



Parish
Newsletter
October 2018

Saint Demetrios

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

Hours for Service

Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

October 26, 2018 - The Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, the Myrrh-Streamer 26 Οκτωβριου, 2018 - Άγιος Δημητριος, ο Μυροβλυτης

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 Thessaloniki 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 bathhouse. 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 bathhouse 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 stroke 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 bathhouse, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

Apolytikion of Demetrios, the Myrrh-Streamer

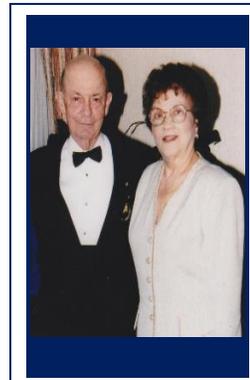
The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to naught the boasts of Lyaeus, imparting courage to Nestor in the stadium, in like manner, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.

BECOME A SPONSOR

A Very Special
"Thank You!"

Tom and Sylvia Kress

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.



We honor their
memory and their
love of our
Church.



Message from Father George

October is the month of Saint Demetrios, and our Parish is reminded every October 26th of our great defender and champion. Saint Demetrios, of course, is first and foremost associated with the city of Thessaloniki, where he was martyred. A wonderful Church honors the great Saint in that city, and all the people of Thessaloniki have known for centuries that St. Demetrios is their defender and patron. In the 14th century, Saint Gregory of Palamas was the Archbishop of Thessaloniki, and he delivered a beautiful homily on Saint Demetrios, explaining that the Christian character of that city is entirely indebted to the legacy of Demetrios. What Palamas says about Thessaloniki is worth remembering, because it applies, also, to us, as well.

Palamas begins his reflections on Saint Demetrios by quoting the phrase from the Bible which says, “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:6, 8).” Saint Demetrios, he says, died in the same way and with the same result. Thessaloniki was not a Christian city when Demetrios was martyred, but after his death it has become a center of piety and Christian devotion. Through his death, Palamas says, the whole city was turned to Christ. No longer do Christians have to hide in fear in secluded spaces, but have filled the city with Churches. No longer do they do they need to share their faith in secret, fearing punishment, but have spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In imitation of Christ, Demetrios died to save his city, and his death is the foundation of that city’s faith. It is also the foundation of the faith of each and every one of us. As we turn to a world that needs the message of the Gospel more than ever, we need to think of ways to die to our greed and to our egotism and to our selfish impulses, and to transform our families and our Parish and our town in imitation of Saint Demetrios, who lived in imitation of Christ.

Memorial Tributes to Tom and Sylvia Kress - Sunday, September 23, 2018

President Marina Corodemus solemnly addressed parishioners in regard to the One-Year Memorial for Sylvia Kress who is considered among the great people of our Church, a Mother of our Church. She came to Perth Amboy after marrying Tom Kress and, together, they became Ambassadors of our Church. Together, they were significant donors and benefactors of our Church. Now, in her bequest, Sylvia was extraordinarily generous to Philotimo and the Church she and Tom loved so dearly. With this in mind, President Corodemus announced that they both will be memorialized as part of our building project with the naming of the "Tom and Sylvia Kress Community Center" to which our parishioners responded with a warm applause. She will introduce a resolution for consideration to the Philotimo Building Group.

Philoptochos President, Stella Wacker, told endearing stories of Sylvia's devotion to Philoptochos which, at times, may have seemed overwhelming but was always well-intended through her deep caring and commitment to accomplishing her goals. Sylvia's devotion to Philoptochos was always unconditional and her generosity to their mission was admirable.

Sylvia's nephew, Simon Bogiages, spoke of Tom and Sylvia's most caring and good-hearted nature. The Church and its parishioners became their family; their children, which is why they were so generous on many levels. They were available to the Church 24/7; all times of the day. He, sincerely, thanked everyone on behalf of the Kress family for recognizing their beloved aunt and uncle on this day.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Faithful of Saint Demetrios Church,

October is Saint Demetrios' month. All efforts and thoughts of this month should be rightfully surrounded by and consumed with, the worship and glory of St. Demetrios and through his intercession, the protection of our Church and people by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Last Christmas, I made a pilgrimage for our Church's 100th Anniversary, to Thessaloniki to visit and worship at the magnificent Church of Saint Demetrios. The stunning architecture and scale of that incredible Church adorned with precious century-old iconography and sacred relics are enough to satisfy any aesthetic-pleasing person. But more so, to realize that you are at the actual tomb of the Great Martyr Demetrios and smell the myrrh emitting from the tomb to this day, along with the bee's wax aroma of hundreds of candles by the faithful, incensed atmosphere, and the intoning of ancient Byzantine melodies, it is was a glimpse into the heavenly realm.

