



Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Newsletter April 2020



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



April 19 - Great and Holy Pascha

19 Απριλιου - Αγιο Πασχα



Τη Κυριακη του Πασχα εορταζουμε την Ανασταση του Ιησου Χριστου. Ειναι η μεγαλυτερη εορτη της Χριστιανοσυνης. Αποτελει το κεντρο της ζωης, της πιστεως, της χαρας, της ελπιδος και της αγαπης των πιστων. Ο θανατος του Ιησου Χριστου πανω στο Σταυρο δεν ειναι μια αποτυχια που αποκατασταθηκε καπως μετα την Ανασταση του. Ο ιδιος ο θανατος πανω στο Σταυρο ειναι μια νικη. Η νικη της οδυνωμενης αγαπης. «Κραταια ως θανατος αγαπη...υδωρ πολυ ου δυνησεται σβεσαι την αγαπην» (Ασμα Ασμ. 8, 6-7). Ο Σταυρος μας δειχνει μιαν αγαπη που ειναι δυνατη σαν το θανατο, μιαν αγαπη ακομη πιο δυνατη.

*Καλη και ευλογημενη
Μεγαλη Τεσσαρακοστη.*

Καλό Πάσχα!



Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions. Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

The following have been cancelled: Orders for Tsourekia and the Philoptocho's Palm Sunday Luncheon.

**The following have been postponed: The G.O.Y.A.'s Spaghetti Luncheon (date to be announced).
The Cornucopian trip has been rescheduled to October 31, 2020.**



Father George's Message

On Sunday April 19th, we celebrate the feast of Pascha, the feast of feasts. To reflect anew this year on the meaning of this great celebration, we need look no further than the very word itself. What does the term "Pascha" mean? People who speak Greek might imagine that the word comes from the Greek verb pascho, which means "to suffer," since Christ undergoes great suffering the crucifixion. In fact, the word is not originally Greek, but is from the Aramaic language that Jesus spoke, and it comes originally from the Hebrew word "Pesakh," which is the Hebrew word for Passover. When we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, therefore, we are celebrating Passover, the true Passover. Why is the Resurrection of Christ called "Passover?" While enslaved in Egypt, the Jews were told to anoint their doors with the blood of a lamb, so that they might be saved from the death that was sent into Egypt. Death would "pass over" the houses that were anointed with the blood of the lamb. The blood of the sacrificed lamb saved them from death. This Passover in Egypt takes on its full meaning in the life of Christ, who is called the Lamb of God by John the Baptist. Like the lamb in Egypt, whose sacrifice protected Israel, the sacrifice of Christ on the cross saves us from death and sin and everything that separates us from God. Death no longer has dominion over us, because Christ has died and risen from the dead. He has conquered death by the blood of his own death, and death will now "pass over" us like it did the people of Israel in Egypt. As we approach the 19th of April, let us remember the meaning of the term "Pascha," and let us reflect on what it means for Christ to save us through this Passover, so that we can cry aloud with joy and with great celebration, Christ is Risen!

