



Parish
Newsletter
Summer 2019



Saint Demetrios

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Orthros: 9:00 a.m. - Ορθρος 9:00 π.μ. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m. – Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00 π.μ.

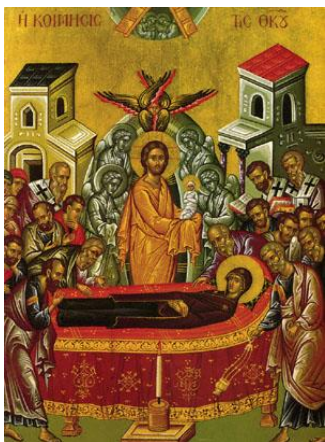
Saint Paraskeve - July 26

Αγία Παρασκευή - 26 Ιουλίου



Saint Paraskeve was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskeve), she was given this name, which means "preparation" or "preparedness" (compare Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31, where 'Friday' is called "the day of the preparation"). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremias: "Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth" (Jer. 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary - August 15
Κοιμησης της Θεοτοκου - 15 Αυγούστου



When the time drew night that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, and brought them, at once, to the house of the Mother of God. She blessed the Apostles, and reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God. The Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried her there with honor, the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were

eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.



Message from Father George

When we begin to cultivate our spiritual life, two things are essential. First and foremost, we must be fully committed. We must be determined to turn ourselves away from the things of this world, and toward the things of God. No change will occur without a devotion to change. This is the first thing: to be committed. The second thing is to be realistic. Change is difficult. To alter our lives just a little bit and for just a little while requires great effort. Our habits have been formed over many years, and they do not become new in one day. The monks of the ancient Church would often talk about young monks who came to join them and who would announce very confidently that they intended to fast more than all others, pray more than all others and sleep less than all others, so devoted were they to the monastic life. The older and experienced monks knew what would happen, though. These new monks would soon lose heart and quit. They had set unrealistic goals and would inevitably fail. We must be wise, then, when we try to live a more spiritual life. Do small things. Try to keep the fast on Wednesday and Friday regularly. Try to say a brief prayer each morning and each evening. Make sure to say grace before each meal. Crack the Bible once a day for just a little while. Try to resist those temptations that are part of your everyday life. Be more patient and merciful to the people around you. Select something small, something attainable, and then do it. But do it with zeal and commitment. And the God of light will bless your efforts and show you the path to even greater works.

August - 2019 – Αυγουστος

August 1, 2019 1 Αυγούστου, 2019	Paraklesis 7:00 p.m. Παρακλησεις 7:00 μ.μ.
August 3, 2019 3 Αυγούστου, 2019	Paraklesis 7:00 p.m. Παρακλησεις 7:00 μ.μ.
August 11, 2019 11 Αυγούστου, 2019	Paraklesis 7:00 p.m. Παρακλησεις 7:00 μ.μ.
August 13, 2019 13 Αυγούστου, 2019	Paraklesis 7:00 p.m. Παρακλησεις 7:00 μ.μ.
August 15, 2019 15 Αυγούστου, 2019	Divine Liturgy of the Dormition 10:00 a.m. Κοιμησης της Θεοτοκου Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 π.μ.



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Spero Kalambakas

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Chantor:

Evangelos Kartsakalis

NEWSLETTER

Editorial Board:

Father George Parsenios

Helen Coutros Horan

Maria Kakadelis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest Parishioners,

Congratulations to everyone on our most beautiful, welcoming, lively and well-attended festival in several years. All the stars seemed to be in alignment for the weather, attendance, high spirits, delicious food, friendly workers, a spectacular view and a warm and welcoming environment. We could not have been blessed with a more perfect weekend for our festival.

Working together with our record number of volunteers seemed to bring out the best in everyone. We demonstrated our love for God, our Church and each other with pride in our Greek culture, customs, traditions, food, dance and, of course, our Greek hospitality!

The success of this festival was more than we expected or projected thanks to the extraordinary amount of time and effort expended by each of you, our volunteers and the visitors and guests who attended.

God bless you and thank you all for your love of our Saint Demetrios Church.

Have a safe, happy, healthy summer and please remember that our Church remains open all summer for us.

In His Service,
Helen Coutros Horan
Parish Council President

Parish Council News

Please Remember Our Church This Summer.

Summer is a glorious time of year and it is, also, a glorious time for giving to our Church.

Now that our major activities and fundraisers will be coming to a close for the summer season, we ask that you please remember our Church before you become immersed in summertime activities and vacations.

Please consider making your stewardship payment or a partial payment to our Church so we are ensured that our operational costs over the summer months will be covered. In addition to regular daily hours, our Church will be open for Sacraments, Vacation Church School our G.O.Y.A. Retreat Week and, of course, every Sunday for Divine Liturgy and feast days in July and August.

