

# *Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church*

## *Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία Αγίου Δημητρίου*

*Parish Newsletter November 2020 - Δελτίο Ένοριας Νοεμβρίου 2020*



Orthros: 9:00 a.m. - Ορθρος 9:00 π.μ.

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m. – Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00 π.μ.

41-47 Wisteria Street  
Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861  
Tel.: (732) 826-4466  
Fax: (732) 826-4312  
E-Mail: [stdgoa@gmail.com](mailto:stdgoa@gmail.com)

Rev Fr. George Parsenios  
Cell: (609) 462-2949  
E-Mail: [fr.georgepar@gmail.com](mailto:fr.georgepar@gmail.com)

Visit us at: [www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org](http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org)

## 21 Νοεμβριου - Τα Εισοδια της Υπεραγιας Θεοτοκου

Η Ορθοδοξη Εκκλησια μας, τιμα την Θεομητορικη αυτη εορτη στις 21 Νοεμβριου καθε χρονο, με ιδιαιτερη λαμπροτητα. Η σημασια της εορτης αυτης ειναι μεγαλη και ιερη. Αποτελει την βαση και την αρχη για ολη την μετεπειτα ζωη της Θεοτοκου καθως επισης και για την σωτηρια του ανθρωπινου γενους.

Η Παναγια Θεοτοκος γεννηθηκε απο γονεις γηραιους, τον Ιωακειμ και την Αννα, που ειχαν παρακαλεσει με πολυ πονο τον Θεο να τους δωση ενα τεκνο και να το αφιερωσουν στο Ναο Του. Οταν η Μαρια εγινε τριων ετων, την εφεραν οι γονεις της στο Ναο και την παρεδωσαν στα χερια του Ζαχαρια του ιερα. Αυτος την αγκαλιασε, την ευλογησε και ειπε: «Εμεγαλυνε ο Κυριος το ονομα σου σε ολες τις γενεες. Με σενα θα ευλογηθοθν τα εθνη και ο Κυριος θα λυτρωση τους υιους του Ισραηλ». Ο Ζαχαριας οδηγησε τη Μαρια στο ιερο του Ναου, οπου το κοριτσι εμεινε για 12 χρονια και ο Θεος την χαριτωσε. Ολοι πνευματικα πανηγυρισαν που εμεινε στο Ναο τον Αγιο, για να αγιασθει και να γινει αργοτερα η Μητερα του ιδιου του Θεου. Ετσι η Μαρια, ταμενη απο την μητερα της, αφιερωθηκε και αφοσιωθηκε στον Θεο, ο οποιος την ανταμειψε οσο καμια αλλη γυναικα στον κοσμο: Εγινε μητερα του ιδιου του Θεου.

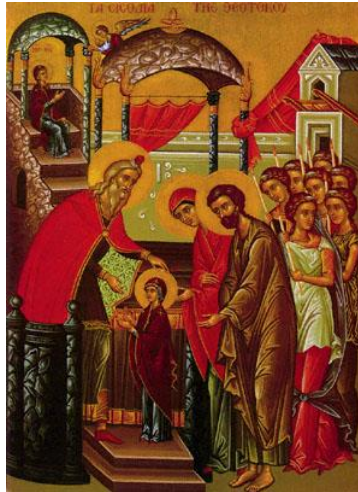
### Απολυτικιον

Σημερον της ευδοκιας Θεου το προοιμιον, και της των ανθρωπων σωτηριας η προκηρυξις, Εν Ναω του Θεου τρανως η Παρθενος δεικνυται, και τον Χριστον τοις πασι προκαταγγελλεται, Αυτη και ημεις μεγαλοφωνως βοησωμεν, Χαιρε της οικονομιας του Κτιστου η εκπληρωσις.

