



Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία Αγίου Δημητρίου

Parish Newsletter September 2020
Δελτίο Ενορίας Σεπτεμβρίου 2020



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

September 14, 2020 - 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2020

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross – Η Υψωση του Τιμίου Σταυρου



Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan.

22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place. Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τόν λαόν σου καί ευλόγησον τήν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεύσι κατά βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καί τό σόν φυλάττων διά τού Σταυρού σου πολίτευμα.



A Message from Father George

Dear Parishioners of Saint Demetrios,

Christianity is a religion of new beginnings. Those who believe in Christ, according to Saint Paul, are a new creation. The old has passed away, he says, and the new has come. But we are not made new with the wave of a magic wand. We are not made new in an instant. Our renewal is a process, sometimes long and sometimes difficult, that requires the same attention that a gardener shows to his garden, or that an artist shows to his art. September 1 marks the beginning of a new Ecclesiastical Year, and as we begin a new year in the life of the Church, we are reminded of the need every day to begin anew our life in Christ. September starts the Church's year because it also marked the beginning of the fiscal year in the Byzantine Empire. Even though the secular year in the modern world begins on January 1, the Church still starts its yearly cycle of services on September 1. But for those in Christ, every single day brings the dawn of a new beginning - if we focus on Christ. We may be struggling with difficult relationships, or struggles at work, or struggles with the temptations and bad habits that cling so closely to us. All of us are facing great trials in the broader culture, as the quarantine continues to wear us down, the pandemic continues to spread, and civic unrest remains a part of our daily lives. We are reminded at the start of the New Year in the Church to bring the renewal of Christ into our lives personally, and to face all of these challenges with a new perspective of patience, hope and love. If we wish to have any effect on our broader society, and if we wish to have any effect on our immediate surroundings, we have to first change ourselves. We have to first renew ourselves. As we start this new ecclesiastical year, let us dedicate our attention ever more fully to being made anew in Christ.

With love in Christ,
Father George



September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 40-Day Memorial Service Konstantina Ilioupoulou	Labor Day	The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Service of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish Council Meeting 12 Noon	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Liturgy will be celebrated on Sept. 13.					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						
27	28	29	30			
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						



President's Message

Dearest Parishioners,

As we end our summer months dealing with an unprecedented epidemic, unsettling events, restrictions and constraints, I cannot be more grateful for the solace and peace that we are able to experience at our beautiful Saint Demetrios Church through our Divine Liturgy services and Father George's insightful and meaningful sermons either through in-person attendance or through live-streaming. This sense of comfort and calm that surrounds us is so very necessary at this particular time to assure us that with God's goodness, mercy and love, we will survive these difficulties and emerge stronger and better. The beauty of spending more quality time with our families and enjoying the beauty of nature were some of the benefits from the time we were given. Let us all continue to pray together at church or at home with our families. God hears our prayers and with the intercessions of our Panagia, we will heal. We will be honoring our blessed Theotokos on September 8 and the Holy Cross on September 14. These are perfect opportunities to pay special tribute to our Heavenly Father and Saints for their holy mercy upon us all. Please know that our Church is here to assist each and everyone of us through these difficult days embraced with peace and love.

Enjoy the beauty of your families and the beauty of our environment!

May God be with us all!

In HIS Service,
Helen Coutros Horan



Registration for church attendance

Beloved Parishioners of Saint Demetrios,

We must follow careful guidelines/rules as we attend the Divine Liturgy.

1. By registering for church attendance, you are affirming that you yourself do **NOT** have COVID-19 symptoms, that you have **NOT** been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (**as far as you can reasonably know**), and that you are **NOT** taking care of anyone with COVID-19 symptoms. If you cannot affirm this, then you must not attend divine services at this time, but you should inform Father George, and he will contact you, in order to find some way to connect you to the community.
2. In order to make sure that we do not have too many parishioners present at once, you must inform us either by responding to the email you receive or by calling the Church office.
3. Everyone attending divine services **must wear a mask**.
4. The Church has been carefully prepared, so that **no one can sit within six feet of another person**, except a family member. We have special places designated for up to 8 family members to sit together, and the ushers will help to identify family seating. ****Please follow the direction of the ushers.**
5. Please inform us well in advance if you would like to hold a Memorial Service (Trisagion), and we will reserve up to 10 seats for your family.
6. Please **bow before the icons**, but do not kiss them.
7. Antidoron will be distributed in small bags, so that each person might take it while maintaining social distancing.
8. No tray will be passed, but **please leave a donation in the Narthex** while departing.
9. As you wait to enter the Church, or to use the restroom, please **maintain social distancing of 6 feet**.
10. No activities will occur after the divine services. Please depart from the Church at the conclusion of worship.

With love in Christ.



