

# FEBRUARY 2016 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Feb 7th Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

Κορινθίους Β' 6:1-10

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30 Ματθαῖον 25:14-30

Feb 14th Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Κορινθίους β' 6:16-18, 7:1

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28 Ματθαῖον 15:21-28

Feb 21st Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15 Τιμόθεον β' 3:10-15

> Gospel Luke 18:10-14 Λουκᾶν 18:10-14

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Epistle St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20

Κορινθίους α' 6:12-20

Gospel Luke 15:11-32 Λουκᾶν 15:11-32

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.

# St. Demetrios Parish Newsletter February 2016

41-47 Wisteria St., Perth Amboy, N.J.

(732) 826-4466

Fr. Angelo J. Michaels

# Triodion starts February 21st



# Are you ready?

# Weeks of preparation

# **2 PROJECTS LAUNCHED**

**New Kitchen** Last May, we sustained major flooding in the church kitchen. While insurance covered part of the loss equipment must be replaced and new overhead fans must be ordered. Total cost \$40,000.

Meditation garden. We have launched a buy a brick campaign to create an exterior meditation garden and help pay for exterior landscaping. Bricks \$100 each or \$300 each. See page 5

The three weeks that commence on the fourth <u>Sunday</u> prior to <u>Great Lent</u> constitute the weeks of preparation. Each has its own distinct theme which is expressed in the <u>Gospels</u> readings appointed for the Divine Liturgies on these days:

- 1. Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14),
- 2. Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), and
- 3. <u>Sunday of the Last Judgment</u> (also called <u>Meatfare Sunday</u>; <u>Matt</u> 25:31-46).
- 4. Sunday of <u>Forgiveness</u> (also called <u>Cheesefare Sunday</u>; the expulsion of <u>Adam</u> from Eden is also a theme of this day); <u>Matt</u> 6:14-21.

The Church eases us into the Lenten <u>fasting</u> discipline during this period. The week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is fast-free. The week following the Prodigal Son is a normal week -- we fast as usual on Wednesday and Friday. In the week following Meatfare Sunday, no meat is eaten; eggs, fish, and dairy are permitted on any day.

Have you paid your stewardship for 2016? Help us keep the church open.

Won't you help sponsor a Sunday coffee hour for this month or next?



Just \$50 a Sunday?



# Message from Father Angelo

### NO TIME OR NO LOVE?

Many Christians complain that they have no time to read the Bible. But it is not really a question of time as it is of love. We always find time to do the things we like to do. For example, there was once a girl who just did not care to read a certain book. Later, however, she fell in love with the author of the book. All of a sudden her whole attitude changed. She read the book over and over again, very eagerly. When we fall in love with the author (Jesus) will it be a chore to read His personal letter to us? It will be pure delight. It has been said that the two people who read the Bible the most carefully are the atheist and the saint. The atheist because he hates; the saint because he loves.

It was once said "No one profits from the Gospels unless he is first In love with Christ. For Christ is not a text but a living person, and He abides in His body, the Church. The highest form of Bible reading comes to those who love Jesus so much that to read His word is Sheer enjoyment. They savor the sweetness of being with him through His word.

We must not expect God to always be giving us great insights when we read His word. Reading God's word is also a way of being with God, basking in His presence, practicing his presence. A father goes fishing with his child not just to catch fish but also just to be with his child.

Spiritual love in the Lord Jesus Christ

Father Angelo J. Michaels, Protopresbyter

Η Ανακοίνωση του Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρου

Δίχως χρόνο ή δίχως αγάπη?

Πολλοί Χριστιανοί παραπονιούνται ότι δεν έχουν το χρόνο να διαβάσουν την Βίβλο. Αλλά, πραγματικά, δεν είναι ένα θέμα χρόνου, είναι θέμα αγάπης. Εμείς πάντα βρούμε τον χρόνο για να κάνουμε τα πράγματα που θέλουμε. Παραδείγματος χάριν, υπήρχε κάποτε μια κοπέλα που απλά δεν την ένοιαζε να διαβάσει ένα συγκεκριμένο βιβλίο. Αργότερα, όμως, αγάπησε τον συγγραφέα του βιβλίου. Ξαφνικά η γνώμη της για το βιβλίο άλλαξε. Διάβαζε και ξαναδιάβαζε το βιβλίο πολύ ανυπόμονα. Όταν αγαπήσουμε τον συγγραφέα ενός βιβλίου δεν θα είναι μια αγγαρεία για να διαβάσουμε τα γραπτά του. Θα είναι καθαρή απόλαυση. Μερικοί λένε ότι οι δύο άνθρωποι που διαβάζουν την Βίβλο πιο προσεκτικά είναι ο άθεος και ο άγιος. Ο άθεος επειδή μισεί και ο άγιος επειδή αγαπά.

