



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

Holy Ascension - May 17, 2018 Η Αναληψη του Κυριου ημων Ιησου Χριστου - 17 Μαΐου, 2018 Holy Pentecost - May 27, 2018 Κυριακη της Πεντηκοστης - 27 Μαΐου, 2018

The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in



Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples, who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples, they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God.

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the



day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of

those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even though the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13). Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39). The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).



## Message from Father George

#### MAY 2018 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

#### May 6

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Κυριακη της Σαμαρειτιδος

Gospel John 20:1-10 and 4:5-42

Ιωαννην 20:1-10 και 4:5-42

#### May 13

Sunday of the Blind Man

Κυριακη του Τυφλου

Gospel John 20:11-18 and 17:1-13

Ιωαννην 20:11-18 και 17:1-13

#### May 20

Gospel John 21:1-14 and 17:1-13

Ιωαννην 21:1-14 και 17:1-13

May 27

**Holy Pentecost** 

Κυριακη της Πεντηκοστης

Gospel John 20:19-23 and 7:37-52; 8:12

Ιωαννην 20:19-23 και 7:37-52; 8:12 On May 17, we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven and his return to the Father. But, the return of Jesus to the Father is not his departure from the world. He continues to be present in the Holy Eucharist which we receive every Sunday, and is within us all until the end of the ages. The Holy Apostle Paul says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). When our lives reflect the light of Christ to the world, we make Christ present in the world, and we live in a world yearning for the peace and the freedom from care that come only in the person and work of Christ. Let us share this light with every person we meet every day of our lives.

#### Μήνυμα από τον Πατέρα Γιώργο

Στις 17 Μαΐου γιορτάζουμε την Ανάληψη του Ιησού Χριστού στον ουρανό και την επιστροφή του στον Πατέρα. Αλλά η επιστροφή του Ιησού στον Πατέρα δεν είναι η αποχώρησή του από τον κόσμο. Συνεχίζει να είναι παρούσα στην Αγία Ευχαριστία, την οποία λαμβάνουμε κάθε Κυριακή, και είναι μέσα σε όλους μας μέχρι το τέλος των αιώνων. Ο Άγιος Απόστολος Παύλος λέει: "Δεν είμαι πια εκείνος που ζει, αλλά ο Χριστός που μένει μέσα μου" (Γάλλος 2:20). Όταν οι ζωές μας αντανακλούν το φως του Χριστού στον κόσμο, κάνουμε τον Χριστό παρόν στον κόσμο και ζούμε σε έναν κόσμο που λαχταρά για την ειρήνη και την ελευθερία από τη φροντίδα που έρχεται μόνο στο πρόσωπο και το έργο του Χριστού. Ας μοιραστούμε αυτό το φως με κάθε άνθρωπο που συναντάμε κάθε μέρα της ζωής μας.



A very special thank you is extended to Elaine Vlahos for her generous donation of 100 white chair covers to be used for special events at our Church. This thoughtful gesture is very much appreciated by all of us.



## Parish Council

Marina Corodemus - President Spero Kalambakis - Vice President Dino Kusulas - Treasurer Helen Horan - Secretary Atef Anthony Azouz Steve Corodemus Elizabeth DaCunha Kally Durso Nick Giannakopoulos Dean Kakadelis Afroula Kanellidis Michael Koudis Maria Mantoudakis Demos Simatos Alex Vosinas

Philoptochos President Stella Wacker

G.O.Y.A. President Jadyn Simatos

G.O.Y.A. Advisors Nick and Cindy Giannakopoulos

P.T.O. President Diana Regan

Greek School Teacher Alexandra Velmahos

Greek School President Dean Kakadelis

Sunday School Superintendent Helen Horan

Choir Director Irene Pakis

<u>Chantor</u> Stavros Tsapatsaris

Deadline for submissions for the June 2018 Bulletin is May 10, 2018.

Support the monthly newsletter. Submit your photo-ready business card today. For more details about ad rates please contact d.kusulas@optonline.net.

