

# *Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church*

*Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία Αγίου Δημητρίου*

*Parish Newsletter October 2020 - Δελτίο Ένοριας Οκτωβρίου 2020*



**Orthros: 9:00 a.m. - Ορθρος 9:00 π.μ.**

**Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m. – Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00 π.μ.**

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## **October 26 - The Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, the Myrrh-Streamers**

Saint Demetrios was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessaloniki in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bathhouse. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrios, came to the Saint in the bathhouse and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrios, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and stroke him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrios was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bathhouse. As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

### **Apolytikion of Demetrios, the Myrrh-Streamers**

The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to naught the boasts of Lyaeus, imparting courage to Nestor in the stadium, in like manner, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.



## 26 Οκτωβριου - Άγιος Δημητριος, ο Μυροβλυτης

Ο ενδοξος μεγαλομαρτυρας Δημητριος εζησε στα χρονια των αυτοκρατορων της Ρωμης Διοκλητιανου (284-304) και Μαξιμιανου (286-305). Καταγοταν απο τη Θεσσαλονικη. Απο τους γονεις του πηρε την ευσεβεια και ο ιδιος υπηρξε διδασκαλος της χριστιανικης πιστης.

Οταν καποτε ο Μαξιμιανος πηγε στη Θεσσαλονικη, ακουγοντας οσα ελεγαν ολοι για την αρετη και τη μεγαλη πιστη του Δημητριου στον Θεο, διεταξε και τον συνελαβαν και τον φυλακισαν. Ο αυτοκρατορας αυτος καμαρωνε τον Λυαιος, που ηταν γιγαντοσωμος και πολυ δυνατος και τους ξεπερνουσε ολους. Ο Μαξιμιανος θελοντας να τιμησει το Λυαιο, παρακινουσε τους Θεσσαλονικεις να μπουν στο σταδιο και να παλεψουν μαζι του.

Τοτε ενας νεος στην ηλικια χριστιανος, που τον ελεγαν Νεστορα, επισκεφθηκε τον Αγιο Δημητριο στην φυλακη και του ειπε: "Δουλε του Θεου, θελω να αντιμετωπισω τον Λυαιο. Προσευχησου για μενα στον Κυριο." Ο Αγιος, αφου πρωτα εκανε στο μετωπο του Νεστορα το σημειο του σταυρου, του ειπε: "Και το Λυαιο θα νικησεις, αλλα και για το Χριστο θα μαρτυρησεις!" Ετσι λοιπον ο Νεστορας, παιρνοντας δυναμη και θαρρος απο τα λογια του Αγιου Δημητριου, αντιμετωπισε τον Λυαιο, τον θανατωσε και ταπεινωσε την αλαζονεια του.

Ο Μαξιμιανος ντροπιαστηκε πολυ απο το γεγονος. Ερευνωντας ομως το θεμα, πληροφορηθηκε οτι αιτιος της σφαγης του Λυαιου ηταν ο Αγιος Δημητριος. Χωρις χρονοτριβη εστειλε στη φυλακη στρατιωτες, με την εντολη να λογχισουν την πλευρα του περα ως περα.

Οι στρατιωτες εκτελεσαν παραυτα την εντολη κι ετσι ο ενδοξος μεγαλομαρτυρας Δημητριος παρεδωσε στον Κυριο την ψυχη του και κοσμηθηκε με το αμαραντο στεφανι του μαρτυριου. Μετα το μαρτυρικο του θανατο, ο Αγιος επιτελουσε παρα πολλα θαυματα και παραδοξες θεραπειες.

Παλι με εντολη του Μαξιμιανου, αποκεφαλιστηκε απο τους στρατιωτες και ο Αγιος Νεστορας. Ο Αγιος Νεστορας θανατωθηκε με τη χρησιμοποηση του ιδιου του ξιφους του, με το οποιο ειχε νικησει τον Λυαιο.

## Απολυτικιον Δημητριου του Μυροβλητου

Μεγαν ευρατο εν τοις κινδυνοις, σε υπερμαχον η οικουμενη, Αθλοφορε τα εθνη τροπουμενον. Ως ουν Λυαιου καθειλες την επαρσιν, εν τω σταδιω θαρρυνας τον Νεστορα, ουτως Αγιε, Μεγαλομαρτυς Δημητριε, Χριστον τον Θεον ικετευε, δωρησασθαι ημιν το μεγα ελεος.