Κανείς αποκομίζει κέρδη από τα Ευαγγέλια, εκτός αν αγαπήσει τον Χριστό. Διότι ο Χριστός δεν είναι ένα κείμενο, αλλά ένα ζωντανό πρόσωπο, και μένει στο σώμα Του, την Εκκλησία. Η υψηλότερη μορφή του διαβάσματος της Αγίας Γραφής έρχεται σε εκείνους που αγαπούν τον Ιησού Χριστό. Απολαύουν την γλυκύτητα η οποία προέρχεται από την αντάμωση με τον Χριστού μέσω του Λόγου Του.

Δεν πρέπει να περιμένουμε πάντα να μας δώσει ο Θεός μεγάλες γνώσεις όταν διαβάζουμε το λόγο Του. Διαβάζοντας τον λόγο του Θεού είναι επίσης ένας τρόπος να είμαστε με τον Θεό. Ένας πατέρας πηγαίνει για ψάρεμα με το παιδί του, όχι μόνο για να πιάσει ψάρια, αλλά και να είναι δίπλα στο παιδί του.

Η πνευματική αγάπη του Κυρίου Ιησού Χριστού

Ο πατέρας Angelo J. Michaels, Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος



### Parish Council

Marina Corodemus - President
Spero Kalambakis - Vice President
Dino Kusulas - Treasurer
Helen Horan - Secretary
Atef Anthony Azouz
Steve Corodemus
Elizabeth DaCunha
Kateina Ganiaris
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Maria Mantoudakis
Irene Pakis
Alex Vosinas

G.O.Y.A. President

Marie Kahlil

G.O.Y.A. Advisors
Nick & Cindy Giannakopoulos
Demetra & Peter Wagner

P.T.O. President Liz DaCunha

<u>Greek School Teacher</u> Alexandra Velmahos

Greek School President
Marina Corodemus

Sunday School Superintendent Helen Horan

Choir Director
Irene Pakis

<u>Chantor</u> Stavros Tsapatsaris

Deadline for submissions for the March 2016 Bulletin is February 10, 2016.

Support the monthly newsletter. Submit your photo-ready business card today. For more details about ad rates please contact <a href="mailto:stdgoa@gmail.com">stdgoa@gmail.com</a>.

### **NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD**

Fr. Angelo J. Michaels
Marina Corodemus
Dino Kusulas
Mary Lou Rivera
Sylvia Kress - Director of Advertising

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER FEBRUARY 2016

# Jesus said Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

BRAVO ST. Demetrios Brothers and Sisters,

In 2015, you each witnessed the transformation of our church into an honorable temple of praise and glorification of our Lord through our historic restoration, newly crafted alter pieces, transformation of lights, an organ and organist, a second canter and the reestablishment of our Greek school and start of our Joy and Hope children's group. We now have an ENDOWMENT FUND to offset maintenance and beautification cost in the future, we are close to resolving the Community Center Property Issue and we are looking forward to a professional iconography plan for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For the first time our Paraklysis service was filled with worshipers and we lit our first exterior manger setting. We gave generously and selflessly, as a church, to Special needs and orphan children in Albania. We traveled on several road trips to Irene Chrysovolandou church in Astoria, Asbury Park statewide liturgy and attended a Christmas concert with the Greek Metropolitan Chorale in NYC. We can, we went and we did. Is Perth Amboy a viable community? YES WE ARE!!!

Last January, in retreat at Agia Skepi, the board voted out of humility in the example of the nuns of the monastery to ask **for true stewardship**. We will put no price on coming to God's House. We asked each person to give what their hearts told them. As a result we increase stewardship by the previous year by almost \$10,000. Those blessings came because we love our church and listened to our hearts not an arbitrary mandate.

