



# St. Demetrios *Parish Newsletter* October 2016

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



Saint Demetrios was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated

Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrios', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrios, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth.

Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrios was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

The Feast Day of St Demetrios is October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## OCTOBER 2016 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Oct 3 Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15  
Κορινθίους Β' 4:6-15

Gospel Luke 6:31-36  
Λουκᾶν 6:31-36

Oct 9 Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10  
Κορινθίους Β' 6:1-10

Gospel Luke 7:11-16  
Λουκᾶν 7:11-16

Oct 16 Epistle St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15  
Τίτον 3:8-15

Gospel Luke 8:5-15  
Λουκᾶν 8:5-15

Oct 23 Epistle St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19  
Γαλάτας 1:11-19

Gospel Luke 8:26-39  
Λουκᾶν 8:26-39

Oct 30 Epistle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9  
Κορινθίους Β' 11:31-33, 12:1-9

Gospel Luke 16:19-31  
Λουκᾶν 16:19-31

## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

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

## **CELEBRATE OXI DAY OCTOBER 22**



### **St Nicholas Church At Ground Zero**

Construction of the St Nicholas Church at Ground Zero is now reached the point where the building efforts are finally above ground. This ambitious project is beginning to take shape.

The children of the Greek school St. Demetrios church will celebrate the OXI day on Saturday, October 22 at 3 PM with some poems and songs for the day downstairs in our church whole all parents parishioners and friends are invited to celebrate with the children and make them proud

Τα παιδιά του ελληνικού σχολείου του Αγίου Δημητρίου του που ήρθαν with θα γιορτάσουν την ημέρα του όχι τις 28 Οκτώβρη το Σάββατο στις 22 Οκτωβρίου στις τρεις η ώρα με την Μάτα και τραγούδια για την ημέρα κάτω στο κοινοτήτων Κω κέντρο της εκκλησίας όλοι γονείς πάει εκεί και φίλοι προσκαλούνται να έρθουν στη γιορτή των παιδιών για να γιορτάσουμε μαζί τους και να τους κάνουν περήφανος



## *Message from Father George*

October is one of the important months in our parish, as we celebrate the feast of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr on October 26th. St. Demetrios was killed in one of the great Roman persecutions of Christians in the early 4th century. He was a martyr who gave his life for Christ.

The word “martyr” is originally a legal word that means a “witness.” And “the word “martyria” means evidence or testimony. A “martyr” offers “martyria” (testimony) in court. When Christians, therefore, were called to prove whether or not they were Christians, they gave their “martyria,” their testimony, and proved their identity. They showed that they were different from the world around them and the world persecuted them. When they were killed, they were called “martyrs.”

We are not in danger right now of being killed for being Christians, but we must still offer “martyria” of our faith. We must still show to the world and to the people around us that we are Christians. We must live lives of discipline and self-control, even as the world offers the opposite.

We must live lives of mercy and forgiveness, even as the world offers the opposite. And we must live lives of self-sacrifice and Christian love, even as the world urges greater and greater selfishness and self-indulgence.

When we do this, we are offering a testimony of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are martyrs.

Ένα μήνυμα από  
Το Πατέρ Γεώργιο

Ο Οκτώβριος είναι ένας από τους σημαντικούς μήνες στην ενορία μας, καθώς γιορτάζουμε τη γιορτή του Αγίου Δημητρίου Μεγαλομάρτυρος στις 26 Οκτωβρίου. Αγίου Δημητρίου σκοτώθηκε σε ένα από τα μεγάλα ρωμαϊκά διωγμούς των χριστιανών στις αρχές του 4ου αιώνα. Ήταν ένας μάρτυρας ο οποίος έδωσε τη ζωή του για το Χριστό. Η λέξη "μάρτυρας" είναι αρχικά ένα νομικό λέξη που σημαίνει "μάρτυρας". Και "η λέξη« μαρτύρια »σημαίνει αποδεικτικά στοιχεία ή μαρτυρία. Ένα "μάρτυρας" προσφέρει "μαρτύρια" (μαρτυρία) στο δικαστήριο. Όταν οι Χριστιανοί, ως εκ τούτου, κλήθηκαν να αποδείξουν αν είναι ή όχι ήταν χριστιανοί, έδωσαν «μαρτύρια», τη μαρτυρία τους τους, και απέδειξε την ταυτότητά τους. Έδειξαν ότι ήταν διαφορετικός από τον κόσμο γύρω τους και τον κόσμο τους διωκόμενους. Όταν έχασαν τη ζωή τους, τους έλεγαν "μάρτυρες". Εμείς δεν κινδυνεύουμε τώρα να σκοτωθούν για να είναι Χριστιανοί, αλλά πρέπει να εξακολουθούν να προσφέρουν «μαρτύρια» της πίστης μας. Πρέπει να εξακολουθούν να δείξουμε στον κόσμο και στους ανθρώπους γύρω μας ότι είμαστε Χριστιανοί. Πρέπει να ζήσουμε τη ζωή της πειθαρχίας και της αυτο-ελέγχου, ακόμα και καθώς ο κόσμος προσφέρει το αντίθετο. Πρέπει να ζήσουμε τη ζωή του ελέους και της συγχώρεσης, ακόμα και καθώς ο κόσμος προσφέρει το αντίθετο. Και εμείς πρέπει να ζήσουμε τη ζωή της αυτοθυσίας και της χριστιανικής αγάπης, ακόμη και καθώς ο κόσμος ζητά όλο και μεγαλύτερη εγωισμό και μαλθακότητα. Όταν το κάνουμε αυτό, προσφέρουμε μια μαρτυρία της πίστης μας στον Κύριο μας Ιησού Χριστό. Είμαστε μάρτυρες.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2016