### Κοντακιον

Ο καθαρωτατος Ναος του Σωτηρος, η πολυτιμητος παστας και Παρθενος, το Ιερον θησαυρισμα της δοξης του Θεου, σημερον εισαγεται, εν τω οικω Κυριου, την χαριν συνεισαγουσα, την εν Πνευματι θειω, ην ανυμνουσιν Αγγελοι Θεου, Αυτη υπαρχει σκηνη επουρανιος.

## **November 21 – The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**



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.

## *Message from Father George*



Dear Parishioners of Saint Demetrios,

November is a month in which many great saints are celebrated in the Orthodox Church. Chief among them is Saint John Chrysostom. Saint John was born in Antioch, where he served as a priest in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The Christian faith had only recently been made legal by the Emperor Constantine, and so the Antioch in which John served was still inhabited by many non-Christians, while the Christians themselves were divided by the Arian controversy. The name “Chrysostom” means Golden Mouth, and John was given this moniker because he not only inspired the faithful with his sermons, but also drew many pagans to the Church. He was heralded as an orator by both pagan and Christian alike. But he not only spoke about the Gospel. He also lived it. We see this in how he acted when he was made the Archbishop of Constantinople, where he founded hospitals and made sure that the wealthy people of the City never forgot their need to care for the poor. Like too often happens, though, this great churchman made strong enemies, and he was driven into exile. After being forced to march by foot over long distances to a remote area far from civilization, John eventually died alone and far from his friends in the year 407. His last words are said to have been, “Glory to God in all things.” These are important words to remember during November, which is also the month of Thanksgiving in the United States. It is easy for us to thank God when we enjoy material comfort or pleasure and happiness. John was able to give thanks to God even in the midst of an agonizing exile. Because he knew that he had been given all that he needed, not wealth or comfort or an exalted position in Constantinople. He had been given the surpassing gift of knowing Jesus Christ. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, let us remember as Christians what we are most thankful for. We, of course, enjoy great freedom and prosperity in the United States. But even more important is the gift of our faith, and the immeasurable spiritual gifts that God has given us, through his Son Jesus Christ. In the Divine Liturgy that bears his name, we read the following prayer, which focuses our attention on work of God in saving us, which we should all read and consider as we approach Thanksgiving:

It is proper and right to hymn You, to bless You, to praise You, to give thanks to You, and to worship You in every place of Your dominion. For You, O God, are ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, existing forever, forever the same, You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. You brought us out of nothing into being, and when we had fallen away, You raised us up again. You left nothing undone until you had led us up to heaven and granted us Your Kingdom, which is to come. For all these things, we thank You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit: for all things we know and do not know, for blessings manifest and hidden that have been bestowed on us. We thank You also for this Liturgy, which You have deigned to receive from our hands, even though thousands of archangels and tens of thousands of angels stand around You, the Cherubim and Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring aloft upon their wings,

With love in Christ,  
Father George



# November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.		Virtual Sunday School Lessons 6:30 p.m.			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.		Virtual Sunday School Lessons 6:30 p.m.			Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.			Thanksgiving Day		
29	30					
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.					

## *President's Message*



Dearest Parishioners,

It is the season of thankfulness!

Let us pray together and give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for all our blessings as this Psalm expresses, "Enter the Temple with thanksgiving; go into it with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise Him." (Psalm 100:1-4)

The blessings of our beloved Church, our wonderful Priest, Father George and his beautiful family, and each and every parishioner are all vitally important in maintaining our Orthodox faith for which we must be so very thankful to our Lord God. His kindness, goodness and mercy to each of us is unconditional and, so, our thankfulness and praise must be unconditional, as well.

At this time, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our endeavors to maintain the operation and function of our church, particularly, during this unexpected and unprecedented pandemic. I am sure you can imagine that it has affected our Church, as well.

We, truly, miss the hymns of our choir at Church. You may wish to click on the link below for a few moments of loveliness and peace as you watch and listen to "Σε Υμνούμεν (We Praise You) Hymn from Divine Liturgy." <https://youtu.be/Z7S9bo4DJ1k>

Our love and caring thoughts are being sent to all those who have suffered illnesses and losses during this most difficult time. May God give you the strength and stamina necessary to sustain you through His love and the comfort of your loved ones.

