



St. Demetrios *Parish Newsletter* September 2016

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

(732) 826-4466

Fr. George Parsenios

**Γενέθλιον τῆς Θεοτόκου
The Nativity of the Theotokos
and Ever-Virgin Mary
Σεπτεμβρίου 8-September 8**



Ἡ γέννησις σου Θεοτόκε, χαρὰν ἐμήνυσε πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, ἐκ σοῦ γάρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, καὶ λύσας τὴν κατάραν, ἔδωκε τὴν εὐλογίαν, καὶ καταργήσας τὸν θάνατον, ἔδωρήσατο ἡμῖν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Matthan and Mary, his wife.

**METROPOLIS OF NJ
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18
ELEVATION OF THE
CROSS
ASBURY PARK, NJ**

Buses leaves at 9:00am
from Perth Amboy
reservations suggested.

**\$20 r/t adults
\$10 under 18**

SEPTEMBER 2016 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Sept 4th Epistle St. Paul's First Letter
to the Corinthians 9:2-12
Κορινθίους α' 9:2-12

Gospel Matthew 18:23-35
Ματθαῖον 18:23-35

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

Gospel John 3:13-17
Ἰωάννην 3:13-17

Sept 18th Epistle 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 25th Epistle St. Paul's Second
Letter to the Corinthians
1:21-24; 2:1-4
Κορινθίους β' 1:21-24, 2:1-4

Gospel Luke 5:1-11
Λουκᾶν 5:1-11

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

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

Elevation of the Holy Cross

The Elevation of the Holy Cross is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on September 14. This feast is also referred to as the Exaltation of the Cross. This is also a popular name day for Stavroula/Stavros (from "stavros" meaning cross).

This feast commemorates two events:

- 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.
- The recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified from the Persians. The Persians had captured the True Cross as a prize of war when they sacked Jerusalem in 614 AD. It was recovered by the forces of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) in 627 AD.





Message from Father George

Happy New Year! I know it's not January 1, but I am stilling wishing you "Happy New Year!" The Church's calendar does not begin in January but in September, just like many other ancient calendars. Our Jewish neighbors, for instance, celebrate Rosh Hashanah ("The Head of the Year") on September 20, following the same ancient customs.

These ancient calendars are connected to the bringing in of the harvest. Because the Church follows the same ancient customs, I am writing to wish you all a Happy New Year! All of our liturgical books and lists of Church services begin their new cycle, not in January, but in September. We are starting a new Church year, and it is important that the Church's calendar differs from the calendar in the world around us. This difference shows that the Church's time is different from the time of the world, which reminds us that we are meant to be different as well.

Every day we go out into the world and we live our lives and we do our jobs just like everybody else in the world. But we are not just like everyone else. Our home is not in this world, but in the heavenly realms with God. Even in little ways like our calendar, we are out of step with the world around us. The start of the Church year in September is a tiny reminder of the words of our Lord, who tells us that we "are in the world, but not of the world" (John 17:16). God bless you all, and Happy New Year!

Ένα μήνυμα από
Το Πατέρ Γεώργιο

Ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος! Ξέρω ότι δεν είναι την 1η Ιανουαρίου αλλά είμαι χαλαρώνει να σας ευχηθώ "Καλή Χρονιά!" Ημερολόγιο της Εκκλησίας δεν αρχίζει τον Ιανουάριο, αλλά τον Σεπτέμβριο, όπως και πολλά άλλα αρχαία ημερολόγια. Εβραίους γείτονές μας, για παράδειγμα, θα γιορτάσει Ροσς Ασσανά ("Ο επικεφαλής της Χρονιάς») στις 20 Σεπτεμβρίου, σύμφωνα με τις ίδιες αρχαία έθιμα. Αυτά τα αρχαία ημερολόγια που συνδέονται με την άσκηση στην της συγκομιδής. Επειδή η Εκκλησία ακολουθεί τα ίδια αρχαία έθιμα, σας γράφω για να σας ευχηθώ σε όλους Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος! Όλα τα λειτουργικά βιβλία και καταλόγους των υπηρεσιών Εκκλησίας μας αρχίζουν νέο κύκλο τους, όχι τον Ιανουάριο, αλλά το Σεπτέμβριο. Ξεκινάμε μια νέα Εκκλησία χρόνο. Και είναι σημαντικό το γεγονός ότι το ημερολόγιο της Εκκλησίας διαφέρει από το ημερολόγιο στον κόσμο γύρω μας. Η διαφορά αυτή δείχνει ότι ο χρόνος της Εκκλησίας είναι διαφορετικό από το χρόνο του κόσμου, που μας θυμίζει ότι είναι γραφτό να είναι διαφορετική επίσης. Κάθε μέρα πάμε έξω στον κόσμο και να ζούμε τη ζωή μας και να κάνουμε τη δουλειά μας όπως και όλοι οι άλλοι στον κόσμο. Αλλά δεν είναι ακριβώς όπως όλοι οι άλλοι. Το σπίτι μας δεν είναι σε αυτόν τον κόσμο, αλλά και στα επουράνια με το Θεό. Ακόμη και σε λίγο τρόπους όπως το ημερολόγιο μας, είμαστε έξω από το βήμα με τον κόσμο γύρω μας. Η αρχή του έτους Εκκλησίας, τον Σεπτέμβριο είναι ένα μικρό υπενθύμιση τα λόγια του Κυρίου μας, ο οποίος μας λέει ότι «είναι στον κόσμο, αλλά όχι του κόσμου» (Ιωάννης 17:16). Ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί όλους, και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος!