### *Parish Council*

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Alexandra Velmahos

#### Greek School President

Marina Corodemus

#### Sunday School Superintendent

Helen Horan

#### Choir Director

Helen Vassallo Kernizan

#### Chantor

Stavros Tsapatsaris

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

Support the monthly newsletter. Submit your photo-ready business card today. For more details about ad rates please contact [stdgoa@gmail.com](mailto:stdgoa@gmail.com).

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

Fr. George Parsenios  
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*So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel. Matthew 15:31*

When did we stop believing in miracles? Or at least push the term “miracle” down the list of plausible possibilities to explain what happens around or to us? How many of us have witnessed miracles and failed to recognize their significance or existence? How many of us were blessed by God, the saints and or angels and did not recognize this and give thanks?

In my own life, I have seen several miraculous events that could otherwise not be explained. When I was in law school, my brother was in a train accident and was so badly injured, I remember the hospital calling my father to get a priest for the last rites. As we “learned people” discussed the medical alternatives, all of which were grim with the doctors, my grandmother was on her hands and needs seeking intervention from Panagia to save my brother’s life. After three surgeons failed to stop the bleeding, the last doctor came who had been in a trauma unit in Korea and succeeded. She was not scheduled to work but happened to be in the hospital that day. Or the time, I witnessed myrrh coming from the Kardiotissa icon of Panagia Kardiotissa, “The Tender Heart” dripping and filling the air with unmistakable fragrance two Christmas Eve’s ago at the monastery of Agia Skepi. Or the time, a colleague on the bench, who was ill from cancer, who was told she had less than three months to live. After 23 judges went to a laying on of hands service she returned to the oncologist tumors gone and lived for another 12 years.

So how do we, who have the patron saint of Demetrios, the myrrh gusher, fail to believe in miracles when myrrh is still coming from the saint’s remains? Through Paraklysis, to our most Holy lady the Theotokos and St. Demetrios, have interceded, our community has been blessed with the “Miracle of Perth Amboy” as Metropolitan Evangelos tells everyone. Our church has been revitalized and renewed.

This month both at vespers October 25<sup>th</sup> and St. Demetrios Day October 26th sing praises to our God for our many blessings and remember that you are living in a miracle.

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

New officers were selected for GOYA:

President: Rachael Giannakopoulos

Vice President: Jady

Secretary: Samantha

Historian: Julia Parsenios

Treasurer: Dean Giannakopoulos

Disciplinary: Nick Parsenios

## G.O.Y.A. NEWS

On Sunday, Sept. 18th, GOYANS Dean Giannakopoulos and Nicholas Parsenios will represent (or, represented) St. Demetrios in the annual diving for the cross in Asbury Park.

On Sunday, Sept. 24th, our GOYANS participated in St. Basil's Academy walk-a-thon. St. Basil's Academy is a not-for-profit philanthropic center of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese which provides love, shelter, food, education, protection and a home for orphans, children of chronically ill or destitute parents or children from broken homes. **Please contact Nick Giannakopoulos or Fr. George for more information.**

- If you are a teenager in 7th through 12th grade and are interested in joining GOYA, please contact our GOYA Advisors Cindy Giannakopoulos at [cynthiagianna@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiagianna@gmail.com) or Demetra Wagner at [demi58@juno.com](mailto:demi58@juno.com).





My dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

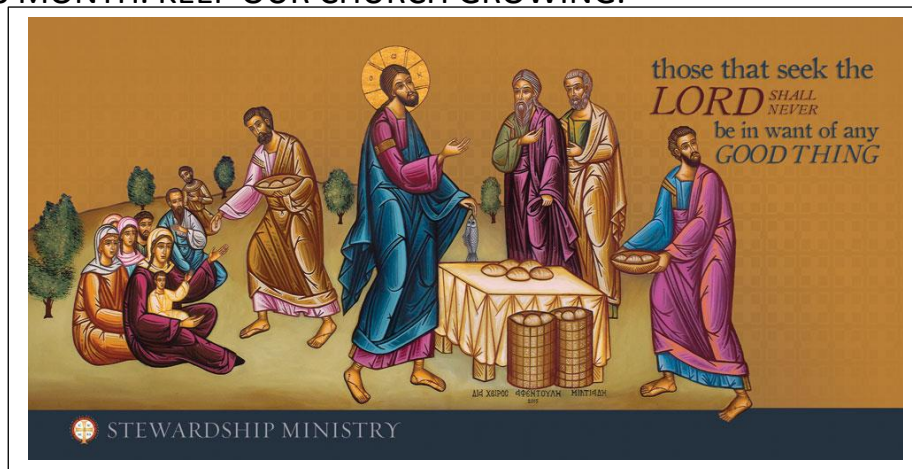
October is the celebration the Feast Day of our patron St. Demetrios the myrrh gusher, but it is also STEWARDSHIP month. Why is Stewardship so important? Stewardship accounts for 33% of our annual operating budget. Every time we turn on a light, heat a room, pay a salary of the priest, secretary, sexton or light candles that we purchased, it is taken from the Stewardship money contributed from each of you.

On a daily basis, it takes \$82 dollars every day or \$572 per week to operate our church within budget. If you pay \$1 on Sunday for candles (\$52), \$1 for the tray (\$52) and \$200 a year for Stewardship that means you can contribute less than 1 week of revenue to keep the church open. We have less than 125 members to date, so you can see the critical need. There are a few members who can afford and do contribute much more to help our church stay operational. Unfortunately, there are many members who do not pay their stewardship at any amount.

This year we have enhanced the methods of payment. Payments for stewardship as well as many activities dances, memorial etc., can now be done on line. Effective October 1 we will have a credit card machine accepting all credit card payments. We urge you to charge you full stewardship and pay the card off periodically as you wish.

***Christian Stewardship is about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. God has given each of us special and unique gifts. And through Holy Scripture He teaches us all that we have is a loan. He lends everything to us, and reminds us that one day He will ask us to give a detailed accounting of what we have done with the gifts He has given us. Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted that “we find ourselves by offering ourselves.” Have we learned the blessedness of generously giving to others of all we have?***

If you have paid your Stewardship for 2016, THANK YOU. If you can will you consider giving another donation for our church to continue to grow? If you have NOT made your payment, PLEASE DO SO THIS MONTH. KEEP OUR CHURCH GROWING.





## **OPERATION BACKPACK A SUCCESS!!!!**



Smiles and heartfelt thanks from our friends in Albania for your generous backpack gifts



Welcome Back Picnic



Our New Gates & Landscaping







# Asbury Park Holy Cross Celebration



## GOYANS VISIT ST BASILS ACADEMY



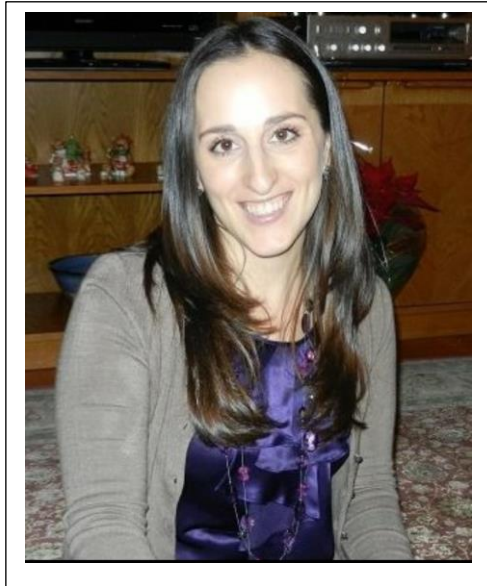


## Professional Choir Director Hired

The Parish counsel announces that church member Helen Vassallo has been named as the new church choir director.

Helen Vassallo Kernizan is the Choral Director at Perth Amboy High School. Her biggest passion is educating young people to become the best musicians they can be. In addition to being a music teacher, she loves to write music, arrange music for her choirs, and play piano and drums, but her first love is the voice. Helen has studied voice since 1999 and has been teaching voice since 2003.

