



*Parish
Newsletter
January 2019*

Saint Demetrios

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

Hours for Service

Orthros: 9:00 a.m.

Ορθρος 9:00 π.μ.

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00 π.μ.

January 6 – The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

6 Ιανουαρίου – Τα Άγια Θεοφάνεια



About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Apolytikion of Holy Epiphany (First Tone) - Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You,

calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Kontakion of Holy Epiphany (Fourth Tone) - You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

Architectural Renderings of our Building Project





Message from Father George

The month of January marks the beginning of the New Year, and it also marks the beginning of the ministry of Christ in his baptism, which we celebrate on January 6 in the Feast of Theophany. The word Theophany means “divine revelation,” because in the baptism of Christ, all three persons of the Trinity were revealed. St. Nikolai Velimirovich describes this divine revelation as follows, for all of our benefit:

When the Lord Jesus had lived for thirty years from His birth in the flesh, He began His teaching and saving work. He marked this beginning by His Baptism in the Jordan. St Cyril of Jerusalem says: 'The beginning of the world - water; the beginning of the Gospel - the Jordan.' At the Baptism of the Lord in the water, that mystery was revealed to the world that was predicted in the Old Testament ... the mystery of the Holy Trinity of God. The Father revealed Himself to the sense of hearing, the Spirit to the sense of sight and the Son, even beyond these, to the sense of touch. The Father gave His testimony of the Son, the Son was baptized in the waters and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, hovered over the waters. And when John the Baptist bore witness of Christ and said: '*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*' (Jn. 1:29), and when he immersed the Lord in the Jordan and baptized Him, both the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were revealed to us. That is to say: Christ takes upon Himself the sin of the whole human race. He dies under it (the immersion) and rises again (the coming up out of the water), and we must die to the old, sinful man and rise again, cleansed, renewed and re-born. Here is the Saviour and here is the way of salvation. The Feast of the Theophany is also called the Illumination, for in the Jordan there is given to us an illumination, revealing God to us as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. That is one thing. And the other is that each of us baptized in the water is illumined by the Father of lights, through the merits of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

January - 2019 - Ιανουαριος

January 1, 2019

The Circumcision of the Lord and the Feast of Saint Basil the Great

Divine Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.

Ιανουαριου 1, 2019

Η Περιτομή του Χριστου και η Εορτη του Αγιου και Μεγαλου Βασιλειου

Θεια Λειτουργια - 9:00 π.μ.



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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Faithful of Saint Demetrios Church,

2019 BETTER THAN EVER

By God's grace, we will start to rebuild next door to our Church in 2019 on the lot located between Linden Street, Sadowski Parkway and Wisteria St. On the 1st floor, St. Demetrios plans to build; a new community center, a Chapel dedicated to Panagia and a Priest's office. Floors 2, 3 and 4 will have market rate condominiums for sale providing for the concept of a Pan Orthodox Retirement Community of active adults 55 and older. (By Federal Law, no discrimination is permitted). However, these units offer onsite worship to keep the Holy Hours and will never be closed to worshipers.

After over a decade of wrangling with Elizabethtown Gas, a settlement was reached in 2015 and approved between the Saint Demetrios Community and Elizabethtown Gas, corporate successor to the prior gas works buried under our property adjoining where the 1979 Community center was erected.

After nearly 1 1/2 years of efforts, St. Demetrios has received final approvals by Perth Amboy City officials and now the Philotimo Housing Corporation, a volunteer, not-for-profit corporation, which is working to obtain State approvals.

On page one, there are architectural renderings of the project as it appears next to the Church. More details and information will be forthcoming as future approvals are obtained.

With proper planning and God's benevolence, Orthodox Christians can spend their "golden years" surrounded by their Church that loves them and cares about them.

Hon. Marina Corodemus
 President, Parish Council

Hope and Joy News

The next Hope & Joy event is scheduled for Sunday, January 13, 2019, so please save the date. Once again, the students will engage in an arts and crafts activity, as well as, participate in Greek dance lessons. I hope to see all the students there.

Happy New Year!

