



St. Demetrios *Parish Newsletter* May 2016

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

Pascha - Christ has risen! Truly He has risen! - Χριστός ανέστη!"



MAY 2016 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

May 1st Epistle

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8
Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 1:1-8

Gospel

John 1:1-17
Ἰωάννην 1:1-17

May 8th Epistle

St. John's First Universal
Letter 1:1-7
Ἰωάννου α' 1:1-7

Gospel

John 20:19-31
Ἰωάννην 20:19-31

May 15th Epistle

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7
Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 6:1-7

Gospel

Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8
Μάρκον 15:43-47, 16:1-8

May 22nd Epistle

Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42
Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 9:32-42

Gospel

John 5:1-15
Ἰωάννην 5:1-15

May 29th Epistle

Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30
Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 11:19-30

Gospel

John 4:5-42
Ἰωάννην 4:5-42

www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

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



**Χριστός ανέστη!" -
"Christ is Risen!"**

**Christ is risen from
the dead, trampling
down death by death,
and on those in the
tombs bestowing life!**



**Χριστός ανέστη εκ
νεκρών, θανάτω
θάνατον πατήσας, και
τοις εν τοις μνήμασι
ζωήν χαρισάμενος.**

The Symbolism of Cracking Red Eggs on Easter

During the first hours of Easter Sunday and right after "Christ has risen" we crack red eggs during dinner. This tradition-while fun as a game-has the symbolism of resurrection and new life. The egg is seen by followers of Christianity as a symbol of resurrection: while being dormant it contains a new life sealed within it.

Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed Tomb of Christ—the cracking of which symbolizes his resurrection from the dead.

The rules:

The game is called tsougrisma (τσουγκρισμα in Greek) and it involves two players and red eggs.

Each player holds a red egg, and one taps the end of her/his egg lightly against the end of the other player's egg. The goal is to crack the opponent's egg. When one end is cracked, the winner uses the same end of her/his egg to try to crack the other end of the opponent's egg.



Message from Father Angelo

At one time or another, sickness and sorrow come to us all.

Do not, however, regard these happenings as a punishment from God, nor your present illness as a great calamity. It need not be that at all!!! Instead, it may be a gateway leading you to the discovery of exceptional blessings.

It is possible that while you were enjoying good health, you centered too much attention on the affairs of your employment, home and family and neglected to include God in your life. It may be, also, that He had to create these conditions to remind you of His presence and converse with you under special circumstances.

Although you may not realize it at present, your affliction is probably one of the unique events of your lifetime. It could be the occasion that God has selected to endow you with a message of utmost importance. During your convalescence, attentively listen for the voice of God. Learn from Him the power of faith, the strength of patience, the comfort of prayer, the rewards of hope and the purpose of adversities, pains and sufferings.

This experience can furnish you with spiritual benefits that otherwise you may have never known, St. James tells us, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: that when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him!" Allow this illness then to inspire and illuminate your spirit to a fuller understanding of the Love and Providence of God. Accept it as a part of His Infinite Wisdom—as a Divine method of recognizing and acquiring Christ-like virtues and realizing their sublime importance in your everyday life.

With St. Paul raise your voice in satisfaction and proclaim: "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

With Spiritual Love in the Lord Jesus Christ

Reverend Father Angelo J. Michaels

Η ανακοίνωση του Πρωτοπρεσβύτερου Σε κάποια στιγμή, η ασθένεια και η θλίψη έρχονται σε όλους μας.

Να μην θεωρούμε, ωστόσο, ότι αυτά τα γεγονότα είναι ένα είδος τιμωρίας από τον Θεό, ούτε η ασθένειάς μας ως μια μεγάλη καταστροφή. Μπορεί να είναι μια πύλη που μας οδηγεί στην ανακάλυψη εξαιρετικές ευλογίες.

Είναι πιθανόν ότι ενώ ήμασταν σε καλή υγιεινή κατάσταση, σκεφτόμασταν πάρα πολύ τις υποθέσεις της δουλειάς, το σπίτι και την οικογένειά μας και παραλείψαμε να περιλάβουμε τον Θεό στη ζωή μας. Μπορεί να είναι, επίσης, ότι ο Θεός έπρεπε να δημιουργήσει αυτές τις συνθήκες να μας υπενθυμίσει την παρουσία Του και να συνομιλεί μαζί μας κάτω από εκείνες τις συνθήκες.

