



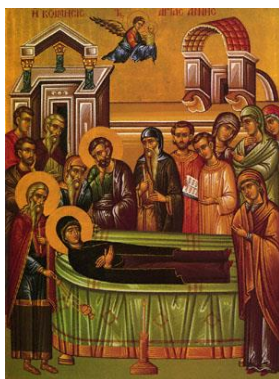
Parish
Newsletter
July/August 2018

Saint Demetrios

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

Rev. George Parsenios

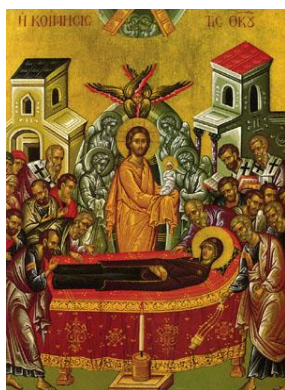
Hours for Service for the summer - Beginning Sunday, June 24, 2018
Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.



July 25, 2018 – The Dormition of Saint Anna, Mother of the Theotokos

According to tradition, Anna, the ancestor of God, lived for sixty-nine years, and her spouse Joachim, for eighty; according to one account, Saint Joachim died two years before Saint Anna. The Theotokos had been orphaned of both her parents already when she was eleven years of age, when she was living in the Temple. Saint Anna is invoked for conceiving children, and for help in difficult childbirth.

August 15, 2018 - The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary



When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, and brought them, at once, to the house of the Mother of God. She blessed the Apostles, and reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God. The Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried her there with honor, the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was

their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

BECOME A SPONSOR

We are searching for business owners and/or individuals to sponsor and support our monthly newsletter which will allow us to continue publishing current news to our Church Community and our surrounding community through our on-line version. If you know of anyone who may be interested in participating as a sponsor, please provide him/her with our Church Office telephone number, 732-826-4466, for further information and details. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated and will allow us to continue providing our newsletter to our parishioners.





Message from Father George

July 2018

When we begin to cultivate our spiritual life, two things are essential. First and foremost, we must be fully committed. We must be determined to turn ourselves away from the things of this world, and toward the things of God. No change will occur without a devotion to change. This is the first thing: to be committed. The second thing is to be realistic. Change is difficult. To alter our lives just a little bit and for just a little while requires great effort. Our habits have been formed over many years, and they do not become new in one day. The monks of the ancient Church would often talk about young monks who came to join them and who would announce very confidently that they intended to fast more than all others, pray more than all others and sleep less than all others, so devoted were they to the monastic life. The older and experienced monks knew what would happen, though. These new monks would soon lose heart and quit. They had set unrealistic goals and would inevitably fail. We must be wise, then, when we try to live a more spiritual life. Do small things. Try to keep the fast on Wednesday and Friday regularly. Try to say a brief prayer each morning and each evening. Make sure to say grace before each meal. Crack the Bible once a day for just a little while. Try to resist those temptations that are part of your everyday life. Be more patient and merciful to the people around you. Select something small, something attainable, and then do it. But do it with zeal and commitment. And the God of light will bless your efforts and show you the path to even greater works.

August 2018

We live in a fallen world. Even when we try to do good, we are trying to do good in a fallen world. This is why even our good works and our desire to draw near to God can often become something selfish that actually turns us away from God. Our good works can easily turn to bad. As St. Paul writes, "I do not do the thing I wish, but I do what I hate" (Romans 7:15). For instance, when we come to Church, this is excellent and essential. But then we start to look around and realize that THIS person or THAT person is not in Church, and we feel that we're special, holier than other people. Instead of drawing closer to the God of love, we are more distant from him. Or we perform some act of charity or generosity, and then we are sure to let everyone know. The very thing that should draw us closer to the God of charity has pushed us deeper into our own selfishness. This does not mean that we should not do good things. We must do even more good works, but we must always recognize that we are doing good in a fallen world. St. Anthony the Great was praying once and saw countless snares and temptations set around him. In despair he asked, "Who can escape these?" Then he heard a voice say, "Humility." When you find yourself seeking praise for your good works, remember the humble road of silence. When you find yourself condemning others for not being as devoted as you are, remember the humble road of service. The very fall of humanity occurred because of a lack of humility. As we try to escape the snares of the fallen world, our only and best weapon is humility.