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Deadline for submissions for the
 October 2016 Bulletin is
 September 10, 2016.

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NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST 2016

- Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16.

The blessings of having a church that has existed in Perth Amboy for 99 years are countless. We have in the final analysis survived, where many others have failed. So many parishes Greek Orthodox and otherwise have closed their doors for lack of funds, congregation populations relocating, neighborhood transitioning or natural disasters. We are survivors. Despite all the illnesses that have plagued so many, we are here to stay and just getting better.

But survival is not enough. We need to thrive, with the Holy Spirit coursing through us mind, soul and body. We have begun again on the eve of our 100th anniversary with a new young Spiritual Father, Fr, George, whom I am confident will lead us to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through his countenance, teachings and ministry. We must honor the Father by keeping our honor in our person and His house.

We, each of us, are stewards of God's House. We must everyday actively play a role is maintaining, preserving and enhancing God's home. We can no longer accept disrepair, degeneration and deterioration of the physical needs of the church. We must improve ourselves through the Spirit and God's house through affirmative actions.

This summer alone, the Parish Council has overseen replacing of the boiler, realigned long unaddressed water leakage problems connecting with the City Water supply. We installed a new bathroom by the altar, refurbished the sexton's bedroom and bathroom downstairs, restructure Father George's office, rearrange the altar, and rooms above the altar. We have plastered cracks inside the church. We have begun to replace dangerous electric outlets, wiring and reconfigured church camera security. We added solar exterior lighting for safety and protection, installed skateboard deterrent devices to avoid perpetual damage to our cement exterior, trimmed trees and bushes, landscaped and finally have reconstructed a state of the art new kitchen downstairs. AND EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PAID FOR-WE ARE NOT IN DEBT!

So what do we need to do as a congregation? Praise God for all the blessings we have received; maintain HIS house in cleanliness with timely repairs and pride; stop complaining about the small things and give thanks for many GOOD things that have happened in our church. With a sound physical and newly invigorated Spiritual Foundation, our souls should soar, IF you will let it happen.

Marina Corodemus

President Parish Council St. Demetrios



St. Demetrios Lecture Series

Saturday October 15, 2016

The Apostle Paul in the Greek Cities of the Roman Empire

A Lecture by

Rev. Fr. George Parsenios

Associate Professor of New Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary

Introduction by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos

Light Refreshments at 12noon Lecture 1pm-3pm

St. Demetrios Church 41-47 Wisteria Street Perth Amboy NJ 08861

For more information please call 732-826-4466 or

visit us at www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS HAVE BEEN DONE IN 2016?

- New boiler.
- Meditation Garden and Benches.
- New bathroom by Altar.
- New water line from City water into church.
- New storage closet downstairs community center-Philoptochos.
- New bathroom, bedroom, furniture Sexton room.
- 6 new cameras and video equipment for security.
- New exhaust fans in downstairs community center.
- New lights downstairs hallways.
- Air conditioning ducts repaired church.
- Air condition vent installed Fr. George office.
- Temperature controlled dials relocated and placed on timer for energy conservation.
- Newly renovated office for Father George.
- All lights in church replaced energy efficient LED lighting
- New electrical wiring installed in church appliances and lamps.
- New computers and internet boosters installed in Father George's and Church secretary's office.
- Portable air conditioner installed church office.
- New safe purchased for church office.
- New coffee pot and refrigerator relocated in church office.
- New bookshelves purchased for orderly organization of all church icons.
- All cloths for Holy Alter areas newly dry cleaned and fitted for matching sets.
- New supplies of incense, charcoal for altar.
- Back roof area by air conditioner's roof tarred and repaired from the elements.
- All interior plaster cracks, repaired and repainted.

