



Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Newsletter January



Καλη Χρονια!

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

January 6, 2020 - 6 Ιανουαριου, 2020

The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - Αγια Θεοφανεια του Κυριου



About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the

Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις, τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοί, ἀγαπητὸν σὲ Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα, καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἵδει περιστεράς, ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεῖς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοί.

Theophany and Blessing
of the Waters
Sunday, January 12, 2020
followed by our
Philoptochos Vasilopita

Please plan to attend our
General Assembly Meeting
Sunday, January 19, 2020



Message from Father George

The month of January begins with one of the great feasts of the Church, the feast of Epiphany on January 6th. This feast celebrates the baptism of Christ, and also goes under the name Theophany. The word Epiphany means “Revelation” or “Manifestation.” Where there is an epiphany, it means that something has been made known which was hidden. The word “Theophany” is similar, but even more specific. It means that God, who has been hidden, has been made known. The baptism of Christ is called an “Epiphany” or a “Theophany” because it is in Christ’s baptism that the Holy Trinity is made known fully for the first time. The voice of the Father comes from heaven, while the Spirit descends in the form of a dove, and Jesus is revealed to be the Son of God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are revealed in this scene, and so the month of January begins with a focus on the Holy Trinity, a divine epiphany, a theophany. But the entire month continues in the same way, because we honor in the month of January so many saints who were great theologians and who explained and clarified the Orthodox faith. In their teaching, we see God revealed and made clear. Their teaching is a form of a theophany. These great saints are people like Saint Athanasios the Great, whose teaching in the 4th century gave birth to the Nicene Creed that we recite in Church, and Saint Cyril of Alexandria, who clarified in the 5th century how we should understand properly the role of Mary in Christ’s birth. We honor them together on January 18. We also honor Saint Gregory the Theologian on January 25th, and he is given the title “Theologian” to emphasize his essential role in defending the faith of the Nicene Creed just a few decades after it was written. Finally, at the end of the month on January 30th, we honor the “The Three Great Hierarchs,” great bishops of the Church. One of them is Saint Gregory the Theologian, and the other two are Saint Basil the Great and Saint John Chrysostom, both of whom were not only great theologians and preachers, but also authors of the Divine Liturgies of our Church. Saint Basil is also celebrated on his own on January 1st. So, January is a month of Theophanies, of divine revelations, first in the Baptism of Christ, and then in the lives and teaching of the great Saints that we honor in this month.



January - 2020 - Ιανουάριος

January 6, 2020 – 6 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00 π.μ.

***** Special sermon – Sunday, January 19, 2020 *****



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dearest Parishioners,

Happy New Year! Χρόνια Πολλά! It is hoped that every one of you were blessed with love, joy and happiness as we all celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with our loved ones, our families and friends. May 2020 bring all of us a bright, new beginning, a chance to renew our devotion and dedication to our beloved Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. With the renewal and rebirth of our hopes and dreams that Christmas brings coupled with the renewal and rebirth of a new year, the future looks so very bright and full of hope and promise!

The arrival of 2020 brings us closer to our hopes and dreams for our new Tom and Sylvia Kress Community Center and our Saint Demetrios Housing for Active Adults. Our Philotimo Committee continues to work diligently toward achieving our financial goals, a mortgage commitment, plus final approvals from architects, contractors, lawyers, etc. which are coming closer and closer to fruition. New fundraisers are being planned so please look for the information and let's make every effort to help fulfill this wonderful dream!

Please know that our Parish Council will continue to work toward increasing attendance and new stewards in 2020 through our outreach efforts. The increased attendance that filled our pews for Father George's "special" sermon on Sunday, December 8th demonstrated that our parishioners and new guests are interested in hearing his inspirational words through his thoughtful and meaningful sermons. His next "special sermon" will be Sunday, January 19, 2020.

It was, also, wonderful to see the Church pews filled with families and friends who came to witness our beautiful children perform in this year's Christmas Pageant which delighted the audience immensely.

Through our prayers to our Savior Jesus Christ, let's all bring the hope and promise of our new year with us into our Saint Demetrios Church as we work side by side as a Church family. Let's treasure and practice our faith, customs and traditions together as Greek Orthodox Christians in 2020 and far beyond with spiritual love and fulfillment.