Our work is not yet complete. This year we must repair our church kitchen, we are creating and exterior meditation garden and preparing for our  $100^{th}$  anniversary of the church in March 2017. So please this year I ask three things of you in 2016:

- 1. COME TO PARAKLYSIS.
- 2. Listen to your heart and give to your stewardship, asking yourself how do I thank God for my many blessings?
- 3. You can't do everything, but you can do something. God wants you to do your best and leave the rest to him. Saint Theofan said, "Exert all your strength, but rest your concern for success on God." DO not listen to rumors or complainers, those tools of the devil. Be true to God and listen for His words.

Marina Corodemus President Parish Council St. Demetrios





# St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

41-47 Wisteria Street Perth Ambov, NJ 08861

Rev. Fr. Angelo J. Michaels Protopresbyter

Tel. (732)826-4466 Fax (732)826-4312

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! May Our Lord keep and protect each of you and your families in 2016.

The Board of Trustees in continuing our restoration and beautification efforts announces our newest program buy a Brick.

We will be creating this spring a new garden area in the front of our church along the left side of the front stairs (as you face the front doors).

This garden will contain and be financed by the purchase of matching bricks to finish the wall of the front steps, add a matching mosaic of Archangel Gabriel and include individual bricks with your name, family name and to the names of loved ones that have passed in memory. The cost of the regular brick is \$100 each for 3 lines, or a larger brick of \$300. Brochure is enclosed.

Please fill out your form along with the check and return to the St. Demetrios office. The sooner we sell all the bricks, the sooner we can have our garden facing the Bay for prayer, meditation and reflection.

Please be part of this permanent dedication to our St. Demetrios FAMILY HISTORY.

WITH GRATITUDE AND ALL GLORY TO GOD, PC PRESIDENT.



For a limited time, commemorative bricks will be available for a Meditation Garden at St. Demetrios Church. For yourself, your family, and your friends, in honor of a beloved family member, as tribute to a mentor or in memory of a relative that has passed- the bricks are precision engraved to last a lifetime.

Since 1917, when St. Demetrios opened its doors, it has been a place of worship for central New Jersey Orthodox Religion. This meditation garden will overlook the water of the Raritan Bay surrounded by the history of our present and past loved ones. Their memories shall truly be eternal in this most special area. Adorning the garden will be the mosaic of St. Gabriel.

Gabriel, One of Seven Archangels. The name Gabriel means God is Strong, God is powerful God is mighty.

Gabriel, the Greatest of all Messengers

Gabriel was chosen as the special angel who had the sole privilege of carrying the message of the prophet who would go before the Lord to prepare his way, "to prepare a people fit for the Lord" (Lk 1:17), John the Baptist. Gabriel's most privileged duty was to announce the birth of Jesus (Lk 1:31), the Son of the Most High, the one who would take the throne of David, who would rule over the house of Jacob, whose kingdom would never end, the Son of God. No other angel has ever brought such an important announcement. Gabriel stands alone as the greatest of all angelic messengers.

The entrance portico has a limited number of premium bricks available in two sizes.

#### **Support for the Memorial garden provides:**

- 1). The first outdoor prayer location for parishioners to speak with God in a natural setting.
- 2). Preserve as a reminder those beloved members of our church that have gone to be with the Lord but forever in our memories.
- 3). Plans for landscaping in preservation of our Church Public appearance

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The St. Demetrios Endowment fund is a 501(c) (3) organization. Brick orders are tax-deductible
Questions? Please contact Froso Morales
At 732-826-4466



# G.O.Y.A News

Our G.O.Y.A. is a small but dedicated group! I would like to invite all St. Demetrios' families to talk about our G.O.Y.A. to all Greek Orthodox youth that are not currently involved in the church. We need your help to grow our group!

We are involved in so much. Truly there is something for everyone! For the first time in a while, we have a girl's volleyball team with some talented players! We are involved in humanitarian efforts-we wrote out many Christmas cards for orphans to cheer up their holidays. Let's not forget our upcoming Sights and Sounds event where artists of all types will be featured –especially our Greek dancers! All this is being done as we grow in our faith!