It would be comforting to know that enough stewardship payments have been received and can be relied upon to carry us into September.

We are hopeful that you might consider making a payment to our Church prior to the close of June. It would be most gratefully appreciated and extremely beneficial to our overall operation and function.

May you find time to rest, relax and re-energize but please don't forget that our Church is here for us at all times. It is hoped that you make time to participate in the Divine Liturgy frequently.

May God be with you and keep you all healthy, happy and safe during the upcoming summer months and thank you for your kind consideration of a summertime offering.



Ελληνικό Σχολείο

Αα Ββ Γγ Δδ Εε Ζζ Ηη Θθ Ιι Κκ Λλ Μμ Νν



Αγαπητοι Ενοριτες,

Αλλη μια σχολικη χρονια, με την χαρη του Θεου, εφθασε στο τελος της! Απο το Σεπτεμβρη, σας περιμενουμε με πολυ χαρα και ενθουσιασμο, με νεες εγγραφες για το ξεκκινημα της καινουργιας χρονιας! Σημειωστε οτι του χρονου θα εχουμε ταξη Ελληνικων και για ενηλικες!! Οι ενδιαφερομενοι παρακαλουμε να επικοινωνησουν με το γραφειο. Ευχομαστε καλο καλοκαιρι σ'ολους, με υγεια και χαρα στα σπιτια σας!!!

Δημητριος Τσιβελης
Προεδρος Ελληνικου Σχολειου

Αλεξανδρα Βελμαχου
Διδασκαλισσα Ελληνικου Σχολειου

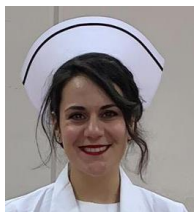
Ξξ Οο Ππ Ρρ Σς Ττ Υυ Φφ Χχ Ψψ Ωω

Congratulations!

Συγχαρητηρια και εις ανωτερα!

Angelique Dulin

Angelique has been a member of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church since she was born. She has been a part of Sunday School and is thankful for the foundation it has instilled in her life. Throughout her years at Metuchen High School, she has been involved in various activities such as dance, field hockey, golf, and cheerleading. This fall, she will be furthering her education at the University of Delaware with a major in psychology.



Christine Khalil

Christine graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and Sports Studies 2015. Two years ago she got accepted to attend an accelerated Nursing program at JFK Muhlenberg. She completed her studies in January 2019 and is now working as a Registered Nurse at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, in Rahway. Christine is in her 10th year in the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey and a member of the instructional staff.

Marie Khalil

Marie will graduate from Kean University with her Bachelor of Art Degree in Therapeutic Recreation. In the fall, she will continue with her studies at Stockton University for her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Marie is in her 5th year in the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey and recently became a member of the instructional staff.





Sunday School News

Sunday School Promotion Produced Beautiful Smiles



The awarding of Sunday School promotion certificates produced beautiful smiles from our youngest students to our oldest students. As they were officially promoted upon completion of this year's Sunday School program, our students showed their pride in the achievement of their grade level goals in learning the tenets of our Orthodox faith, the celebrations of our Feast Days, our traditions and customs.



Attendance Award



This year, there was increased enrollment and improvement in attendance. Our attendance award winners were Claire Veiga, Nicholas, Julia, and Constantine Parsenios.

We anticipate further growth in enrollment for September and look forward to starting a new year with our wonderful students. We thank all the dedicated parents who support our Sunday School program and bring their children to Church each week.



We, also, send our heartfelt thanks to each of our Sunday School teachers and, of course, to Father George for his unconditional guidance and encouragement. We, especially, thank Father George for his poignant sermons to our children each Sunday which we all cherish immensely.



G.O.Y.A. News

50th Anniversary of G.O.Y.A. Olympics



On Saturday, May 25, 2019, our G.O.Y.A. representatives posed with our banner as they awaited for the 50th Olympics ceremony to begin. Kali Simatos and Dean Giannakopoulos (pictured on the right) were selected for the honor of running with the Olympic torch and lighting the cauldron which signified the start of Opening Ceremonies.



Perth Amboy Arts Council Festival

Delicious Greek cookies and pastries were popular items sold at our Greek pastry booth while participating in the Perth Amboy Arts Council Festival on May 25, 2019. Our team of bakers and workers are pictured from left to right: Froso Morales, Zeffie Tzitzis, Evelyn Mariolis, Diana Kostopoulos, Helen Catelanos. Not pictured but very busy making our infamous loukoumades were Zafe Filindras, Argiro Patras, Matula Pavlakos and Afroula Kanellidis.



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.



Sunday, September 15, 2019

Holy Cross Celebration in Asbury Park. Details will follow.

