

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία Αγίου Δημητρίου

Parish Newsletter May 2022 - Δελτίο Ένοριας Μαΐου 2022

Editors: Helen Horan Coutros and Maria Kakadelis



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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Message from Father Gregory



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is Risen! The joy and hope that Christ's Resurrection gives us does not end at Pascha. The evidence of rebirth is all about us with the emergence of Spring, nature proclaiming "Christos Anesti." Plants and trees "show" us this - they can't speak the way we can. Nonetheless, some of our brothers and sisters don't "see" what the plants and trees show us. Others don't "hear" the good news of the Resurrection – they don't come to church. Anyone who has senses (and some sense) should perceive that there is a Resurrection. Spring, and the rest of the year, is when we can learn more about the Resurrection and what it means for us. What does it mean for you? If you aren't sure, come to church to experience some of that joy and hope that comes from knowing that Christ is Risen!

In Him,
Father Gregory

Μαϊος - May

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Sunday School						Indoor Olympics
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Greek Dance Practice 7:30 p.m.		Greek School Preschool/Primary Levels 6:00 p.m. Elementary/Middle Levels 7:00 p.m.			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Greek Dance Practice 7:30 p.m.		Greek School Preschool/Primary Levels 6:00 p.m. Elementary/Middle Levels 7:00 p.m.			General Philoptochos Meeting 1:00 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Greek Dance Practice 7:30 p.m.		Greek School Preschool/Primary Levels 6:00 p.m. Elementary/Middle Levels 7:00 p.m.			
29	30	31				
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Greek Dance Practice 7:30 p.m.					

**Upcoming
EVENTS**
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 8: Mother's Day and Mother of the Year Luncheon
May 15: General Public Meeting after Church Service
May 22: Graduation Sunday
June 19: Father's Day and Father of the Year Luncheon

GREEK FESTIVAL
June 17, 18, 19

Volunteers are needed, for various positions, for our upcoming festival. Please call the office at 732-826-4466 to sign up.

Οι Άγιοι Κωνσταντίνος και Ελένη 21 Μαΐου

Κάθε χρόνο στις 21 Μαΐου η Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία τιμά τη μνήμη του Κωνσταντίνου Α΄ του Μεγάλου και της μητέρας του Ελένης. Τους ονομάζει Ισαποστόλους για τις μεγάλες υπηρεσίες που πρόσφεραν στον Χριστιανισμό.

Ο Κωνσταντίνος, με το διάταγμά του έπαψε τους διωγμούς κατά των χριστιανών, βοηθώντας έτσι την ακώλυτη άσκηση της λατρείας και την εξάπλωση της νέας θρησκείας. Συνέκλεσε την Α΄ Οικουμενική Σύνοδο στη Νίκαια της Μικράς Ασίας και την προσφώνησε αυτοπροσώπως. Η σύνοδος αυτή είναι βασική στην πορεία του Χριστιανισμού, αφού καταδίκασε την αίρεση του Αρειανισμού και διαμόρφωσε το δόγμα του («Σύμβολο της Πίστεως»). Λίγο πριν από τον θάνατό του βαπτίστηκε χριστιανός.



Η βασιλομήτωρ Ελένη βρήκε τον Τίμιο Σταυρό στους Αγίους Τόπους και χρηματοδότησε την ανέγερση χριστιανικών ναών σε πολλά μέρη της αυτοκρατορίας.

Saints Constantine and Helen *May 21*

Constantine became Emperor of the Roman Empire in the 312 A.D. He gave religious freedom to all Christians who had suffered untold hardships at the hands of previous Roman Emperors. Emperor Constantine built the new capital of the Empire in the ancient city of Byzantium and renamed the city Constantinople. This was the “golden age of Christianity within the Byzantine Empire. Once, before Emperor Constantine fought an important battle, he saw a cross in the sky with words surrounding it saying, “With this sign you will win.” Emperor Constantine and his soldiers fought bravely and won the battle. Due to this great victory, Constantine asked his mother, Helen, to go to Jerusalem in search of the true cross of Christ. After searching for many days, Helen found a plant that smelled very sweet (basil) so they began to dig in that area and found the Cross of Jesus. When people who were ill kissed the cross, they were healed and they realized this was miraculous. Helen built many Churches in the Holy Land in particular, The Church of the Holy Cross, in the place where they found the True Cross of Christ. Due to their tremendous contributions to the Christian Faith, Helen and Constantine have been given the titles “Isapostles” which means equal to the Apostles.