Αν και δεν μπορούμε να το συνειδητοποιήσουμε επί του παρόντος, η θλίψη μας είναι ένα από τα μοναδικά γεγονότα της ζωής σας. Θα μπορούσε να είναι η ευκαιρία την οποία ο Θεός έχει επιλέξει να μας προικίσει με ένα μήνυμα ύψιστης σημασίας. Κατά τη διάρκεια της ανάρρωσής μας, πρέπει να ακούσουμε την φωνή του Θεού προσεκτικά. Πρέπει να μάθουμε από τον Θεό την δύναμη της πίστεως, την δύναμη της υπομονής, την άνεση της προσευχής, τα οφέλη της ελπίδας και τον σκοπό των αντιξοοτήτων, των σχεδίων και των βασάνων.

Αυτή η εμπειρία μπορεί να μας εφοδιάσει με πνευματικά οφέλη που μπορεί να μην έχουμε γνωριστεί ποτέ. Ο Άγιος Ιάκωβος μας λέει, "Μακάριος άνηρ ὃς ὑπομένει πειρασμόν· ὅτι δόκιμος γενόμενος λήψεται τὸν στέφανον τῆς ζωῆς, ὃν ἐπηγγείλατο ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν αὐτόν." Να αφήσουμε την ασθένεια αυτή, στη συνέχεια, να εμπνεύσει και να φωτίσει το πνεύμα μας σε μια πληρέστερη κατανόηση της αγάπης του Θεού. Να την δεχόμαστε ως μέρος της Άπειρης Σοφίας Του και ως Θεία μέθοδος αναγνώρισης και απόκτησης αρετών στην καθημερινή μας ζωή.

Με τον Άγιο Παύλο στην φωνή μας, να διακηρύσσουμε: "Τα παθήματα του παρόντος καιρού δεν είναι άξια να συγκριθούν με τη δόξα που πρόκειται να αποκαλυφθεί μέσα μας."

Με πνευματική αγάπη του Θεού,
Πάτερ Άγγελος



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2016

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Deadline for submissions for the
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CHRIST HAS RISEN! TRULY HE HAS RISEN!

Starting on Anastasi and for the next 40 days these are the greetings Orthodox Christians proclaim to one and other. What more joyous, mystical or significant news could we convey than the resurrection of our Lord, the core of our faith?

Even growing up in America, this seminal Greek greeting was never unsaid or suppressed. But we are not alone in this greeting, nor is it limited to the Greek language. Recognizing the universality of this news the church provides the speaking of this greeting in multiple languages. In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the afternoon service on Easter day (technically called "Agape Vespers") includes reading the gospel selection in multiple languages. (The selection is John 20:19-25.)

Here in Perth Amboy, we celebrate this service at noon on Easter day with multiple readings in Russian, Romanian, Spanish, Latin, and German. This is a beautiful service, where our own parishioners proclaim the Gospel in various languages. Can you spare one more hour to be with the Lord at noon on May 1, 2016?

Following this beautiful service the PTO sponsors the annual Easter egg hunt for our children... always a precious moment.

So come, proclaim the news that Christ has risen, truly he has risen, together as one family.

Marina Corodemus

President Parish Council St. Demetrios



St. Demetrios Philoptochos of Three Hierarchs Chapter 1032

Let us scatter our love selflessly to all, without regard to the way they act towards us. When the grace of God enters us, we will not be concerned about whether they love us or not or whether they speak to us politely or not. We will feel the need to love all people. It's egotism on our part to wish for others to speak to us politely. If they don't, we shouldn't be upset. Let them speak to us as they wish. We needn't become beggars for love. Our aim should be to love them and pray for them with all our soul. Then we will become aware that all people love us without our seeking it and without our begging for their love. They will love us freely and sincerely from the depths of their heart without our blackmailing them. When we love without seeking to be loved, people will gather around us like bees. This is true for everyone.