ALL REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL



& G R E E K S C H O O L REGISTRATION

JOIN US AT OUR

“PTO WELCOME BACK PICNIC”

**ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016
DIRECTLY AFTER CHURCH SERVICES**

**REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL, GREEK SCHOOL
AND OUR YOUTH MINISTRIES WILL
TAKE PLACE AT THE PICNIC**

**LET’S GET TOGETHER AND
REUNITE AS A CHURCH
FAMILY!**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL!



A Wonderful Week at Vacation Church School

During the week of August 8th to 12th, Vacation Church School was held which turned out to be a week of total fun and joy while learning so much about The Theotokos. The theme was Traveling on the Ark of Salvation as we “traveled” through each of the Feasts of the Theotokos learning the meaning and symbolism of each Feast and the corresponding Icons that we venerate. Morning Prayer Service, Worship Lessons, Arts and Crafts, Music Time, Recreation Time, Breakfast & Snacks plus a Puppet Theater Performance were all included on a daily basis to elicit the children’s knowledge, reinforce and review the lessons plus assess their learning in an engaging way.

We wish to thank all the parents who allowed us the privilege of working with their children during this week which included Niko Morales, Claire Veiga, Sofia Sousa, Alena and Layna Albino, Constantine Parsenios and Dimitri Sousa.

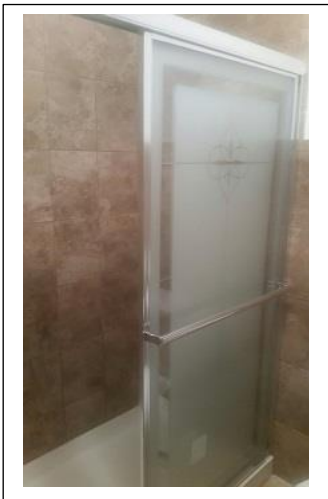
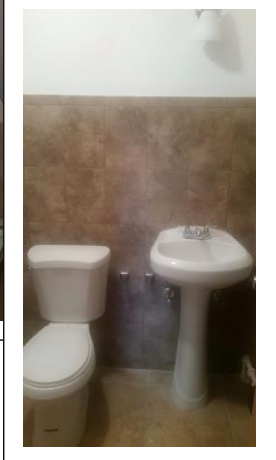
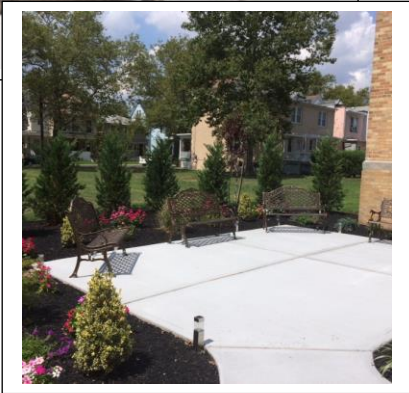
It is our hope to expand our Vacation Church School next summer and we are already looking forward to including many more of our youth to join in the fun together.

In HIS Service,
Father George Parsenios
Helen (Coutros) Horan, Director
Helen Catelanos, Teacher
Maria Mantoudakis, Teacher
Georgia Barbayannis, Assistant Teacher





Recent projects and improvements in and around the church





**Join us for an enjoyable journey into the
Greek language and culture!**

Register your children for ***Greek School*** with

Mrs. Alexandra

at

St. Demetrios Church.

41-47 Wisteria St.

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Registration is Sunday September 11 at our Annual
PTO Welcome Back Picnic.

Cost is \$100 for Members

\$125 for Non Members



Save The Date

October 29, 2016

To celebrate our 99th year as a community.

**The Forge Inn
1002 Route 9 North
Woodbridge N.J 07095**

During the event, we will be honoring several of our outstanding community members, who have served our church faithfully and for the love of God. In addition, we will have the return of the wonderful Greek band *Nick Koutras* for a night of Greek dancing and celebration.

This year we will be mailing you a book of 5 raffle tickets asking you to purchase and /or sell all five if possible to help defray the costs of this wonderful evening. Also, that night we will have our special surprise baskets for chances and a cash 50 /50 so there are so many prizes and fun for the entire family.

So save the date, gather your entire family and make your reservations.

We are looking for 5 special people to help adopt the dinner dance as loving parents at \$500 each to help underwrite the total cost of the evening. These people will receive special acknowledgment for their help and get to request a special Greek song from the band. Please help us make this event truly special for our community. As co-chair of the dinner dance. I assure your involvement would help highlight the importance of keeping family events such as these open to all family members old and young.

I hope that you are interested in joining our effort to show our respect, admiration, and support for our community. Simple events like this can provide just the encouragement a Christian family needs to continue to keep our community happy, healthy and loving.