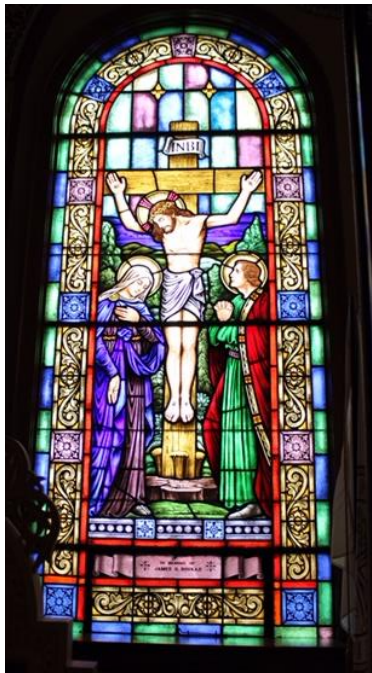
God Bless,
 Kally Durso

Parish Council Member
 Hope & Joy Facilitator



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

On Sunday, November 25th, our G.O.Y.A. presented "Reflecting On Our Windows"; A G.O.Y.A. Church History Presentation and Tribute to our Founding Church Families. The presentation highlighted each window by giving the biblical background about each piece, as well as, some details about the family that originally contributed to the particular window, plus the families who contributed to the restorations of that window. In attendance were Ken Doukas and Steve and Connie Arianas, representing the Doukas and Arianas families who were original donors. They were very pleased with the G.O.Y.A.'s efforts to learn about our Church history and their thoughtfulness in creating this meaningful program. Through their preparations and research, our GOYANs gained a great appreciation for the efforts of our early parishioners in establishing our beloved Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.



Joyful Dancers

Our G.O.Y.A. Greek Dancers joyfully danced to the delight of all our PTO Christmas Party attendees who were amazed at the skills and agility displayed in their performance. Dressed in traditional Greek costumes, our dancers were proud to demonstrate our traditional Greek dances and seemed to enjoy every minute. Although they are not a large group, their commitment to each other and the friendships formed outweigh their size. We would like to sincerely thank them and their coaches, George and Despina Markos, for their willingness to entertain us on this special occasion.





JOY TO THE WORLD



In celebration of the miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, our Sunday School and Greek School students performed a wonderful program under the direction of Helen Catelanos. Students recited spiritual and joyful poems in Greek and English, narrated the magnificent events that led to the birth of Jesus and all those who came to witness our Savior in the tiny town of Bethlehem. Afterwards, our precious students who were dressed in costumes walked down the center aisle and created a beautiful Nativity scene. The entire congregation sang Christmas caroles together. It was a joyful, memorable event that is bound to be remembered by everyone for many years to come.

After the beautiful readings and pageant performed by the children, everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party sponsored by our PTO in our beautifully decorated community center. While all enjoyed a delicious luncheon, our Saint Demetrios dancers entertained with their performance of several wonderful, traditional Greek dances. Later, to everyone's surprise, Santa came to visit from the North Pole and stayed to take pictures and give gifts to the children! Thank you all for sharing in this wonderful occasion and to all who helped to make this day very special for everyone. On behalf of the PTO, may everyone's Christmas be filled with joy and love.





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."

Happy and Healthy New Year to Everyone!

A big thank you goes out to all who baked and supported our December Bake Sale. Your contributions are always greatly appreciated.

Please mark your calendars:

- On **January 6, 2019**, the Philoptochos will host a **Vasilopita Brunch** following the **Epiphany Services and the Blessing of the Waters** (please refer to the ad below for more details). Vasilopita will be cut and distributed amongst the organizations of our Church, as well as, to members of the community. All proceeds will go toward **Saint Basil's Academy**.
- On **January 19, 2019**, there will be a Philoptochos **General Meeting** in the Church Hall at 12:00 p.m. We would love to add new members to this worthy organization. Please join us!

In Christ,

Stella Wacker, Philoptochos President

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint Demetrios Church



present our annual Vasilopita brunch

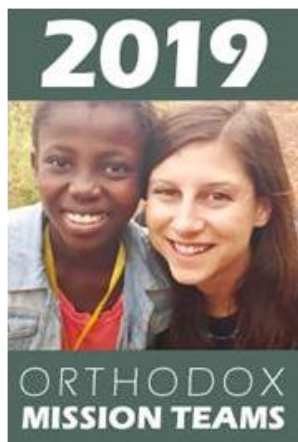
Sunday, January 6, 2019

following the Epiphany Services and the Blessing of the Waters

Proceeds to benefit Saint Basil's Academy. It is our wish to see all members of our Saint Demetrios community participate as one loving family in the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year sharing the blessings and the celebration of this special day together.

For reservations, please call Mary Lou Rivera at 732-742-0722 or Marietta Khalil at 732-925-9699.

Ticket prices: \$15.00 for 13 and over and \$7.00 for 12 and under.



Rejoice in the Name of the Lord! The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Orthodox Mission Teams

OCMC Mission Teams need qualified volunteers for 2019. There are openings for volunteers in Albania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden, Alaska and more. Details are available on the OCMC website: https://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx. Please consider these opportunities to share in a journey of faith.

Open Mission Teams: Current Mission Team opportunities are listed below. Share in a journey of faith as an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team member. Apply today!

3/1/2019 to 3/10/2019 Youth Work in Albania

Register at: <http://www.ocf.net/events/real-break-albania-2019/>

6/18/2019 to 7/1/2019 Youth Work in Shen Vlash

If you are interested, please contact Judge Marina Corodemus mc@ccadr.com, the OCMC Ambassador for Saint Demetrios to obtain further information. Make your summer count for more than just time off.



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Merry Christmas!