



*Parish
Newsletter
April 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.

April 28 - Great and Holy Pascha

28 Απριλίου - Άγιο Πάσχα



Τη Κυριακή του Πάσχα εορταζουμε την Ανάσταση του Ιησού Χριστού. Είναι η μεγαλύτερη εορτή της Χριστιανοσύνης. Αποτελεί το κέντρο της ζωής, της πίστεως, της χαράς, της ελπίδος και της αγάπης των πιστών. Ο θάνατος του Ιησού Χριστού πάνω στο Σταυρό δεν είναι μια αποτυχία που αποκαταστάθηκε καπώς μετά την Ανάστασή του. Ο ίδιος ο θάνατος πάνω στο Σταυρό είναι μια νίκη. Η νίκη της οδυνημένης αγάπης. «Κραταία ως θάνατος αγάπη...ύδωρ πολυ ου δυνήσεται σβεσαι την αγάπην» (Ασμα Ασμ. 8, 6-7). Ο Σταυρός μας δείχνει μιαν αγάπη που είναι δυνατή σαν το θάνατο, μιαν αγάπη ακόμη πιο δυνατή.

Καλή και ευλογημένη Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή.

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these glad tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions. Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

Palm Sunday Fellowship Luncheon hosted by Saint Demetrios' Philoptochos

On April 21, 2019 (following Church Service)

Menu: Fish, Fasolia, Salad and Skordialia

Children under 10: Pasta Dish

Adults: \$20.00 and Children under 10: \$5.00

Must RSVP by April 14, 2019

For reservations and information, please contact: Afroula Kanellidis or Irene Pakis

Please make checks payable to: Philoptochos of Saint Demetrios

Καλή Ανάσταση και Καλό Πάσχα

*Please
Join Us*



Message from Father George

On April 28, 2019, we celebrate the feast of feasts, the Holy and Great Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord. We will be coming out of the Great 40 day fast and our celebration is at hand. We can understand how the fasting of Lent leads into the feasting of Pascha if we hear the words of Saint Gregory the Theologian, who writes, "Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. Therefore, let us offer to Him – you may think that I am going to say gold or silver or costly stones, the mere passing material of earth possessed by slaves of the world – but let us offer ourselves, the possession most precious to God. Let us give back to the Image what is made in the Image." We were made in the Image of the immortal God. The Fall of Adam separated us from God, while the Resurrection of Christ returns us to our original splendor. Let us, therefore, offer to God lives that reflect this splendor and lives which are made anew in the Resurrection.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

"She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy." ~ Proverbs 31:20

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of **Anne Michals**, the Executive Board Member and the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos. Hardworking and dedicated to philanthropic causes, as well as courageous and always faithful, Anne was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. May her memory be eternal.

Orders for Tsoureki bread from Agia Skepi will be accepted until Sunday, April 7, 2019. Each Tsoureki (one size) will be in the shape of a braid and cost \$12.00. Please see Marietta Khalil to place your orders.



Those interested in assisting with the preparation of **Palm Crosses**, please join us on **Thursday, April 18, 2019**, downstairs in the Church hall, at 10:00 a.m.

On **Sunday, April 21, 2019**, the Philoptochos will host the **Palm Sunday Luncheon**, which will follow Church Services and be held in the Church hall. Since our Palm Sunday coincides with American Easter this year, it is very important to know how many individuals will be in attendance for the Luncheon. Therefore, please contact either Afroula Kanellidis or Irene Pakis for reservations **no later than April 14, 2019.**

Thank you for your continued support.
In Christ, Stella Wacker

Saint Demetrios' videos are available to view on our Church's website, www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org under the 100th Anniversary tab:

- ◆ The Arcadian Chorale
- ◆ Hierarchical Liturgy

Also, you can view the following YouTube videos of our Church:

- ◆ Welcome to Saint Demetrios, Perth Amboy, NJ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaB5oCwvx_0
- ◆ 100th Anniversary Slideshow https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evg_P3cn-0k&feature=youtu.be



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2019-2020

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NEWSLETTER

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Helen Coutros Horan

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dearest Parishioners of our Saint Demetrios Church,