Please feel free to reach out to our church office with any questions at (732) 826-4466 stdgoa@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dance Committee



Family Foot Care

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stewardship for 2016?
Help us keep the church open.**

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

**Support Our
Community
&
Support Our
Sponsors**

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

**2016 HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION THE
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY**

SUNDAY SEPTMEBER 18, 2016
PARAMOUNT THEATER
ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY
(no church in Perth Amboy that day.)
ST. DEMETRIOS PERTH AMBOY BUS TRIP
LEAVING CHURCH IN PERTH AMBOY 9:00AM

Advance paid reservation adults \$20 Under 18 \$10
NO RESERVATIONS \$25
Call and pay at office 732-826 4466



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St. John Commandaria



Coffee hours
will resume
Sunday Sept 4

Have you paid your stewardship?
It takes \$820 a day to keep
The St. Demetrios Community running?
That is $820 \times 7 = \$5747$ per week.

There is no fixed sum for Stewardship.
You are welcome to pay whatever your heart
tells you to pay.

But please, if you have not paid yet, keep in
mind we need \$150,000 to fully fund us to
the end of the year.

Please make your contribution today.



Emanuel BALSAMIDES SR
President

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~ September 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Ecclesiastical Year	2 Paraklysis 7pm	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 10am	9	10
11 PTO Picnic Sunday School/Greek School Registration	12	13	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 10am	15	16 St. Ephemias the Great Martyr Divine Liturgy 10am Paraklysis 7pm	17
18 Asbury Park Holy Cross Celebration	19	20	21	22	23 The Conception of St. John the Baptist Divine Liturgy 10am	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Paraklysis 7pm	

~ September 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Νέα Εκκλησιαστικού έτους	2 Paraklysis 7pm	3
4	5 Ημέρα της εργασίας	6	7	8 Γεννήσεως της Θεοτόκου	9	10
11 PTO για πικ-νικ Κυριακή / Ελληνικό Σχολείο Εγγραφή	12	13	14 Ύψωση του Τιμίου Σταυρού Θεία Λειτουργία δέκα	15	16 Αγίου Ephemias Μεγαλομάρτυρος θεία Λειτουργία 10am Paraklysis 7pm	17
18 Asbury Park Ιερά Σταυρός Εορτασμός	19	20	21	22	23 Η Σύλληψη του Αγίου Ιωάννη του Προδρόμου θεία Λειτουργία 10am	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Paraklysis 7pm	

SAVE THE DATE

Church bus trip to Agia Skepi Monastery November 5th

Details to follow in September



BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4 SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR WILL RESTART!!!!

Each Sunday all are invited to stop by Coffee Hour for fellowship, conversation, and information about church programs and volunteer opportunities. Coffee Hour takes place DOWNSTAIRS AFTER CHURCH SERVICE (ELEVATOR ACCESS IS AVAILABLE).

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Coffee Hour plays a vital role in the life of St. Demetrios Church: it is our weekly occasion to gather intergenerationally, meet our wonderful New Priest, Fr. George Parsenios and Presbytera Maureen, meet with new and old friends, welcome visitors, learn of opportunities for involvement and education, and enjoy “light” refreshments. By sponsoring Coffee Hour, you are truly helping us to embody our spirit of hospitality and fellowship as well as helping budget considerations for the various groups. You can sponsor coffee hour for an individual Sunday or for the month at \$50 a Sunday. Your name will appear in the Sunday bulletin and Monthly newsletter thanking you for your contribution. Contact the church office today to become a sponsor.

Coffee Hour Hosting

Each Sunday coffee hour will be “HOSTED” by the various church sanctioned organizations, Parish Council, Philoptochos, PTO, GOYA, and Sunday School/Greek School. We will do all the purchasing, setting, up clean up and serving. Your donation will allow this to be financially possible.

SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR SPONSORED BY PRESIDENT MARINA CORODEMUS.



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
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FAX: (732) 826-4312

E-Mail:
fr.georgepar@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org

E-Mail : stdgoa@gmail.com

January 1, 2017 begins our 100th anniversary year celebration. The 100th Anniversary Committee has many and wonderful programs planned throughout the year including hosting this year's Lenten concert of the NJ choirs, vespers October 25, Liturgy and luncheon October 26 a visual and musical concert celebrating St. Demetrios on October 27 and hosting the Eastern Federation of Choirs that last week in October and a liturgy with Metropolitan Evangelos with the Eastern Federation of Choirs followed by a formal banquet.

How can you help? Purchase and buy or sell these 100th anniversary ornaments of St. Demetrios for \$20 each. They will be available October 1, 2016. Help make this year to come the best ever. Actual size 3". Hang from your car, home window, by your icons, on your Christmas tree.

Take St. Demetrios with you where ever you go.

