



*Parish
Newsletter
September 2018*

Saint Demetrios

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

Rev. George Parsenios

September 14, 2018

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life - Giving Cross



Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss, which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labor. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.



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.

Save the Date!

*Blessing of the Waters Celebration to Asbury Park
Sunday, September 16, 2018*

Message from Father George



The beginning of September is also the beginning of the new Church Year. The Church does not begin on January 1, but on September 1, following ancient tradition. And, as we stand at a new beginning, it is helpful to look to the beginning of the ministry of Christ, to reflect on what is expected of us.

Every Gospel begins to tell the life of Jesus by describing the ministry of John the Baptist, who is the forerunner of Christ. But the Gospel of John does something unique. In John, the Baptist is more than a forerunner. He is called a witness. And he is not the only witness. Moses is also called a witness. The Scriptures are a witness. Even God the Father is a witness. Indeed, the entire Gospel is cast as the witness testimony of another John, the Evangelist (21:24). The language of witness suggests a legal tone, and is actually an important part of what scholars call the "lawsuit motif" in the Gospel of John. John has cast the entire ministry of Jesus as a trial. Jesus is constantly interrogated and challenged, and other legal terms like judgment or condemnation appear throughout the Gospel. For Jesus' opponents believe that they are gathering evidence and building a case against him that will lead to his crucifixion. But the central irony of the Gospel is that Jesus is not the one on trial. He is the judge. There is certainly a trial taking place, but Jesus is the one conducting it. "The Father judges no one," Jesus says, "but has given all judgment to the Son" (5:22).

It is in his final trial before Pontius Pilate that his role as judge becomes most clear. For, it is here that Jesus is enthroned on his judgment seat as King of the Jews. But he is enthroned in a particular way. A closer look at the Johannine Passion account will make clear the special character of his enthronement.

The other Gospels tell us that Jesus is beaten, crowned with a ring of thorns and clad in a royal robe. Mark's Gospel emphasizes that this is done to mock Jesus for claiming to be a King. The Roman soldiers are having fun with the would-be King of the Jews. John also includes the crown of thorns, the beatings and the royal robes, but he does not call them a mockery of Jesus. John understands the crown of thorns and the purple robe, not as the distorted ridicule of Jesus' kingship, but as its very essence. This is what his kingship entails: to be beaten and to be given a crown of thorns. These are the required tools of his office. This is the kind of King he is.

And then, an even more surprising thing appears to happen. John 19:13 is usually translated as follows: "When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and *sat on the judge's bench* at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha." I have put in italics the phrase "*sat on the judge's bench*," because this typical translation is very likely incorrect. It assumes that Pilate himself sat down to judge Jesus. But it is possible to read the verse slightly differently, so that Pilate sat *Jesus* down on the judge's bench. And, if Jesus is now seated on the judge's bench, we see yet, again, that Jesus is not the one on trial, but the King on his judgment seat. This tribunal is led not by Pilate, but by Jesus, while Pilate and the Lord's accusers are the ones facing a moment of judgment.

And now that he has been invested with the tools of his office, we might expect Jesus to be recognized by his people. A worldly King, for instance, might be greeted with the acclamation "Long Live the King." This is not what we get in John. Instead, when Pilate tells the people, "Here is your King" (19:14), they respond, "Crucify Him!" (19:15). But in keeping with all that we said above, the crucifixion is actually his exaltation. The Gospel of John often refers to the crucifixion of Jesus as his being "lifted up." The Greek verb translated "lifted up" has two senses. The first sense refers to the physical act of his being raised up on the cross. But, the second sense of being "lifted up" implies that he is exalted and elevated in status. Through the humiliation of being lifted up on the cross, therefore, Jesus is really lifted up in royal exaltation. To make this even clearer, John never tells us that Jesus' purple robe was removed before he was crucified. He is crucified with the robe still on his back, suggesting that his crucifixion is his very enthronement. The cross is the throne of his glory. So again, this is not a mockery of his kingly role, but its very essence. He is the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep. This is the kind of King that Jesus is.

