



*Parish
Newsletter
November 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.

November 21, 2018 - The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

21 Νοεμβρίου, 2018 - Τα Εισοδια της Θεοτοκου



According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

Apolytikion of Entry of the Theotokos

Fourth Tone

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

Kontakion of Entry of the Theotokos

Fourth Tone

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

A Special THANK YOU



Both Presidents, Marina Corodemus (r) and Stella Wacker (l), of our Parish Council and Philoptochos, respectively, addressed the attendees at our Church Dance. Church President, Marina, commended and congratulated Stella on her numerous years of service as our Philoptochos President. Stella presided over years of events at our Church level, as well as, at the Metropolis level. Receptions, dinner dances, banquets, fund-raisers were all on Stella's list of accomplishments as she procured funds for all the requirements of each Church Philoptochos Society. Many families and agencies were supported by the assistance of our Philoptochos over the years of her presidency and, often, through Stella's own personal expense. Our love and appreciation are extended to Stella Wacker.

Marina announced that both she and Stella are now at the end of their terms and will leave their posts at the end of the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Church President, Marina Corodemus, for her commitment and dedication to the vision for our Church over her four years of service as President. The magnificent renovations, repairs and renewal projects have elevated the majesty of our Church to a reality that was only a dream four years ago. The Iconography project, in itself, has spiritually lifted us to be more faithful and prayerful than ever. Now, she is leading the Building Project next door and, again, we are certain that this dream will come to fruition in the very near future. Marina's expertise and visionary leadership inspired parishioners to reach higher levels of generosity to fulfill these dreams. We extend our deepest appreciation and gratefulness to President Marina!

May both Presidents, Marina and Stella, be blessed with good health, happiness and a future filled with peace, love and joy.



Message from Father George

Father Alexander Schmemmann was one of the great theologians and teachers of the Orthodox Church in the 20th century. He died in December, 1983, and the last Divine Liturgy he celebrated was the one to honor the holiday of Thanksgiving. At that liturgy, he delivered a very fine homily that reminds us to be thankful for all the things that fuel our Orthodox Christian life. The little homily has many virtues, but chief among them is the emphasis on spiritual realities. When we give thanks on Thanksgiving, we are often grateful for a big meal, for health or comfort or other similar things – things that are useful or enjoyable or important for life in this world. These are all good things and I hope you all experience them in great abundance. But Fr. Alexander, also, thanks God for the many great spiritual gifts that lift our thoughts from this world to the next. In order to wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving, I quote part of the homily here:

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy. Thank You, O Lord, for accepting this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, O Lord, for revealing Yourself to us and giving us the foretaste of Your Kingdom. Thank You, O Lord, for uniting us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church. Thank You, O Lord, for helping us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restoring peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the Communion of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestow upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed” (*Luke 10:42*) – Your eternal Kingdom. Thank You, O Lord, for giving us this country where we are free to Worship You. Thank You, O Lord, for this parish, where the name of God is proclaimed. Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children, who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise. Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything. Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles. Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.

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.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Faithful of Saint Demetrios Church,

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Psalm 105

ΕΞΟΜΟΛΟΓΕΙΣΘΕ τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι χρηστός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα

τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ. Ψαλμὸς 105

I ask each of you to remember to give thanks unto our God this month long during this Thanksgiving month. We at Saint Demetrios have SO MUCH for which to be THANKFUL. We have, after 4 years, a beautifully restored Church enhanced with such spiritually moving iconography, functional and pleasing landscaping. We have a new priest with a beautiful family, expanded G.O.Y.A., an all, new PTO umbrella group of youth ministries and in a spotless and debt free community.

As exciting, as all the transformation has been, the best is yet to come and not far away. As you know, the property next door has been fully cleaned and ready for building. As we go to press, we await the last approvals from the City and then move on to State approvals. Only by God's grace and blessings were we able to achieve what we have done and will only through HIS benevolence achieve the buildings we plan. More importantly, the feeling within the Church has transformed from separate groups functioning independently to a united effort of one family striving to stay on the path to salvation.

On November 18, 2018, WE WILL HAVE A General Assembly Meeting. Among other items on the agenda will be the election of a new Parish Council for 2018-2019. Nominations will be taken, qualified and placed on a ballot which will be mailed to the PAID STEWARD MEMBERS. Unfortunately, to date, less than half of the congregation has paid their Stewardship. That means a few have disproportionately paid for the many to keep the Church functioning. I urge you, if you have not paid your Stewardship for 2018 to do so today; any contribution amount is appreciated. Please help pay your fair share. GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR BELOVED ST. DEMETRIOS COMMUNITY.

Hon. Marina Corodemus
 President, Parish Council



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.”



Philoptochos - Vasilopita Sale

From Agia Skepi

\$17.00 each (one size)

Last day to order: December 2nd Pick up date: December 23rd

Please call Marietta Khalil at 732-925-9699

Another year has started and I am looking forward to a year full of activities and sharing our talents. I hope, together, we can participate in the various activities planned for our Chapter and the Metropolis. Let's keep our tradition going!