## *Message from Father George*

Dear Parishioners of Saint Demetrios,

October is one of the important months in our parish, as we celebrate the feast of Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Saint Demetrios was killed in one of the great Roman persecutions of Christians in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century. He was a martyr who gave his life for Christ. The word “martyr” is originally a legal word that means a “witness.” And the word “martyria” means evidence or testimony. A “martyr” offers “martyria” (testimony) in court. When Christians, therefore, were called to prove whether or not they were Christians, they gave their “martyria,” their testimony, and proved their identity. They showed that they were different from the world around them and the world persecuted them. When they were killed, they were called “martyrs.” We are not in danger right now of being killed for being Christians, but we must still offer “martyria” of our faith. We must still show to the world and to the people around us that we are Christians. We must live lives of discipline and self-control, even as the world offers the opposite. We must live lives of mercy and forgiveness, even as the world offers the opposite. And we must live lives of self-sacrifice and Christian love, even as the world urges greater and greater selfishness and self-indulgence. When we do this, we are offering a testimony of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are martyrs.

With love in Christ,  
Father George





Happy 5th year anniversary to Father George, Presbyter Maureen and their beautiful three children: Nicholas, Julia and Constantine.

Thank you for all that you do for our church and community. During the pandemic, you have gone above and beyond to keep our parish running smoothly and making sure that the Lord continues to be with us during these difficult times.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful priest. God bless you and your family.





# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						
18	19	20	21	22	26	24
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Vespers 7:00 p.m.	Feast of Saint Demetrios Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.					



## *President's Message*

Dearest Parishioners,

October is always a very special month for us at our beloved Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. It is the month that we celebrate the life of our patron saint, Saint Demetrios of Thessaloniki. He defended and protected his hometown, not only during his time on earth, but by performing miracles after his death. Saint Demetrios saved the people of Thessaloniki from numerous attacks by barbarians, diseases, famine and even healed the people from sicknesses. This was all possible through God's grace bestowed upon our Saint Demetrios as a miraculous myrrh-bearer.

Through our celebration of our patron Saint Demetrios, may we pray for his intercessions to our Lord Jesus Christ for His grace in healing and comforting those who are suffering at this most difficult time during the pandemic of our lifetime.

May we each take the time to pray for the eradication of the coronavirus and the return of our lives to a sense of normalcy. May Saint Demetrios hear our prayers for his intercessions and may our Lord Jesus Christ grace us with the miracles that may be necessary for our salvation from this pandemic.

Let us always be thankful and grateful as we acknowledge His love and care.

In HIS Service,

Helen Coutros Horan

Parish Council President



## *Parish Council News*

Our Parish Council has been very busy these past couple of months by planning, preparing and executing, not one, but two "Greek Grill by the Bay" events. With the assistance and support of many parishioners, both of our events were productive and profitable and we extend our deepest appreciation to all donors, patrons and volunteers. Our intention is to continue working to provide the necessary funds for the maintenance and operation of our Church. Please know that we are a strong and united team but we cannot accomplish our goals without the support and endorsement of our parishioners. Also, please know that we are forever grateful for each and everyone of you. Additionally, it must be known that the work of Ruben and Froso Morales is invaluable to us. God bless you all and please continue to be the force that provides us with the energy and enthusiasm to move forward. You are all our inspiration and for that we are very thankful!

## *Hope & Joy*

We had hoped to gather together for our Hope & Joy activities, however, that is not the case at this time. We miss you, dearly, and look forward to the time when we can meet again. In the meantime, we will be working on ways to communicate with you. We hope to see you at church services when your family attends. Please know that these difficult days will soon be in our past and we will be back together enjoying our Hope & Joy activities very soon.

Kally Durso  
Hope & Joy Director

## *PTO News*

It has been wonderful to see many of you at Church services and our Greek Grills! Slowly we are getting to have our opportunities to get together (safely) and may we be blessed with more to look forward to.