Η Ενορία μας είναι ανοιχτη

Αγαπητοι αδελφοι,

Οπως εχουμε επικοινωνησει μαζι σας, πρεπει ολοι μας να τηρησουμε της διαταγες του κρατους και της οδηγιας της Ενοριας μας.

1. Πριν εισελθετε εις το Ιερον Ναον, πρεπει να μην εχετε πυρετο και συμπτωματα κορονοϊου. Εαν εχετε συμπτωματα κορονοϊου, δεν επιτρεπεται η εισηδος στο Ιερον Ναον. Οι εκκλησιαζομενοι πρεπει να απολυμανησουν τα χερια πριν εισελθουν εις το Ναον.
2. Η εισοδος και η συμμετοχη γινεται μονον δια κρατησεως.
3. Οι εκκλησιαζομενοι πρεπει να φορουν μασκες.
4. Οι εκκλησιαζομενοι πρεπει να τηρησουνε τις οδηγιες περι κοινωνικης αποστασεως. Οι συμβουλοι θα σας οδηγησουν που να καθησετε.
5. Παρακαλουμε να μας ενημερωσετε αν θελετε μια υπηρεσια μνημης οσο το συντομοτερο. Θα κρατησουμε 10 θεσεις για την οικογενεια σας.
6. Σας παρακαλουμε να προσκυνησετε τις εικονες και οχι να τις φιλησετε.
7. Το αντιδορον θα δωθει μεσα σε σακουλιτσες.
8. Κανενας δισκος δε θα περασει αλλα παρακαλουμε να αφησετε δωρεα στο Ναρθακα οταν αποχωρησετε.
9. Η εισοδος επιτρεπεται μονο εις το Ιερο και στη τουαλετα και οχι σε κανενα αλλο χωρου του κτιριου.
10. Οι εκκλησιαζομενοι πρεπει να αποχωρησουν εκ του χωρου του Ναου μετα τη Θεια Λειτουργια.

Σας ευχαριστουμε για την συνεργασια σας.



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.

Hope and Joy

Hello children and parents of Hope & Joy! It is hoped that you are all staying safe, sound and healthy during these unsettling days. It looks as though we will have to be apart a little longer, however, please know that you and your bright, smiling faces are, truly, missed. Let us all keep praying for the time that we can, once again, join together comes very soon! Stay strong and stay healthy while we wait patiently and confidently for the joyful day when we will return and continue our special activities and events at Church! See you soon!



SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

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

Welcome back one and all! It's wonderful that, slowly but surely, we are able to attend church in person, once again. For those who cannot or who are not ready to attend, we know you are still with us in spirit.

Although the Philoptochos as a group has not been able to get together, we have still been actively helping to assist several local families by providing gift cards during these challenging times. We have, also, donated funds to the City of Perth Amboy to help feed the hungry, as many have been affected by this pandemic. In addition, we donated to a poverty-stricken community in West Virginia who was in desperate need of help.

In order for us to continue providing for those individuals who are in need of our assistance, your contributions to our cause help tremendously. Since many fund-raising events are on hold for now, if you have not submitted your dues for this year, please do so if you are able, either by mail or leave in an envelope addressed to the "Philoptochos" at the church office. And, new members are always welcome!

As always, if anyone, especially our seniors, needs assistance during this time, please feel free to reach out to us and we will do our best to aid you.

Stay safe!

In Christ,
The Philoptochos of Saint Demetrios

PTO News

Normally, the PTO would kick off our Sunday School and Greek School year with our Annual Welcome Back Picnic. Sadly, we cannot do that this year, however while we cannot welcome back, everyone together in person, please know all our Saint Demetrios children, parents and teachers are in our thoughts and hearts. This year has tested all of us in so many ways- may God continue to strengthen us in faith, compassion and resiliency. Our children have demonstrated much of this already and we are so very proud of them and hope that despite an unconventional start to this school year, that it will be a great year; and as the year goes on soon back to "normal", perhaps even better. We, truly, hope we can all be able to gather together soon for Sunday School, Greek School, Hope and Joy and G.O.Y.A. events as well as the special seasonal events we all enjoy. May God bless all of you and keep you safe.

Greek Grill by the Bay!



On the beautiful weekend of August 29 and 30, 2020, we conducted a new endeavor entitled, "Greek Grill by the Bay."





Since we were unable to have our traditional, full Greek Festival this year, we decided to have a drive-up, walk-up Grill Event.



We had a steady flow of customers who had very positive reviews of our delicious pita sandwiches, souvlakia, baklava and our famous loukoumades!





With much appreciation to our volunteer workers, donors, sponsors, supporters and friends, our new endeavor was successful and we hope to duplicate it very soon.



SUMMER 2020

ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ 2020







Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!



Summer Time Fun









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στην πρώτη γραμμή της μάχης κατά του κορωνοϊού.
Μεινετε υγεις και ασφαλεις.



*We thank all our
Frontliners and Essential Workers
during this pandemic.*

Please stay safe!