

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία Αγίου Δημητρίου

Parish Newsletter December 2020 - Δελτίο Ένοριας Δεκεμβρίου 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.

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25 Δεκεμβρίου – Η Γεννησις του Σωτηρος ημων Ιησου Χριστου

Μετά τον Ευαγγελισμό της Παρθένου Μαρίας από τον αρχάγγελο Γαβριήλ, ο Καίσαρ Αύγουστος διέταξε απογραφή του πληθυσμού του ρωμαϊκού κράτους. Τότε ο Ιωσήφ μαζί με τη Θεοτόκο, ξεκίνησαν για τη Βηθλεέμ. Ξεκίνησαν από την Ναζαρέτ και ύστερα από κοπιαστικό ταξίδι έφτασαν στην Βηθλεέμ, όπου επειδή είχε συγκεντρωθεί πλήθος κόσμου δεν κατάφεραν να βρουν κατάλυμα, παρά μόνο ένα φτωχικό σπήλαιο. Εκεί η Θεοτόκος γέννησε τον Κύριο Ιησού Χριστό. Έπειτα Τον έβαλε επάνω στη φάτνη των αλόγων ζώων, διότι «ἔμελλε νὰ ἐλευθέρωση ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τὴν ἀλογία», όπως χαρακτηριστικά γράφει ο Άγιος Νικόδημος ο Αγιορείτης. Από τότε, όλοι οι πιστοί χριστιανοί με χαρά ψάλλουν τον ύμνο των αγγέλων εκείνης της νύκτας: «Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία» (βλ. Ευαγγέλιο Λουκά, Β' 1-20). Δόξα δηλαδή, ας είναι στο Θεό, που βρίσκεται στα ύψιστα μέρη του ουρανού και στη γη ολόκληρη, που είναι ταραγμένη από την αμαρτία ας βασιλεύσει η θεία ειρήνη, διότι ο Θεός έδειξε την αγάπη Του στους ανθρώπους με την ενανθρώπηση του Υιού Του.

*Ο ερχομος του Χριστου στον κοσμο,
εφερε την αγαπη και τη δυναμη του Θεου στη γη.*

Απολυτίκιον

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως, ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοί.

Κοντάκιον

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι. δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

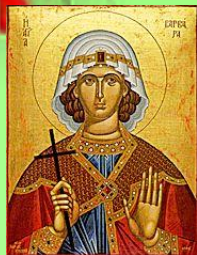


The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his father's side and an Idumean on his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations" (Gen.49:10).

Thus, our Saviour was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea, whither Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child, that, according to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they might be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there, and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled: "Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2), and "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib" (Esaias 1:3).

But while the earth gave the new-born Saviour such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light, and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity. And straightway, together with this Angel, they beheld and heard a whole host of the Heavenly Powers praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14).

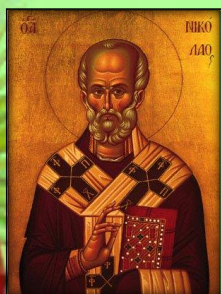
4 Δεκεμβρίου – Αγία Βαρβάρα η Μεγαλομάρτυς



Η Αγία Βαρβάρα ήταν κόρη του ειδωλολάτρη Διοσκόρου. Ο πατέρας της λόγω της σωματικής ωραιότητας της Αγίας, την φύλαγε κλεισμένη εντός πύργου. Δεν γνωρίζουμε που διδάχθηκε τις χριστιανικές αλήθειες, καθώς ο πατέρας της ήταν φανατικός ειδωλολάτρης, λόγος για τον οποίο άλλωστε προσπάθησε να κρατήσει κρυφή την πίστη της στον Τριαδικό Θεό. Ένα τυχαίο περιστατικό, όμως, την πρόδωσε. Ο πατέρας της πληροφορήθηκε από τεχνίτες ότι η Αγία ζήτησε να τις ανοίξουν τρία παράθυρα στον πύργο όπου ήταν έγκλειστη, στο όνομα της Αγίας Τριάδος και, έτσι, βεβαιώθηκε ότι η κόρη του είχε γίνει Χριστιανή.

