

Parish
Newsletter
May 2019

Saint Demetrios



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Visit us at: www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org

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



Constantine became Emperor of the Roman Empire in the 312 A.D. He gave religious freedom to all Christians who had suffered untold hardships at the hands of previous Roman Emperors. Emperor Constantine built the new capital of the Empire in the ancient city of Byzantium and renamed the city Constantinople. This was the “golden age of Christianity within the Byzantine Empire. Once, before Emperor Constantine fought an important battle, he saw a cross in the sky with words surrounding it saying, “With this sign you will win.” Emperor Constantine and his soldiers fought bravely and won the battle. Due to this great victory, Constantine asked his mother, Helen, to go to Jerusalem in search of the true cross of Christ. After searching for many days, Helen found a plant that smelled very sweet (basil) so they began to dig in that area and found the Cross of Jesus. When people who were ill kissed the cross, they were healed and they realized this was miraculous. Helen built many Churches in the Holy Land in particular, The Church of the Holy Cross, in the place where they found the True Cross of Christ. Due to their tremendous contributions to the Christian Faith, Helen and Constantine have been given the titles “Isapostles” which means equal to the Apostles.

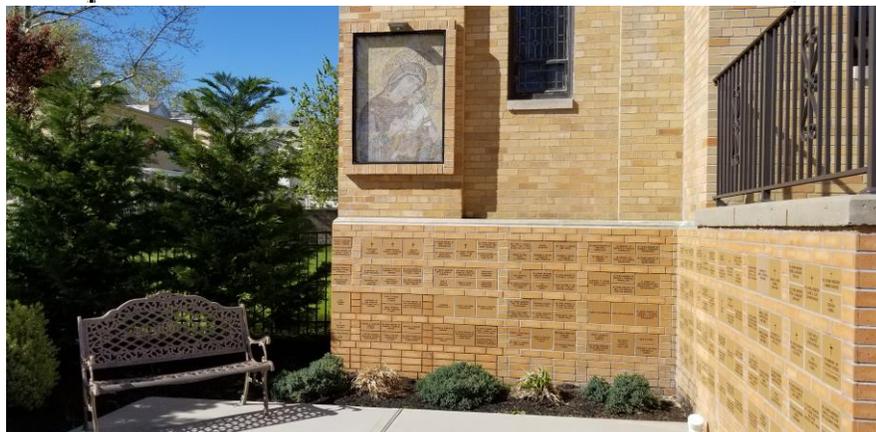


The beautiful but solemn Epitaphio Procession on Good Friday evening was true to our religious beliefs by faithful Parishioners mourning and encircling the grave of Jesus with prayers and songs signifying the deep sorrow of this tragic event in our Orthodox faith.



Message from Father George

During the month of May, the Church basks in the glow of the Resurrection of Christ, until he returns to the Father in the Ascension. This year, the feast of the Ascension does not take place until June 6th. At that point, we will celebrate Jesus' return to the Father. But the return of Jesus to the Father is not his departure from the world. He continues to be present in the Holy Eucharist which we receive every Sunday. Just as important, He is present within all of us. He is present when two or three of us gather together in his name. And the Holy Apostle Paul says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). When our lives reflect the light of Christ to the world, we make Christ present in the world. Let us share this light with every person we meet every day of our lives.



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 St. 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.



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Spero Kalambakas

Vice President 2:

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Irene Pakis

Chantor

Evangelos Kartsakalis

NEWSLETTER

Editorial Board

Father George Parsenios

Helen Coutros Horan

Maria Kakadelis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest Parishioners,

“Christ is Risen, Truly, He is Risen! Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεστη!”

After experiencing a most intensely spiritual Holy Week and Easter Feast Day, I am filled with love, hope and promise for our beautiful Saint Demetrios Church Community. As the photographs in this issue depict, Father George very eloquently delivered our Church services and sermons which were so very powerfully moving and significantly meaningful for all of us.

The well-attended services this year gave us great anticipation for growth in our community.

This spiritual essence and radiance will now follow us into the celebrations of *Mother's Day and Graduation Day* which we look forward to, anxiously, in honor of all Mothers of our community who have selflessly served our Church and to congratulate all the graduates who worked so diligently to earn their certificates and degrees. Let's not forget about our Comedy Night with Basile who promises to be very interesting and entertaining on *Saturday May 11th*.

As we move into June, we will host our *Festival by the Bay 2019 on June 1st and 2nd*. It is hoped that each and everyone of you will be as supportive and generous as possible to create *a festival to remember!*

Thank you all for your continued commitment and support of our beloved Saint Demetrios Church. It is hoped that you will be attending and participating in the events that we will be hosting. May God be with you all!

In His Service,

Helen Coutros Horan

Parish Council President

Parish Council News

Our Parish Council was well-pleased with the wonderful attendance at our Holy Week and Easter Services and hopes that all parishioners were fulfilled spiritually and emotionally with their participation. Our deep appreciation is extended to Father George for a beautiful Holy Week and Easter celebration. Christos Anesti; Alithos Anesti!

