



# St. Demetrios *Parish Newsletter* September 2015

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

## The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross Ἡ Ὑψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ



### SEPTEMBER 2015 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Sept 6 - Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter  
to the Corinthians  
1:21-24; 2:1-4  
Κορινθίους Β' 1:21-24, 2:1-4

Gospel Matthew 22:2-14  
Ματθαῖον 22:2-14

Sept 13 - St. Paul's Letter to the  
Galatians 6:11-18  
Γαλάτας 6:11-18

Gospel John 3:13-17  
Ἰωάννην 3:13-17

Sept 20 - St. Paul's Letter to the  
Galatians 2:16-20  
Γαλάτας 2:16-20

Gospel Mark 8:34-38; 9:1  
Μάρκον 8:34-38, 9:1

Sept 27 - St. Paul's Second Letter to the  
Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1  
Κορινθίους α' 6:16-18; 7:1

Gospel Luke 5:1-11  
Λουκᾶν 5:1-11

[www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org](http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org)

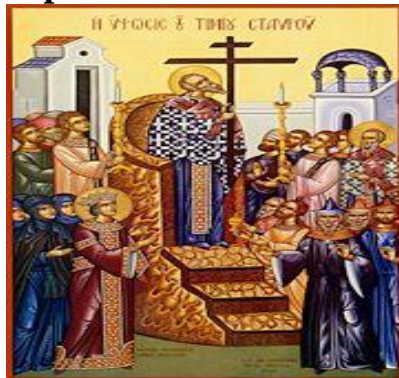
### SERVICES (unless otherwise stated)

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.

### September 14



### Σεπτεμβρίου 14

The Elevation of the Holy Cross is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. This is also a popular name day for Stavroula/Stavros (from "stavros" meaning cross).

This feast commemorates the finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in 326 AD, the place where Christ was crucified.

Σώσον Κύριε τόν λαόν σου καί  
ευλόγησον τήν κληρονομίαν  
σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεύσι κατά  
βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καί τό  
σόν φυλάττων διά τοῦ  
Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

### BUS Asbury Park 9/27



DEPARTS church 8:15  
ADULTS \$10 UNDER 18 \$5



Back to a new ecclesiastical year and lots of activities to praise God!

### • September 13

#### Registration:

- Sunday School
- Greek school
- GOYA
- JOY
- HOPE

### FOLLOWED BY:



Sponsored by the PTO

Come out support our Youth Ministries and a new start for a dynamic year.

OCTOBER 10 BUS TRIP TO  
MONASTERY OF IRENE  
CHRYSOVOULANDOU ASTORIA  
NY W/LUNCH.





### *Message from Father Angelo*

Dearly beloved,

With the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year this September let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life into Christ our God. Let us expand our spiritual and physical life with the New Liturgical year so we can offer to God everything that comes from him; it is a new year that gives us a chance to renew ourselves and our commitment to His Holy Church and to the everlasting life.

Life means love. What a wonderful feeling to love when you learn to love all people. Love nourishes the other person and to you returns happiness and joy. This is the reward that you get from the creator our God and the Holy Spirit will be blessed upon you.

Nevertheless what torture and dissatisfaction is it when you hate another person and you harm them. It is a double sword. It devastates you physically and spiritually. Life means love. Love is the connection with peace and peace from our Creator and with all our mankind. If one has insulted you, or another took advantage of you don't hate them. Love them even more in order for you not to fall into the trap of the devil.

You see when one is sick and full of hate, he condemns himself away from our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray and have mercy on all that harm you because they don't know what they are doing. Then, and then, will you will receive the crown of victory. If you have love within you, Christ said that you will reflect upon others and you will teach them how to love and serve as an example as one who follows Christ. A person without love is like a plant that lives in a shadow, or like a tree that is watered with salt water.

Anyone who hates his brother is following the devil. St. John reiterates that we are created out of love. Love for everything is the most catalytic transformation we can initiate. We must all strive to never scandalize or maliciously talk about others as this is a great sin against one another. Unmeasurable humbleness and forgiveness are the rewards for nothing else matters to our God.

Where there is faith, there is love

Where there is love there is peace

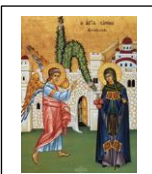
Where there is peace there is the blessing of the Lord

Where God lives there is no room for anything else.