Here in Perth Amboy, centuries after Saint Paul went to Thessaloniki to preach and many hundreds of martyrs later, who sacrificed so we could worship openly and without fear or peril, we still honor Saint Demetrios, Saint Nestor and the God-man they gave up their lives for, Jesus the Christ. I will never forget the last movement of Astrinidis Oratory that was so beautifully performed by the Arcadian Chorale for us last year (<https://youtu.be/VeWaiOaEzqs>). As the two saints were rising into heaven while the chorus sang the Alleluia refrain, it was the closest glimpse of theosis I have experienced.

This October 25th (Thursday, 7:00 p.m.), if you cannot be in Thessaloniki for Vespers, then make sure you are here in Perth Amboy where we do experience the presence of Saint Demetrios, the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and freedom to worship without fear or peril. Many visiting priests will join us for Vespers, followed by a reception by our Philoptochos. On the 26th of October, the Feast Day, Father George will have Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. followed by coffee. The celebration continues on Sunday, October 28th, when directly after the Divine Liturgy, we will have a Family Church Dance downstairs with Live Greek Music by the Stavros Theodorou Band. Call the Church office to reserve your table before we are sold out. This October, PRAY, LOVE, EAT AND DANCE, RIGHT HERE AT SAINT DEMETRIOS IN PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY.

Hon. Marina Corodemus
 President, Parish Council



Greek School News



To our fellow Parishioners,

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Now that fall approaches, it is time for a new Greek School year.

Once again, we would like to ask each of you to sign up your children for Greek School. The new Greek School year began Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. It is important for our young children to learn about their heritage. The Greek heritage is part of each of them, and they will be happy later in life knowing who they are and be proud of where they came from.

Αγαπητοι Γονεις,

Σας πληροφορούμε ότι το Ελληνικό μας σχολείο άρχισε τα μαθήματα την Τετάρτη, 19 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2018 στις 4:30 μ.μ. Ο Αγιασμός για όλα τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου και της Νεολαίας θα γίνει την Κυριακή, 30 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2018, μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία. Παρακαλούμε να εγγραφείτε το παιδί σας το συντομότερο που μπορείτε.

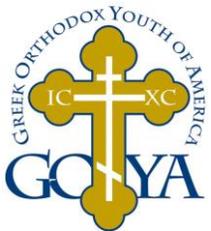
Σας ευχαριστούμε.

Κωνσταντίνος Κακαδέλης
Προεδρος Ελληνικού Σχολείου

Αλεξάνδρα Βελμαχού
Διδασκαλίσα Ελληνικού Σχολείου



G.O.Y.A. News



We have started Greek dance lessons for this year on Wednesday nights with our wonderful dance teachers, George and Despina Markos. George and Despina have been involved in Greek dance for many years. Both were dancers in their own G.O.Y.A. as teenagers. Despina has taught Greek dance for many years plus George is a current member of the Hellenic dancers. In addition to the dance steps, they give us background information on the traditions and culture associated with the dances. We are blessed to have them dedicate their time and effort to our youth. We are always looking for more teens to join our dance group and G.O.Y.A., so if you have any referrals, please ask them to contact our advisors, Nick and Cindy Giannakopoulos.

Cindy Giannakopoulos



Dear Faithful of Saint Demetrios,

Last month, we were witness to the magnificent generosity of **Sylvia and Tom Kress**, of blessed memory, who gave a very **GENEROUS GIFT** financially donated to our Church. This incredible conveyance came at a time when we are at the very beginning of our building project and success of our endowment fund; in short, an answer to our prayers. With this generosity, we will be able to invest in ourselves and **GROW** our money, not simply stockpile it for everyday needs, until it dwindles down to nothing. More importantly, this benevolence should serve as an example for each of us to help our Church and **PLAN** for it from now. Below and attached is some information to help you better understand and, hopefully, encourage you to act like Tom and Sylvia to prepare and care for the future of Saint Demetrios through planned giving. Please read and act to help give to your Church's future and be part of tomorrow for others to enjoy what you have had in your lifetime by simply adding to or creating a will or gift form.

Q. I am considering make a gift to the Church, but I'm not wealthy. Can an average person leave a gift?

A. Definitely! Although very large gifts receive the most publicity, you can leave a gift of any amount. Thousands of Americans leave a retirement plan or life insurance policy to a nonprofit organization or give bequests through their Wills. All gifts are meaningful and greatly appreciated by the Church. These gifts represent a way that your name can be associated with the Church long after you are gone.

Q. Do I have to rewrite my Will to leave a gift to the church?

A. Fortunately, no, you do not need to re-think your entire estate plan in order to leave something to the Church. You can make a gift by listing the Church as the beneficiary on a retirement account or on a life insurance policy you don't need. Also, you can simply ask your attorney to amend your will with a codicil that includes a bequest to the Church so that you don't need to make a whole new Will.