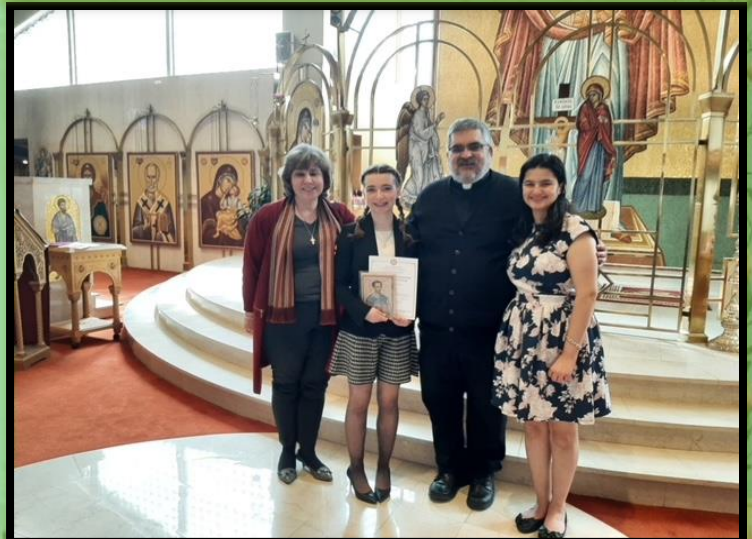
Oratorical Festival

April 2, 2022

It is our esteemed pleasure to announce that our very own Gabriella (Gaby) Rubis was awarded as a finalist in the Junior Division of the District Oratorical Festival on Saturday, April 3, 2022 and will advance to the 5 State Metropolis Level on May 14th in Philadelphia. She spoke so beautifully and eloquently on the topic of her favorite Church service and why it is meaningful to her. Gabriella's efforts were acknowledged and rewarded with this wonderful honor. Congratulations to Gabriella and, of course, to Father Gregory and Presbyteria Sharon who are so very pleased and proud of their daughter's accomplishment.

Sincerest thanks are extended to Maria Mantoudakis who, once again, served as our Saint Demetrios coach. We were fortunate that she was available to coach Gabriella this year and so many of our youth over the years.

Best of luck on the Metropolis level, Gabriella! You have all the love, support and encouragement from every one of us at Saint Demetrios!



The Chancellor's Visitation

April 3, 2022

Our Chancellor, Very Reverend Archimandrite Christoforos Oikonomidis honored and blessed all of us at our beloved Saint Demetrios Church with his visitation on Sunday, April 3, 2022 by delivering beautiful Orthros and Divine Liturgy services. His sermon explained the day's Gospel reading in terms that our children could understand. We must not pray to God asking "if" he can grant us our wishes. We know that anything is possible with God. We must pray by asking God "if he wants to" grant our wishes. Fr. Christoforos made appeals to our parents in regard to making attendance at Church a priority for our children and, simultaneously, offered understanding of the children's participation in sports. However, if and when their attendance is missed, the children should pray to God for His understanding and forgiveness. Audree Rizitis represented our Sunday School and gifted the Chancellor with an Icon of Saint Demetrios, a decorated Palm Cross both handmade by our children and explained her work on Saint John Climacus' Ladder. Afterwards, a lovely reception was offered by our Philoptochos Society and a Special Parish Council Meeting with Fr. Christoforos was held. This day was a very pleasant experience created by the Chancellor's visitation for which we extend our deepest gratitude to him with all our love and respect.





Newsletter Editors



Dearest Parishioners,

As the Editors of the newsletter, for our Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, we would like to thank you all for your support, your submissions and wonderful pictures you have sent us over the years. Our long journey of 7 plus years as Editors is coming to an end. It was our pleasure to publish the newsletter for the Church community.

We are looking for Parishioners who would like to become the new Editors of the newsletter starting in September 2022 and going forward.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Helen at helehoran@yahoo.com or Maria at mek0570@gmail.com.

Helen and Maria



Greek School

Αγαπητοί ενορίτες,

Τα μαθήματα του Ελληνικού σχολείου συνεχίζονται κανονικά για τον μήνα Μάιο στην ενορία μας. Οι μαθητές του σχολείου μας ερχονται με χαρά κάθε Τετάρτη για το μάθημα τους καθώς και για το καθιερωμένο παιχνίδι μετά το μάθημα!

Θα ήθελα να υπενθυμίσω σε οσους ενδιαφέρονται πως η Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής έχει δημιουργήσει μια εφαρμογή στα τηλέφωνα και ταμπλετες στην οποία θα βρείτε όλες τις καθημερινες λειτουργίες και προσευχές στα Αγγλικά και στα Ελληνικά!! Όποτε κάποιος δυσκολεύεται είτε στην μια γλώσσα είτε στην άλλη, υπάρχει ακριβως δίπλα η μετάφραση. Την διευθηνση για την εφαρμογή θα την βρείτε παρακάτω.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/digital-chant-stand/id891132857>

Καλό μήνα Μάιο να έχουμε και καλή Άνοιξη με υγεία και χαρά!!