Lent is a time of reflection to find ways that we can become more like Christ and grow closer to God. One way that, I believe, brings us closer to God is our centuries-old tradition of lighting a candle. Whether it's a child lighting a candle for the first time or parishioners of any age, we all demonstrate our love of our God, Lord Jesus Christ, love of our Church and love of each other. This tradition binds us and holds us closer together in our faith through this deep, rich tradition that has been symbolic throughout our lives as Greek Orthodox Christians. The power of this one simple gesture of love is significant and truly magical, particularly, at this time of year. Families join together in this same tradition whenever we enter our Church. We make the sign of the Cross, light a candle, say a prayer and give a special offering. It is an endearing and precious moment to witness as we all transcend our everyday tasks and connect through the lighting of the candles and watch as they burn and bring our prayers up to the Lord. *"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12



As we celebrate the most joyous Feast Day of the Ecclesiastical Year, Easter, Holy Pascha, let us join together with our lit candles, let us sing to and praise our Lord and rejoice in Jesus' Resurrection and the gift of new life for us all. Let us sing out, "Christ is Risen, Truly, He is Risen! Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεστη!"

In HIS Service,

Helen Coutros Horan, Parish Council President

Parish Council News

"Make It Possible"

Within our very first month after the Affirmation Ceremony, our Parish Council met three times to ensure that we have planned goals for our entire year with appropriate activities and events to make them possible. There is much enthusiasm and energy among our team coupled with dedication and determination which I am confident, will result in the betterment of our Church Community through love, gratitude and growth.

We love our Church, we are grateful for this opportunity to serve our Church and we are committed to the growth of our Church. Together, we can make all our hopes and dreams possible. Those who feel this same love and commitment to our Church will be those who make the difference! The contributions of your time, effort and volunteerism are extremely valuable to our success and always appreciated immensely. We look forward to working with each and every one of you!

Our General Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 24, 2019 directly after church services. We hope you plan to attend.

PTO News

Sunday, April 28, 2019 is the Easter Egg Hunt and Visit with the Easter Bunny. Plans were finalized at the PTO General Meeting. This is always a fun event for the children, as well as for the adults. We already have wonderful prizes ready to be hidden! We are graciously accepting donations for this special event. This will help us to off-set some of the cost. Donations can be dropped off at the Church office.



Our Apokriatiko Glendi was celebrated on Sunday, February 24, 2019 with attendees who enjoyed a variety of delicious appetizers, a hot and cold buffet and an array of desserts all of which were donated by our parishioners. Toddlers, teenagers, small children, families along with adults of all ages joined together in dancing and participating in a Glendi masquerade parade that circulated throughout the hall with instruments and noisemakers. Our G.O.Y.A. dancers entertained everyone with several traditional Greek dances dressed in traditional Greek customs. Their performances received rave reviews by an appreciative audience who cheered and applauded for them enthusiastically. They were wished good luck and good fortune by their families and friends through our traditional Greek gesture of proudly showering them with dollar bills as they performed. It was a happy, joyful environment enjoyed by everyone who participated. All donors and sponsors are sincerely thanked for making this event possible.



Sunday School News



Our Sunday School is inviting all children to make their very own, uniquely decorated Palm Crosses on Sunday, April 14, 2019 during class time at 11:15 a.m. Kindly bring your children to Church for this special activity. The Crosses will be blessed by Father George and distributed to each child on Palm Sunday. Please don't miss this event that is truly a favorite of our boys and girls. All children of our Church Community are cordially invited to attend.



G.O.Y.A. News



On March 2, 2019, our Goyans competed in Sights and Sounds in Westfield. We are proud to say that although our G.O.Y.A. group is small, we placed very well! Dean Giannakopoulos placed first in Decoupage and had an Honorable Mention in Recycled Art. Kali Simatos had two Honorable Mentions; one in Ceramics and one in Original Design on an Object. Dean and Kali, also, had an Honorable Mention in Dramatic Pairs. In the coming month, we will be



participating in Lenten activities. We wish to thank our Dance Coaches, George and Despina Markos, Callie Vosinas, and Helen Catelanos for all their assistance and guidance. Also, thank you to all of you for your continued support, especially, by making our Spaghetti Luncheon a special event with your presence.

Nick and Cynthia Giannakopoulos - G.O.Y.A. Advisors



A.



B.



C.



D.

A. Kali & Dean performed a Dramatic Pair skit portraying "Ricky & Lucy" as they prepared for the birth of their first child. **B.** Dean's 1st place award for Decoupage. **C.** Additional submissions of our Goyans' "Sights". **D.** Kali's Honorable Mention for Ceramics.



HOPE AND JOY MINISTRIES

Encouraging our children to celebrate our Orthodox Faith and Greek Heritage!!

