



Parish
Newsletter
December 2017

St. Demetrios



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

HAPPY 100th ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 2017 RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

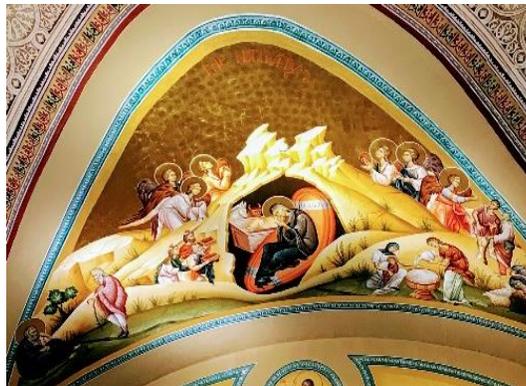
- Dec. 3**
Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19
Προς Εφεσious 5:8-19
Gospel Luke 24:1-12
Λουκαν 24:1-12
- Dec. 10**
Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17
Προς Εφεσious 6:10-17
Gospel Luke 24:13-35
Λουκαν 24:13-35
- Dec. 17**
Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:4-11
Προς Κορινθious 3:4-11
Gospel Luke 24:36-53
Λουκαν 24:36-53
- Dec. 24**
Saint Paul's letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40
Προς ΕΒραιious 11:9-10; 32-40
Gospel John 20:1-10
Ιωαννην 20:1-10
- Dec. 31**
Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy 4:5-8
Προς Τιμοθειον Β' 4:5-8
Gospel John 20:11-18
Ιωαννην 20:11-18

Services unless otherwise stated:

Orthros 9:00 A.M.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.

No Baptisms will be scheduled during any of the Great Feast Days of the Lord.

Merry Christmas/Καλα Χριστουγεννα December 25, 2017



"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying 'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG MEN WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED!'"



Metropolitan Evangelos thanks the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church musician choir from our Metropolis, who sang the Liturgy celebrating during our 100th Anniversary.

Joyful Christmas Celebration

On Sunday, December 17, 2017, our Church Parishioners will be presented with the Annual Christmas Pageant performed by our delightful Sunday School and Greek School children who will portray the Nativity scene with a procession, music and role-playing in beautiful costumes. This is always a very special event enjoyed by everyone of all ages. Following the Christmas Pageant, our Saint Demetrios PTO will sponsor a Christmas Party. Children will be visited by Santa Claus with surprises for every boy and girl. Don't miss this holiday event which is favored by all and greatly anticipated year after year.



Message from Father George

“They went home by a different way.” The Magi went home by a different way. King Herod had seen them on their way to Bethlehem and he told them to return to him, after they had seen the Christ. But the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, but to go home “a different way.” The Fathers of the Church find great symbolism in this “different way.” The Magi came to Christ as pagans who worshipped the stars. But they went home by a different way. They were changed. They were new. They were now followers of the One True God. We also need to go home “by a different way” this Christmas. We may come to the feast of Christmas borne down by bad habits, by habits that do not direct us toward God. We must become new. We must be changed. We must go home a different way. If we go home a different way. If we resolve to be new, the God who loves us and is waiting for us to turn to Him will welcome us with the open arms of the loving child born in a manger, and then offer us the tender love of a true parent, the love of the One True God.

Ανακοίνωση του Πάτερ Γιώργου

"Πήγαν σπίτι με διαφορετικό τρόπο." Οι Μάγοι πήγαν στο σπίτι με διαφορετικό τρόπο. Ο βασιλιάς Ηρώδης τους είχε δει στο δρόμο τους προς τη Βηθλεέμ και τους είπε να επιστρέψουν σ' αυτόν, αφού είδαν τον Χριστό. Αλλά οι Μάγοι προειδοποιήθηκαν σε ένα όνειρο να μην επιστρέψουν στον Ηρώδη, αλλά να πάνε στο σπίτι "με διαφορετικό τρόπο". Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας βρουν μεγάλο συμβολισμό με αυτό τον "διαφορετικό τρόπο". Οι Μάγοι ήρθαν στο Χριστό ως παγανιστές που λατρεύονταν αστέρια. Αλλά πήγαν σπίτι με διαφορετικό τρόπο. Αλλάχθηκαν. Ήταν καινούργιοι. Ήταν τώρα οπαδοί του Αληθινού Θεού. Πρέπει επίσης να πάμε σπίτι "με διαφορετικό τρόπο" αυτά τα Χριστούγεννα. Μπορούμε να φτάσουμε στη γιορτή των Χριστουγέννων, η οποία επιβαρύνεται από κακές συνήθειες, από συνήθειες που δεν μας κατευθύνουν προς τον Θεό. Πρέπει να γίνουμε νέοι. Πρέπει να αλλάξουμε. Πρέπει να πάμε σπίτι διαφορετικά. Αν πάμε σπίτι διαφορετικά, αν αποφασίσουμε να είμαστε νέοι, ο Θεός που μας αγαπά και μας περιμένει να γυρίσουμε προς αυτόν, θα μας υποδεχτεί με τα ανοικτά χέρια του παιδιού που αγαπάει και θα γεννηθεί σε μια φάτνη και στη συνέχεια θα μας προσφέρει την τρυφερή αγάπη ενός πραγματικού γονέα, αγάπη του Αληθινού Θεού.