We are now concentrating on our two major fund-raisers which are rapidly approaching. Our Comedy Night with Basile the Greek is being sponsored on Sat., May 11th which might be a great Mother's Day gift since this event is anticipated to be fun for adults of all ages.

Our most profitable fund-raiser of the year is our Festival by the Bay 2019 and everyone's support and assistance is needed to make this a festival to be remembered. Your volunteerism at this event is of great value to our Church so please sign-up for the area in which you would like to work. Any time you can offer will be most graciously accepted.

Our building project is progressing very well with contracts being signed and requirements being met which, at times, may not happen as expeditiously as we would like; nevertheless, we are moving towards groundbreaking in the very near future.

We are always available to all parishioners who may have questions or concerns in regard to our Church so please feel free to approach anyone of us. We will make it a priority to find answers or solutions that will be satisfactory.



2019 GREEK FESTIVAL BY THE BAY

Food! • Music! • Dancing! • Opa!

Saturday, June 1 11am - 11pm

Sunday, June 2 12pm - 7pm



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Festival By The Bay

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

41 - 47 Wisteria Street and Sadowski Parkway

(at the beautiful waterfront)

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

for more information:

www.perthamboygreekfestival.org

(732) 826-4466

Shop at our
boutique booth
and Greek store!

Greek Dancers!

Delicious
Greek Pastries!



We would like to welcome, Evangelos Kartsakalis as the Cantor, to Saint Demetrios Church. Evangelos was born in Agrinio, Greece and came to America when he was 14 years old. He began working in and out of the restaurant business for many years before opening his own establishment, Evan's Restaurant in Matawan, New Jersey in 2000. The restaurant has been successful and he continues to work there. His wife's name is Georgia and they have three children, Ioanna, Dimitri, and Alexandra.



 **Ελληνικό Σχολείο** 



Η 25^η Μαρτίου είναι μια διπλή γιορτή – θρησκευτική και εθνική. Την ημέρα αυτήν γιορταζουμε τον Ευαγγελισμό της Θεοτοκου και την Επανάσταση του 1821. Απο την επανάσταση του 1821 είναι εμπνευσμένη και η Ελληνική μας σημαία. Ο Σταυρος στην κορυφή συμβολίζει την Ορθοδοξία και την πίστη των Ελλήνων στον Χριστό. Οι εννεα γαλανολευκές λωρίδες συμβολίζουν τις εννεα συλλαβες της φρασης «Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος»

Την Κυριακή, 24 Μαρτίου 2019, τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου γιορτάσαν την Εθνική γιορτή τις 25^η Μαρτίου του 1821 μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία με επιτυχία. Τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού σχολείου μας έκαναν υπερηφανούς για ακόμα μια χρονιά κρατώντας ψηλά την Γαλανολευκή σημαία, απαγγέλλοντας ποιήματα, τραγουδώντας δημοτικά τραγούδια και χορεύοντας παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Συγχαρητήρια σε όλα τα παιδιά μας!

Δημητριος Τσιβελης
Προεδρος Ελληνικού Σχολείου

Αλεξάνδρα Βελμαχου
Διδασκαλίσσα Ελληνικού Σχολείου

Pictured on the left: Nicholas Parsenios received praise for his Oratorical Speech, "Knowing the Bible, Knowing your Faith". **Pictured on the right:** A Tribute to our Greek Flag and Greek Independence Day.





ST. DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

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

We would like to thank everyone who helped and attended the **Palm Sunday Luncheon**, as well as those who purchased delicious desserts from our Bake Sale. Your continued support is always appreciated.

Stella Wacker attended the Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade. The weather was beautiful, and to see all the churches and organizations who participated was amazing.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events:

- **Mother's Day** is on **Sunday, May 12, 2019**. The Philoptochos will announce this year's Mother of the Year! Who will it be? Please join us on Mother's Day to find out. A special coffee hour will follow downstairs in the Church Hall.
- Next **General Assembly Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**

Thank you for your continued support.

In Christ, Stella Wacker



G.O.Y.A. News

Our G.O.Y.A. had a wonderful time helping Holmdel with their "Bridges" event in April. The children actually made sandwiches for the homeless and distributed them to the needy in Newark. It was such a rewarding couple of days! Please pray for and support us as our Church gets set to host Indoor Olympics on May 11, 2019. We end the G.O.Y.A. year with Outdoor Olympics on Memorial Day weekend! It has been an exciting year and we thank you for your support!



Sunday School News

Father George Led a Religious Educators Seminar



Sunday School teachers attended a Religious Education Seminar sponsored by the Metropolis of New Jersey which was led by our very own Priest, Father George Parsenios. He led a discussion of Hymnography through an interesting explanation of the importance of our beautiful hymns especially during Lent. Father George expertly articulated their symbolism by bringing forward an awareness of how they function and their ability to help us praise God. It was an enlightening experience for our teachers and a proud moment that Father George was selected by His Eminence to deliver this significant message to all teachers of our Metropolis.