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER TAKING TIME TO SAY THANK YOU!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month, we can express our collective gratitude to numerous people throughout our community for their service. The vehicle for such recognition is through the annual Metropolis of New Jersey Annual Gala Dinner at the yearly Clergy Laity meeting in Garfield, New Jersey.

Each year, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos assembles the Clergy and Laity representatives throughout the Metropolis of New Jersey for a three-day meeting to come together discuss, educate and attend in fellowship and worship the collective group family. On the first night, of the three-day meeting, a banquet is held wherein numerous persons from each Metropolis are acknowledged for their presence and contributions to their Churches.

Every year, the Parish Council votes on names of parishioners to be honored at the Gala dinner the first night. Over the last three years, we have featured these names in the newsletter in an effort to celebrate our honorees. To all these people, the Parish Council on behalf of the community, wishes to express a big THANK YOU for who you are and what you have done to help our Saint Demetrios Church.

This year's honorees are:

- Outstanding Member: Ted Kaidas
- Outstanding Parish Council Member: Dino Kusulas
- Outstanding Goyan: Jadyn Simatos
- Outstanding Philoptochos Member: Stella Wacker
- Senior Choir Member: Anna Kyriakatos
- Senior Laity Member: Angeliki Krousos
- Outstanding PTO Member: Diana Regan

While we are ALL VOLUNTEERS and happy to be in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it is always nice to take a few moments once a year to say thank you TO SOME SPECIAL PEOPLE. So, please reach out to these wonderful people and take a moment to say "thank you" to each and every one of them.

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Hon. Marina Corodemus President, Parish Council



# **Festival 2018 Information**

The Festival Committee has been deliberating at length to make the best decision possible regarding Festival 2018. The results of last year's efforts did not reach our expectations due to the lack of customers' interest and attendance at our Festival. Now, with the remediation taking place and the lack of parking in the area, we do not believe that it is in our best interest to hold a full Festival this year. Therefore, we are planning to participate in the City Arts Festival by having a "Pastry Booth" only on Saturday, May 26, 2018. A letter of explanation has been mailed to our parishioners. With this decision, it will be necessary to request a special offering from our faithful Congregation to assist us in meeting our financial obligations.

In HIS Service, Festival Chairpersons: Spero Kalambakas and Nick Giannakopoulos



# SAINT DEMETRIOS PHILOPTOCHOS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS

Chapter 1032

age

"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,

Christos Anesti!

We are starting to plan our next events for our pan cake breakfast on June 2, 2018, so I hope to see everybody come to the general meeting.

May 7, 2018 - Clergy Laity May 13, 2018 - Mother's Day June 2, 2018 - Pancake Breakfast July 1-5, 2018 - National Philoptochos Biennial Convention - Boston Marriot Copley Place Hotel

Stella Wacker President of Philoptochos Society of Saint Demetrios



# The new 100th anniversary wall is up with only 100 spaces. Place your orders now. Don't wait until space is limited.

## Small Bricks \$150 Large Bricks \$350

Expansion to the front and side of the church means replacing new bricks at a premium expense. Space is now very limited. Place your brick orders now before the walls are filled and you miss this last chance to have your family name, 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 Saint Demetrios opened its doors, it has been a place of worship for central New Jersey Orthodox Religion. The meditation garden overlooks 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, one of Seven Archangels. The name Gabriel means God is Strong, God is powerful God is mighty.

Special Offer Pricing	
4" x8" @ \$150 \$	
8" x8" @ \$350 \$	
Total Order \$	
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4 lines per 8"x8" brick	
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Return this form along with your payment to:

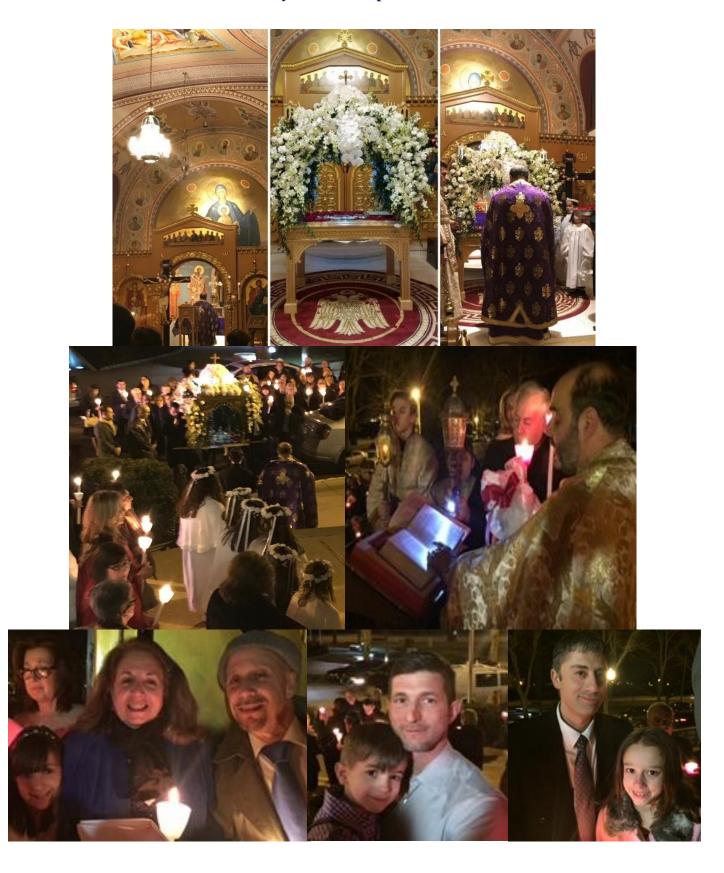
Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 41-47 Wisteria Street Perth Amboy, New Jersey 08861 The Saint Demetrios Endowment fund is a 501(c) (3) organization. Brick orders are tax-deductible. Questions? Please contact Froso Morales at 732-826-4466

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### **Good Friday Services and Procession**

Father George Parsenios held a solemn, beautiful Service and Holy Procession with our Epitaphio which was well attended by our faithful parishioners and their families.





## Anastasi - Ανασταση του Χριστου

### Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Χριστος ανεστη! Αληθως ανεστη!

Father George Parsenios proclaimed "Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!" as the "light" was shared among the faithful at our Anastasi Service. The entire congregation joined together to sing Christos Anesti as each candle was lit throughout the Church and carried outdoors to announce the Good News through prayers, chants and singing of hymns.







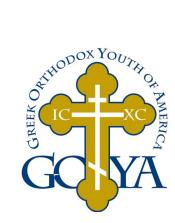


Saint Demetrios parishioners participate in the "Spirit of Lent" concert at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wyckoff, New Jersey, as members of the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. Pictured left to right are Mrs. Tzitzis, Mrs. Pakis, Mrs. Khalil, Mrs. Ahladianakis and Mrs. Kyriakatos.

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# G.O.Y.A. News



Now that Sights and Sounds are over, the Goya is preparing for Indoor and Outdoor Olympics. Indoor Olympics were started by our Perth Amboy Church and we continue to host the event. During the day of long competitions, Goyans play table tennis, badminton, chess, checkers, backgammon and two Wii games. Outdoor Olympics is a two-day overnight competition where Goyans throughout New Jersey compete in volleyball, swimming, shotput, softball throw, track events and more. On May 4th, the

G.O.Y.A. will be attending Cherry Hill's sports-themed dance. For the second year in a row, we are planning a G.O.Y.A. Summer Camp Week. To help support our events, the G.O.Y.A. is running a fundraiser for a chance to win Taylor Swift Concert tickets. Each raffle ticket is only \$10. The winner will win two tickets valued over \$200. We are very excited to introduce Dimitri Sousa to our G.O.Y.A. As always, if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our G.O.Y.A. family, please contact our advisors Nick & Cindy at <u>Cynthiagianna@gmail.com</u> or our President, Jadyn Simatos, at 732-354-6721.