Preparing Bread, Wine and Ourselves for Communion

A Lecture by Fr. George Parsenios

Where: Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church **When:** December 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments will be provided. Followed by Christmas Pageant Rehearsal.

Before the Divine Liturgy each Sunday, the priest prepares the Bread and Wine for the service in a private ceremony that explains the meaning of Holy Communion with clarity and precision. The bread offered in communion is stamped with the images of Christ and the Saints, and those images are ritually placed on the paten, reenacting the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

The stamped bread looks like this:



The carved pieces sit on the paten like this:



When placed on the paten, the pieces of bread represent the entire Church in communion, the living and the dead, Christ and His Saints. This lecture explains the ritual and prayers of preparation, in order that we better understand the meaning of Holy Communion, and better prepare ourselves personally to partake of it.



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Deadline for submissions for the
 January 2018 Bulletin is
 December 10, 2017.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we close out, this 100th Anniversary year of our church, let us reflect upon the blessed and joyous week of prayer and inspiration we experienced. Truly, our parish was blessed by the presence of holiness and serenity outside of the earthly confines surrounding us. So many who came to our church shared childhood, wedding, christening and varied treasured memories they held from our church. It was a humbling experience to see, young and old, so moved by our church's restoration and iconography.

Many were moved by the addition of the brick names outside at the meditation garden - many more wish to add their name to the new wall. Each brick represents a life of memories that serve as the foundation holding up our church and lighting the new pathway to our future. There are only 100 spaces on the new wall walkway, so please purchase your brick as the perfect Christmas present.

Most of all, this season, represents the promise of a new life-affirming beginning. Let us join together, assured of the loving foundation from the last 100 years, and pray as we enter into the next 100 years we will grow and deepen our faith and dedication to our Heavenly Father through the greatest gift, His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas.

Hon. Marina Corodemus

President, Parish Council

Shuttle Bus to the Wilentz School is being suspended.

We will be suspending the shuttle bus to the Wilentz School due to the lack of interest. While parking on local streets, please be mindful of resident parking and permit parking. You may use the Saint Demetrios parking pass, but you must still abide by all city parking rules as this pass does not assure you from being issued any summons. If the interest in the bus increases, we will reconsider providing a bus for your convenience.



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." Galatians 6:9-10

Our Mission:

To help the needy and promote the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Officers:

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Helen Suravlas - 2nd Vice President
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Joanne Xiadas
Sylvia Kress

On behalf of the Ladies Philoptochos, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Upcoming Events: December 17, 2017 is our bake sale. Please support us by buying baked goods and Vasilopita.

Mark your Calendar! Vasilopita luncheon is January 7, 2018. All proceeds to benefit St. Basils Academy.

The Philoptochos thanks all the ladies of our church that baked and brought in desserts for the Saint Demetrios Feast Day and all those who donated for the Thanksgiving baskets.

THANK YOU!!!

Stella Wacker, President

**Please Join us for a
Philoptochos General Meeting**
Saturday, December 16, 2017 at
12:00 p.m.
(downstairs in the Church hall)
Everyone is Welcome

We would love to have all of you join in our pursuit to help those in need. It is not too late to become a member. Our drive for new members is on! Please join our chapter.



Philoptochos Membership Interest Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Areas of interest: _____



Greek School

Firstly, I would like to express my amazement and pride at our parish's 100 year anniversary. Our church has never been so beautiful with the new iconography. I sincerely hope all of you were able to attend our celebration.

In the last 100 years, the Greek School has educated our children and taught them the Greek language, culture, and tradition so that when they have children they can pass that knowledge on and keep our community strong.

It isn't too late to sign your child up for this school year. I ask if you have young children, you please consider enrolling them in our Greek School. Not only will they learn about their language and heritage, but they will also meet new lifelong friends. Children are our parish's future. We need them to participate so our church will continue to thrive.