On Sunday, March 10, 2019, the Hope Ministry students were taught a lesson on how to observe Great Lent. They created a poster on what to do less of during Lent and what to do more of during Lent. The students were engaged and had a fun time. While the Hope Ministry students were creating their posters, the Joy Ministries students were engaging in Greek dance lessons taught by Kali Simatos. Then, the groups switched activities. We had 10 students in attendance: Milo, Lucas, and Zoe Kanellidis, Luka Simatos, Nikolas Morales, Claire Veiga, Jaceir and Jacob Kanellidis, and Angelo and Petros Tsivelis. Our next Hope and Joy Ministries event will take place on **May 5, 2019**, right after Church.



Kally Durso, Hope and Joy Ministries Facilitator



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. 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.

ΝΑ ΓΙΝΕΤΕ ΔΩΡΗΤΕΣ: Προσπαθουμε να επικοινωνησουμε με ιδιοκτητες επιχειρησεων και με ατομα για να μας βοηθησουν με το μηνιαιο περιοδικο της εκκλησιας μας ωστε να συνεχισει η παροικια μας να το ταχυδρομουμε στους ενοριτες μας. Εαν γνωριζετε κανενα που θελει να συμμετεχει και να προσφερει δωρεα για το μηνιαιο περιοδικο, παρακαλουμε να τηλεφωνησετε στο γραφειο της εκκλησιας 732-826-4466 για περισσοτερες πληροφοριες. Σας ευχαρισουμε.

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

Thank you to our new sponsors: Dr. Vives from All-Star Family Orthodontics and Dr. Ambrosio from ENT and Allergy Associates, LLP for your support.

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April - 2019 - Απρίλιος

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| Friday, April 5 Παρασκευή, 5 Απριλίου | Salutations to the Theotokos Χαιρετισμοί της Θεοτοκού | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Friday, April 12 Παρασκευή, 12 Απριλίου | The Akathist Hymn Ακαθιστος Ύμνος | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Saturday, April 20 Σάββατο, 20 Απριλίου | Saturday of Lazarus - Divine Liturgy Σάββατο του Λαζάρου - Θεία Λειτουργία | 10:00 a.m. 10:00 π.μ. |
| Sunday, April 21 Κυριακή, 21 Απριλίου | Palm Sunday - Divine Liturgy Κυριακή των Βαΐων - Θεία Λειτουργία | 10:00 a.m. 10:00 π.μ. |
| | Bridegroom Service Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Monday, April 22 Δευτέρα, 22 Απριλίου | Bridegroom Service Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Tuesday, April 23 Τρίτη, 23 Απριλίου | Presanctified Liturgy Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία | 9:30 a.m. 9:30 π.μ. |
| | Bridegroom Service Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Wednesday, April 24 Τετάρτη, 24 Απριλίου | Holy Unction Ακολουθία του Αγίου Ευχέλαιου | 4:00 p.m. 4:00 μ.μ. |
| | Bridegroom Service (with anointing of unction) Η Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Thursday, April 25 Πέμπτη, 25 Απριλίου | Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Χρυσοστόμου | 7:00 a.m. 7:00 α.μ. |
| | Service of the Passion Η Ακολουθία των Παθών | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Friday, April 26 Παρασκευή, 26 Απριλίου | Royal Hours Η Ακολουθία των Ωρών | 11:00 a.m. 11:00 π.μ. |
| | Apokathelosis Vespers Η Ακολουθία της Αποκαθηλώσεως | 4:00 p.m. 4:00 μ.μ. |
| | Service of the Lamentations Ακολουθία του Επιταφίου Θρήνου | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 μ.μ. |
| Saturday, April 27 Σάββατο, 27 Απριλίου | Divine Liturgy Θεία Λειτουργία | 10:00 a.m. 10:00 π.μ. |
| | Vigil and Divine Liturgy of Pascha Η Θεία Λειτουργία της Αναστάσεως | 11:00 p.m. 11:00 μ.μ. |
| Sunday, April 28 Κυριακή, 28 Απριλίου | Agape Vespers Εσπερινός της Αγάπης | 11:00 a.m. 11:00 π.μ. |
| Monday, April 29 Δευτέρα, 29 Απριλίου | Div. Lit. for Saint George the Great Martyr Αγίου Γεωργίου - Θεία Λειτουργία | 10:00 a.m. 10:00 π.μ. |



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

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Our youngest parishioners wearing their costumes and masks certainly enjoyed the Apokriatiko Glendi festivities.