we do and how you too can help.

Philoptochos Calendar of Events

- The next **Board Meeting** is scheduled for **January 13, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. The next **General Meeting** is scheduled for **January 25 at Noon**. New members are always welcome!
- The Philoptochos Christmas Party is scheduled for **December 8**. It will be held downstairs in the Church Hall. Please see Helen Suravlas for more information.
- The Vasilopeta Luncheon for St. Basil's will be held on **January 12, 2014**.
- On **March 8, 2014** the Philoptochos Fashion Show will be held at the Pines Manor. Save the date and mark your calendars! Ask your family, friends and co-workers to join us for a delightful afternoon of good food and entertainment. More information will follow in future bulletins.

Get to Know Your Parish Council Representatives: Konstantinos (Gary) Ahladianakis



I am a first-generation Greek-American who was born and raised in Woodbridge, New Jersey. I celebrate my birthday at the end of December. My parents, John and Argiro Ahladianakis, came from Greece in the late 1970's. My father worked as a civil engineer having graduated from "Ethnicon Metsovion Polytechnion" (National Polytechnical University), the oldest and most prestigious technological institution of Greece, located in Athens. My older brother, Nicholas, was born in Greece and became an Altar Boy, attended Greek School and was an active member of St. Demetrios NAD (GOYA) as soon as my family came to the United States from Greece.

I am a lifelong parishioner of St. Demetrios Church, having been baptized in our beautiful Church and serving as an Altar Boy under Father Kostaris from 7 years old until I graduated high school. I attended Sunday School where my fellow Parish Council members, Ms. Kathy Kouretas and Ms. Helen Horan, were my Sunday School Director and teacher, respectively. I graduated from our Greek School where I was taught many years by Ms. Angeliki Papasavas and earned Outstanding Achievement awards every year in Greek School. I was also an active member of the St. Demetrios GOYA for all of my adolescent life and was the First-Runner Up in the Mr. GOYA competition in the Fall of 1997.

I attended Woodbridge High School where I graduated #8 in the Top 10 of my senior class and was one of the very few students chosen to be a "Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar" for academic excellence in the School District. I was also selected to attend the Governor's School of Public Issues at Monmouth University, which is a residential summer program where academically talented students are immersed in college-level courses, during the summer between my junior and senior years in high school. I then attended Ramapo College of New Jersey on a full scholarship where I graduated in 2001 *magna cum laude*. I majored in Law & Society and minored in International Business while at Ramapo.

Immediately after attaining my undergraduate degree, I attended the University Of Connecticut School Of Law, where I was also an editor of the Law Journal and member of the Moot Court Board. Unfortunately, my father, John, suddenly passed away during my first year of law school. Nevertheless, my strong faith in the Lord gave me the resolve to continue with my studies and I graduated law school in 2004.

I have been practicing as a litigation attorney for the past nine years at the firm of Montgomery, Chapin & Fetten, P.C., located in Bridgewater, New Jersey. I am admitted to the New Jersey, New York and District of Columbia bars and appear at hearings and trials in both the State and Federal courts throughout all of New Jersey.

This is my third year on the Parish Council of St. Demetrios, having previously served as the Council Secretary. My hope is to bring a fresh perspective and voice to the Board. My goal is to support the needs of our younger parishioners and recent GOYA alumni, many of whom now have young children of their own, and to help make them all more active stewards as they are the future of our Community.



Please complete and submit the pledge card on this of this page to register and complete your 2013, or get a start on your 2014 stewardship commitment.

“Come and See”

**2013 SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD
PART 1**

Family Name: _____
 Address: City: State _____ Zip _____
 Home Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Profession/Trade/Skills: _____ Profession/Trade/Skills (spouse) _____

**In gratitude for God’s blessings I/we make the following commitment
to the ministries of St. Demetrios Church:**

A total amount of: \$520 _____ \$750 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$2,500 _____ More/Other \$ _____
 weekly \$ _____ monthly \$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ semi-annually \$ _____ annually _____

Come and See God work through your talents, skills and experience, as well as your financial support.

Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as you empower it to do.

We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.



Saint Demetrios Church Annual New Year’s Eve Celebration!!

Reserve your table and tickets now.

Contact Olga Mamaligas (732-254-0311) or Irene Pakis (732-591-1878)
Adults \$50

More details and flyer to follow.

Remembering our Past; Preparing for our Future

Celebrating the 95th Anniversary of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy and honoring our Past PTO Presidents, were the highlights of our Church Dance held on Saturday night, November 16, 2013 at The Forge Inn. Our Parish Council President, Kateina Ganiaris, gave an overview of our history which began in 1918 with a small group of dedicated Greek Orthodox Christians who built our first church on High Street and eventually purchased land and built our existing beautiful parish overlooking the bay on Sadowski Parkway.

An integral component of our church’s success is and always will be our PTO. Working to benefit our children is vitally important in building our future. Fourteen women of distinction, Past PTO Presidents, were honored for their dedication to our children and our future. Their recognition included individual presentations of flowers, plaques and words of appreciation followed by a delicious dinner, music and dancing.

The honorees in attendance were Helen Catelanos, Aphrodite Kanellides, Olga Mamaligas, Bessy Arvanitis, Kateina Ganiaris and Callie Vosinas. Not in attendance but also honored were: Irene Lionikis, Lee Corodemus, Themis Ganifas, Eva Margarites, Vera Corodemus, Constance Sakel, Sophia Chrysanthopoulos and Eva Kubu.

Gratitude is extended to all those who expressed their kindness and generosity in supporting this memorable event.



~ December 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Epistle: St. Paul Ltr to Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43 5 Year Memorial for Caliope Suravlas Coffee hour by family	2	3	4	5	6 Saint Nicholas Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	7
8 St. Paul Ltr to Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 Philoptochos Christmas Celebration	9 Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	10	11	12 Senior Group Christmas Party	13	14
15 Epistle: St. Paul 2 nd . Ltr to Timothy 1:8-18 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24 Stewardship Sunday Christmas Pageant	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Epistle: St. Paul Ltr to Hebrews- 11:9-10, 32-40 Gospel- Matthew 1:1-25 Dennis Spanos 1 Year Memorial	23	24 Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day No Christmas Liturgy	26	27	28
29 Epistle: St. Paul Ltr to Galatian 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 No Sunday School Classes	30	31 New Year's Eve New Year's Eve Dance	Notes:			



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E-Mail:
frangelom@aol.com



Past PTO Presidents Honored

Past PTO Presidents pictured from the left; Aphrodite Kanellides, Olga Mamaligas, Callie Vosinas, Helen Catelanos, Kateina Ganiaris, Bessy Arvanitis - also honored were Irene Lionikis, Lee Corodemus, Themis Ganifas, Eva Margarites, Vera Corodemus, Constance Sakel, Sophia Chrysanthopoulos and Eva Kubu. Also pictured on the right are parish council members Helen Horan and George Petrakakis