May this Thanksgiving season bring much love, happiness and good health to all our Saint Demetrios families and may God bless each and everyone of you!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

In HIS Service,  
Helen Coutros Horan  
Parish Council President

## *Saint Demetrios Vespers and Feast Day*

The spirit of Saint Demetrios must have been with us as we commemorated and celebrated his life during our Vesper services and the Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Saint Demetrios. Our Church was illuminated by the peaceful presence of Bishop Apostolos of Medeia who was representing our Archbishop Elpidophoros. The spiritual, ethereal environment he created was deeply felt as he delivered poignant prayers and the special sentiments that he shared in his sermon. There was a sense that Saint Demetrios must have been visiting us, as well!



Father George and his fellow priests, along with Bishop Apostolos, celebrated our Patron Saint, Saint Demetrios, in a beautiful portrayal of our religious traditions, customs and services which, truly, symbolize our Orthodox faith and beliefs.

As a token of appreciation and celebration to all who gathered for our Saint Demetrios services, our Philoptochos provided each parishioner with a mesh gift bag of koulourakia and a small icon of Saint Demetrios blessed at the Holy Protection Monastery for our homes.

The splendor of this very unique and special weekend will be remembered and cherished for many years to come.



*Saint Demetrios Vespers and Feast Day*  
*10/25/2020 and 10/26/2020*





### Virtual Greek School Lessons

We are pleased to announce that our Virtual Greek School teacher is Eleni Glykis who is excited to work with all of our students this year! The first introductory lesson was held on Monday night, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. and will continue every Monday night at the same time through May.

Ms. Glykis is developing a website for the course that will include additional resources for parents and students.

If you wish to register for Virtual Greek School, please feel free to contact Eleni Glykis by email or by phone at [eglykis@gmail.com](mailto:eglykis@gmail.com) or 732-586-5963.

### Εικονικά ελληνικά σχολικά μαθήματα

Με μεγάλη χαρά, ανακοινώνουμε ότι η δασκάλα μας στο Εικονικό Ελληνικό Σχολείο είναι η Ελένη Γλίκη, η οποία είναι ενθουσιασμένη που συνεργάζεται με όλους τους μαθητές μας φέτος! Το πρώτο εισαγωγικό μάθημα πραγματοποιήθηκε τη Δευτέρα το βράδυ, 26 Οκτωβρίου στις 5:30 μ.μ. και θα συνεχιστεί κάθε Δευτέρα το βράδυ την ίδια ώρα μέχρι τον Μάιο.

Η κα Γλύκης αναπτύσσει έναν ιστότοπο για το μάθημα που θα περιλαμβάνει επιπλέον πόρους για γονείς και μαθητές.

Εάν επιθυμείτε να εγγραφείτε στο Εικονικό Ελληνικό Σχολείο, μη διστάσετε να επικοινωνήσετε με τη κα Γλύκης μέσω email [eglykis@gmail.com](mailto:eglykis@gmail.com) ή τηλεφώνου στο 732-586-5963.



*Virtual*  
**GREEK**  
**SCHOOL**





Dear parishioners,

We wish you happy “OXI” day and chronia polla to all of you! A few words for this day...

On October 28 the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates the Feast Day of the Protection of the Theotokos, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary.