Q. What if I am not sure how much money will be left to give?

A. There are many ways you can make sure you are comfortable with the final amount to be given. You can leave a percentage of your estate, that way you don't have to worry about a specific dollar amount. Also, many people find that leaving all or a percentage of the balance in a retirement plan is a simple and easy way to address this concern. You can also leave any other specific asset, such as a certificate of deposit, securities, or real estate, or name the Church as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy that your family may no longer need.

Q. Can I make a charitable gift that also provides financial security for my future?

A. Yes! You may want to speak with a professional advisor about setting up a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity that will provide an immediate tax deduction plus give you income during your life or the life of you and your spouse. The Church receives your gift after your death.

Q. What if I don't have a Will? Can I still make a Legacy Gift?

A. Yes, you can. It is important to have a Will and you should discuss this with your attorney and/or financial advisor. However, if you decide you don't need a Will, you can make a legacy gift in many different ways. You can list the Church as the beneficiary on a retirement account or a life insurance policy. You can complete a "Gift Form" that instructs the executor of your estate to make a specific gift from your assets.

This is not meant to be legal advice. We suggest you speak with an attorney or financial adviser for your specific questions.



REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH THROUGH PLANNED GIVING
... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....Matthew 6:20 (RSV)



HERE IS A SAMPLE OF THE DIRECTIVE YOU MAY ASK YOUR LAWYER TO INSERT INTO YOUR WILL.

INSURING THAT YOUR WISHES TO INSURE THE FUTURE OF YOUR CHURCH AND/OR THE BUILDING PROJECT NEXT DOOR* WILL SUCCEED BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY. ALL DONORS NAMES WILL BE MEMORIALIZED.

I give and devise to _____:

SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY of a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, OR **THE PHILOTIMO HOUSING COPORATION***, A non-for profit 501(c)(3) organization,

Select one of the following A or B.

A. the sum of _____ or

B. the following property _____ (describe property and location)

Then select one of the following clauses to be used at the discretion of the governing board according to the organization's policies and procedures or

B. to be used by them for the following purpose: _____.

This is not legal advice. You should check with your lawyer when planning or changing your Will for a full explanation or questions you may have.



A SUNDAY SCHOOL MESSAGE



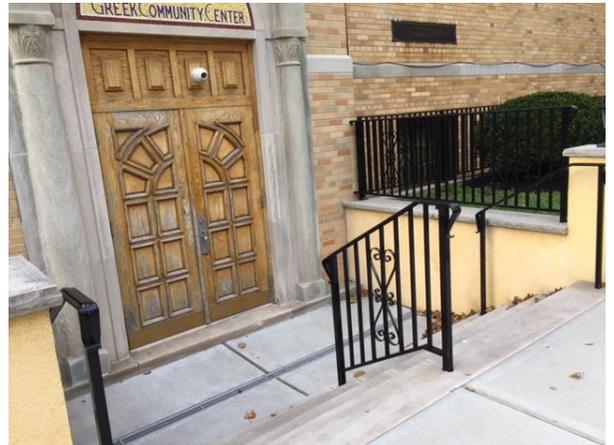
Our Sunday School Curriculum Program introduces our children to our Greek Orthodox faith, beliefs, traditions and customs with lessons that include learning prayers, participation and correct practices in the Divine Liturgy, the Life of Jesus, The Holy Trinity, Bible Stories, Holy Sacraments, our Saints, our Feasts and special Holy Days, to name a few topics. Our curriculum books and materials utilized are those published by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Department of Religious Education.

The vitally important connection to our religion and faith assists the children and their families in developing their spiritual growth together. Teachers are sensitive to their roles in this process which must be a partnership with the home and family.

It is our belief that Sunday School provides the children with the pillars of our faith, the Christ centered inner peace and well being which will become the guidance and reference that they may come to rely upon as they face the trials and tribulations of their growth and development in the challenging society of today.



Parishioners enjoy the PTO Welcome Back Picnic buffet offered with compliments of our PTO Parents and Friends.



With concern for the safety and well-being of all our Parishioners, the railings on the side entrance on Wisteria Street have been replaced with beautiful, sturdy, black wrought iron railings.



Remembering and Thanking a Generous Parishioner and Dear Friend

Sylvia Kress

Now that it is the one-year anniversary of Sylvia Kress' passing, her presence in our beloved Saint Demetrios Church is still keenly felt. We still sense her in the Narthex, we still envision her preparing endless pans of baklava in the community center. We still feel her amongst us preparing the Church for Easter services. Her faith and belief in tradition was outstanding.

Sylvia came to us about fifty plus years ago newly married to our dear friend, Tom Kress. She was young, pretty, friendly and anxious to quickly become a part of our community. Sylvia immediately became active in all our activities. Those of us who came to know her well, knew that she missed her family and Church in Boston, but was determined to be a part of our Saint Demetrios Church.