With paternal love,

Father Angelo Michaels  
Protopresbyter

**St. Demetrios Pilgrimage Saturday October 10, 2015 to the Monastery of:  
St. Irene Chrysovalantou ΕΙΡΗΝΗΝ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΥΣΟΒΑΛΑΝΤΟΥ**



Tickets \$25 seniors, \$35 all others, children under 17 \$20

(Includes r/t lunch Bahari Restaurant, tour of and Paraklysis at the Monastery)  
Bus Departs 11:00am from St. Demetrios.  
Reserve at church office 732-826-4466



St. Demetrios bus trip to Asbury Park to celebrate:

**The Holy Cross Celebration and Divine Liturgy Ἡ Ὑψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ**



**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS**

**METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY**

**Sunday September 27, 2015 PARAMOUNT THEATER  
ASBURY PARK, NJ**

**Bus departs from St. Demetrios Perth Amboy 8:15-return 2:00pm**

**Adults\$10, under 17, \$5 Make reservations in church office  
732-826-4466.**

**THE NEXT STEWARDSHIP LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER.**

**STEWARDSHIP DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON LINE BY VISITING  
[HTTP://WWW.STDEMETRIOSPERTHAMBOY.ORG/DONATIONS/](http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org/donations/)**

**CHECKS CAN BE MAILED OR DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH  
OFFICE AT:**

**ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
41 WISTERIA ST.  
PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY 08861**



## Parish Council

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Alexandra Velmahos

### Greek School President

Marina Corodemus

### Sunday School Superintendent

Helen Horan

### Choir Director

Irene Pakis

### Chantor

Stavros Tsapatsaris

Deadline for submissions for the  
 October 2015 Bulletin is  
 September 10, 2015.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2015

*Psalm 127 A Song of Ascents, of Solomon.*



*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.*

*Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*

*In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat — for he grants sleep to those he loves*

As we begin the new ecclesiastic year, we are witnesses to many positive changes physically, economically and most important spiritually in our church. Just as the refurbished lights bring better illumination and the new railings offer us stability in coming up to our place of worship and our newly expanded Youth ministries programs launching September 13 are our future, let us not forget the most important point:

**The best-laid project fails unless God crowns it with success.**

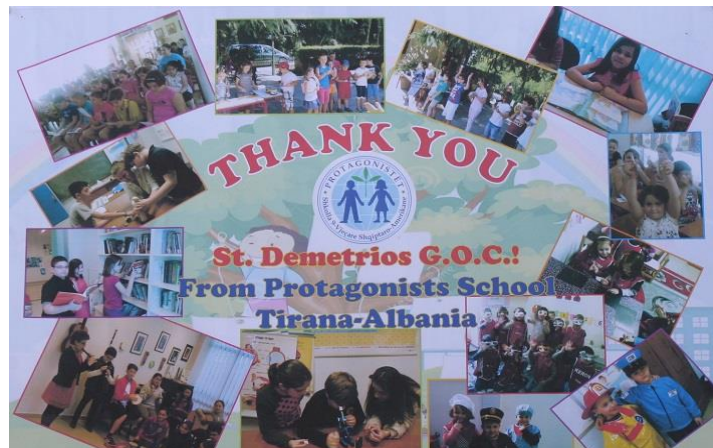
No matter what we repair or enhance or produce all is in vain without God's blessing. Psalm 127 reminds us that even the great King Solomon had to look to divine Providence in all the concerns of this life. Solomon was cried as a wise man, and would be apt to lean to his own understanding and forecast, and his father King David teaches him to look higher, and to take God along with him in his undertakings. David directs him to look up to God, and to depend upon his providence, without which all his wisdom, care, and industry, would not serve.

In singing this psalm we too must have our eyes up unto God for success in all our undertakings and a blessing upon all our comforts and enjoyments. Because every creature is that to us which he makes it to be and no more. All plans that we make, all structures we build, all governing bodies that we run, fail without God.

So this New Year, let us start in humility and thanksgiving to God, asking for His mercy, forgiveness and blessings for all we do in His name. Come to church at all services, not just Sundays. Pray the Paraklysis with us twice a month (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of every month). Serve God in our expanded Youth ministries, choir, and alter servants, Parish Counsel and church groups, PTO, Philoptochos, seniors. Do so with love, dedication and compassion.

God's house is free and open to all..

Marina Corodemus  
 President Parish Council St. Demetrios



### THANK YOU FROM ALBANIA

The children of the Protagonists School in Tirana Albania recently expressed their thanks for the support they've received from our community. The musical instruments, books and other materials we have sent them have been most appreciated.





## ***P.T.O News***

*Dear Parishioners,*

***Hope everyone has enjoyed their summer!!! We are planning some new additions for our St. Demetrios Youth Ministries.***

I am excited to announce the addition of **Hope, Joy** and **Greek School** in the upcoming school year. All new organizations will be under the P.T.O including Sunday School and GOYA. All Advisors, Superintendents and P.T.O will work diligently together to enhance our Youth Ministries. We are in the planning stages of incorporating fascinating field trips to the State Theater and to a Zoo or Aquarium.