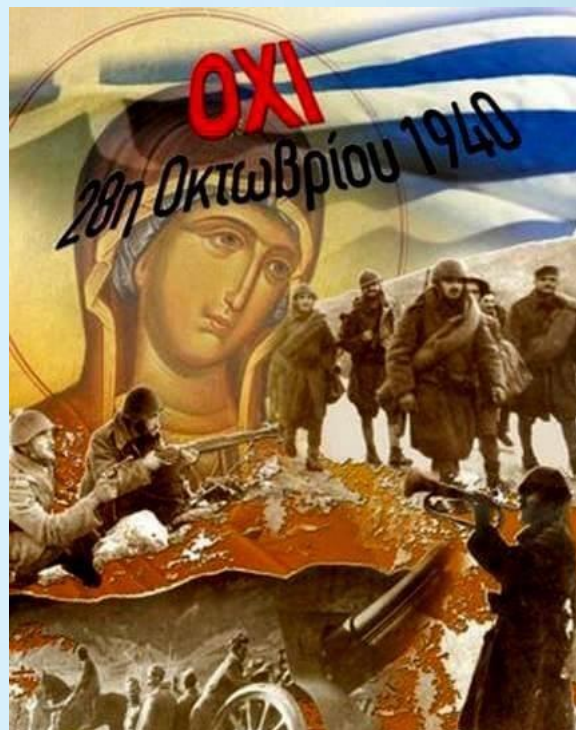
**OXI Day** on October 28, 1940, commemorates the anniversary when Prime Minister of Greece, Ioannis Metaxas said “**OXI**” (NO) to an ultimatum made by Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, an ally of the leader of Nazi Adolf Hitler. The brave Greeks resisted the forces of the axis and inspired the whole world to react to fascism. May the memory of the Greek heroes who fell in the battle to be free today be eternal!!!

Dimitrios Tsivelis  
President of the Greek School

Αγαπητοι ενοριτες,

Σας ευχομαστε χρονια πολλα σε ολους για την επετειο του «OXI»! Λιγα λογια για αυτην την ημερα ...

Στις 28 Οκτωβριου, η Ελληνικη Ορθοδοξη Εκκλησια εορταζει την Ημερα της Γιορτης της Προστασιας της Θεοτοκου, της Μητερας του Θεου και της Παναγιας.



Η Ημερα του ΟΧΙ στις 28 Οκτωβριου 1940, γιορταζει την επετειο οταν ο Πρωθυπουργος της Ελλαδας, Ιωαννης Μεταξας ειπε «OXI» σε τελεσιγραφο που εκανε ο Ιταλος πρωθυπουργος Μπενιτο Μουσολινι, συμμαχος του ηγετη του Ναζι Αδολφου Χιτλερ. Οι γενναιοι Ελληνες αντισταθηκαν στις δυναμεις του αξονα και ενεπνευσαν ολοκληρο τον κοσμο να αντιδρασει στον φασισμο. Ας ειναι αιωνια η μνημη των Ελληνων ηρωων που επεσαν στη μαχη να ειμαστε ελευθεροι σημερα!!!

Δημητριος Τσιβελης  
Προεδρος Ελληνικου Σχολειου

## *Sunday School*

Sunday School lessons began in a virtual way on the "Zoom" meeting platform this past Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. Families who registered met on the zoom meeting with Father George and Sunday School teachers. The opening prayer was conducted by Father George who, also, welcomed everyone to our virtual lesson. He discussed the meaning of OXI Day and the Protection of the Theotokos which were both celebrated on October 28.

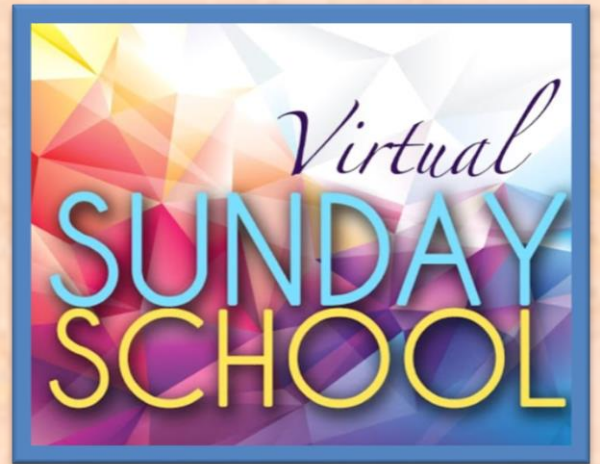
An overview PowerPoint presentation was presented to the children which included numerous photographs of them participating in Sunday school learning activities relating and coordinating with lessons on our Feast Days and Saints. The life of our patron saint, Saint Demetrios, was discussed through an illustrated story which depicted how Saint Demetrios' love of God and Jesus was so strong that he lost his life defending Christianity.