Sylvia immediately joined the Philoptochos and became a truly dedicated and hard worker that in just a few short years became president of the organization. Sylvia was dedicated to the ideals of Philoptochos... a friend to the poor, kind, supportive and caring for the elderly and the ill. Sylvia was always concerned for our sick members making telephone calls and visitations to their homes and hospitals. When our very elderly and sick custodian, Demetri, was in the hospital, she was seen washing his face and physically trying to make him comfortable.

There is so much to say of Sylvia's work for our community. Sylvia was the best fund-raiser. She would pick up the phone and make dozens and dozens of calls and visit restaurants, diners, jewelry stores and prominent individuals. Sylva, without exaggeration, raised thousands of dollars.

More importantly, her love of her Church dominated her life. She had often been known to say, "Going to Church every Sunday is a beautiful and meaningful habit, and if the habit is kept, it gives one comfort and security." Another Christian attribute Sylvia had was generosity. Sylvia gave willingly, whenever and wherever needed, quietly and with dignity.

Those of you who only lately came to know Sylvia missed knowing her in her lovely youth, smart, alert, aware, energetic and friendly.

It is no surprise that in her passing on to Our Lord, that she remembered in her will, our Saint Demetrios Church, our Philoptochos and those who helped her in her last days, with extreme generosity.

Sylvia and her beloved Tom will always be remembered and their presence in Saint Demetrios will always be felt. They both truly deserve the prayer "May their memory be eternal."

Well done, Sylvia and Tom. Rest in peace!

Helen Catelanos



*Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Annual Church Dance*

Location: Saint Demetrios Church Hall Date: October 28, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (directly after Church Services)

Entertainment: Stavros Theodorou Greek Band

**Menu: Delicious hot and cold buffet luncheon,
Greek pastries and assorted sweets
(Cash Bar: wine and beer - \$3.00 per glass)**

Adults: \$25.00 Children: \$10.00 (7 to 18) (under 7, complimentary)

Please make reservations early.

Call Helen at 908-794-3065 or Froso at the Church at 732-826-4466.

You may also bring your checks to our Church Office.

Make checks payable to Saint Demetrios Church.

OCTOBER IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

This month, we ask **ALL Saint Demetrios Members** to join Co-chairs **Afroula Kanellidis** and **Bob Durso** in a Monthly Membership Drive. Our goal is to add 25 new members by the Feast Day of Saint Demetrios. We each know a lapsed member, new family, or family in another church that may wish to attend Saint Demetrios. Please contact them or call our office with their names.

When asked why Saint Demetrios, Perth Amboy? Here is why:

- New Priest;
- Restored beautiful church with new Byzantine Iconography;
- Debt FREE CONGREGATION;
- New Community Center coming next year;
- Pan Orthodox Retirement Community being built on site;
- Revitalized PTO association.

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

MR. _____ DATE _____
MRS. _____
MISS. _____

RESIDENCE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT) _____ ZIP CODE _____

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E-Mail Address _____ BIRTHDATE MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST OF KIN OTHER THAN ABOVE ADDRESS _____
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October 2018 Οκτώβριος 2018

October 20 – Οκτωβριου 20

Saint Gerasimos – Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Αγιος Γερασιμος - Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 π.μ.

October 25 – Οκτωβριου 25

Saint Demetrios' Vespers – 7:00 p.m.
Μεγας Εσπερινος του Αγιου Δημητριου του Μυροβλυτου 7:00 μ.μ.

October 26 – Οκτωβριου 26

Saint Demetrios – Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Αγιος Δημητριος - Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 π.μ.

October 28 – Οκτωβριου 28

Church Dance - Γλεντι



**The new 100th anniversary wall is now up. 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.

Questions? Please contact Froso Morales at 732-826-4466



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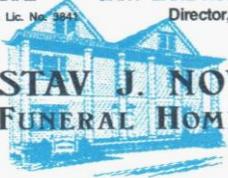
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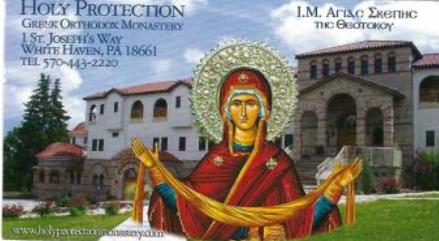
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<http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org/donations/>

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Fax: (732) 826-4312

E-Mail:
fr.georgepar@gmail.com

Visit us at:
www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org



Our Sunday School and Greek School children encourage others to "Join Our Youth Ministries".

Teachers are prepared to begin our religious education classes and to teach the Greek Language through inviting and motivating lessons, craft activities and supplemental events.