Εξοργίσθηκε τόσο που την κυνήγησε εντός του πύργου με το ξίφος του για να την φονεύσει. Η Αγία κατέφυγε στα όρη, αλλά ο πατέρας της την συνέλαβε και την παρέδωσε στον τοπικό άρχοντα, Μαρκιανό, κατηγορώντας την για την πίστη της. Όταν ανακρίθηκε, ομολόγησε με παρρησία την πίστη της στον Χριστό και καθύβρισε τα είδωλα. Μετά από φρικτά βασανιστήρια, διεπομπέφθη γυμνή στην πόλη και τέλος σφαγιάσθηκε από τον ίδιο τον πατέρα της. Την στιγμή όμως που είχε αποτελειώσει το έγκλημά του, έπεσε νεκρός χτυπημένος από κεραυνό κατά θεία δίκη.

6 Δεκεμβρίου – Άγιος Νικόλαος



Ο Άγιος Νικόλαος γεννήθηκε τον 3ο αιώνα μ.Χ. από γονείς ευσεβείς και πλουσίους. Εδρασε την εποχή των αυτοκρατόρων Διοκλητιανού (284 - 304 μ.Χ.), Μαξιμιανού (286 - 305 μ.Χ.) και Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου.

Σε νεαρή ηλικία έμεινε ορφανός και κληρονόμος μιας μεγάλης περιουσίας. Αλλά ο Άγιος Νικόλαος, εμπνεόμενος από φιλόανθρωπα συναισθήματα, διέθετε την περιουσία του για να ανακουφίζει άπορα, ορφανά, φτωχούς, χήρες και στενοχωρημένους οικογενειάρχες.

Στην συνέχεια αφιερώθηκε στον ασκητικό βίο, λόγω όμως της ξεχωριστής αρετής του τιμήθηκε, χωρίς να το επιδιώξει, αρχικά με το αξίωμα του Ιερέα στα Πάταρα και συνέχεια με το αξίωμα του Αρχιεπισκόπου Μύρων. Από τη θέση αυτή καθοδηγούσε με αγάπη το ποίμνιό του και ομολογούσε με παρρησία την αλήθεια. Για το λόγο αυτό συνελήφθη από τους τοπικούς άρχοντες και ρίχτηκε στη φυλακή.

Όταν όμως ανήλθε στον αυτοκρατορικό θρόνο ο Μέγας Κωνσταντίνος ελευθερώθηκαν όλοι οι χριστιανοί και έτσι ο Άγιος Νικόλαος επανήλθε στο αρχιεπισκοπικό θρόνο.

Ο Άγιος Νικόλαος ήταν προικισμένος και με το χάρισμα της θαυματουργίας με το οποίο έσωσε πολλούς ανθρώπους και όσο ήταν εν ζωή αλλά και μετά την κοίμησή του το 330 μ.Χ.

9 Δεκεμβρίου – Αγία Άννα



Η Αγία Άννα παντρεύτηκε τον Ιωακείμ από τη Γαλιλαία. Η Αγία Άννα αξιώθηκε να έχει τη μεγάλη τιμή και ευτυχία να αποκτήσει μοναδική κόρη, τη μητέρα του Σωτήρα του κόσμου. Ο Ιωακείμ και η Άννα δεν ήθελαν παιδί “εγωιστικά”, ούτε ψυχολογικά ή συναισθηματικά. Δεν ήθελαν να γεννήσουν παιδί για τον εαυτό τους, αλλά για τον Κύριο. Η παράδοση αναφέρει ότι οι γονείς της την αφιέρωσαν στην υπηρεσία του Ναού της Ιερουσαλήμ, σε ηλικία τριών ετών. Αυτοί δε μετά από λίγα χρόνια πέθαναν.

Την Αγία Άννα τιμούσαν από τα αρχαία χρόνια. Το συμπεραίνουμε αυτό από διάφορους Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας, αλλά και από αρχαίους εκκλησιαστικούς ύμνους, που υπάρχουν προς τιμήν της μητέρας της Θεοτόκου. Επίσης, το έτος 550 μ.Χ., ο αυτοκράτωρ Ιουστινιανός, αφιέρωσε ναό στην Κωνσταντινούπολη προς τιμήν της Αγίας Άννας.

12 Δεκεμβρίου – Άγιος Σπυρίδων

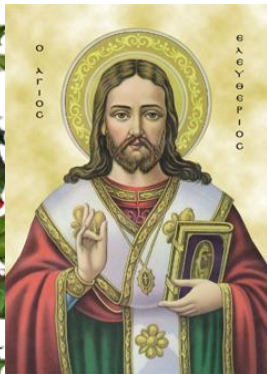


Ο Άγιος Σπυρίδων γεννήθηκε το 270 μ.Χ. Σαν χαρακτήρας, ο Άγιος, ήταν απλός, αγαθός, γεμάτος αγάπη για τον πλησίον του. Τις Κυριακές και τις γιορτές, συχνά έπαιρνε τους βοσκούς και τους οδηγούσε στους ιερούς ναούς, και κατόπιν τους εξηγούσε την ευαγγελική ή την αποστολική περικοπή. Ο Θεός τον ευλόγησε να γίνεται συχνά προστάτης χήρων και ορφανών.