Again, congratulations to our parish's 100th anniversary. May it thrive for another 100 years. Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,
Dean Kakadelis, Greek School President



Τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού μας σχολείου έχουν αρχίσει τα μαθήματα τους για το νέο σχολείο και αρχισαν τις εργασίες τους στα καινούργια Ελληνικά βιβλία τους με πολύ αγάπη και ενθουσιασμό.

Ας προσπαθήσουν και άλλοι γονείς να φέρουν τα παιδιά τους στο Ελληνικό μας σχολείο – εστω και λίγο αργά – διότι γίνεται μια πολύ καλή εργασία, με τα παιδιά και την δασκάλα τους, την Κυρία Αλεξάνδρα, που με τόση υπομονή και αγάπη προσπαθεί να τους διδάξει την Ελληνική γλώσσα και κουλτούρα μας.

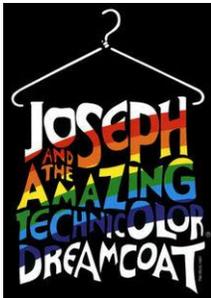
Τα παιδιά και η δασκάλα τους σας ευχονται:

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος.

Κωνσταντίνος Κακαδέλης, Πρόεδρος Ελληνικού Σχολείου

Mrs. Alexandra, Greek School Teacher, with her students: Elias Grossman, Dino Grossman, Claire Veiga, Anastasia Haring, Spiros Theologis, Nikos Theologis, Gianni DiGirolamo, Kostis DiGirolamo, Alexandra Kross

An Exciting Event



On a first come first served basis, Sunday School students will be treated with tickets to the State Theater in New Brunswick to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" on Saturday, December 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are very limited so contact Helen Coutros Horan to make your reservations as soon as possible. A parent or adult must accompany children attending and transportation must be provided. This event is a generous donation from Maria Mantoudakis whom we thank wholeheartedly.



December 17, 2017 Christmas Party with Santa

April 8, 2018 Easter Egg Hunt with Easter Bunny

May 20, 2018 Graduation Day Reception

June 17, 2018 Father of the Year Reception



G.O.Y.A. News

Board Members:

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Jadyn Simatos

Vice President:
Dean Giannakopoulos

Treasurer:
Nick Parsenios

Secretary and Disciplinarian:
Kali Simatos

The holidays are upon us and the G.O.Y.A. is very busy! We are preparing our “Reflecting On Our Windows” program honoring our church founding families. We are excited to bring it to you all during one of our upcoming coffee hours as our contribution to the centennial celebration. We have begun working on our sights and sounds projects. We continue to practice Greek dance on Wednesday nights with our stellar instructors, Despina and George. We plan to perform our Greek dances at a nursing home in December. We are also looking forward to attending the G.O.Y.A Christmas dance at the end of December. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a wonderful 2018.

Kali Simatos,
G.O.Y.A. Secretary

St. Demetrios Perth Amboy GOYA
2017/2018

CONTINUING TRADITIONS *and* CONNECTING GENERATIONS

GOYA 2017/2018 will continue the wonderful traditions of St. Demetrios by learning from and creating and connecting with our parishioners, seniors and the rich traditions of our Greek Orthodox faith and culture.

- CHANTING OF CHURCH HYMNS DURING OUR LITURGIES
- ASSISTING SENIORS IN PLANTING SEASONAL FLOWERS ON CHURCH GROUNDS
- CLEANING & MAINTAINING DECEASED PARISHIONERS' CEMETERY PLOTS
- BAKING PROSPHORA WITH SENIORS
- BAKING TRADITIONAL GREEK RECIPES WITH PHILOPTOCHOS
- CREATING TRADITIONAL KOMBOLOI & KOMBOSKINI WITH PARISH ARTISANS
- PERFORMING TRADITIONAL GREEK DANCING AT NURSING HOMES
- REPRESENTING OUR CHURCH IN METROPOLIS-WIDE EVENTS

For more information, please visit <http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org/our-parish/parish-organizations/goya/>



The G.O.Y.A table at the 100 year celebration.



Nick Parsenios with Zack Giannakopoulos



Saint Demetrios 100th Anniversary Memorabilia



Purchase your items today. These items are wonderful Christmas presents and stocking stuffers.

Items will be on display in the Narthex. Please see church office to make your purchase today!

Last chance to buy a brick:



New 100th anniversary wall is up with only 100 spaces, 10 are already sold.

Small Bricks \$150

Large Bricks \$350

Congratulations, Saint Demetrios! We have sold out every brick space in the meditation garden. Yet many more parishioners want to buy bricks. 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 in our meditation garden.