—Elder Porphyrios

Dear Philoptochos members,

It was nice to get together on April 10th and enjoy good company, good food and entertainment. Thank you Alex and the Barge for great food and letting us stay and enjoy the good company of friends.

We are starting to plan our next events so I hope to see everybody come to the general meeting in May. We tried Saturday afternoons, we might make an evening meeting to see if that is better for the members.

Upcoming events

On April 22 and May 13, Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW, National Philoptochos Director of Social Services and Eleni Constantinides, New Jersey Metropolis Philoptochos Philanthropy Chair, will lead a two-part training webinar to review recommended procedures to increase and improve the ability of Philoptochos chapters to respond to and provide local social services assistance to individuals and families.

To Register:

Friday, April 22, 2016 (Part One) 2:00pm – 3:00pm (EDT)

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7ea96852f4fb0f898c34be5db4a05ad8>

Friday, May 13, 2016 (Part Two) 2:00pm – 3:00pm (EDT)

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3ff24766d347742fc5b9141539e44ee6>

May 8th Mothers Day

May 16th Clergy Laity

July 3-8 2016

National Philoptochos Biennial Convention

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

Nashville, TN

Kali Anastasi!

Stella Wacker

President

Philoptochos Society of St. Demetrios

High School, College and Advanced Degree Graduates' Recognition

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of our St. Demetrios Church wishes to honor all graduates belonging to our Church Community. The presentation of gifts will take place on May 22, 2016. Official letters have been mailed to our parishioners who may have graduates in their families with a request for the Graduates' information to be received by May 10, 2016. Kindly comply with the request immediately. You may contact Helen (Coutros) Horan for any further information at 908-794-3065.



WALL OF LOVE

For a limited time, commemorative bricks will be available for a Meditation Garden at St. Demetrios Church. Bricks with the names of current family, or those who have passed, will adorn the wall next to the new mosaic of Archangel Gabriel. Honor a beloved family member, or pay tribute to a friend or mentor. 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 the central New Jersey Orthodox faithful. 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 Meditation 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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Total Order \$ _____

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3 lines per 4"x8" brick

4 lines per 8"x8" brick

18 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

_____ 1st line

_____ 2nd line

_____ 3rd line

_____ 4th line- 8"x8" only

[] I would like to have my family name and Cross engraved.

Email address (for transmittal of artwork):

A logo plus one line of text may be inscribed on 8"x 8" bricks. Be sure to include your email address above, or send your EPS or AI file to St. Demetrios@gmail.com or send to Church.

Brick location will be determined on a first-come, first- served basis. Full payment is due at time of order.



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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

We are so excited to announce that our American play won first place at Sights and Sounds! Our own Stavroula Wagner won the best actress award. It was a wonderful day for our group and one we will never forget.

Please join us at the Somerset Patriots Game on May 25th, for "Greek Heritage Night". We are also hosting the indoor Olympics on Saturday, May 14th and we are asking for help from anyone that can spare a few hours.

The month will end with the Outdoor Olympics on Memorial Day weekend. All GOYANS join in wishing all of you a most blessed Easter.

Christos Anesti!

Rachel Giannakopoulos



Our GOYANS Performing During the Greek Dance Competition

Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)

Volunteers Urgently Needed for OCMC Teaching Team to Indonesia at the End of June!

On June 28th, OCMC will be sending a team of Orthodox volunteers to teach the Faith in Medan, Indonesia. This teaching is needed by the Orthodox faithful, especially the youth, in this predominately Muslim country, and volunteers are needed for this team now more than ever. Please consider applying if you are able to give your time to help strengthen the Faith of Orthodox children in Indonesia by visiting <http://www.ocmc.org>, e-mailing teams@ocmc.org, or by calling 1-877-463-6784 ext. 141

Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday is fast approaching and will take place on May 22, 2016. Our Sunday School children have worked diligently to absorb the religious educational material presented to them during our 2015 - 2016 Church year. As young Orthodox Christians, they demonstrate their passion as they practice our faith, beliefs, customs and traditions. They will be acknowledged for their progress and efforts with certificates, gifts and a special blessing from Father Michaels on Sunday, May 22nd.

