## Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Ελληνικη Ορθοδοξος Εκκλησια Αγιου Δημητριου

Parish Newsletter November 2021 - Δελτιο Ενοριας Νοεμβριου 2021

Editors: Helen Horan Coutros and Maria Kakadelis



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

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#### 21 Νοεμβοιου - Τα Εισοδια της Υπεραγιας Θεοτοκου

Η Ορθοδοξη Εκκλησια μας, τιμα την Θεομητορικη αυτη εορτη στις 21 Νοεμβριου καθε χρονο, με ιδιαιτερη λαμπροτητα. Η σημασια της εορτης αυτης ειναι μεγαλη και ιερη. Αποτελει την βαση και την αρχη για ολη την μετεπειτα ζωη της Θεοτοκου καθως επισης και για την σωτηρια του ανθρωπινου γενους.

Η Παναγια Θεοτοκος γεννηθηκε απο γονεις γηραιους, τον Ιωακειμ και την Αννα, που ειχαν παρακαλεσει με πολυ πονο τον Θεο να τους δωση ενα τεκνο και να το αφιερωσουν στο Ναο Του. Οταν η Μαρια εγινε τριων ετων, την εφεραν οι γονεις της στο Ναο και την παρεδωσαν στα χερια του Ζαχαρια του ιερεα. Αυτος την αγκαλιασε, την ευλογησε και ειπε: «Εμεγαλυνε ο Κυριος το ονομα σου σε ολες τις γενεες. Με σενα θα ευλογηθοθν τα εθνη και ο Κυριος θα λυτρωση τους υιους του Ισραηλ». Ο Ζαχαριας οδηγησε τη Μαρια στο ιερο του Ναου, οπου το κοριτσι εμεινε για 12 χρονια και ο Θεος την χαριτωσε. Ολοι πνευματικα πανηγυρισαν που εμεινε στο Ναο τον Αγιο, για να αγιασθει και να γινει αργοτερα η Μητερα του ιδιου του Θεου. Ετσι η Μαρια, ταμενη απο την μητερα της, αφιερωθηκε και αφοσιωθηκε στον Θεο, ο οποιος την ανταμειψε οσο καμια αλλη γυναικα στον κοσμο: Εγινε μητερα του ιδιου του Θεου.

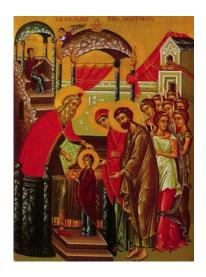
#### Απολυτικιον

Σημερον της ευδοκιας Θεου το προοιμιον, και της των ανθρωπων σωτηριας η προκηρυξις, Εν Ναω του Θεου τρανως η Παρθενος δεικνυται, και τον Χριστον τοις πασι προκαταγγελλεται, Αυτη και ημεις μεγαλοφωνως βοησωμεν, Χαιρε της οικονομιας του Κτιστου η εκπληρωσις.

#### Κοντακιον

Ο καθαρωτατος Ναος του Σωτηρος, η πολυτιμητος παστας και Παρθενος, το Ιερον θησαυρισμα της δοξης του Θεου, σημερον εισαγεται, εν τω οικω Κυριου, την χαριν συνεισαγουσα, την εν Πνευματι θειω, ην ανυμνουσιν Αγγελοι Θεου, Αυτη υπαρχει σκηνη επουρανιος.

#### **November 21 – The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**



According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

#### Apolytikion of Entry of the Theotokos (Fourth Tone)

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

#### Kontakion of Entry of the Theotokos (Fourth Tone)

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.



# Nοεμβριος - November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Greek School PreSchool/Primary Levels 6:00 p.m. Elementary/Middle Levels 7:00 p.m.			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Orthros 9:00 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Sunday School	Synaxis of the Archangels Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.		Greek School PreSchool/Primary Levels 6:00 p.m. Elementary/Middle Levels 7:00 p.m.			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Orthros 9:00 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Sunday School			Greek School PreSchool/Primary Levels 6:00 p.m. Elementary/Middle Levels 7:00 p.m.			Philoptochos General Meeting
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Orthros 9:00 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Sunday School				Thanksgiving Day		
28	29	30				
Orthros 9:00 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  Sunday School						

General Assembly Meeting Sunday, November 21, 2021

Philoptochos General Meeting Saturday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m.