The next **General Philoptochos** meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 17th** in Church Hall at noon. Please make an effort to join us.

We are collecting food for the Thanksgiving baskets. The following is a list of the items needed:

Beans	Green Beans	Soups
Cake Mix	Hard Candy	Stove Top stuffing
Cereal (Small Boxes)	Jell-O or Pudding	Sweet Peas
Chicken Broth	Mac & Cheese	Tin of Cookies
Coffee	Mashed Potatoes	Tomatoes Paste
Corn Muffin Mix	Pasta (Shells, Spaghetti, etc.)	Tuna Fish
Cranberry Sauce	Pasta Sauce	Whole Kernel Corn
Fruit - Jars/Cans	Peanut Butter	
Gravy	Rice or Orzo	
Frozen Turkeys	Hams (Small Cans)	

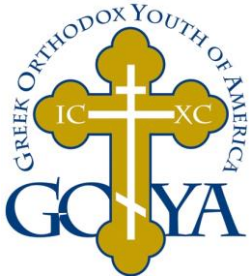
Upcoming Events: **Feast Day for Saints Cosmas and Damianos Tray Collection** – November 4th. These brothers were doctors who dedicated their lives to helping the poor. Donations will go to the National Philoptochos to benefit philanthropic programs and charities.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Please bring your donations prior to November 20th which is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving when the baskets are delivered.

December Vasilopita & Bake Sale: Look for flyers with further information to place orders. Coming soon!



G.O.Y.A. News



G.O.Y.A. is in full swing for the New Year. This year, our group is led by Dean Giannakopoulos; President, Nick Parsenios and Zack Panayi; Co -Vice Presidents, Julia Parsenios: Secretary and Kali Simatos: Historian. We are looking forward to attending the State G.O.Y.A. Bowling Tournament in November. We are, also, preparing a special slideshow on Church History that we are preparing for Coffee Hour on November 25th. We wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving!

Cynthia Giannakopoulos

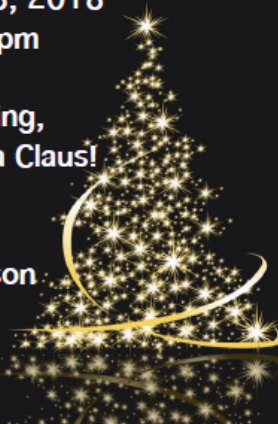


SAVE THE DATE!
PTO CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
Saturday, December 8, 2018
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Prayers, caroling, tree lighting,
a "Cookie Reception" with Santa Claus!

Everyone is welcome to join us
in "lighting up" the Holiday Season
together as a Church Family.

Please save the date & join us!





Saint Demetrios Vespers and Divine Liturgy were celebrated



The Feast Day of our Patron Saint, Saint Demetrios, was celebrated with Thursday night Vespers and Friday morning Divine Liturgy services. Father George and visiting Priests praised God and thanked God for our Saint whose memory is made present to us through their beautiful chanting and sensing of the entire Church. A magnificent procession was made throughout our Church by worshipping, chanting, singing and carrying the Holy Icon of Saint Demetrios adorned with flowers before the entire Congregation of the faithful. Our Philoptochos



Society hosted receptions with coffee and desserts after Vespers, as well as, after Divine Liturgy services where our parishioners enjoyed fellowship and friendship.



Saint Demetrios Annual Church Dance

Parishioners of all ages enjoyed our Annual Church Dance. Father George opened the event with a special blessing and President Marina welcomed everyone. A bountiful buffet menu that was entirely donated fulfilled everyone's appetites. Music was provided by the Stavros Theodorou Greek Band that inspired dancing and singing-along for hours on end. Several donated Gift Baskets were raffled to the delight of the winners. President, Marina Corodemus, presented a 360° video of the interior and exterior of our Church property. It was a wonderful, well-attended event that provided time to relax and enjoy each other's company in a social atmosphere. There were numerous requests to do this more often!





Greek School News



To our fellow Parishioners,

The Greek School year is underway. Our students are learning about their heritage and language which will stay with them their entire lives.

It's not too late to enroll your children so they can learn and understand where they came from, and make some friends with other children from our Parish as well.

Αγαπητοι Γονεις,

Με χαρα καλωσοριζουμε τα παιδια στο Ελληνικο Σχολειο για τη φετεινη χρονια, και ειμαστε χαρουμενοι να σας πληροφορησουμε οτι εχουν εγγραφει δεκα παιδακια.

Χαιρομαστε τους γονεις που φερνουν το παιδια στο Ελληνικο Σχολειο και θελουν να μαθουν και να ομιλουν την Ελληνικη γλωσσα. Ευχομαστε και αλλοι γονεις να μιμηθουν το παραδειγμα τους και να προσπαθουν οσο δυνατο να τα φερνουν στο Ελληνικο Σχολειο.