Additionally, we will celebrate our Sunday School Teachers and Altar Boys for their devotion and dedication to our students and our Church with Certificates of Appreciation and special blessings from Father Michaels.



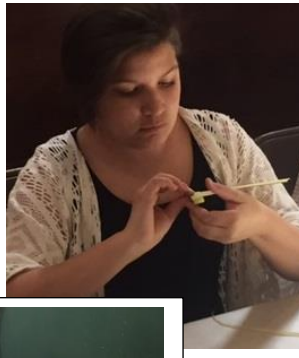
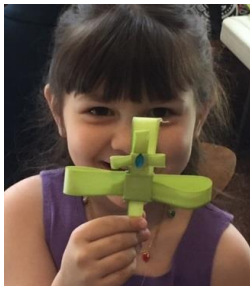
Our Youth making palm crosses for Palm Sunday



It is with heavy heart and deep sadness we report that Dino Mariolis fell asleep in the Lord on April 5, 2016.

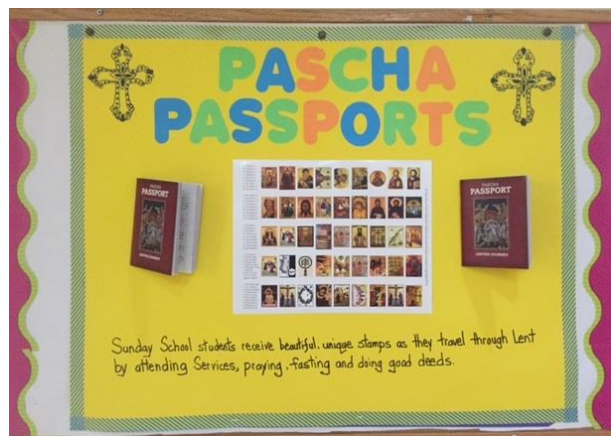
We send our love and prayers to his family and friends for God's comfort and peace upon them during this most difficult time.

May his memory be eternal.



Our Sunday School students proudly and joyfully showcase their beautifully decorated, personal Palm Crosses which will be blessed and returned to them on Palm Sunday.

Students pictured are: Front row: Alexa and Julianna Kouretas, Anastasia Haring, Jaceir Kanellidis, 2nd row: Nathaniel Kouretas, Luka Simatos, Megan DaCunha, 3rd row: Brianna Bradsner, Dylan DaCunha, Kali Simatos, 4th row: Dean Giannakopoulos, Jady Simatos, and Rachel Giannakopoulos.



As we take our journey through Lent, our Sunday School students are collecting beautiful icon stamps in their own personal "Pascha Passports". They receive a stamp for each Lenten Service they attend, for personal prayers, fasting, and for doing good deeds for others. This project emphasizes the importance of Lent and provides students with a personal awareness of our Orthodox beliefs, customs and traditions as we proceed to the glorious Resurrection on Pascha. The boys and girls are very excited as their passports are quickly filling up. The child with the most stamps in his/her passport will receive a free ticket to the Somerset Patriots Greek Night on May 25th.



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MAY 25TH 2016

GAME TIME 7PM

ST DEMETRIOS IS SPONSORING A TRIP FOR OUR YOUTH TO THE TD BANK BALLPARK

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The last
coffee hour
before we
break for the
summer is
May 29 and
will resume
Sunday Sept 4

We ask all parishioners to share Festival Information and details on all their social media accounts.

Our presence on Facebook is <https://www.facebook.com/events/1023348561053585/>
Like and Share and encourage all of your online friends to do so as well. As we go to print "845"
site visitors are "interested" in our event with "214" identified as planning to attend. Let's get
those numbers higher!!!