## President's Message



Dearest Parishioners,

At this time of Thanksgiving, I would like to share one of my favorite Psalms with you which I believe sends us a beautiful message of thanksgiving to God and how important it is to attend the House of God in order to praise Him and to thank Him.

We ask ourselves and our children to define things that we are grateful for, especially during this Thanksgiving season, and we have numerous earthly possessions and gifts from God for which to be extremely thankful, certainly. So, we proudly thank God for "everything" which we should, certainly. However, I believe the most important words should be and must be words of praise to our Lord God!

Praise Him for being Him; thank Him for being Him; our Lord God Jesus Christ our Savior! Being present in the House of God is His gift to us. I believe that it is the most poignant, life-fulfilling feeling of love; a gift that cannot be matched in any other place but heaven. Praise be to God!

Enter the Temple with Thanksgiving! Happy Thanksgiving to each and every one of you!

Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy;
Come before Him with happy songs!

Know that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to Him; We are His people, we are His flock,

Enter the Temple with thanksgiving; Go into it with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise Him. (Psalm: 100: 1-4)

In HIS Service, Helen Coutros Horan Parish Council President

## Saint Demetrios Feast Celebration Services

The Feast of our Patron Saint, Saint Demetrios, was honored with a joyful Celebration Luncheon, an inspiring Vesper Service, a Philoptochos Reception with delicious homemade sweets, Divine Liturgy and Artoklasia services. We were blessed to have Father Emanuel Pratsinakis as the presiding priest with visiting priests who joined in the services which were beautifully celebrated and delivered through their impassioned prayers for Saint Demetrios' intercessions for God's grace, peace and mercy on us.











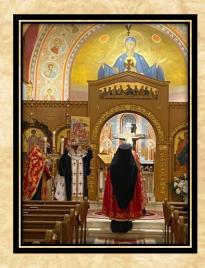
## Saint Demetrios Feast Celebration Services

Our sincerest gratitude is extended to Father Emanuel Pratsinakis, Father Panagiotis Lekkas, Father Nektarios Cottros and Father Nicholas Pastrikos who all joined together to create a wonderful, spiritually uplifting experience for all of us.











## Sunday School

Although our Virtual Sunday School Program was well-attended and allowed us to continue our religious instruction, it did not and cannot ever replace the joy and delight of having our children present in-person in our Church pews and in attendance for their lessons. Our student enrollment has increased and we welcome our new families wholeheartedly.

Sunday School teachers are excitedly planning our annual calendar events, as in the past, from celebrating our Feast Days together, Icon-making, performing our special Christmas Pageant, gift-making activities, Palm Cross making and decorating and so much more. Welcome back to all our Sunday School Teachers, Students and Families! May we be blessed with a wonderful, successful Sunday School Program, 2021 - 2022.

We wish our Church families God's blessings of good health, love and happiness as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Praises to our Lord Jesus Christ for his goodness and mercy on us all.

## Greek School

Our Greek School students take a moment to pose and show their pride during their Orientation and Assessment session on October 13th. The teacher, Despina Markos, took time to evaluate students' levels of speaking Greek to plan lessons and prepare appropriate materials. The students' eagerness to learn Greek was evident in their participation and involvement in activities. Bravo!



Hope and Joy

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Hope and Joy started on October 17 with "Pumpkin Patch Sunday" when our children from Pre-K to Grade 6 selected their own pumpkins, decorated them and spoke about the Harvest season when farmers collect their crops and deliver them to stores for us to purchase, take home and nourish our families. The experience was also related to the parable of the sower whose seeds need proper care to grow and survive just as the Word of our Lord that we must protect and share to help Christianity to thrive. The children, also, had Greek Dance lessons directed by our Goya Senior, Kali Simatos. Enjoyment can be seen by all these beautiful smiling faces!





Hello and happy fall from all of us at Saint Demetrios G.O.Y.A. We have an eventful month planned. Hopefully, you had the chance to see our young dancers perform at the festival. This enthusiastic group continues their weekly practice in the hope of perfecting their dance routine for Sights and Sounds. Our G.O.Y.A. will be attending the Jets vs. Buffalo Bills game on November 14th. Let's go Jets! We are, also, getting together on a bi-weekly basis to work on various crafts projects for "Sights and Sounds." We always welcome new members to our group, so please spread the word. Thank you and we wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

#### PTO



#### Thankful and blessed:

To have such a wonderful and dedicated community and family here at Saint Demetrios, and being able to see more of each other this year!