Helen graduated from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a Master of Arts in Teaching, and has been teaching in Perth Amboy since 2009.



As a performer Helen has had the great opportunity to perform in such renowned concert halls as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall, the Apollo Theater, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Princeton University Chapel, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, Philadelphia Cathedral, and even at Catherine's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia.

All parishioners are invited to join the new choir and praise God. SINGING IS PRAYING TWICE. Please contact Fr. George, the church office or Helen Vasallo if you are interested in being part of this new effort to enhance the beauty of our liturgy.

The community owes a deep appreciation to Mrs. Irene Pakis who directed the choir gratis and for many years and for the love of her church and God.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEE USHER LIST OCTOBER

#### Oct 2- Team #1

Helen Horan  
Liz Dacuhna  
Mike Koudis  
Dino Kusulas

#### Oct 9 -Team #2

Alex Vosinas  
Kateina Ganiaras  
Irene Pakis  
Dino Kusulas

#### Oct 16- Team #3

Marina Corodemus  
Maria Mantoudakis  
Afroula Kanellidis  
Atef Azouz

#### Oct 23- Team #4

Spero Kalambakas  
Steve Corodemus  
Nick Giannakopoulos





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

Many thanks to  
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her hard work  
coordinating  
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this newsletter

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

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Community  
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You may make a financial gift to help defray the cost of the sacramental wine that is used for Holy Communion or donate **ONLY THE PRODUCTS LISTED BELOW THAT WE NEED.**

Please note on the memo line of your check or on the envelope "Communion Wine".

You may also donate a bottle or can of pure extra virgin olive oil offered in the anointing.



St. John Commandaria



**THE ANAVRITI SOCIETY PAID  
THEIR ANNUAL VISIT TO OUR  
COMMUNITY ON SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25TH**




**Coffee hour  
Sponsorships  
Available**

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.



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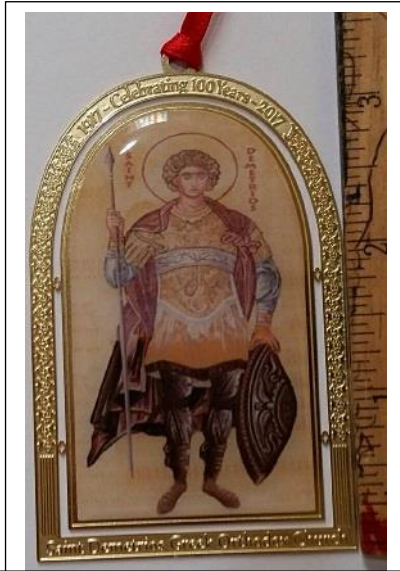
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AVAILABLE**





~ October 2016~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School Classes begin	3	4	5	6	7 Paraklysis 7pm	8
9	10	11	12	13 Seniors 11 AM Church Hall	14	15 Lectures by Fr. George Parsenios at. St. Demetrios 12 noon
16	17	18 St. Luke the Evangelist Divine Liturgy 10am	19	20	21 Paraklysis 7pm	22 OXI Day Program 3PM
23 General Assembly	24	25 St. Demetrios Vespers 7pm	26 St. Demetrios Divine Liturgy 10am Free Luncheon to follow service	27	28 Holy Protection of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 10am	29 St. Demetrios Annual Church Dance
30	31 Halloween	<b>Dance practice Every Wednesday at 7PM With Instructor Harry Triandafilidis</b>				

~ October 2016~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 1ο. Ημέρα της Κατηχητικό Σχολείο	3	4	5	6	7 Paraklysis 7pm	8
9	10	11	12	13 Seniors 11AM Church Hall	14	15 Διαλέξεις από το Fr. Γιώργος Parsenios στην περιοχή του Αγίου Δημητρίου Εκκλησία στις 12 το μεσημέρι
16	17	18 Άγιος Λουκάς ο Ευαγγελιστής Θεία Λειτουργία δέκα	19	20	21 Paraklysis 7pm	22 OXI Day Program 3PM
23 γενική Συνέλευση	24	25 Αγίου Δημητρίου Εσπερινός 7pm	26 Αγίου Δημητρίου Θεία Λειτουργία 10am ακολουθείται από γεύμα	27	28 Αγίας Σκέπης της Θεοτόκου Θεία Λειτουργία δέκα	29
30	31 ημέρα αποκριών					



Stop by the church office to see one of the St Demetrios 100th Anniversary Ornaments

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.stdemetriospertхамboy.org/donations/>

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# Stewardship

is heart work



*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Matthew 6:19-21