**September 13, 2015 will be our Registration Day, so come join us!!! A PTO Church Picnic will be held on this day to welcome everyone back. We look forward to seeing you all there.**

As always, without the support of our parishioners, we would not be successful. I would be delighted to speak with anyone interested in becoming an ***advisor or volunteer*** to enhance our new programs with interesting and motivating ideas for our youth. Please feel free to call me (646) 621-0210.

Liz DaCunha, PTO President





## **CHURCH DANCE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 14TH**

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Annual Church Dance will be held at The Pines Manor, Route 27, Edison, NJ on Saturday, November 14, 2015 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Entertainment will be provided by the Award-winning, nationally known band from NYC - The NIKOS KOUTRAS GREEK BAND.

The menus will include hot hors d'oeuvres, Greek salad, Prime Rib or Salmon dinner and Dessert. Children's menu of chicken fingers and fries will be available. There will also be a Cash Bar serving wine, beer and cocktails.

Admission is \$60 for adults; Seniors \$50; \$25 for Children 12 and under

Dance Co-Chairpersons are Helen (Coutros) Horan & Liz DaCunha.

Make reservations early, call Helen 908-794-3065 or Liz 646-621-0212.

You may also bring your checks to our Church Office. Make checks payable to St. Demetrios Church.

### **PARAKLESIS SERVICES TO RESUME**

Paraklesis for intervention will commence on Friday September 4<sup>th</sup>, and Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Come give thanks, ask for intervention and protection. Please bring family names for prayers (see form page 11).

Paraklesis is our collective direct line to heaven asking for the intercession of the Panagia and St. Demetrios respectively for us and our loved ones.

A list of names should be submitted by you that night to Father Michael for Special Prayer. Prayer will be in Greek and English.

### **Notice to Community**

Due to numerous unfortunate security lapses in both in the Church and community center, all door and office entries have been re-keyed.

No individual keys will be issued.

If you need entry to the community center or church during non-employee hours, contact Froso in her office to sign a key out and return within 24 hours after your task.

It is strongly urged that no person come either to the community center or the church Alone at any time, especially in the evenings. In any cases, if you see something, (lights on, Water, Food left out, Etc), SAY SOMETHING!

**LET'S KEEP SMART AND SAFE.**



**Emanuel BALSAMIDES SR**  
*President*

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## GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

School Year 2015-2016

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Όνομα Μαθητου \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Διευθυνση \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # Home# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Τηλεφωνο

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Γενεθλια

Mother's Name

Father's Name

Όνομα Μητερα

Όνομα Πατερα

Grade in Public School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in Greek School \_\_\_\_\_

GREEK SCHOOL TUITION FOR 2015-2016 School Year

\$100 per child

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### Orthodox Observer

Anyone wishing to receive the Orthodox Observer should complete a parishioner data sheet making sure to include an up to date mailing address.

Many thanks to Sylvia Kress for her hard work coordinating sponsorship for this newsletter

**WE ARE UP TO  
13 SPONSORS!**

**SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE**

Many thanks to our sponsors, our patrons, for their support of this newsletter

**Support Our  
Community  
&  
Support Our  
Sponsors**





~ September 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Ecclesiastical Year	2	3	4 Paraklysis 6pm	5
6	7 Labor Day	8 Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 10am	9	10	11	12
13 PTO Picnic Youth Ministries Registration	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 10am	15	16	17	18 Paraklysis 6pm	19
20	21 Philoptochos Meeting Board Elections	22	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>GREEK SCHOOL OPENS IN SEPTEMBER WITH KYRIA ALEXANDRA.</p> <p>REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 7.</p> </div>			25
						26 Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian Divine Liturgy 10am
27 No Liturgy Family trip to Asbury Park for Holy Cross Celebration	28	29	30	31		

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**BUS TRIP TO ATTEND HOLY CROSS CEREMONY IN ASBURY PARK**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP FOR SEATS.**

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### The Birth of our Lady, Rejoice O Bride



We celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary on September 8 as the first big festival of the Byzantine liturgical year, which began on September 1.

All icons of this feast show the elderly but happy parents, SS. Joachim and Anne, and the birth is usually presented in a cozy family setting of women attendants bustling around Saint Anne. Saint Joachim is either peeking into the women's quarter, or next to his wife.