Gala Luncheon Celebration Event Sunday, October 29, 2017

His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos opened the celebration event with a prayer of God's blessings to all upon this wonderful milestone of our 100th Anniversary. Guests were welcomed by Rev. Dr. George Parsenios who expressed much hope for the future with our prayerfulness for grace and mercy.

It was wonderful to have the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, Father George Parsenios & Pres. Marina Corodemus, Father Iakovos, and Marina Alexander, Musical and Artistic Director of the Arcadian Chorale seated at our head table as our distinguished guests.

This auspicious day had finally arrived and we were prepared to rejoice, reminisce and remember our rich, deep-rooted history as we looked forward to our future. This day evoked many emotions as we commemorated our forefathers, the first Greek immigrants, our ancestors, who chose Perth Amboy as their hometown. For many of us who are third generation parishioners, they were our grandmothers and grandfathers, our Yiayias and Pappous who formed a congregation in 1917, built their very first Church on the corner of High St. and Center St. in 1923 and about 30 years later, built our beautiful Church here where we worship today. They left us with a strong legacy of our Greek Orthodox faith, culture and traditions which we hope to have fulfilled in a way to make them proud. Their legacy is so very precious to us and we plan to keep their dreams alive so that at the 200th Anniversary, it can be said that we did well. Their presence has certainly been felt over these past few months and was, certainly, felt on our Anniversary Day.

It was a great privilege to acknowledge and appreciate His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos and His Eminence Maximos for joining us a few times during our celebration week which was truly a very special honor and a blessing. It was our pleasure to also recognize, His Eminence's father, Kyrios Ioannis Kourounis. Also, our thanks were extended to Deacon Philotheos, Father Iakovos and Cantor, Mr. Fousteris

Additionally, His Eminence was thanked for bringing us our beloved priest, Rev. Dr. George Parsenios, Presbytera Maureen and their lovely children Nicholas, Julia & Constantine. We will be forever grateful; they were truly God-sent.

It was our honor to have the family of our late priest, Rev. John Liadis, with us. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Poppy Liadis join us. We all remember Father Liadis very fondly. Several other guests were recognized and acknowledged who were instrumental in making this celebration possible.

As our Keynote Speaker, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, addressed the audience with gracious words of congratulations and prayers for a blessed future for our St. Demetrios Church Community.

Our Parish Council President, Hon. Marina Corodemus spoke eloquently in relation to the State of our Church acknowledging special guests, our Parish Council, Church staff and volunteers for their tireless work. She highlighted the significant progress that has been made in preparation for our future hopes and dreams.

Everyone was thanked for joining us on this momentous occasion in the history of our Church. Our prayers and those of our ancestors will forever echo in the walls of our blessed Church, Holy One, Great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ our God for us that He may grant us His Great Mercy.

Helen Coutros Horan
Parish Council, Secretary
100th Anniversary Committee



Vespers - Wednesday, October 25, 2017



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos addressing the community at Vespers.



Icon of the Martyrdom of Saint Demetrios in choir loft.



Visiting Priests with Metropolitan Maximos of Silivria.



Artos in front of Panayia Fanourameni.



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos receiving an icon from iconographers Panagiotti and Dimitri Chrystodoulou.



The Arcadian Chorale - Friday, October 27, 2017



Maestra Marina Alexander conducts the Archadian Chorale in sacred ad excerpts of Nicholas Astrinidis's Oratorio to Saint Demetrios. Archadian Chorale Soloists Ephigenia Kastanas and tenor Christopher Lucier prepare to sing their parts.



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos congratulates Marina Alexander and the chorale on a spiritual and musical triumph - "Magnificent".



Chorale Soloists Ephigenia Kastanas and tenor Christopher Lucier.



Parishioner, Maria Mantoudakis, also narrates the Martyrdom of Saint Demetrios.



Parishioner, Dr. Andrew Moroianu, helps narrate the Life of Saint Demetrios.



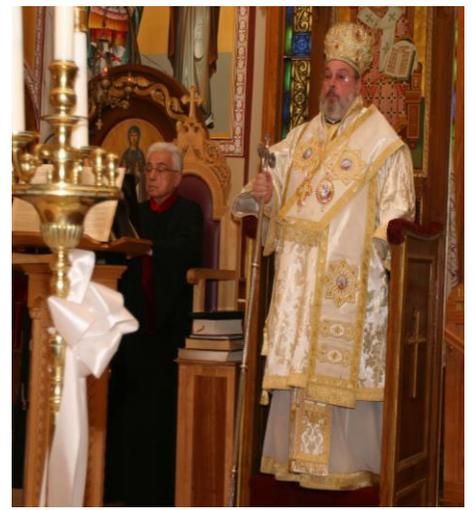
100th Anniversary Week Celebration



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, Father George and Fr. Iakovos begin the Divine Liturgy.