Νυμφεύθηκε ευσεβή σύζυγο και απέκτησε μια κόρη, την Ειρήνη. Γρήγορα, όμως, η σύζυγός του πέθανε. Για να επουλώσει το τραύμα του, ο Άγιος Σπυρίδων αποσιώθηκε ακόμα περισσότερο στη διδαχή του θείου λόγου.

Μετά από πολλές πιέσεις, χειροτονήθηκε ιερέας. Και πράγματι, υπήρξε αληθινός ιερέας του Ευαγγελίου, έτσι όπως τον θέλει ο θείος Παύλος: «Ανεπίληπτον, νηφάλιον, σώφρονα, κόσμιον, φιλόξενον, διδακτικόν, τέκνα ἔχοντα ἐν ὑποταγῇ μετὰ πάσης σεμνότητος» (Α' προς Τιμόθεον γ' 2-7). Δηλαδή ακατηγόρητο, προσεκτικό, εγκρατή, σεμνό, φιλόξενο, διδακτικό, και να έχει παιδιά που να υποτάσσονται με κάθε σεμνότητα. Έτσι και ο Άγιος Σπυρίδων, τόσο σωστός υπήρξε σαν ιερέας, ώστε όταν χήρεψε η επισκοπή Τριφυθούντος στην Κύπρο, δια βοής λαός και κλήρος τον εξέλεξαν επίσκοπο. Από τη θέση αυτή ο Άγιος Σπυρίδων προχώρησε τόσο πού στην αρετή, ώστε τον αξίωσε ο Θεός να κάνει πολλά θαύματα.

15 Δεκεμβρίου – Άγιος Ελευθεριος



Ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος γεννήθηκε τον 2ο αιώνα μ. Χ. από πλούσιους γονείς. Ορφανός από πατέρα, ανατράφηκε σύμφωνα με τις επιταγές του Ευαγγελίου από την ευσεβέστατη και φιλάνθρωπη μητέρα του, Ανθία, η οποία έγινε χριστιανή ακούοντας το κήρυγμα από μαθητές του Απ. Παύλου.

Διακαής πόθος της Ανθίας ήταν να επισκεφτεί τη Ρώμη. Αποφάσισε και πήγε. Μαζί πήρε και το νεαρό γιό της Ελευθέριο. Ο επίσκοπος Ρώμης Ανίκητος, όταν είδε τον Ελευθέριο εκτιμώντας την πολλή νοημοσύνη του, τη θερμή πίστη και το αγνό ήθος του, τον έλαβε υπό την προστασία του.

Σε ηλικία 15 ετών χειροτονήθηκε από τον επίσκοπο Ρώμης Ανίκητο, διάκονος και έπειτα από τρία χρόνια χειροτονήθηκε ιερέας. Από τη θέση αυτή ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος αγωνίστηκε με ζήλο για τη διδαχή του ποιμνίου του, και σε έργα φιλανθρωπίας. Αργότερα και σε ηλικία είκοσι ετών, με κοινή ψήφο κλήρου και λαού έγινε επίσκοπος Ιλλυρικού, σημερινής Αλβανίας με έδρα την Αυλώνα. Η χειροτονία του Αγίου Ελευθερίου, έγινε «κατ' οικονομίαν» Θεού, λόγω των μεγάλων αρετών και της σοφίας του με την οποία προσείλκυε στον Χριστό τους ειδωλολάτρες. Η γλυκύτητα του λόγου του, που επιβεβαιωνόταν με τα πολλά θαύματα του, έκανε αυτούς που βρίσκονταν στην πλάνη να ασπαστούν την χριστιανική αλήθεια.

Η φήμη της αρετής του Αγίου Ελευθερίου ήταν τόσο μεγάλη που έφτασε μέχρι τη Βρετανία. Έτσι, ο βασιλιάς της, Λούκιος, έγραψε επιστολή στον Άγιο Ελευθέριο και του δήλωνε ότι αυτός και ο λαός του επιθυμούσαν να γίνουν χριστιανοί. Ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος αμέσως ανταποκρίθηκε, στέλνοντας δύο εκπαιδευμένους στην πίστη άνδρες, που κατήχησαν και βάπτισαν χριστιανούς τον Λούκιο με το λαό του.