For the beautiful children of our Sunday School, Greek School and G.O.Y.A. and their wonderful families! For resuming in-person classes and activities!

As we approach the holiday season let us take moments and be especially mindful of the wonderful blessings God has given us and continues to grace us with- both big and small!

Let us pray for and offer our love and comfort, especially during the holiday season, to those in our Saint Demetrios family who have experienced difficulties and loss.

Thank you also for the generous donations we have received towards the PTO coffee hours! We will be looking for a Sunday date for a PTO meeting/get-together. Keep an eye out for emails, as well as announcements of December events for the children and families!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving season and God Bless!

#### Parish Council

Our Church Parish Council is actively engaged in promoting our Ministries to gather His flock in the Name of our Lord. Our Youth Ministries of Hope and Joy, Sunday School, Greek School, and G.O.Y.A. have now all started their activities for our New Ecclesiastical Church Year. Children's beautiful faces, voices, laughter and joy can be seen and heard as they learn about our faith and beliefs, traditions and customs in becoming devoted and dedicated Orthodox Christians. God bless our children!

Our finance team is working closely with our accountant to ensure that resources and revenues available to us can be accessed for the best financial advantages leading into 2022. New ideas and ventures for fundraising are being considered as opportunities to gain additional strength and support as we move ahead with confidence into the future.

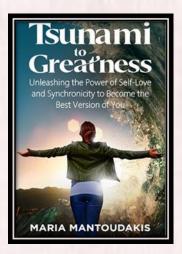
Our current Parish Council must be commended for their steadfast dedication to their responsibilities especially during the unprecedented COVID pandemic by implementing the guidelines and restrictions efficiently and effectively. Our Church remained open to those who wished to attend in-person, plus, live-streaming was created for those who wished to view services on-line. Masking, social distancing, disinfecting, sanitizing and all safety protocols were adhered to precisely. Creative fundraising opportunities were implemented to keep our Church in operation. Virtual candles were offered, Easter Offerings, prayer services, Take-Out Meals and Greek Grills were planned, arranged and executed safely and profitably. The pandemic prevented social gatherings, therefore, our Parish Council remained in place for an additional year of service. I believe that the commitment of our current team is exceptional and, as President, I cannot be more grateful and appreciative of their extraordinary efforts that kept our doors open while others closed. Thank you, Parish Council 2019, 2020, 2021!

Nominations for Parish Council Membership in 2022 - 2023 will take place at the November 21st General Assembly meeting followed by official elections in December. This is an opportunity for people interested in working hard, side by side, through cooperation and collaboration to continue building and strengthening hope, peace, love and happiness for St. Demetrios, to step forward and make a serious commitment. Parish Council membership requires the most sincere pledge and promise of time, talents and treasures from each member to be extended and expended toward the betterment of our Church Community.

Sincerest expressions and wishes of thanksgiving to all our parishioners for their consistent support throughout our difficulties with the pandemic and throughout the three years of our term. Our attempts to keep our beloved Church operational and functional could not have been successful without each and every one of you! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Let us pray that the intercessions of our Martyr, our Protector and Patron Saint, Saint Demetrios, continue to bless us all with God's grace and mercy and guide us with His wisdom and vision. Amen.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our dear parishioners for a safe, happy, wonderful celebration with your families. Praises to our Lord Jesus Christ!



"Tsunami to Greatness" will propel you into a journey of self-love, understanding of universal laws, and peace of knowing that the synchronicity of the Universe results in self-evolution, and greatness.

To purchase the book, please use the link below:

<u>Tsunami to Greatness: Unleashing the Power of Self-Love and</u>

Synchronicity to Become the Best Version of You

## Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society

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

The Philoptochos' next **General Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.** Please join us for a light lunch and refreshments as you learn about what the Philoptochos organization does to help those in need. For instance, our Chapter donated \$1,500 to help victims of the horrendous fires in Greece. We also donated \$300 in gift cards to The Samaritan Women, an Institute that shelters and supports victims of Human Trafficking. With your continued support, we can do great things!

Our **Thanksgiving Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, November 21**<sup>st</sup>! Please see the attached flyer with information on how to pre-order your delicious pastries. Last day to order will be November 7<sup>th</sup>. *Only a limited amount of baked goods will be available for sale that day*.