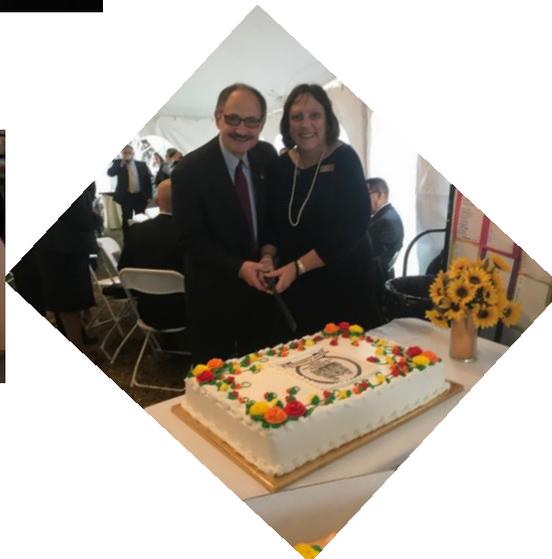
Deacon Philotheos reads the Gospel.



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos



His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos and Guest Conductor Nicholas Kyros of the EFGOCM award Saint Demetrios Parish Council President Judge Marina Corodemus an Outstanding Leadership and Service Contribution Award, as the Federation held its convention at Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The choir sang the liturgical music composed by the late Anna Gallos.



Perth Amboy's City Council President William Petrick and Parish Council President Judge Marina Corodemus cut the 100th Anniversary cake.



Gala Event Luncheon Celebration - Sunday, October 29, 2017



Perth Amboy's Mayor Wilda Diaz presents City Proclamation to Fr. George and President Judge Marina Corodemus



State Assemblyman John Wiesznewski, Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos join to Congratulate Parish Council President Judge Marina Corodemus on her Leadership award.



Parish Council Vice President Spero Kalambakas Esq. on behalf of the Parish Council and Community honors Parish Council President Judge Marina Corodemus.



Helen Catelanos, assisted by Fr. George, award Peter Christopoulos the first Agape award for loving service to the church.



Debbie Mattos with her parents George and Zeffie Tsitzis.



Friends, new and old, joined in to dance the day away with happiness, despite the rain.



Demetri Tsivelis and his son, Petros



Afroula Kanellidis and her grandson Milo



Kristie Corodemus and her son, Stephen



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~ December 2017~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
3	4	5	6 Agius Nicholas Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	7	8	9 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Philoptohos General Meeting 12:00 p.m.
17 Christmas Pageant	18	19	20	21	22 Orthros and Great Hours 10:00 a.m.	23
24 Great Vespers and Scripture Reading of Nativity 5:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30 Sunday School Outing
31 New Year's Eve						

~ Δεκεμβριος 2017~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Χριστουγεννιατικη εκδηλωση προκρισης
3	4	5	6 Αγιου Νικολαου Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 a.m.	7	8	9 Χριστουγεννιατικη εκδηλωση προκρισης
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Χριστουγεννιατικη εκδηλωση προκρισης Γενικη συνελευση της Φιλοπρωχου 12:00 p.m.
17 Χριστουγεννιατικη εμφανιση	18	19	20	21	22 Ορθος και Μεγαλη Ωρα 10:00 a.m.	23
24 Μεγαλες Εσπεριδες και αναγνωσεις στη Γραφη της Γεννησεως	25 Χριστουγεννα Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30 Κυριακη Σχολικη Εκδρομη
31 Παραμονη Πρωτοχρονιας						



Buy a brick with your family name for our new wall today. Only 90 bricks left.

Have you visited the St Demetrios Perth Amboy website lately?
You can now make donations and honor your stewardship commitment by making your payments on line at:

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

Saint Demetrios Greek
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Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861

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stdgoa@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. George Parsenios
Phone: (732) 826-4466
Cell: (609) 462-2949
Fax: (732) 826-4312

E-Mail:
fr.georgepar@gmail.com

Visit us at:
www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org



Father George and Parish Council President Marina Corodemus welcome their Eminences Metropolitan Evangelos and Metropolitan Maximos of Silivria, as well as, the iconographers of our church, Demetri and Panagiotis Christodoulou from Thessalonika. They honored us with their presence at our Great Hierarchical Vespers for Saint Demetrios on Thursday, October 25, 2017.