Όταν ο Σεπτίμιος Σεβήρος πληροφορήθηκε την χριστιανική δράση του Αγίου Ελευθερίου διέταξε την σύλληψή του. Έπειτα από πολλά βασανιστήρια ο Άγιος Ελευθέριος οδηγήθηκε από τους ειδωλολάτρες στην αρένα της Ρώμης. Τα άγρια ζώα όμως δεν τον άγγιξαν, γι' αυτό και αποκεφαλίστηκε μαζί με την μητέρα του.

December 4 - Saint Barbara the Great Martyr

Saint Barbara was born in the city of Nicomedia, in the year 218 A.D. Born to Dioscorus, a wealthy tyrannical Roman merchant and devout believer in the Greco-Roman religion. She grew to become very beautiful and desirable. On his return from a business trip, Dioscorus ordered that a tower be built for his daughter away from influences of the new religion that was slowly encroaching into Roman society, to prevent her from indulging in her habit of helping the poor, and to keep her away from undesirable suitors. Barbara spent years in the tower. She got her food and laundry by way of a basket on a rope. Her father began bringing suitors of his choosing but by then Barbara had lost all interest in marriage. One day, a stranger put a book in the basket from which Barbara learned about the new religion. Barbara so longed to know more about Christianity that she grew ill. Her father sent for a doctor and when the healer arrived, the father in his agitation, did not ask what kind of doctor this was. He was, in fact, a priest - Origen. Barbara asked the priest many questions and received baptism. Shortly after, her father was called away. In his absence, Barbara ordered the men who worked on the estate, to add a third window into the tower. As she was the daughter of their employer, they complied. On his return, Dioscorus inquired into the meaning of the third window, to which Barbara replied that she had converted to Christianity and that they symbolized the three faces of God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The father told her she must renounce her new faith or die. When she refused, he betrayed her to the Roman authorities who tortured her but were unable to get her to give up her beliefs. They even tried to shame her by parading her through town naked. The angels sent a convenient fog that completely hid her. Eventually, they ordered her father to kill her. He tried to end her life by a variety of horrific means, but she slipped to safety again and again -- becoming more radiant and holy each time she affirmed her faith. And so did Barbara die at the hands of her own father. Even as the sword fell, lightning fell upon this cruel father and consumed him as he stood. Because lightning appeared to revenge the death of Barbara, she became the protectress against lightning and thunder.

December 6 - Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travelers and of sea-farers in particular.



December 9 - Saint Anna

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, since Saint Anna, the Ancestor of God, was barren, she and her husband Joachim remained without children until old age. Therefore, sorrowing over their childlessness, they besought God with a promise that, if He were to grant them the fruit of the womb, they would offer their offspring to Him as a gift. And God, hearkening to their supplication, informed them through an Angel concerning the birth of the Virgin. And thus, through God's promise, Anna conceived according to the laws of nature, and was deemed worthy to become the mother of the Mother of our Lord.

December 12 - Saint Spyridon

Saint Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythos, and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname "Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

December 15 - Saint Eleftherios

Saint Eleftherios was orphaned of his father from childhood, he was taken by his mother Anthia to Anicetus, the Bishop of Rome (some call him Anencletus, or Anacletus), by whom he was instructed in the sacred letters (that is, the divine Scriptures). Though still very young in years, he was made Bishop of Illyricum by reason of his surpassing virtue, and by his teachings he converted many unbelievers to Christ. However, during a most harsh persecution that was raised against the Christians under Hadrian (reigned 117-138), the Saint was arrested by the tyrants. Enduring many torments for Christ, he was finally put to death by two soldiers about the year 126. As for his Christ-loving mother Anthia, while embracing the remains of her son and kissing them with maternal affection, she was also beheaded.