And this is also the kind of disciple that Jesus requires. When he washes his disciples' feet in John, Jesus tells the disciples that he has given them an example to follow. But it is not only an example of humble service. The foot washing is a symbolic depiction of his death. For, when he washes his followers' feet, Jesus first *lays down* his outer garments and then *takes them up again*. The phrases given here in italics call to mind what Jesus said a few chapters earlier, that the Good Shepherd *lays down* his life, in order that he might *take it up again*. The parallel phrases - lay down and take up - tell us that, when we see Jesus laying down his garments, we should hear the Good Shepherd speaking of laying down his life. When he washes the disciples' feet, and tells them to do likewise, Jesus is really telling them to lay down their lives for one another, and to take up the cross and follow him. He is telling them that the servant is not greater than the master, and that, if the world hated him, it will also hate them.

The followers of Christ must nevertheless be faithful as they approach and carry the cross, though its burden is sometimes great. For, we do not carry the cross aimlessly. Like John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, we are witnesses to Christ. And we do not carry the cross toward defeat. We carry it toward exaltation, for the Lord has reassured us with the triumphant promise, "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world!" (John 16:31).



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

WELCOME BACK, THE FAITHFUL OF SAINT DEMETRIOS,

September 1st is the beginning of the Orthodox New Year.

Our Church, most appropriately, begins observances with the first major feast of the Orthodox Calendar which is on September 8th, the Birth of the Theotokos, and the last major feast is August 15th, the Dormition of the Theotokos. Our whole year begins and ends with the life of the Theotokos, the woman who contained Christ. Please try to attend these beautiful Feast Day services.

We have a VERY BUSY few months coming up in the later part of 2018:

- **September 16:** Asbury Park All NJ Churches. There will be no Church Services in Perth Amboy.
- **September 23:** Welcome Back PTO Picnic, here at the Church on our lawn. Registration Sunday School, Greek School, G.O.Y.A., HOPE & JOY.
- **October – Stewardship/Membership Month**
- **October 25 and 26:** Saint Demetrios Vespers, Feast Day
- **October 28:** Church dance downstairs in the hall after Liturgy
- **November 23:** General Assembly – nominations for the new Parish Council 2019-2020

Please know that over the summer, we have been working very hard to ensure the finalization of the cleanup of the property next door by Elizabethtown Gas. We are still pursuing the approval process to get the new Community Center, Chapel and Priest's Office built next door. Additionally, we are fighting to have the first Pan Orthodox Active Adult Retirement Housing next door to our Church. We will provide more information about that as approvals are granted.

We have been through difficult times during the cleanup next door, but over the next few years we will, hopefully, reap the benefits of our patience. Thank you for your loyalty in supporting your Church. Please come to the September events with the whole family, for we are one with Christ in His service.

Hon. Marina Corodemus
 President, Parish Council



The Family of Sylvia Kress
 invites the entire Congregation of Saint Demetrios
 to her one year Memorial Service

Sunday, September 23, 2018

A memorial reception will follow Church Services



G.O.Y.A. News

G.O.Y.A. FELLOWSHIP WEEK

Our G.O.Y.A. is very special because activity does not stop in the summer months. Every summer, our group enjoys a week of fellowship to cap off the year. We welcome our new members during this special week and say goodbye to our departing seniors. This year, we began the week by cleaning up and decorating the graves of some of our departed parishioners at the Alpine Cemetery. Our GOYANS visited N.Y.C., Bradley Beach, an escape room and laser tag during the fun-filled week that followed. Our mission as a group continues to be threefold:

1. To educate and immerse the children in our Orthodox religion and Greek culture
2. To do philanthropic work for our Church and surrounding community
3. To provide fellowship activities for our youth

If any teens wish to join us this year, please refer them to Nick and Cindy Giannakopoulos at cynthiagianna@gmail.com. Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a wonderful summer!

SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

"Let us not get tired of doing good. As often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith." Galatians 6:9-10

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer with family and friends, you are rejuvenated, and you are ready to start another year. It is an exciting time to be in our community, and I hope, together, we can participate in the various activities planned for our Church, chapter, community and the Metropolis.

I attended the 43rd Clergy Laity in Boston and spent 4 days with over 400 Philoptochos members across the United States. What an experience to hear what we accomplish not only in this country but across the world. At the convention, National Philoptochos distributed \$340,868 to help those in need across the country and worldwide in many instances. This is in addition to what was distributed so far.

Philanthropy is our mission. I hope to share with you the stories at our first general meeting, and I invite all to join us. Come and hear what we can accomplish and how you can help.

I was Humbled beyond words to be the recipient of the AGAPE award, one of the nine women who were honored at this year's convention. The AGAPE Award Winners are Cassandra Rinaldi, Bessie Papigiotis, Evangeline Bozikis, Cynthia Hackett, Klea Kappos, Assimo Kitsos, Stella Wacker, Kathy Bastas, and Andrea Despina George Tiggas

"She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy." Proverbs 31:20

Wishing all a happy and relaxing rest of the summer. See you in September!