Sunday of Orthodoxy - 3/17/2019 - Κυριακη της Ορθοδοξιας - 17/3/2019



The first Sunday of the Great Lent, our Holy Church celebrated the triumph of Orthodoxy, the restoration of the holy icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith. After the Divine Liturgy, Parishioners held Icons for the Procession of Icons around the church.

Την πρώτη Κυριακή της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής η Αγία μας Εκκλησία εορτάζει το θρίαμβο της Ορθοδοξίας. Στο τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας έγινε η Λιτανείωση των Ιερών Εικονών γύρω στην Εκκλησία με την συμμετοχή των Ενοριτών.

Happy children of our Church pose together after learning to make Palm Crosses and individually decorating them with butterflies, flowers and ribbons.



Father George held the Blessing of Palm Crosses Ceremony during our Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy just prior to distributing a handmade Palm Cross to each of the parishioners and specially-decorated crosses by our Sunday School students to all the children in attendance.



Our beautifully decorated Epitaphio filled our Church with the glorious aroma of flowers and the spiritual essence of our Good Friday services as the symbolic ritual of removing the body of Jesus Christ from the cross and wrapping it in a white cloth was ceremoniously performed by Father George. Constantine Parsenios assists Father George with wrapping Jesus Christ in the white cloth.

Easter Celebration

As the faithful awaited in anticipation of the Good News with the glow of their candles illuminating the night, Father George pronounced "Christos Anesti, Christ is Risen!" as Holy Pascha arrived at midnight and our Church bells rang in celebration of the Resurrection!



As families and friends re-entered the Church after the announcement of the Resurrection, joy can be seen on their faces as they greeted each other and venerated the Icon of the Resurrection which was adorned, magnificently, with red roses, carnations and orchids.





ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PERTH AMBOY, NJ

GRADUATION DAY: SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UPCOMING GRADUATES OF HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, ADVANCED DEGREES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY. IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT PREPARING FOR THE "BIG DAY" AT OUR CHURCH.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR GRADUATE TO APPEAR IN OUR ST. DEMETRIOS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHY TO HELEN COUTROS HORAN AT HER EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

helehoran@yahoo.com

PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHY MUST BE SUBMITTED BY **MAY 10TH** AT THE LATEST. ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT HELEN HORAN AT 908-794-3065.

PHILOPTOCHOS AWARDS

AS IN MANY YEARS PASSED, THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS WISHES TO HONOR **ALL GRADUATES BELONGING TO OUR ST. DEMETRIOS COMMUNITY**. THE PRESENTATIONS OF GIFTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, MAY 19th. IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT, PLEASE HAVE A PARENT OR RELATIVE PRESENT SO AS TO RECEIVE THE GIFT. BE SURE TO RETURN THIS FORM **BY MAY 10TH**.

PLEASE MAIL TO OR TELEPHONE: HELEN CATELANOS
63 STEPHENVILLE PKWY.
EDISON, NJ 08820
732-549-0508

SCHOLARSHIP/MEMORIAL AWARDS

KENNETH ARIANAS AWARD: PRESENTED TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES in our Community.
BYRON STOIMENIDES AWARD: PRESENTED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES who attended Sunday School through Grade 12.

KINDLY COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN BY **MAY 10TH**.

FULL NAME OF GRADUATE _____ TEL. # _____

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: COLLEGE TO ATTEND _____
MAJOR _____

COLLEGE GRADUATE: COLLEGE ATTENDED _____
DEGREE _____

GRADUTE SCHOOL GRADUATE: COLLEGE ATTENDED _____
MASTERS _____ DOCTORATE _____

TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE: _____

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX WHICH INDICATES THE DIPLOMA THE GRADUATE IS RECEIVING AND THE COLLEGE, SCHOOL, DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATION BEING RECEIVED. KINDLY CALL OR RETURN TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR LEAVE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY:

**** **MAY 10TH** ****

GRADUATION PRESENTATIONS WILL BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, MAY 19th** IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL GRADUATION DAY!



*May
11th
2019*

*\$50
per
person*

Basile

A Night of Comedy

*Enjoy a night of laughter and entertainment featuring the popular
Greek-American comedian, Basile.*

When: Saturday, May 11th, 2019

Where: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy, NJ

Price: \$50 per Person

Doors open at 7:30pm.

8pm showtime with entertainment by DJ Steve until midnight

Each ticket includes: entrance to show and mezedakia for the table.

*Additional alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and additional
mezedakia platters will be available for purchase.*

For reservations: 732.826.4466 or stdgoa@gmail.com

Ask about our special discounted rate for larger parties!



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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.

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You can now make donations and honor your stewardship commitment by
making your payments on line at:**

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

Father George and Presbytera Maureen welcomed the Easter Bunny after the well-attended Agape Service on Sunday while



families and friends scurried to find the special treats that our Saint Demetrios PTO so graciously provided for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt that delighted everyone especially our youngest parishioners.