Miracles were performed by Saint Demetrios even after his death to defend his home town of Thessaloniki. We are very proud and honored that our church is named for our beloved Saint Demetrios.

A special connection was made with our students despite that we are unable to meet with them in person at this time.

We are so very grateful for the parents' cooperation in having their children involved and interested in our virtual lessons.

Future virtual lessons are being planned for grade level groupings and parents will be notified of the follow up dates and times very shortly.





## G.O.Y.A.

Dear Friends,

Hello to all of our church families-we hope and pray that you are all well. Our G.O.Y.A. activities are underway for the year! Our Greek dance practices are held bi-weekly on Sunday afternoons with our amazing dance instructors, George and Despina Markos. Our group enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Casola Farms on October 24<sup>th</sup>, including a hayride and fellowship time. We are planning our next G.O.Y.A. get together in November.

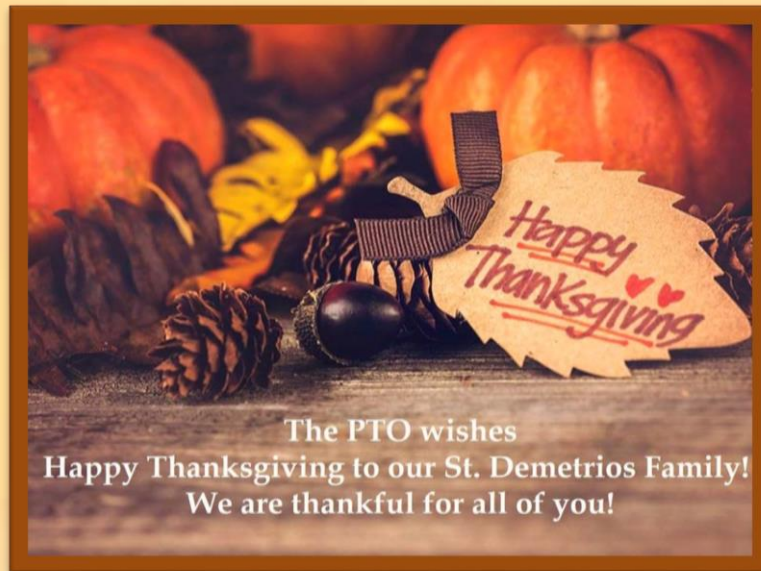
We would, also, like to welcome Eva Kariotis and Angelos Nikoletos to our G.O.Y.A. If you know of anyone else interested in joining G.O.Y.A., please refer them to Cindy Giannakopoulos at [cynthiagianna@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiagianna@gmail.com). We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Cindy and Nick Giannakopoulos



## *Parish Council*

The season of Thanksgiving allows us to take the time to demonstrate how grateful we are for all our devoted parishioners who support us and assist us in our endeavors to maintain and sustain our beloved Church. Please know that we are busy brainstorming ways to grow our Church through stewardship, our ministries, fundraising and community events. Your input and suggestions will always be given serious consideration so, kindly, offer your thoughts. It is important to hear from you during this pandemic since we cannot gather for meetings. We wish you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Stay safe and healthy!