Stella Wacker, President of Philoptochos



Philoptochos Membership Interest Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Areas of interest: _____



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
41-47 Wisteria St. and Sadowski Parkway
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

YOUTH MINISTRIES REGISTRATION FORM 2018 - 2019

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
Parents' Names: _____ Child's grade in School _____
Mother _____ Cell Phone # _____
Email Address _____
Father _____ Cell Phone # _____
Email Address _____
Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone# _____ Relationship _____
Optional: Please advise us of any medical or physical issues that we should know for the safety and well-being of your child. _____

Kindly mark an X in the box/boxes that apply to the child named above.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Youth of Ages 4 to 18. Grades PreK to 12

Children will gain knowledge of our Greek Orthodox faith through interesting lessons with caring teachers, creative projects and activities. HS students will have the opportunity to compete in the Oratorical Festival. Four year olds must be toilet trained and able to sit, listen and attend to the lesson being taught.

- ☐ Enroll my child in SUNDAY SCHOOL which will begin on Sun., Sunday, September 30 @ 11:15 am.
☐ My child will participate in the Sunday School Christmas Pageant to be held on Sun., Dec. 16, 2018
☐ My child will attend the Christmas Pageant Rehearsal on Saturdays., Dec. 1st, 8th, and 15th/ times tbd.

Comments: _____

GREEK SCHOOL. Youth of Ages 5 to 18. Grades K to 12

Children enrolled in our Greek School program will be taught our Greek language in accordance with their ability levels with a certified Teacher of Greek. Please indicate your preference day of week & time _____

- ☐ Enroll my child in GREEK SCHOOL. The tuition fee is \$100 per child. _____

Comments: _____

HOPE (Holy Orthodox Primary Education). Youth in Grades K to 2

Children participating in our HOPE Ministry may take part in Greek Dance, Recreational activities and Community Service projects appropriate for their age level. Greek Dance lessons will take place after Church Services on Sundays for approximately one hour. Please check here if you are interested in Greek Dance ☐

- ☐ Enroll my child in the HOPE Ministry. Meetings/gatherings will be held monthly.

Comments: _____

JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth), Youth in Grades 3 to 6

Children participating in our JOY Ministry may take part in Greek Dance, Recreational activities and Community Service projects appropriate for their age level. Greek Dance lessons will take place after Church Services on Sundays for approximately one hour. Please check here if you are interested in Greek Dance lessons ☐

- ☐ Enroll my child in the JOY Ministry. Meetings/gatherings will be held monthly.

Comments: _____

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America). Youth in Grades 7 to 12

Children participating in our GOYA Ministry may take part in Greek Dance, Recreational activities and Community Service projects appropriate for their age level which will include Sights and Sounds, Indoor Olympics, Outdoor Olympics and Dance Performances at various events. GOYA meetings will be held monthly. Dates will be determined at a later time. Please check here if you are interested in Greek Dance lessons ☐

- ☐ Enroll my child in the GOYA Ministry. Meetings will be held monthly.

Comments: _____

I give permission for my child, named above, to participate in the Ministry/Ministries indicated on this form.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Annual Church Dance

St. Demetrios Church Hall

Sunday, October 28, 2018

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

(Directly after Church Services)

ENTERTAINMENT

Stavros Theodorou Greek Band

MENU

Delicious Hot & Cold Buffet Luncheon

Dessert: Greek Pastries & Assorted Sweets

Cash Bar

(wine & beer, \$3 per glass)

ADULTS: \$25

CHILDREN: \$10 (18 & under)

(under 7, complimentary)

Make reservations early, call Helen 908-794-3065 or Froso at Church, 732-826-4466.

You may, also, bring your checks to our Church Office. Make checks payable to St. Demetrios Church.



Saint Demetrios Bus Trip to Asbury Park to Celebrate

The Holy Cross Celebration and Divine Liturgy

Ἡ Ὑψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS, METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Sunday, September 16, 2018 at the PARAMOUNT THEATER, ASBURY PARK, NJ

Bus departs from Saint Demetrios, Perth Amboy 8:15 a.m. - return 2:00 p.m.

Adults - \$10, under 17- \$5. To make reservations please call the Church Office: 732-826-4466.