Δημήτριος Τσιβέλης
Πρόεδρος Ελληνικού Σχολείου

Sunday School



Making of Decorated Palm Crosses

Our Sunday School children were elated and excited while creating their very own decorated Palm Crosses which will be blessed by Father Gregory and distributed to all our children on Palm Sunday. The Palm Sunday story was read and discussed together prior to the Cross Making activity which supplemented the lesson's objective to develop an understanding that Jesus was received and honored as he entered Jerusalem. However, the palm crosses remind us that Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. On Palm Sunday, we welcome Jesus as our king and the leader of our church.

G.O.Y.A

Our G.O.Y.A. children and parents would like to thank everyone for their amazing participation in our fundraising events. Both the Sip and Paint Party and the Lambades sales were successful due to your support. Your endorsement of our fundraisers allows us to continue planning and participating in GOYA activities. Saint Demetrios is hosting the Indoor Olympics on Saturday May 7th at the Wilentz School on First Street. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact our advisors. We will, also, participate in the Outdoor Olympics during Memorial Day weekend. Please keep our youth in your thoughts and prayers. God bless you all!

Cynthia Giannakopoulos
G.O.Y.A. Advisor

Beautiful Masterpieces

It was just amazing to watch the creativity that emerged from each individual who participated in the G.O.Y.A. Painting Party fundraiser on Saturday, April 2, 2022. This was a truly unique and exciting experience that enabled everyone to use his or her particular artistic skills to create these wonderful masterpieces! Congratulations to all the artists and to our G.O.Y.A. for this successful event!



PTO

We hope to see your children at the annual Saint Demetrios Easter Egg Hunt following Church services Easter morning, Sunday April 24th!

Funding for the egg treats and candy for this event has been achieved by the generous donations at our PTO sponsored coffee hours earlier this year and donations given for this event.

Thank you all!!

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

MAY 22nd: Graduation Celebration for Sunday School and Greek School

JUNE 19th: Father's Day and Father of the Year luncheon in June! You can give or send donations of any amount to Diana Regan, PTO President; Froso Morales PTO Treasurer or Jennifer Kanellidis, PTO Secretary.

Email dianapregan@gmail.com with any questions or additional information.

Most importantly, we look forward to seeing our beautiful Saint Demetrios children during Holy Week and Easter Sunday morning! Hopefully the Easter Bunny will pay us a visit again this year!



SAINT DEMETRIOS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed." ~ Proverbs 19:17



Congratulations to Mrs. Anna Kyriakatos!

Anna Kyriakatos is this year's Philoptochos Honoree of the Clergy Laity Award. Anna has been a long-standing member of the Philoptochos. She is currently our valued Treasurer who is always willing to help out whenever and wherever she can in order to promote the mission of the Philoptochos. She is a wonderful role model and should be commended for all she does for this organization and the church. Please join us in congratulating Anna on her well-deserved award!



Who will the Philoptochos be honoring this year as Mother of the Year? Please join us on Mother's Day to find out. A special coffee hour will follow to celebrate the announcement as we honor this year's Mother of the Year!

Please note: The Philoptochos Bulletin Board is up again so please check it, occasionally, for news and announcements.

SAVE THE DATE

The next General Philoptochos Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21st at 1:00 p.m. At our last meeting, we welcomed two new members! Hurray! We'd love to welcome more...the more the merrier and the more we can do to help others.



Happy Mother's Day

*For all the love you share
and for all you do and say...*

Stewardship

2022

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.

NAME

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

Dependent Children's names and birthdates:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

May we include your contact information in the parish directory?

☐ yes ☐ no *If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:*

May we add you to our parish email list?

☐ yes ☐ no

Light A Candle...Say A Prayer...Virtual Tray Donation

"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)

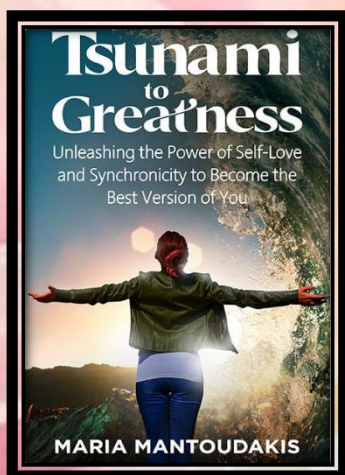
You can request a red glass candle to be lit with a blessing and a prayer. Each red candle is a \$10.00 donation. Candles will be lit during the Divine Liturgy. A donation can be made through the website, but a call or email would be necessary to make the request. Donations go directly to funding the day to day operations of Saint Demetrios Church.

Requests can be made via Saint Demetrios' website: <http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org/> or you can mail a check to the church:



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
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Ευχαριστούμε

τους καθημερινους μας ηρωες που

βρισκονται στην πρωτη γραμμη.

Ο Θεος να σας ευλογει ολους!



Thank you

to all the essential workers and frontline workers

for all that you do!

God bless you all!