In addition, please bring in your non-perishable food items for our **Thanksgiving Food Collection**. You can leave your donations in the brown wooden box near the Philoptochos' collection box in the Narthex or on the downstairs stage. Below is a suggested list of items to donate. Food will be distributed to certain families in need, as well as to one or more local food pantries. Volunteers to help prepare the food packages for delivery are always welcome.

In Christ,

The Philoptochos of Saint Demetrios

0	1	Non-Perishable Foo	od Items Needed:	
Cake	Mix	Fruit - Jars/Cans	Mashed Potatoes	Stove Stuff Stuffing
Cerea	ıl (Small Boxes)	Gravy	Pasta (Shells, Spaghetti, etc.)	Sweet Peas
Chick	ten Broth	Green Beans	Pasta Sauce	Tin of Cookies
Coffe	e	Hard Candy	Peanut Butter	Tomato Pastes
Corn	Muffin Mix	Jell-O or Pudding	Rice or Orzo	Tuna Fish

Thank you for your support!



## Delícious homemade pastries!

All pre-orders must be placed by 11/7/21. Pre-orders will be available for pick up on 11/21/21 after the Divine Liturgy. There may be a LIMITED number of pastries available for sale at that time.

Please make checks out to: Saint Demetrios Philoptochos. Please contact

Marietta Khalil at 732-925-9699; email at mariettakhalil@hotmail.com or

Aphrodite Kanellidis at 732-423-7256



Name:





Phone:



#### **Order Form**

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	\$

































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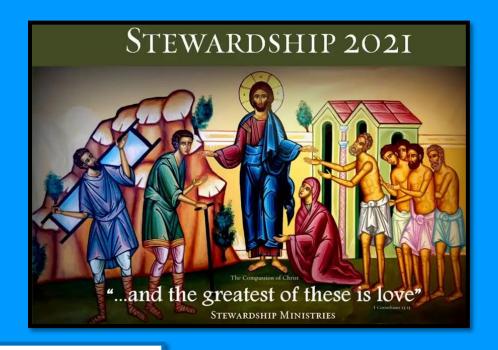








Dearest Parishioners, We would like to create a Church Community Christmas Card to help us stay connected and greet each other with holiday cheer from near and far. This is an activity that we revived last year which became very popular, again, so let's all join in spreading the spirit of Christmas. Please send us your name or your family's name as you wish it to appear on the card with a minimum donation of \$25.00. Please make your checks payable to Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and, please, write "Christmas Card" in the memo section. The beautiful Icon card will be mailed out to every parishioner to wish our Church Family a blessed Christmas! Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this very endearing, special project. The due date is Sunday, November 21, 2021. Kindly return the form below to the Church with your donation to 41-47 Wisteria Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. If you have any questions, please call the office at 732-826-4466 or email us at stdgoa@gmail.com. Thank you! Sincerely, **Christmas Card Committee** Church Christmas Card Form Name Address Home phone Cell phone Email address Please **print** your name exactly as you wish it to appear on the card. Donation amount: (\$25.00 +) Please remember to enclose your check. Thank you for your support!



NAME	
NAME OF SPOUSE (	IF MARRIED)
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY / STATE / ZIP (	CODE
HOME PHONE	
MOBILE PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
EMAIL ADDRESS O	F SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)
Dependent Chi	ldren's names and birthdates:
in the parish dir □ yes □ no	If yes, please indicate any
□ yes □ no .	

### Christian Stewardship is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

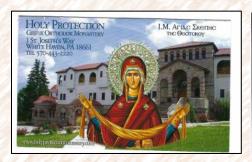
... caring for the needs of others.

... offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

... what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

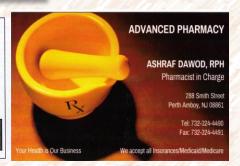
... devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

## Thank You To Our Sponsors!





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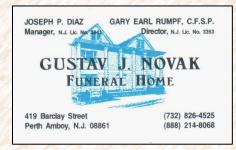
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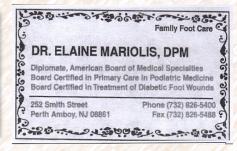


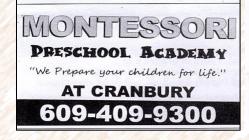


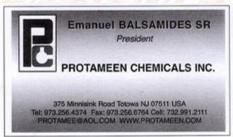












## Ενα μεγαλο ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ στους ηρωες μας $\pi$ ου βρισκονται στην $\pi$ ρωτη γραμμη.

Παραμεινετε ασφαλεις!



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