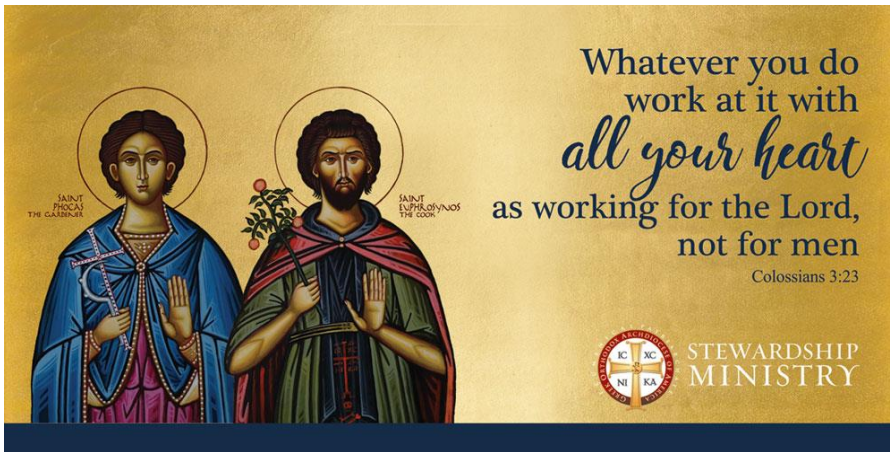
COFFEE HOUR POLICY HOURS

1. We accept coffee hour donations at \$50 per Sunday. You may select from a few very simple menus, Coffee and Danish/Donuts, Coffee and Fruit or Coffee and Rolls. Bagels will have an additional cost. Your name will appear on the table as the sponsor for that particular Sunday.
2. Food fare will be light fare. There will be no lunch offered unless it's for a memorial or special occasions.
3. Coffee hour will be over no later than 2:00 p.m. with a 1:30 p.m. last call. So make your lunch plans then. At 2:00 p.m. the doors will be closed so Ruben can clean up and go home.
4. Each Church group will contribute to staples of paper products, etc. from a central amount to be purchased by Froso or Stella.
5. Parents must be responsible for their children. Children should not be unattended or up in the Church area, in the foyer, elevator room or outside by the street without adult supervision.

LET'S ENJOY FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AT OUR COFFEE



Stewardship



We thank our stewards who have made their commitment for 2018. Your Stewardship gift is an important way of offering gratitude to God, and it is essential to the ministries of our Church Family. Make your stewardship commitment today by filling out a stewardship card or calling the Church office. In making your commitment, please be aware that it takes approximately \$1,200 per family to cover the operating expenses of our beloved, Saint Demetrios Church.

Your stewardship is a tangible expression of heartfelt gratitude to God. Consider that our

very existence, all that we have, all that we are, and all that we do are gifts from God. We are called to be co-workers with God in the ministry of His Church. Financial stewardship is one of the primary ways by which we offer our thanks to God for His Blessings.

All commitments of stewardship are truly appreciated. We are confident that you will do your best to honor and support our House of Worship and we thank you very sincerely.



Thank you to all our 2018 Stewards. We have a total of 150 paid Stewards with an average contribution amount of \$367 per family. We have collected \$54,625 up to date with a budget of \$330,000.

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Kaidas, Ted

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
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LM. Arlene Erenic
THE GUSTOLOGY



September – 2018 - Σεπτέμβριος

September 9, 2018	PTO General Meeting
Σεπτεμβριου 9, 2018	Γενικη Συνελευση του Συλλογου Γονεων και Διδασκαλων
September 14, 2018	Elevation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Σεπτεμβριου 14, 2018	Η Υψωσις του Τιμιου Σταυρου Θεια Λειτουργια 9:00 π.μ.
September 16, 2018	Holy Cross - Asbury Park Celebration
Σεπτεμβριου 16, 2018	Εορτασμος του Τιμιου Σταυρου στο Asbury Park
September 23, 2018	PTO Welcome Back Picnic
Σεπτεμβριου 23, 2018	Καλως ηλθατε Πικνικ του Συλλογου Γονεων και Διδασκαλων
September 30, 2018	First Day of Sunday School
Σεπτεμβριου 30, 2018	Πρωτη μερα του Κατηχητικου σχολειου



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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stdgoa@gmail.com

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Cell: (609) 462-2949
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G.O.Y.A. Advisors, Nick and Cindy Giannakopoulos, along with Father George, accompanied our GOYANS on a field trip to New York City.