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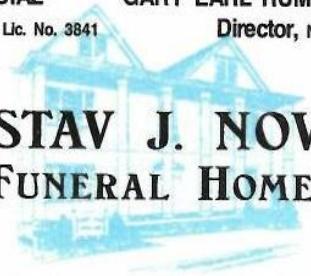
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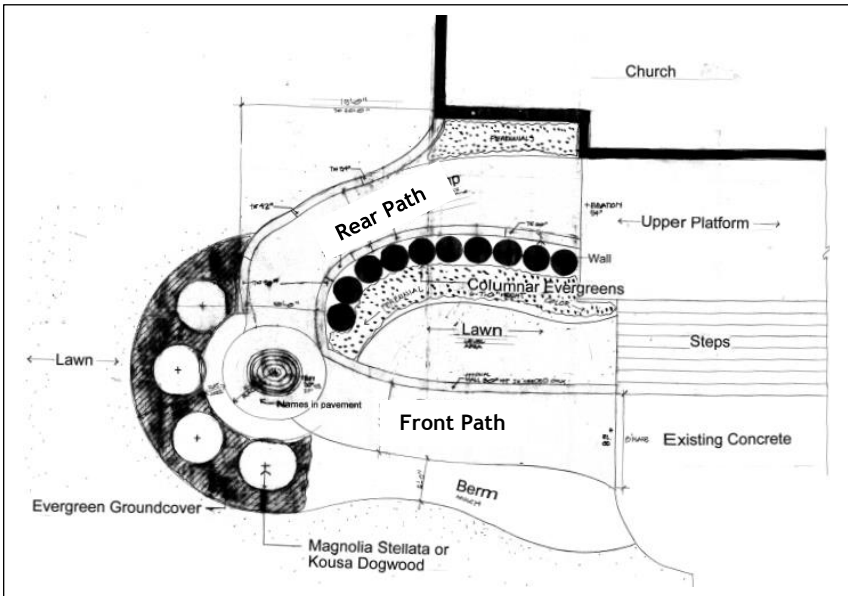
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Orthodox Observer

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

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~ May 2016~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Great & Holy Pascha Easter Egg Hunt | 2 | 3 | 4 Greek School 430-6p | 5 Greek School 430-6p | 6 Renewal Friday Paraklysis 7PM | 7 |
| 8 Philoptochos Mother's Day | 9 | 10 | 11 Greek School 430-6p | 12 Senior Citizens 11AM Greek School 430-6p | 13 | 14 Indoor Olympics |
| 15 Ahepa Sunday- memorial Father Retirement Lunch | 16 Clergy Laity | 17 Clergy Laity | 18 Greek School 430-6p | 19 Greek School 430-6p | 20 Paraklysis 7PM | 21 |
| 22 Sunday School Graduation PTO Graduation Party for all graduates | 23 | 24 | 25 Greek School 430-6p Greek Night @ Somerset Patriots Game | 26 Greek School 430-6p | 27 | 28 Outdoor Olympics |
| 29 | 30 Memorial Day Father will be at Alpine Cemetery from 830-12 Clover Leaf Cemetery 12-3 | 31 | | | | |

~ Μάιος 2016~

| KYP | ΔΕΥ | ΤΡΙ | ΤΕΤ | ΠΕΜ | ΠΑΡ | ΣΑΒ |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|--|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Πάσχα | 2 | 3 | 4 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430-6p | 5 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430- 6p | 6 Paraklysis 7PM | 7 |
| 8 Ημέρα της μητέρας | 9 | 10 | 11 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430-6p | 12 Senior Citizens 11AM Ελληνικό σχολείο 430- 6p | 13 | 14 Ολυμπιακές Αγώνες |
| 15 Κυριακή του ΑΧΕΠΑ Γεύμα της συνταξιοδότησης του Πάτερ | 16 Clergy Laity | 17 Clergy Laity | 18 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430-6p | 19 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430- 6p | 20 Paraklysis 7PM | 21 |
| 22 Τελετή Αποφοίτησης | 23 | 24 | 25 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430-6p Ελληνική βραδιά στο Somerset Patriots Game | 26 Ελληνικό σχολείο 430- 6p | 27 | 28 Ολυμπιακές Αγώνες |
| 29 | 30 Ημέρα της μνήμης | 31 | | | | |



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St. Demetrios Choir Participates in This Year's Lenten Concert April 22



Anna Kyriakatos, Argiro Ahladianakis, Irene Pakis, Zeffie Tzitzis and Marietta Alexopoulos Khalil represented our church at the 2016 Lenten concert at the St Helen and Constantine/Roseland church.

We're on the Web!

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