The infant Virgin was born in a normal manner, as is shown by St Anne reclining on the birthing-bed, and the baby being washed by the midwife in the lower front of the icon. Bright colors are used because of the joy that all Creation feels in its coming deliverance from Christ Who will find life in her.



In the legends about this event, the parents are presented as elderly and childless, and an angel tells them separately that they will finally have a child, a girl who will be the mother of the Messiah. This follows along with other biblical stories about conceptions of children after long years of prayer, including Isaac, Samuel, and St John the Baptist. Saint Anne, however, is different from the other mothers, because her child will become the virginal dwelling place of God Incarnate!

The child is given the name Mary, or Miriam, which is translated as hope. Indeed, she is the hope of all the nations of the world who labored under the power of sin and its darkness. In Exodus, Miriam saved the life of her baby brother, Moses, who would lead his people out of Egypt and darkness and into the Promised Land of milk and honey. This Miriam will do far more - her Son will lead all people out of their spiritual darkness and into the true light.

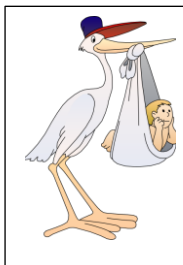
The child Mary and her parents - she holds a three-petal flower in honor of the Holy Trinity. She also wears blue for humanity, and red for divinity, because she will become the Theotokos, the Mother of God, when the Word descends into her womb at the Annunciation.

Given Nazareth's bad reputation, she obviously faced many temptations. The 4th century Christians solved the crisis by putting her inside the Temple, close to the Living God in the Holy of Holies. Instead she loved the Living God in the very fallen world of first-century Palestine. The devil must have hated her, knowing her destiny, and sought to dissuade her from the Lover of her soul. But she held firm, unlike Adam and Eve, to the very end of her life when God united her body and soul after her death. A singular honor for a singular human being. And her parents, traditionally called Joachim and Anne, must have been extraordinary people who helped her do this, giving her a firm foundation in not only Judaism, but in resisting temptation and loving God above all else.



It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Georgia Coutros, mother of Parish Council Secretary Helen Horan. Georgia died peacefully surrounded by her family on Sunday August 9.

May her memory be eternal



Parish Council member Kateina Ganiaris welcomed Grandson #2 on Tuesday, August 5, 2015. Petros weighed 7 and 1/2 lbs. Angelique and the baby are just fine. The entire St. Demetrios community congratulates the entire family on the joyous addition of Petros.

God Bless them all!



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**PARISH COUNCIL PROMISE PARAKLYSIS**

Starting in January 2015, when this Parish Council was sworn in, we pledged to conduct Paraklysis services twice a month seeking the intercession of the Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Our Patron St. Demetrios from our Lord for the welfare of our Community, Our Orthodox Church, the Peace of the World and those in particular need.

Paraklesis (Greek: Παράκλησις) or Supplicatory Canon in the Orthodox Christian Church is a service of supplication for the welfare of the living. We conduct these services, lead by our Parish Priest Father Angelo Michaels, in both Greek and English. We welcome and invite all persons to partake in our prayer services held the first Friday (Theotokos) and the Third Friday of the month (St. Demetrios).

We have blank prayer forms for those who attend to list the first names of those for whom you wish prayers to be said. If you are unable to attend personally you are invited to submit the names of those for whom you wish prayers to be said and/or submit their names electronically under the prayer request of this web site.

**St. Porphyrios: The Lord Himself will teach us how to pray. — St. Porphyrios, Wounded by Love**

“The Lord Himself will teach us how to pray. We won’t learn prayer on our own, nor will anyone else teach us it. Don’t let’s say to ourselves, ‘I have made such -and-such a number of prostrations, so now I have secured divine grace,’ but rather let us make entreaty for the pure light of divine knowledge to shine within us and open our spiritual eyes so that we may understand His divine words.

In this way, without realizing it, we love God without contorting ourselves and without exertion and struggle. What is difficult for man is easy for God. We will love God suddenly when grace overshadows us. If we love Christ very much, the prayer will say itself. Christ will be continually in our mind and in our heart.”



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**St. Demetrios Greek  
Orthodox Church**  
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### **JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES!**

The church lighting and painting have been completed! The doors and tiles, downstairs that were ruined by the flood have been cleaned.

Apart from the excellent work performed by the contractors and artisans, a great deal of work is being done by Rueben Morales. All lights in the hallways, downstairs, and upwards to the choir loft have been cleaned and bulbs replaced. We also have a new church organ that was sourced by Kateina Ganiaris (she obtained the organ from a gentleman vacating his Edison home) and it was installed in August.

Thank you all for your solidarity, courage and commitment to make our church the best it can be.

The best is yet to come!

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at:  
[www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org](http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org)

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