Sunday, September 22, 2019

PTO Welcome Back Picnic

Sunday School and Greek School Registration will take place

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Sunday School Classes Begin



Altar Boys of Saint Demetrios Church



Our Altar Boys were recognized and acknowledged with appreciation by Father George for their dedication in service at the Holy Altar every Sunday.

Saint Demetrios Building Complex Presentation at the Clergy Laity Conference



With a crowded banquet room comprised of Metropolis leaders, clergy, church officials and guests from five states, Honorable Marina Corodemus was given permission by Metropolitan Evangelos to provide the attendees with an impressive Philotimo video presentation and dialogue depicting and describing how our building project will be of benefit to Seniors. She explained that it has been intentionally designed to meet the needs of an Orthodox Population of Seniors who wish to maintain their faith, their restricted Orthodox fasting needs, live adjacent to their Orthodox Church and their friends in a magnificent building with a wonderful waterfront view as an awesome added benefit. It was a well-received Presentation which resulted in numerous offers for assistance in fulfilling this need for our under-served Orthodox Seniors.

Day Trip to Atlantic City



Enjoying the beautiful boardwalk and ocean view in Atlantic City during our recent bus trip are Mary and Tasoula Simatos and Helen Suravlas (seated) along with Lambros Simatos, Helen Catelanos and Stan Suravlas (standing).



SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

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

At the May 18, 2019 General Meeting, members of the Philoptochos nominated members for their new Board. The following individuals were elected:

Argyro Ahladionakis Helen Catelanos Aphrodite Kanellides Anna Kyriakatos Marietta Khalil
Evelyn Mariolis Irene Pakis Mary Lou Rivera Helen Suravlas

Stella Wacker, who has been outstanding as our Philoptochos President for multiple terms, will be the Advisor to the newly elected President. In addition, Sultana Kizides was nominated and unanimously elected to be an Honorary Member of the Board due to her decades of tireless efforts to assist the Board and promote the philanthropic ideals of our Philoptochos. Once the names have been ratified by the National Philoptochos, the above-mentioned individuals will take an oath on September 22, 2019.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone for the continued support to the Philoptochos throughout the year. And remember, new members are always welcome. The more members we have, the more we can do to help those in need.

Enjoy your summer!



Place your orders now and become part of Saint Demetrios' history.

Small Bricks \$150

Large Bricks \$350

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.

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.

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



Mother of the Year

Zafe Filindras was honored as our Mother of the Year 2019 by our Philoptochos Society representative, Helen Catelanos, congratulated and blessed by Father George and lovingly surrounded by her daughter, Sophia Torres, her sister, Matula Pavlakos, and her son-in-law and grandnephew. Zafe can often be found at our Church planting, decorating, cleaning, polishing, sewing, baking or performing any one of the numerous tasks and talents that she most generously offers to us. Zafe is infamous for her most delicious loukoumades in the land. Thank you, Zafe!



FATHER OF THE YEAR

His wife, Kathy Kouretas, and the entire family of Konstantinos (Gus) Kouretas encircled him with love as he was honored by our PTO President, Diana Regan, and PTO Vice President, Presbytera Maureen Parsenios, and blessed by Father George as our Father of the Year 2019. Gus was a very active parent, especially, during the years when his three sons participated in Sunday School and G.O.Y.A. He was, also, very involved in the Mr. and Mrs. Club activities and our Church Festivals spending countless hours preparing, building and painting Grecian columns and booths and particularly, cooking gyros and souvlakia. Thank you, Gus!





2019
GREEK
FESTIVAL
BY THE BAY

Excitement and joy were evident on the faces of all Saint Demetrios Festival by the Bay volunteers, whether they were preparing and serving our delicious Greek foods and pastries, selling our specialty items or raffle tickets, serving as bartenders or giving Church tours or entertaining everyone as Greek dancers. We were blessed with beautiful weather, a spectacular waterfront view, a record number of guests and visitors and a highly spirited, friendly and welcoming environment that embraced the entire Festival grounds. The pride in our Greek heritage, traditions, customs and the true sense of our Greek Orthodox faith were flowing throughout the atmosphere all weekend. We are all overwhelmed with love, gratitude and appreciation to God for all our devoted parishioners and all our generous patrons and donors who helped to make the possibility of having our Greek Festival become a wonderful reality to be long remembered.





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Honor

Father George congratulated the Clergy Laity Honorees after their Award presentations from His Eminence Evangelos at the Venetian in Garfield, New Jersey. We are so very proud of each and every one and wish to thank them for their distinguished dedication to our Church. From left to right, the recipients were Vera Corodemus (Philoptochos), Helen Catelanos (Community Service), Helen Coutros Horan (Parish Council), Sultana Kizides (Eldest Steward), Froso Morales (PTO), Zeffie Tzitzis (Choir), and Dean Giannakopoulos (G.O.Y.A.) standing next to Father George.