Την Κυριακή, 19η Απριλίου, γιορτάζουμε την γιορτή του Πάσχα, την γιορτή των γιορτών. Για να συλλογιστούμε φέτος και πάλι τη σημασία αυτής της μεγάλης γιορτής, δεν πρέπει να κοιτάξουμε πέρα από την λέξη Πάσχα. Τι σημαίνει η λέξη "Πάσχα"; Οι άνθρωποι που μιλάνε ελληνικά θα μπορούσαν να φανταστούν ότι η λέξη παράγεται από το ελληνικό ρήμα "πάσχω," το οποίο σημαίνει "να υποφέρω", αφού ο Χριστός υφίσταται μεγάλο πόνο στη Σταύρωση. Στην πραγματικότητα, η λέξη δεν παράγεται από τα αρχικά ελληνικά, αλλά από την Αραμαϊκή γλώσσα που μίλησε ο Ιησούς και από την Εβραϊκή λέξη "Pesakh." Αυτή η Εβραϊκή λέξη σημαίνει στα Ελληνικά "περνάει" και μεταφράζεται στα Αγγλικά "Passover." Η Σωτηρία των Ιουδαίων στην Αίγυπτο από την Παλαιά Διαθήκη καλείται Πάσχα. Γιά αυτό, όταν γιορτάζουμε την Ανάσταση του Χριστού, γιορτάζουμε το "Passover," το αληθινό Πάσχα. Γιατί η Ανάσταση του Χριστού ονομάζεται "Πάσχα;" Ενώ υποδουλώθηκαν στην Αίγυπτο, οι Ιουδαίοι είχαν χρίσει τις πόρτες τους με το αίμα ενός αρνιού, για να σωθούν από το θάνατο που στάλθηκε στην Αίγυπτο. Ο θάνατος "πέρασε" τα σπίτια που χρίστηκαν με το αίμα του αρνιού. Το αίμα του θυσιασμένου αρνιού τους έσωσε από το θάνατο. Αυτό το Passover στην Αίγυπτο παίρνει το πλήρες νόημά του στη ζωή του Χριστού, που ονομάζεται Αμνός του Θεού από τον Ιωάννη τον Βαπτιστή. Σαν το αρνί στην Αίγυπτο, η θυσία του οποίου προστατεύει το Ισραήλ, η θυσία του Χριστού στο σταυρό μας σώζει από τον θάνατο και την αμαρτία και από όλα όσα μας χωρίζουν από τον Θεό. Ο θάνατος δεν έχει κυριαρχία πάνω μας, επειδή ο Χριστός πέθανε και ανέστη από τους νεκρούς. Έχει κατακτήσει το θάνατο από το αίμα του θανάτου του και ο θάνατος θα μας "περάσει" τώρα όπως έκανε στην Αίγυπτο. Καθώς πλησιάζουμε στις 19η Απριλίου, ας θυμηθούμε το νόημα της λέξης "Πάσχα" και ας σκεφτούμε τι σημαίνει για τον Χριστό να μας σώσει στο Πάσχα, ώστε να μπορούμε να φωνάξουμε δυνατά με χαρά και με μεγάλη γιορτή, Χριστός Ανέστη!



President's Message

Dearest Parishioners,

During these uncertain, unprecedented days, I hope that everyone is staying safe, staying sheltered at home and staying healthy. Having this time to ourselves and our inner thoughts, the most important things in life, truly, come into focus; our Lord God, our beloved families and our Church. The power of prayer seems to be more important now than ever. I would like to share a special comforting prayer with you from a book entitled, "My Orthodox Prayer Book" since we cannot pray together at Church right now. The prayer can be found on page 6. Until we can gather together, please watch the videoed Liturgies and services that Father George has been providing us which, truly, make a huge difference. Thank you to Father George for creating these videos for all of us. We will pass through this difficult time with God's love and protection.

The miracle of Easter is fast approaching which symbolizes a new life, a rebirth in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through His salvation, anything is possible. Happy Easter! Καλο Πασχα!

Hoping to see you all at Church very soon! May God be with us all.

In HIS Service,
Helen Coutros Horan
Parish Council President

Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society

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

Spring is here and it brings to mind new hopes, new beginnings, and many prayers that we all stay safe and healthy during these challenging times. In keeping with the efforts to maintain the good health of one and all.

If you or anyone you know, especially our seniors, needs assistance during this time (for example, with shopping), please feel free to reach out to us, and we will do our best to aid you.



G.O.Y.A. News

We have had a month of great ups and downs. Our Goyans achieved a spectacular 41 points in "Sights" and placed 4th in the Play. We are praying for the health of each and every one of you. We will get through this and look forward to the day we can be together again! God bless and keep you all safe!