In HIS Service,
Helen Coutros Horan, Parish Council President

SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ~ Hebrews 13:16

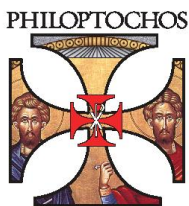
Happy and Healthy New Year to Everyone!

A big thank you goes out to all who baked and supported our December Bake Sale. Your contributions are always appreciated.

Please mark your calendars: **January 12, 2020**, the Philoptochos will host a **Vasilopita Luncheon** following the **Epiphany Services and the Blessing of the Waters**. Vasilopita will be cut and distributed amongst the organizations of our church as well as to members of the community. All proceeds will go toward **Saint Basil's Academy**.

We are reaching out to the ladies of our community to become a member of the Philoptochos. The Philoptochos is for women of all ages to come together as a sisterhood to help out those in need. Please consider joining. We've included a membership form for your convenience.

Please join us at our next meeting on Saturday, January 18, 2020, 12 noon at Church.



Membership Interest Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____



Christmas Tree Lighting

Our Saint Demetrios parishioners gathered together after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 8, 2019 to light up the season with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Father George led us in a special prayer while our choir led us in song. Children, parents, grandparents, families and friends were present to usher in

the holiday spirit.



Christmas Pageant - Joy to the World!



Our Christmas Pageant tradition seems to become more beautiful and more exciting year after year! We must thank the director of our pageant, Helen Catelanos, who works wonders with our children to portray the Nativity scene. Beginning with children singing Christmas carols, reciting poetry and reading special passages, we were led to the main event. With proud, smiling faces, our children proceeded down the Church center aisle personifying Mary and Joseph, angels and stars, shepherds with their flock, the Three Kings, and our sweet, adorable Drummer Boy who ended the wonderful procession to create our extraordinary Nativity of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was a precious moment enjoyed by all the Parishioners who filled our Church to be part of the festivities.





Father George's Sermon



On December 15, 2019, Father George's sermon was on the Parable of the Great Banquet in the Gospel of Luke. "All things are ready! Come to the Feast!" The meals in Scripture share things in common with ancient dining practices, but they also radically transform what it means to eat together, showing us how to live radically transformed lives as Orthodox Christians.



PTO News

On Sunday, December 22, 2019 we had a wonderful turnout and lovely Christmas Pageant performed by Saint Demetrios Sunday School and Greek School students. Family and friends filled our Church as the children filled our hearts with their wonderful readings, songs and enactment of the Nativity. Our choir sang beautifully, alternating



with Christmas classics as Mary, Joseph were joined by angels, shepherds, little animals, three kings and little drummer boy to give glory and praise to baby Jesus.

Our PTO President, Diana Potaris Regan, and her family delighted everyone with their portrayal of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus along with their little Elf.

A PTO-sponsored Christmas celebration followed with holiday music and treats and, once again, Santa Claus came to greet excited children who waited with anticipation for Santa to give out gifts and candy!



We hope everyone's Christmas was filled with the beauty of Christ's love and enjoyment of family and friends. Wishing for 2020 to be a year of health, happiness and prosperity to all!



Ελληνικο Σχολειο - GREEK SCHOOL

Αγαπητοι ενοριτες,

Σας ευχομαστε Χρονια Πολλα! Το νεο ετος να ειναι γεματο με υγεια και αγαπη σε σας και τις οικογενειες σας!

Δημητριος Τσιβελης
Προεδρος Ελληνικου Σχολειου

Κυρια Αλεξανδρα Βελμαχου
Διδασκαλισσα Ελληνικου Σχολειου



G.O.Y.A. News

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. We are busy preparing for the upcoming Sights and Sounds Festival. The Goyans are enjoying fellowship as they practice dance routines, prepare crafts and put together performances. We are so proud of the talented group of young people that we have in our Church.

Join us for A Painting Party

Saturday Feb 1st
4:30 PM
Church Hall
\$40



This is the image that will be used for painting.

All 16 and older are welcome to paint! No experience is necessary. Light refreshments provided. Wine available for adults 21 + over.

All proceeds will benefit the Perth Amboy GOYA costume fund.
For questions or RSVP: Contact
Cyndi Giannakopoulos 732-735-7531 or
Jennifer Simatos 732-343-2266



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Joy to the World! The Lord has come!