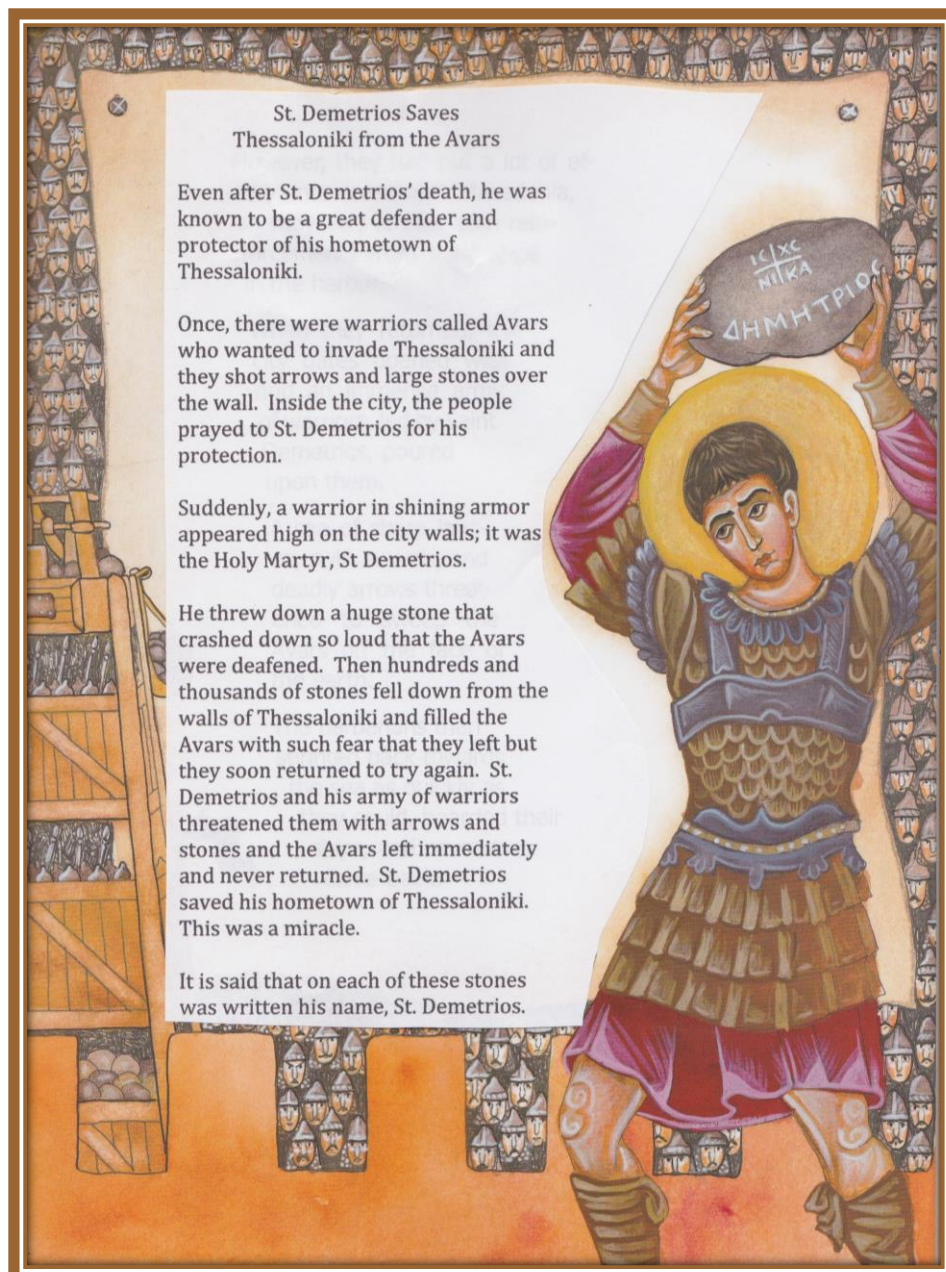
We miss our Sunday School and Greek School students and teachers! Hopefully students, parents and teachers have come through the start of school, acclimating as best as possible under the circumstances. May October be better for all.





## Sunday School

In Sunday School, during the month of October, we study the life and miracles of our Patron Saint, Saint Demetrios of Thessaloniki. Please enjoy reading the miraculous story of "Saint Demetrios Saves Thessaloniki from the Avars" in celebration of our Holy Martyr, Saint Demetrios. We pray.... ***Holy One, Great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ our God.***





## *G.O.Y.A. News*



Dear Friends,

We pray that all of you are safe and well. We are so excited to start the G.O.Y.A. year. Even though the events may be modified to keep everyone safe, we look forward to some return of the normal routine for our Goyans. Greek dance practice has already begun and will continue every other Sunday after Church services. We are grateful to have Despina and George Markos return to teach the dances that they love so much! We are also planning a "welcome back" event and welcome all new Goyans. If you know of anyone that would like to join G.O.Y.A., please refer them to [cynthiagianna@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiagianna@gmail.com). Looking forward to this "different" but equally rewarding year with our Goyans.