Message from Father George



Dear Parishioners of Saint Demetrios,

The month of December is dominated by the festival of Christmas, and as our attention can easily turn to buying gifts and having parties and enjoying special drinks and foods that are only available during the Christmas season, let us remember what the festival of Christmas really means for our salvation and our souls. The following excerpts are from a Christmas homily attributed to Saint Ephrem the Syrian. Saint Ephrem was one of the great poets of early Christianity, and even in translation the power of his writing is clear. Here are the excerpts:

Lord, give us leave this day to celebrate thy true birthday, of which the present festival puts us in mind. This day is like thyself: it is the friend of man. Year by year it returns throughout the centuries, growing old with the aged, renewing itself with the new-born child. Year by year it comes to us, passes, and then returns, full of the old wonder. It knows that human nature cannot do without it; like thyself, it comes to the rescue of our imperiled race. The whole round earth is thirsting for thy birthday, Lord. In that one happy day are contained all the ages to come; it is one, yet it multiplies itself to infinity. May it then resemble thee again this year, and make peace between heaven and earth.

All days bear the imprint of thy goodness, but today thy goodness brims over. The other days of the year borrow their loveliness from this one; the coming festivals owe to it all their dignity and luster. Thy birthday, Lord, is a treasure great enough to repay the common debt.

Blessed be that day which gave back the light of the sun to us who were astray in the dark, which brought us the sheaf of divine plenty and gave us that vine from which the wine of salvation would be pressed. In the depth of winter, when the trees were stripped of fruit, the vine clothed itself with heavenly foliage; in that icy season a branch sprang from the tree of Jesse. In that month of December which holds deep down in the earth the seed that was entrusted to it, the bud of salvation unfolded itself from the Virgin's womb, where it was planted in the spring days when the lambs were skipping in their pastures....

....For our part, let us humbly entreat our Redeemer to show us his love and mercy. May our souls, begrimed by sin, be cleansed by heartfelt contrition, so that his light may shine gloriously in and about us, and the bliss of salvation be ours to enjoy forever.

With love in Christ,
Father George

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Virtual Sunday School Lessons 6:30 p.m.			Christmas Tree Lighting 5:00 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.		Virtual Sunday School Lessons 6:30 p.m.			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.		Virtual Sunday School Lessons 6:30 p.m.			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	Virtual Greek School Lessons 5:30 p.m.			Great hours 8:00 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great 9:30 a.m. Orthos 7:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 8:30 p.m.	The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ	
27	28	29	30	31		
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.						

President's Message



Dearest Parishioners,

Let us rejoice together as the long awaited, joyous, miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ arrives. It, truly, is the most wonderful time of the year! Bells are ringing, children are singing and the air is filled with cheer!

We have all endured difficult times in many ways and on many levels during this pandemic, but, remarkably, this blessed holiday brings so much hope, promise and peace to us all. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray, will restore our faith that there is a better, brighter future ahead. With prayers and patience, we will welcome in the new year with fresh new ideas, new scientific research, new medical advances that will protect us, and new ways and means to promote fondness and fellowship among us all.

Let us sing, "Joy to the World, The Lord has Come! Let Earth Receive Her King!" May these words ring out loud and clear that we welcome the renewed strength and solace that the miracle of Christmas brings!

We continue to pray for those of us who may be experiencing effects of the coronavirus. May God be at your side and guide you everyday.

May each of you enjoy a blessed Christmas Season and ring in the New Year with high hopes!

In HIS Service,
Helen Coutros Horan
Parish Council President







Greek School

Αγαπητοι ενοριτες,

Φτανουμε στο τελος ενος δυσκολου χρονου. Ενος χρονου που θρηνησαμε πολλους νεκρους παγκοσμιως λογω της πανδημιας του κορονοϊου. Αναγκαστηκαμε να κλεισουμε τις εκκλησιες μας, τα σχολειας και τις δουλειες μας.

Ευχομαστε με την χαρη του Θεου να φερει τελος στην πανδημια και να επουλωση τις πληγες μας!

Καλα Χριστουγεννα και καλες γιορτες σ' ολους μας, με αγαπη και αισιοδοξια για το μελλον!

Η τηλεδιδασκαλια του Ελληνικου Σχολειου συνεχιζεται επιτυχημενα! Παρακαλουνται οσοι ενδιαφερονται να συμμετασχουν στα μαθηματα ας επικοινωνησουν με το γραφειο.

Δημητριος Τσιβελης
Προεδρος Ελληνικου Σχολειου

**ΚΑΛΑ
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ**

*Με Υγεία, Αγάπη,
Δημιουργία και
Ποιότητα Ζωής*



PTO

Happy Holidays from the PTO!

We hope you are enjoying the holiday season as best as possible and that this finds you and your loved ones healthy. Hopefully by the time this is published, we had been able to enjoy the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 5th together, the first PTO event since the start of the pandemic. We pray the New Year will offer us more event opportunities for the children of Saint Demetrios, but, most importantly, that everyone continues to stay safe and healthy!