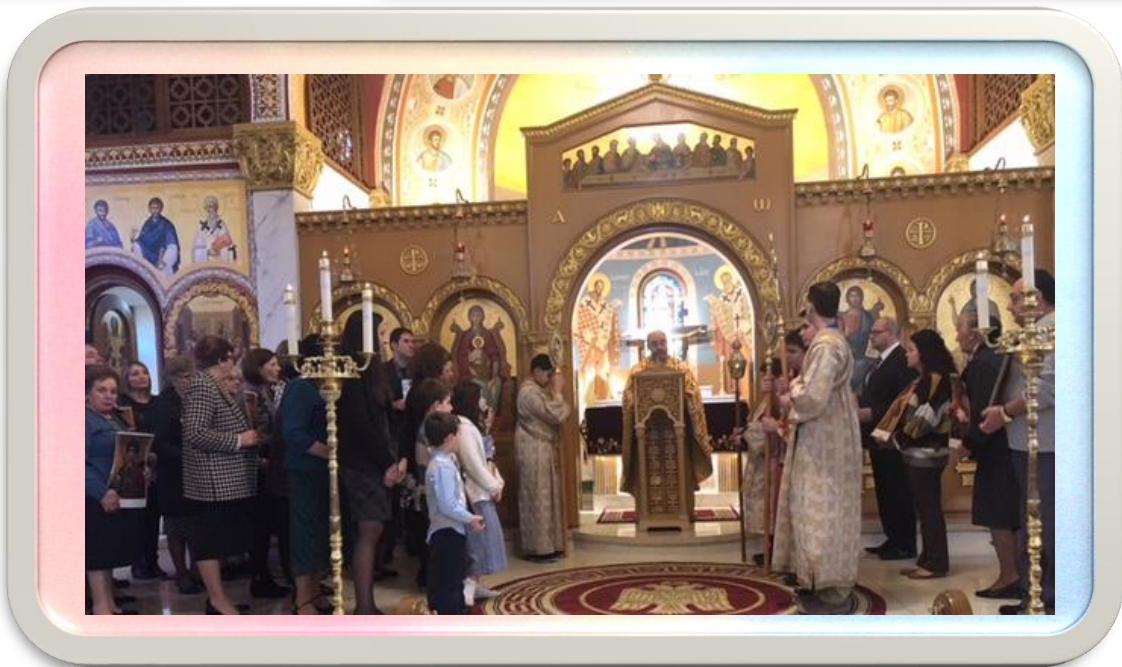
Procession of the Icons



On the first Sunday of Lent, March 8, 2020, our Saint Demetrios congregation celebrated the Sunday of Orthodoxy with a beautiful Divine Liturgy delivered by Father George followed by the Procession of Icons while children and adults carried and displayed our Icons as they formed a Procession around the perimeter and venerated our Icons. This day celebrated the triumph of the restoration of Icons after a 100



year banishment. Icons are an integral part of our Orthodox faith, culture and traditions which reinforce the importance of this special day in our Church history.





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Special Announcements

It is imperative to follow all directives and guidance in regard to the safety and protection of all our parishioners and their families. As per His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, the Divines Services are, hereby, permitted to take place within our parishes. However, the doors to the churches will remain closed to the faithful, as they are to be instructed to participate in the celebration of the Divine Services through the various online live streaming services. We are awaiting further directives especially in regard to Holy Week, prior to publishing the schedule for Holy Week Liturgies and Services. Thank you all for your anticipated understanding, patience and cooperation in these matters.

Prayer In Time Of Need

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to my help and deliver me from this difficulty that besets me. I believe, Lord, that all the trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Take away from me fear, anxiety and distress. Help me to face and endure my difficulty with faith, courage and wisdom. Grant that this trial may bring me closer to You, for You are my rock and refuge, my comfort and hope, my delight and joy. I trust in Your love and compassion. Blessed is Your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

To Our Dear Senior Citizens

Please know that our Church is here for you. If you need assistance with shopping, picking up prescriptions, or whatever your needs may be, please call us at Church (732-826-4466) so we can make arrangements to help you. Please stay home and stay safe. We care about you and your well-being.