Cindy and Nick Giannakopoulos

*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.



## *SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY*

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

Happy fall, everyone! One minute it was summer, and now our thoughts have shifted to sweaters and fleeces, apple pies, pumpkin picking, and all the wonderful colors that autumn brings. Next thing we'll know, it'll be time for the holidays.

It is with this thought in mind that the Philoptochos is looking for your help. Our Metropolis Philoptochos President contacted us regarding the Hellenic Relief Foundation's project to provide assistance to families in Greece who are in need of certain items. The goal is to provide these items to the families in time for Christmas. The Foundation is looking for diapers, gently used clothing and shoes/sneakers for children up to the age of 14. If you don't have any of these items, you may still help out by making a monetary donation so items can be purchased. The used clothing must be clean and usable, please.

If you are interested in assisting in this effort, please see or contact Mrs. Helen Catelanos at (732) 549-0508 for more information. The deadline for providing these items is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Stay safe!

In Christ,  
The Philoptochos of Saint Demetrios





Back to school this year was different than all the previous years.

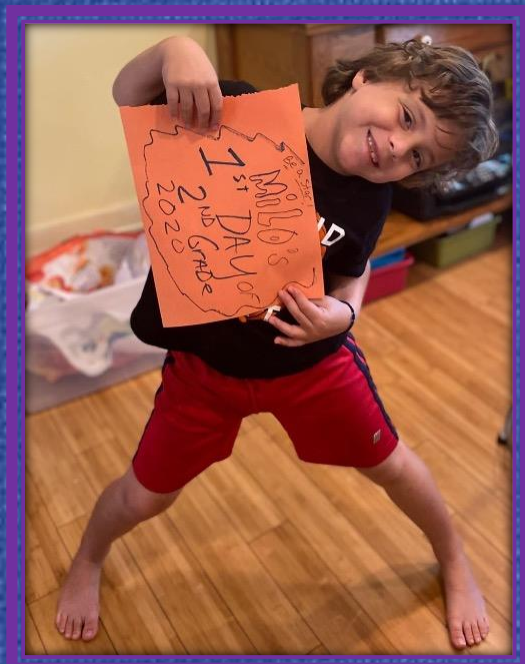
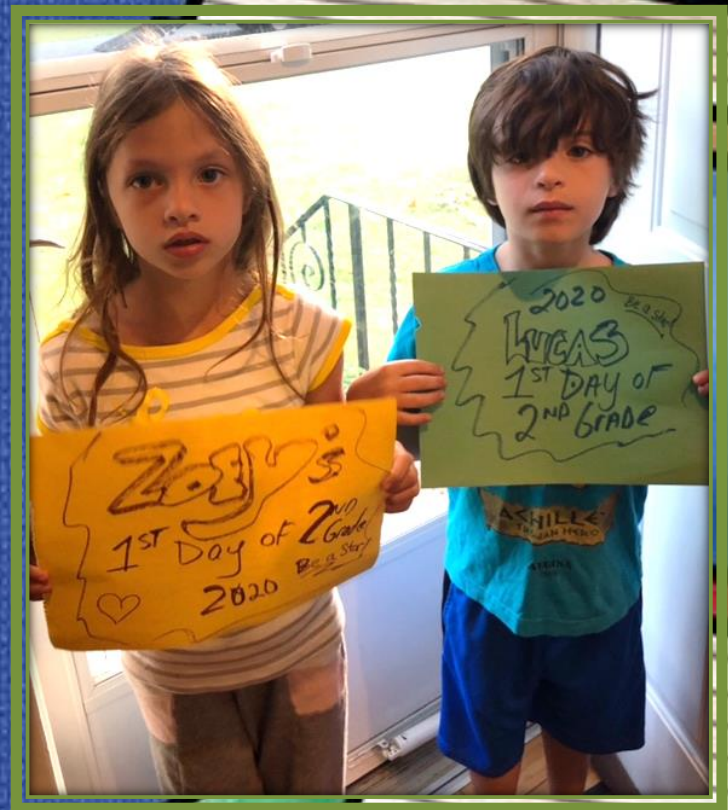
We are facing new challenges.

Thank you to all our wonderful teachers for their dedication and their immense work in educating our children during the pandemic.