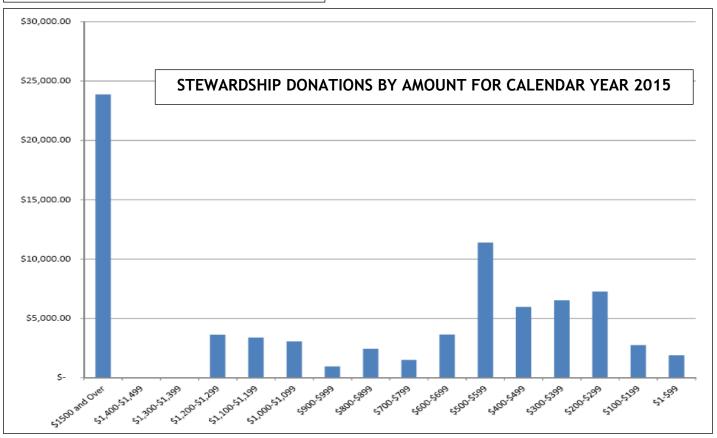
Thanks in advance for spreading the word and Happy New Year to all-

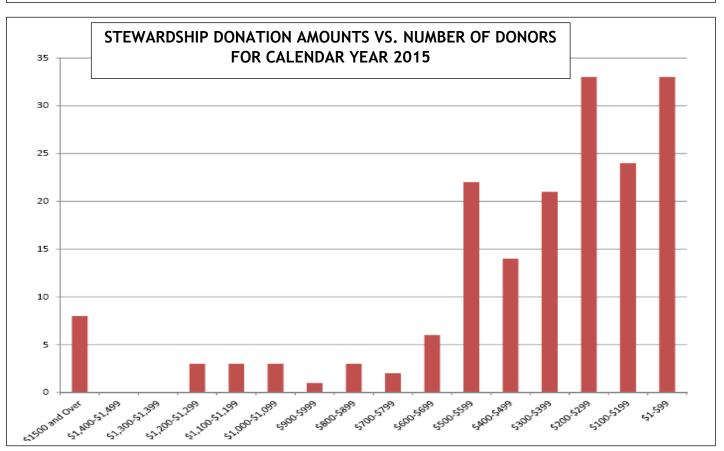
# Rachel Giannakopoulos

		~ February 2016~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
		Presentation of our Lord Dance Practice 730pm	Greek School 430-6pm	Greek School 430-6pm		Paraklysis 10am		
7	8		<b>10</b> Greek School 430-6pm	Seniors Meeting 11am church hall Greek School 430-6pm	12	13		
14	15	Dance Practice	<b>17</b> Greek School 430-6pm	18 Greek School 430-6pm	19	20 Paraklysis 10am		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
Triodion Begins			Greek School 430-6pm	Greek School 430-6pm				
28	29							

# THE STEWARDSHIP PICTURE THROUGH THE END OF CALENDAR YEAR 2015









# St. Demetrios Listserv & Newsletter Policy

Listserv policy was discussed at the April Parish Council meeting. Dino Kusulas was appointed chair the Communications Committee and tasked to draft policy which was subsequently approved by the president.

St Demetrios listserv policy, with the exception of breaking news and time sensitive events (i.e. deaths announcements; information for trisagion services and funeral arrangements), is to consolidate as much information as possible into a single weekly listserv posting – typically to accompany the Friday posting of the weekly bulletin.

With the exception of the weekly and monthly newsletters to the community <u>the listserv will not be used to distribute multiple large-sized file attachments</u> such as fliers and documents from outside of our organization. <u>We will however encourage providing, and will publish, links to such documents within the St. Demetrios Listserv postings.</u>

Meeting notices for distribution to the entire community via listserv are acceptable and should only serve as a supplement to each organization's own membership focused email campaign, telephone chain, mailings or monthly newsletter notices.

### All organizations will be asked to plan accordingly for promotion of events through the listserv.

Submissions for the weekly listery posting must be submitted to the Parish Council for review and approval in time for the next scheduled Parish Council meeting. The submissions must:

- Include a summary of the following month's planned submissions.
- Include a final draft of each planned submission.
  - Include URLs (links) from where subscribers can download documents, forms, fliers or additional information must be included in the intended copy or a point of contact email address from which subscribers can request materials to be forwarded.
- Include the schedule of distribution -i.e. a date for each planned posting must be specified.

In addition, each organization will appoint a duly elected officer, i.e. Secretary or VP, to coordinate the above submission/process with the Parish Council. The church email address Stdgoa@gmail.com shall be primary point of contact (POC) for all listserv planning.

Regarding the monthly newsletter, all organizations are encouraged to provide a monthly submission to highlight, promote and celebrate each organization, it's mission and it's membership. A duly appointed officer of the organization, or designate, should be coordinating newsletter submissions as well with the POC referenced in the last published edition of the newsletter. All submissions must meet the specified deadline criteria as per the last published newsletter.