Update on Progress of Remediation

The Church has been notified that additional work needs to be done next door extending the remediation deadline until at least August 27th.

Our Church leaders are working as hard as possible to get the property ready for our use as parking, rebuilding of the Community Center and, God willing, Pan Orthodox Senior housing.

In the meantime, parking is available on Sundays on the lawn, weather permitting, from the State Street entrance.

We will keep you informed as we learn more news.



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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Truly, I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

We have been through three and a half years of a transformative period of our Church history. We have completely restored our Church to a reverent sanctuary worthy of praising God, the Father and His Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All funding for these projects came from interests, other than the Church treasury. We have enhanced our personnel with a new priest, a full-time sexton, expanded secretarial office hours to provide parishioners with quality services and, did so, within a balanced budget. We have, finally, had our adjoining contaminated property remediated (cleaned up) with NO EXPENSE being paid out by the Church and without a lawsuit. We have had the property declared in need of redevelopment, as is our right under the law; and are preparing to rebuild our community center, and, God willing, a Pan Orthodox Senior Housing. **NONE OF THIS COULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT FAITH.** I ask you now, in the last 6 months of this Parish Council term, to **KEEP BEING FAITHFUL.** We are almost where we can be secure about a bright future. We are advocating every day to get the buildings up and opened. But we are not there yet. **YOUR PRAYERS, SUPPORT AND HELP ARE NEEDED TO GET US TO THE END.**

How can you help?

1. **PRAY FOR and HAVE FAITH IN** the efforts of those Church leaders working on our building plans, while asking for the hearts of those who oppose us to be softened.
2. **INCREASE YOUR DONATIONS NOW** to the Church in stewardship, brick purchases FOR THE OPERATIONS OF OUR CHURCH and remember us in your LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT to enhance our endowment fund.
3. **VOLUNTEER** your services. We need people to help with accounting in the Church office, fundraising to support ads in the Church newsletter and, most importantly, increasing membership.

You may be only one person, but the mustard-size seed moved the mountain!

Hon. Marina Corodemus
 President, Parish Council



Save the Date!

Blessing of the Waters Trip to Asbury Park
 Sunday, September 16, 2018
 Details to follow.



National Philoptochos Award Winner!



After having received two special awards at the Clergy Laity Conference, Ann Michals, President of the Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos, has announced that, our very own, Stella Wacker has been selected as the National Philoptochos AGAPE Award recipient. AGAPE will always be a guiding principle of the work of Philoptochos because it is this same example of AGAPE that has been given to us by the Lord. This high honor will be presented to Stella on Wednesday, July 4, 2018 during the National Philoptochos Convention in Boston. We are all so very proud and grateful to Stella for her unconditional commitment and dedication to her work for our Lord.

Congratulations from all of us! Συγχαρητηρια και παντα αξια!

Sunday School News



A group of happy Sunday School students show their pride as they display their Promotion/Graduation Certificates on Graduation Sunday, May 20, 2018. Our one and only Sunday School Graduate this year is Jadyn Simatos who is standing on the top step, second from the left. Congratulations to all our students and their supportive parents for successfully completing their Sunday School Curriculum goals this year and we look forward to starting our new year in September!



Our Altar Boys were thanked for their dedication to assisting Father George every Sunday.



Our Sunday School "Best Attendance" winners are all smiles.



Sunday School teachers were recognized for their commitment to our Religious Education Program.

G.O.Y.A. News

As we break for the year, and summer lies before us, we wish you all a summer full of adventures that will become treasured memories. On behalf of Nick, Demetra and myself, we have been honored to work with our church's most precious resource, the youth, this year. We look forward to reconvening in September!

Cindy Giannakopoulos



Greek School News



June 10th, 2018 marked the end of yet another school year. This year, we are proud to announce the graduation of one of our students. We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Alexandra Kross, who has worked hard to learn the Greek language. This knowledge will serve her well throughout her life whether it be at school or later on in whatever career she decides to pursue.