## *Hope & Joy*

The beautiful fall season is upon us already! Although we cannot be together, it is important for us to stay connected as we do through our newsletter. You are all missed very much. It is hoped that you and your families are all well, staying safe and healthy. Please enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday coming up this month by following all the pandemic guidelines to be as safe as possible. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

## SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

The Ladies Philoptochos of Saint Demetrios would like to thank all of you who contributed toward the Hellenic Relief Foundation's project to provide assistance to families in Greece who are in need of our assistance. The immediate outpouring of clothes, shoes, baby supplies, and monetary donations was *phenomenal*! Because of your generosity, Christmas will be brighter for those families in Greece this year. Special thanks also goes out to Mrs. Helen Catelanos, the chairperson for this endeavor. Her efforts helped make this such a success.

With Thanksgiving around the corner, the Philoptochos is having a Bake Sale! However, due to current circumstances revolving around the pandemic, the Bake Sale is going to be handled a little differently this year. We are asking that those who are interested in purchasing Baklava, Koulourakia, Kourambiedes, and Melomakarona for the holiday, please **PREORDER** your sweets by **NOVEMBER 11, 2020** and **PREPAY** by **NOVEMBER 15, 2020**. Your Bake Sale order will be ready for pick up at church on NOVEMBER 22, 2020 after Divine Liturgy services. For your convenience, an order form is included below. Please contact Ms. Marietta Khalil at (732) 925-9699 or by email at [mariettakhalil@hotmail.com](mailto:mariettakhalil@hotmail.com) to discuss your order.

### Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Quantity	Price	#	Total
Baklava	One Large Container	\$15.00		\$
Koulourakia	One Small Container	\$ 5.00		\$
	One Large Container	\$15.00		\$
Kourambiedes*	Five (5) Cookies	\$ 5.00		\$
	Twelve (12) Cookies	\$10.00		\$
Melomakarona*	Five (5) Cookies	\$ 5.00		\$
	Twelve (12) Cookies	\$10.00		\$
*2-Cookie Comb.	Six (6) Cookies Each	\$10.00		\$
Total Order				\$



*Light a candle and say a prayer*

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light of life."  
(John 8:12)

You can request a candle to be lit with a blessing and a prayer via Saint Demetrios' website:  
<http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org/>

or you can mail a check to the church:

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church  
41-47 Wisteria Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Thank you for supporting our church.