# ST. DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

"Let us not get tired of doing good. As often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith." Galatians 6:9-10

#### **Our Mission:**

To help the needy, promote the Greek Orthodox Faith

#### Officers:

Stella Wacker President

**Helen Catelanos** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Helen Suravlas** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Mary Lou Rivera - Recording Secretary

Marietta Khalil – Treasurer

**Irene Pakis** – Assistant Treasurer

### **Afroula Kannelides**

CorrespondingSecretary

**Board Members:** 

**Evelyn Mariolis** 

**Sultana Kizides** 

**Lynn Markus** 

**Angie Papaikonomou** 

Joanne Xiadas

Sylvia Kress

### Vasilopita: A Beautiful Tradition

In January, Philoptochos chapters across the Archdiocese host Vasilopita events in honor of Saint Basil the Great, to benefit Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, New York. One of the most beautiful and inspiring traditions of our Greek Orthodox Church is the observance of Vasilopita in Saint Basil's honor.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have supported our event, the chair-persons and the members for baking the vasilopita, setting up and serving and those who came to support us. Each one of you played a critical part to this successful event. THANK YOU!!!

### PHILOPTOCHOS GO RED SUNDAY



Go Red for Women is the American Heart Association's national call to increase awareness about heart disease, the **#1 killer of American women.** In women, heart disease is more deadly than all forms of cancer.

The National Philoptochos Society promotes the Go Red for Women campaign. Friday, February 5, 2016 has been designated by the American Heart Association as National Wear Red Day. The red dress is a national symbol for women and heart disease awareness.

In support of this program, we are designating Sunday, February 7 as **Philoptochos GO RED SUNDAY** and are asking our Philoptochos sisters across the country to join the movement and wear red when attending Church services.

It's not just a man's disease. Heart disease and stroke kill 1 in 3 women, yet it's 80% preventable. Help us raise awareness to end this killer of women. Wear Red to show your support for saving women's lives.

Stella Wacker

President of Philoptochos Society of St. Demetrios Chapter 1032









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### **GUS KRARAS**

26 E. Lancaster Ave. Reading, PA 19607 (800) 437-2323 (610) 775-5000 FAX (610) 775-7155 Many thanks to Sylvia Kress for her hard work coordinating sponsorship for this newsletter

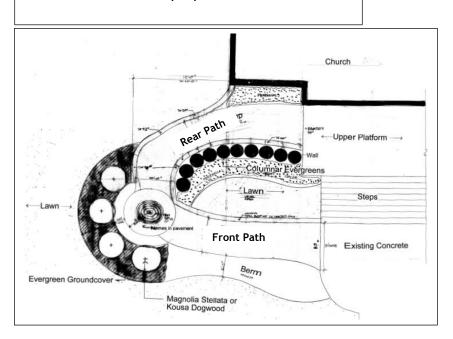
WE ARE UP TO 13 SPONSORS!

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

Support Our Community & Support Our Sponsors

### 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.



Proposed St. Demetrios Meditation Garden. See Page 5 for details about purchasing memorial bricks







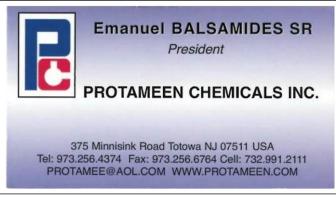
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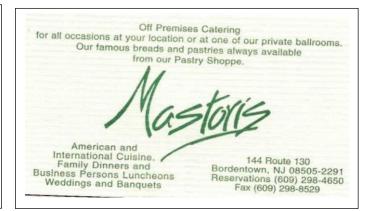




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**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILBLE** 



"Save the date" of March 5<sup>th</sup> for the 2016 Apokriatiko Glendi?

Details to follow.

Have you visited the St Demetrios Perth Amboy website lately?
You can now make donations, and honor your stewardship commitment by making your payments on line at:

http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org/donations/

**St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church**41-47 Wisteria St.
Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861

Fr. Angelo J. Michaels Phone: (732) 826-4466 Cell: (908) 612-5108 Fax: (732) 826-4312

E-Mail: frangelom@aol.com





The St Demetrios Community recently sent toys to special needs and orphan children in Albania.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org

E-Mail: stdgoa@gmail.com