We would also like to congratulate each of the children who attend the Greek School for advancing to the next grade and look forward to seeing them again the next school year.

Lastly, once again, we ask each of our Parishioners to please consider sending your kids or grandkids to Greek School. The knowledge they gain will help them throughout their life, along with the added benefit of allowing them to become familiar with their heritage and the Greek

language. We simply cannot let future generations of Greek Americans forget their roots. Please contact the church office at 732-826-4466 to enroll your child. ***May everyone have an enjoyable summer!***

Την Κυριακή, 10 Ιουνίου, 2018 είχαμε την εορτή για την αποφοίτηση των παιδιών του Ελληνικού μας σχολείου. Όλα τα παιδιά ήταν χαρούμενα που εφθασε το καλοκαίρι και τελείωσαν τα μαθήματά τους για την φετινή σχολική χρονιά.

Στην έκτη τάξη εφέτος ήταν η μαθήτρια Αλεξάνδρα Κρόσς που επηρέ το Απολυτήριο από το Ελληνικό Σχολείο. Ήταν πολύ καλή μαθήτρια και προθυμή να βοηθήσει και τα άλλα παιδιά από πιο μικρές τάξεις. Της ευχόμαστε καλή προοδό και εις ανώτερα σχολεία όπως επιθυμεί. Θα μας λείψει πολύ.

Όσοι γονείς θέλουν να γράψουν το παιδί τους για το Σεπτέμβριο παρακαλούμε αυτό να το κάνουν μέχρι τέλος Αυγούστου το αργότερο τηλεφωνώντας στο γραφείο της Εκκλησίας 732-826-4466. ***Σας ευχόμαστε καλό καλοκαίρι.***

Κωνσταντίνος Κακαδελής
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Αλεξάνδρα Βελμαχού
Διδασκαλίσα Ελληνικού Σχολείου



We celebrated the 2nd Anniversary of their beautiful family being with us at



Father George, Presbytera Maureen and Saint Demetrios.



Greek Pastry Booth at the Waterfront Festival




We were able to sell \$1,045 of pastries and drink at the Waterfront festival on Memorial Day. We thank all those who worked with us baking and selling and those who donated towards the expenses. We are in need of paying off the remaining \$25,000 of repairs for the entire Church restoration. The easiest way you can help is to buy a brick and be a permanent part of our Church history. Bricks can be bought by check, credit card or cash. Large bricks are \$350 and smaller bricks are \$150.00. Space is limited but the need to retire the debt is great. Won't you help your Church retire our debt and take your place in our Church history? Please call the Church office today at 732-826-4466.





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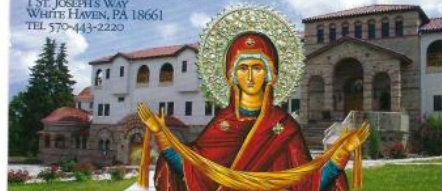


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July 2018 **Ιουλιος 2018**

July 17, 2018 Saint Marina The Great Martyr
Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Η Αγία Μαρίνα η Μεγαλομάρτυς
Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

July 20, 2018 Elias The Prophet
Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Προφήτη Ηλία
Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.



August 2018 **Αυγουστος 2018**

August 1, 2018 Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.
Παρακλησεις της Θεοτοκου 7:00 μ.μ.

August 6, 2018 Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Μεταμορφωση του Σωτηρος
Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.

August 8, 2018 Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.
Παρακλησεις της Θεοτοκου 7:00 μ.μ.

August 13, 2018 Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.
Παρακλησεις της Θεοτοκου 7:00 μ.μ.

August 15, 2018 The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Κοιμηση της Θεοτοκου
Θεία Λειτουργία 9:00 π.μ.



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

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Father of the Year 2018

Our PTO announced the selection of Father of the Year 2018 as our well-deserving, faithful friend, Nick Giannakopoulos, who can be found at our Church very often just being his usual, helpful self. Nick is a wonderful role model for our youth and we are so fortunate for his work with them.

Thank you and congratulations, Nick!