Σας ευχαριστουμε.

Κωνσταντινος Κακαδελης
Προεδρος Ελληνικου Σχολειου

Αλεξανδρα Βελμαχου
Διδασκαλισσα Ελληνικου Σχολειου

HOPE & JOY Begins with Smiling Faces!



Our HOPE & JOY children from Kindergarten to Grade 6 began their first session of the year with smiling faces! They created Fall Crafts and had Greek Dancing lessons. The Adviser, Kally Durso, has many creative ideas for each month, plus, our GOYA members, Kali Simatos and Julia Parsenios, have agreed to be the Dance Coaches for our youngsters. The next session will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2018 after Church Services.

Choir Appreciation Ceremony



Father George conducted a ceremony to honor our Saint Demetrios Church Choir on Sunday, October 28th. Each Choir member was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and gift to demonstrate our gratitude for their service every Sunday, under the direction of Irene Pakis. They add a deeper spiritual meaning of our Divine Liturgy through their melodious voices and hymns. May they all continue to serve our Lord through their talents and commitment to our Church for many years to come.



November PTO Membership Drive!



As we are now underway for an exciting Church School year, we are calling for PTO members to become official PTO voting members for a token membership of \$2.00 and attending at least 3 PTO meetings during the year!

PTO Membership:

1. Any member of the teaching staff of either Church School shall be considered a member of the PTO.
2. All parents/grandparents/custodians/guardians of children attending either Church School shall be considered members of the PTO.
3. Any other interested member of the Parish may be a member.
4. Dues are set by the Executive Board of the PTO.
5. Only official members who have paid dues and attended at least 3 meetings are voting members.
6. A vote shall not be taken unless there are 25% of official members present.

Sunday, November 11, 2018, please join us at our next PTO General Meeting after coffee hour to plan for the *December 16th Christmas Party with Santa* for the children! We hope you will attend and become an official PTO voting member as well. \$2.00 annual dues can be given at the meeting and anytime in November to Froso Morales or a PTO Executive Committee member.

Diana Regan

PTO President



The Making of Koliva is a True Blessing

Quoted in John's Gospel, we find this quote, "Christ said, 'Unless a wheat grain falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'" (John 12:24). As Orthodox Christians, we are awaiting the Second Coming and the General Resurrection of the dead. Through Christ we have Life! However, remembering the memory of our deceased beloved ones is an opportunity to pray for the souls of the departed, as well as, a way to help us heal from the death.

The first time I, Elaine Vlahos, helped my mother make Koliva, I was 16 years old -- it was for my father's 40-day memorial. Although, I did not realize at the time, it was the beginning of my awareness of how important it is to have compassion for people who lose their loved ones. When I hand craft each cross, letter and medallions that are placed on top of each Koliva, I feel a sense of peace. I am blessed to have this opportunity to provide this very important service.

Prior to boiling the wheat, the following prayer is said; *"Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Give rest, O God, to your servants and place them in Paradise, where the choirs of the Saints and the just, O Lord, shine like stars. Give rest to your servant who has fallen asleep, overlooking all of their transgressions."* Once the prayer is said, the wheat can then be boiled.

The boiled wheat is then placed on white linens to dry overnight and to insure the wheat dries properly; the white linens are changed (these white linens are only used for the preparation of Koliva). Once the wheat is dried, the following prayer is said; *"For you, O Christ our God, you are the resurrection, the life and the repose of your departed servants, who have fallen asleep and we glorify together with your eternal Father and your all Holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."*

Early Sunday morning before the Divine Liturgy, Joanne Kusulas and I arrive to assemble the Koliva onto the tray which is placed on the Memorial Table. Once the memorial service is completed, we package the Koliva into individual bags; place the bags on a tray which is brought upstairs to the parishioners. Although preparing each tray of Koliva is a timely process, giving back to Saint Demetrios' parishioners is humbling, a great honor and a true blessing.

Respectively Yours,
Elaine Vlahos





November - 2018 - Νοεμβριος

November 11 – Νοεμβριου 11

PTO General Meeting, after Church Services

Γενικη Συνελευση του Συλλογου Γονεων και Διδασκαλων, μετα την Θεια Λειτουργια

November 17 – Νοεμβριου 17

Philoptochos General Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Συνελευση της Φιλοπτωχου στις 12:00 το μεσημερι

November 18 – Νοεμβριου 18

General Assembly Meeting and Parish Council Nominations for 2019-2020

Γενικη Συνελευση και Υποψηφιότητες του Εκκλησιαστικου Συμβουλιου 2019-2020

November 22 – Νοεμβριου 22

Thanksgiving Day - Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Η Ημερα των Ευχαριστιων - Θεια Λειτουργια 9:00 π.μ.

November 25 – Νοεμβριου 25

G.O.Y.A.'s Church History Presentation

Παρουσιαση της Εκκλησιαστικης Ιστοριας



**The 100th anniversary wall is 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 Saint 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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*Holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ God
for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.*