*Fall Photos 2020*













## 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.

## Memorial Bricks are Available

Small Bricks \$150

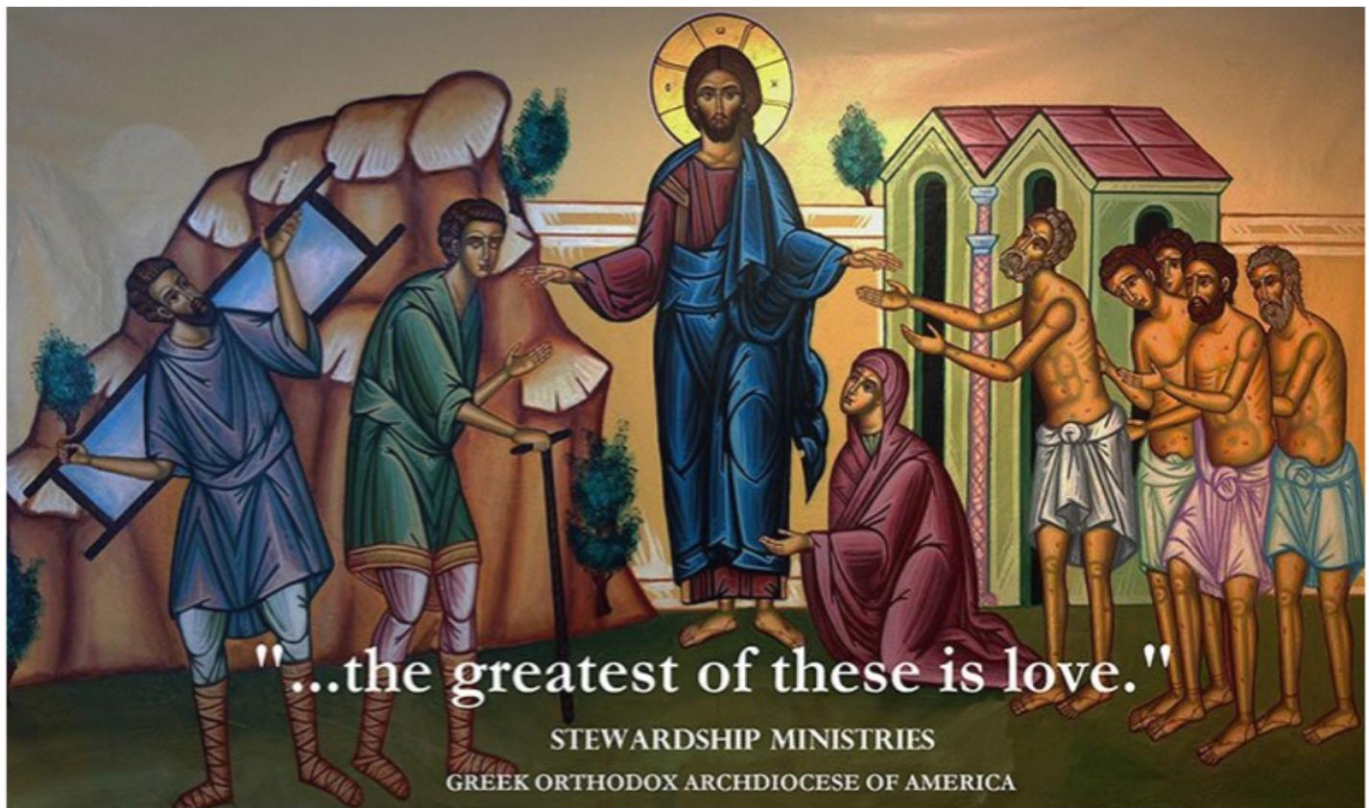
Large Bricks \$350

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.

## *Stewardship*



In making your commitment, please be aware that it takes generous donations through stewardship commitments plus candle donations, tray collections, memorial donations, fund-raising events and general donations to cover the operating expenses of our beloved Saint Demetrios Church. Although it is sometimes difficult to cover the costs, especially during this pandemic, currently, we have not increased the suggested stewardship pledge of \$600 per family. Please know that the amount you are able to offer will be most graciously accepted.

Your stewardship is a tangible expression of heartfelt gratitude to God. Consider that our very existence, all that we have, all that we are, and all that we do are gifts from God. We are called to be co-workers with God in the ministry of His Church. Financial stewardship is one of the primary ways by which we offer our thanks to God for His Blessings.

All commitments of stewardship are truly appreciated. We are confident that you will do your best to honor and support our House of Worship and we thank you very sincerely.





Ημερα των Ευχαριστιων

Να εχετε μια ευλογημενη μερα!

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Dearest Parishioners,

The Holiday Season seems to be in a rush to get here! During this unprecedented time, it is more important than ever to stay connected with each other in as many ways as possible. With that in mind, we wish to revive our Church Community Christmas Card. We invite everyone to participate by providing us with your name or your family's name exactly as you wish it to appear on the card along with a donation of at least **\$25.00**. All names will be printed onto a beautiful card and mailed out to our entire Church Community wishing each other love, peace and joy in celebration of Christmas, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We hope that you will be part of this gesture!

Please make your checks payable to St. Demetrios Church and write "Christmas Card" in the memo section.

Time is of the essence so we request that you, please, send in your response by **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**, at the latest. We cannot guarantee that your name will be included if it is received after December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kindly return the form below to Church with your donation at 41 – 47 Wisteria St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861, 732-826-4466, [stdgoa@gmail.com](mailto:stdgoa@gmail.com). **Thank you so much!!**

Sincerely,  
Christmas Card Committee

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**Church Christmas Card Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **print** your name exactly as you wish it to appear on the card.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donation Amount: (\$25.00 +)


\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please remember to enclose your check. Thank you!)



# Thank You To Our Sponsors!

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