Submitted by: Kali Simatos





## SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PERTH AMBOY, N.J.

## **GRADUATION DAY: SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UPCOMING GRADUATES OF HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, ADVANCED DEGREES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY. IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT PREPARING FOR THE "BIG DAY" AT OUR CHURCH.

#### **CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR GRADUATE TO APPEAR IN OUR SAINT DEMETRIOS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHY TO HELEN COUTROS HORAN AT HER EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

helehoran@vahoo.com

PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHY MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AT THE LATEST. ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT HELEN HORAN AT 908-794-3065.

#### PHILOPTOCHOS AWARDS

AS IN MANY YEARS PASSED, THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS WISHES TO HONOR ALL GRADUATES BELONGING TO OUR SAINT DEMETRIOS COMMUNITY. THE PRESENTATIONS OF GIFTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, MAY 20th. IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT, PLEASE HAVE A PARENT OR RELATIVE PRESENT SO AS TO RECEIVE THE GIFT. BE SURE TO RETURN THIS FORM BY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>.

PLEASE MAIL TO HELEN CATELANOS AT 63 STEPHENVILLE PKWY, EDISON, NJ 08820 OR CALL 732-549-0508.

#### SCHOLARSHIP/MEMORIAL AWARDS

KENNETH ARIANAS AWARD: PRESENTED TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES in our Community. BYRON STOIMENIDES AWARD: PRESENTED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES who attended Sunday School through Grade 12.

#### \*\*\* KINDLY COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN BY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>. \*\*\*

FULL NAME OF GRADUATE

TEL.#

☐ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: COLLEGE TO ATTEND

**COLLEGE GRADUATE:** COLLEGE ATTENDED

GRADUTE SCHOOL GRADUATE: COLLEGE ATTENDED

MASTERS

**TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE:** 

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX WHICH INDICATES THE DIPLOMA THE GRADUATE IS RECEIVING AND THE COLLEGE. SCHOOL, DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATION BEING RECEIVED. KINDLY CALL OR RETURN TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR LEAVE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY: \*\*\*\* MAY 10TH \*\*\*\*

GRADUATION PRESENTATIONS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 20th IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL GRADUATION DAY!

MAJOR

DOCTORATE

DEGREE







419 Barclay Street Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861

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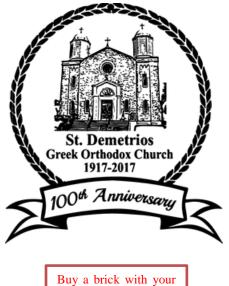
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
oun		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Clergy Laity Banquet	8	9	10	11	12 G.O.Y.A. Indoor Olympics
13 Mother's Day Celebration	14	15	16	17 The Ascension Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	18	19
20 Sunday School Graduation	21 Saints Constantine and Helen Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	22	23	24	25	26 G.O.Y.A. Outdoor Olympics Pastry Booth at City Arts Festival
27 Pentecost	28	29	30	31		

~ Μαϊος 2018~									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
		1	2	3	4	5			
6	7 Clergy Laity	8	9	10	11	12 Ολυμπιακους Αγωνες			
13 Γιορτη της Μητερας	14	15	16	17 Η Αναληψη του Χριστου Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00	18	19			
Κατηχητικο Σχολειο	21 Αγιοι Κωνσταντινος και Ελενη Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00	22	23	24	25	26 Ολυμπιακους Αγωνες			
27 Πεντηκοστη	28	29	30	31					

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St Demetrios G.O.C. 41-47 Wisteria St Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861





family name for our new wall today.

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/

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church 41-47 Wisteria Street Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861

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Rev. George Parsenios Phone: (732) 826-4466 Cell: (609) 462-2949 Fax: (732) 826-4312

E-Mail: <u>fr.georgepar@gmail.com</u>

Visit us at: www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org



#### EASTER SUNDAY

After the Agape Service on Easter Sunday, families joined together on our lawn for the PTO Easter Egg Hunt and found hundreds of filled Easter Eggs, stuffed toys and prizes. The Easter Bunny arrived and delighted all the children with his hugs and Easter surprises. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event which was a huge success!

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