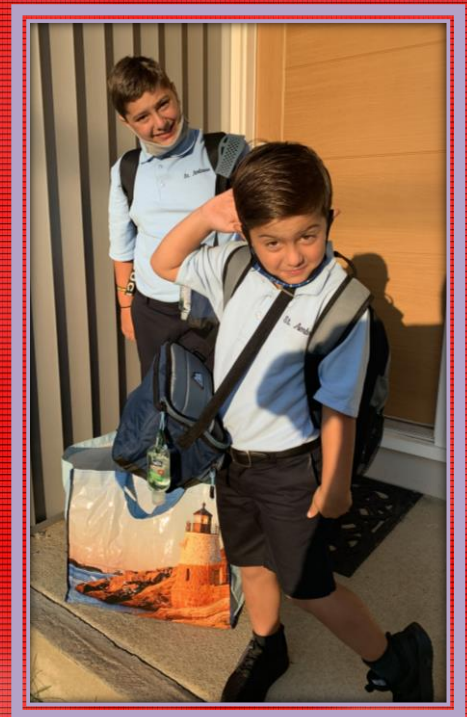
*We greatly appreciate it!*





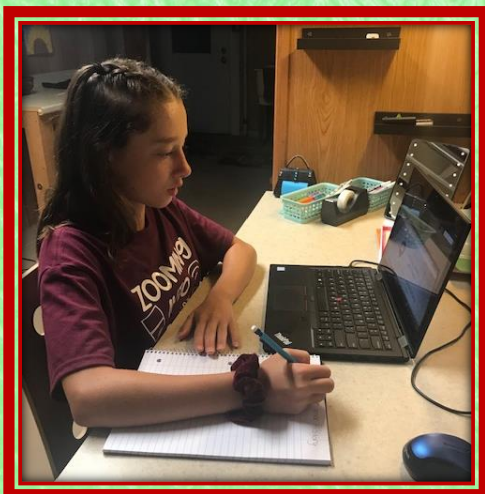




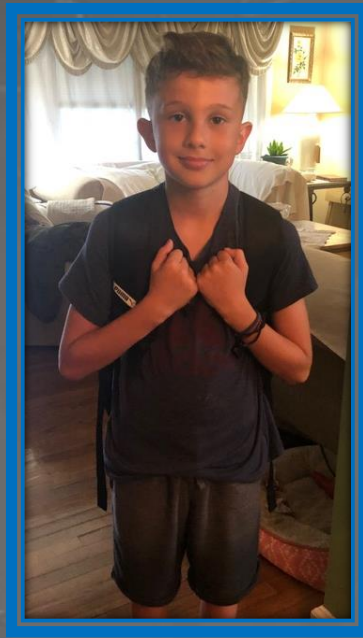
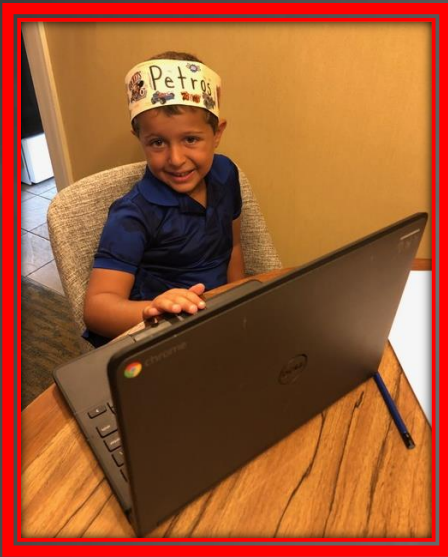


first Day of School













# THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Ruben and Froso Morales, our Maintenance Manager and Church Secretary, for keeping the church office running smoothly on a daily basis, especially during the pandemic. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people in our parish. Thank you for all that you do! God bless you and your family.

## *Greek Grill by the Bay #2*

On September 26th and 27th, our Greek Grill by the Bay #2 was held on our Church grounds with welcoming workers and happy customers. We received numerous compliments especially for the delectable grilled pita sandwiches and souvlakia. The Greek salad, baklava and loukoumades were very popular, as well. We were blessed with another weekend of beautiful weather which enticed people to come out and enjoy the day with a visit to our event. Grateful appreciation is extended to all our donors, supporters, patrons and volunteers! Without you, this event would not have been as profitable or successful! Sincerest thanks to you, all!



## *Greek Grill by the Bay #2!*

It is with great appreciation and gratitude that we thank all of our supporters, donors, sponsors  
and volunteers who made both of our Greek grill events possible with your love,  
commitment and generosity.



**Thank You!**



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*A big THANK YOU to all our  
Frontliners and Essential Workers  
around the world for their service!*

*Stay safe!*