Wishing our St. Demetrios family
a very Merry Christmas
and
Happy and Healthy New Year!



St. Demetrios PTO

A decorative border of green holly leaves and red berries surrounds the text. The leaves are pointed and have a serrated edge, while the berries are small and round.

Parish Council

Our Parish Council extends best wishes for a blessed Christmas Season and a Prosperous New Year to all our Parishioners! Please know that we are working diligently to develop a plan to bolster our membership, stewardship and our treasury in 2021. Unfortunately, the effects of the pandemic have impacted our Church in many ways; however, with a New Year approaching, we have hopes to overcome those affects with innovative ideas and initiatives that we are pursuing. Please know that your thoughts and suggestions will always be considered so please reach out to any one of us. As soon as it is possible, we will plan for a General Assembly Meeting so we can actually meet together to provide details and updates of our endeavors.

For now, stay safe and healthy with your families and rejoice in the miracle of Christmas through hope, love and faith.

May God be with each of you and bless you with good health and happiness always!

Fondly,
Helen Coutros Horan
Parish Council President

G.O.Y.A.

Our Goyans and their advisors would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Although we faced many challenges this year due to the pandemic, we have much to be thankful for. We have added several new families to our G.O.Y.A., the children look forward to dance practice and we are all enjoying good health. Truly, we are blessed!

Cynthia & Nick Giannakopoulos

SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

The parishioners of Saint Demetrios have once again demonstrated their wonderful generosity when helping those in need, especially during the pandemic when so many individuals are struggling to make ends meet. A big THANK YOU goes out to all who donated foods and canned goods, as well as to those who made very generous monetary donations toward our efforts to feed the hungry. Your contributions went a long way and are much appreciated!

Also, thank you to everyone who supported the Philoptochos' Thanksgiving Bake Sale! Though it was done a little differently this year due to our request preorder your holiday treats, the bake sale was a great success! Special thanks go out to all the fantastic bakers who came through with a smile, and to Ms. Marietta Khalil, the chairperson for this bake sale.

Now that Christmas and New Year are around the corner, the Philoptochos will have a Christmas Bake Sale. Pastries will be available by PREORDER and PREPAYMENT. *Only prepaid orders will be fulfilled for pick up on December 20th. We will NOT have anything for sale on that day.*

Mrs. Irene Pakis is the chairperson for the Bake Sale. She can be reached at 732-591-1878 or by email at ipatsourak@aol.com. Preorder your pastries by DECEMBER 9, 2020 and prepay by DECEMBER 13, 2020. Please use the form below when placing your order for the Christmas Bake Sale.

***** Vasilopita sales are not available at this time. *****

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Order Form for Bake Sale

Name: _____		Phone: _____		
Item	Quantity	Price	#	Total
Baklava	One Large Container	\$15.00		\$
Koulourakia	One Small Container	\$ 5.00		\$
	One Large Container	\$15.00		\$
Kourambiedes*	Five (5) Cookies	\$ 5.00		\$
	Twelve (12) Cookies	\$10.00		\$
Melomakarona*	Five (5) Cookies	\$ 5.00		\$
	Twelve (12) Cookies	\$10.00		\$
*2-Cookie Comb.	Six (6) Cookies Each	\$10.00		\$
Total Order				\$

Sunday School

Our Saint Demetrios Sunday School wishes everyone a joyful Christmas and a hope-filled New Year! Good health and happiness to one and all!

The miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ brings the gift of love to the world for all of us to share and use wisely. Let's show our love to our families, friends, neighbors and those who are in need.



*Hope
&
Joy*



Happy Holidays to all our Hope & Joy families. We miss you and hope to see you soon. Stay strong & healthy!



Σας ευχομαστε ολοψυχα

καλα Χριστουγεννα!

Ευτυχισμενος και ειρηνικος

ο Νεος Ετος 2021.

Υγεια, προοδο και αγαπη

σε ολο τον Κοσμο.

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που βρίσκονται στην πρώτη γραμμή.
Σας ευχομαστε καλα Χριστουγεννα και
ευτυχισμενο το Νεο Ετος.

Το Νεο Ετος να μας φερει υγεια, ειρηνη, αγαπη και ευτυχια.
Παραμεινετε ασφαλεις!



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

We wish you and your families

Happy Holidays!

Continue to stay safe!