



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

(732) 826-4466

FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

ST. DEMETRIOS VESPERS SERVICES – 10/25/23 @ 7:00 PM

~ Saint Demetrios Day ~ October 26, 2023

*Saint Demetrios Feast Day & OXI Day Celebration –
Sunday, October 29, 2023*

A message from Father Philotheos ~

I begin my first message as the newly appointed covering priest of this Community by expressing my deepest sense of gratitude and appreciation to all of you, the dedicated faithful of the church of St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy for the warm welcome that you have shown me my first month in this beautiful community. I am truly confident that working together in a true spirit of harmony and cooperation, the works and ministries of this historic parish of our Archdiocese and our Metropolis will continue to grow to new spiritual heights. Please know it is my deepest prayer that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios, continues to bless each one of you with health, peace and happiness.

We enter the month of October with much excitement as our beloved parish of St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy is back in full swing from the summer months as we begin the new Ecclesiastical and new School year. Our tremendous ministries have restarted with great success and with much hope and enthusiasm for the future. In addition, this month we celebrate the Feastday of our Parish, the Feastday of the Great Martyr and Myrrh bearer, St. Demetrios with the Great Vespers on Wednesday, October 25, the Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Thursday, October 26, and our community celebration on Sunday, October 29. I look forward with much anticipation to seeing all of you for these beautiful celebrations so that as one united family we may honor our patron Saint.

“May the blessing of the Lord and His Mercy come upon you, through His divine grace and love, always, now and forever.” (Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)”

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church is one of the most important institutions I can think of. I say this because it affords us as a spiritual family a vehicle to express our love and faith to the Lord. When we come together in prayer, education, and fellowship, we fortify ourselves as a family, build up our church, and do good things in the name of the Lord. Stewardship is the means to accomplish these goals.

There are many ways that we show our unconditional love to the Lord and His church. The most significant way is through Prayer. How many times in a crisis - whether it's health, our family, emotional duress, or financial - do we cry out to the Lord for His help and Mercy? How about the other side when times are good...do we take time out to thank the Lord for all His blessings? We can do that by actively participating in the Divine Liturgy and Eucharist. Is it too much to ask to surrender ourselves to the Lord from 10 am to 1130 am every Sunday? Doesn't this time really belong to the Lord instead of us? The Church provides us an opportunity to heal every week from the stress that the secular world offers us. This is by far the most important pillar of an effective faith-based church.

The second component of an effective church is Education. Our church has a vibrant religious education program for our children with dedicated teachers and weekly sermons by our priest that apply the Gospel to our everyday lives. We can pass down Knowledge to our children to ensure the continuation of our faith for generations to come. Although it's important to understand the native Greek language of our hierarchs and forefathers, it is even more important to learn the Orthodox language of love Jesus Christ has taught us.

Thirdly, fellowship is the glue that binds us together as a family. Social events, youth programs, our ministries, festivals, dances, and fundraisers bring us together to work towards a common goal in a relaxed and loving environment in the name of our Lord. We should always celebrate and share the blessings our Lord has bestowed upon us.

Stewardship is the means to accomplish this. It is an honor to be able to serve the Lord at St. Demetrios. Give your time, talent, and treasury freely and lovingly. Please consider that the most important and transformational family events in our lives - Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals - are celebrated at church. The rewards are great. Father Philotheos and the St. Demetrios Parish Council take very seriously the responsibility of organizing and perpetuating the stewardship gifts that everyone provides. Our Church, along with the Philoptochos Society and the youth, donate to many outreach programs every year. As we age, grow older, become smarter, wiser, and more financially secure, we must apply a similar approach in expanding our commitment to the Lord. Remember the Lord's work is never done.

VICE-PRESIDENT

STEWARDSHIP CHAIRMAN

Agapios Kyritsis

P.T.O. NEWS

A Heartfelt Thank You from the PTO!

We had such wonderful outpouring of support for the



indoor “Picnic” held on September 10th!

Thank you to all our parishioner supporters who donated items to make a fantastic picnic spread and for the monetary donations to off-set the costs for the hotdogs and hamburgers.

A special thank you also to our fantastic grillers and workers who made everything run smoothly!

Everyone had a great time and without such amazing support, this or any event would not be a success.

Thank you!

Diana Regan

PTO President



G.O.Y.A. NEWS

We are very excited to announce that this year our Miss Gabriella Rubis and Mr. Lucas Estella will be representing us at this year's Mr. and Miss Pageant. The Pageant will be held on Sunday October 8, at the Hanover Manor in Hannover, NJ. All proceeds from the Pageant will support the NJ Greek Orthodox Youth Scholarship Fund.

The GOYANS just enjoyed a Harvest Dance that took place in Randolph, NJ. This was a great opportunity for our children to meet other GOYANS from different churches and to develop new friendships.

Dance practice is on Monday nights, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Any youth 12 years of age (7th grade) or older who is interested in joining dance of the GOYA, please contact Jennifer Simatos at 732-343-2266.



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners:

The classes of our Greek school started again this year with successfully. On Sunday the first of October we had our established annual blessing during the Divine Liturgy. The blessing took place for all the school ministries of our church. It was a blessed day.

Also, on Sunday, October 29, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, the Greek School will organize a big celebration for the anniversary of October 28 and the historic 'NO' of Ioannis Metaxas! Please plan to attend our church so we can all celebrate this great day when our ancestors fought and gave their lives so that we can be free today! We can't wait to see you all!



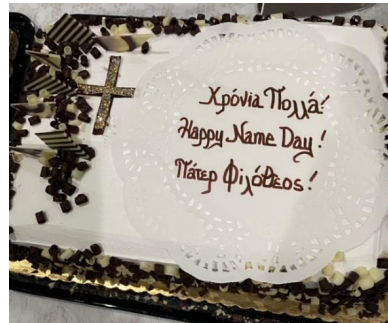
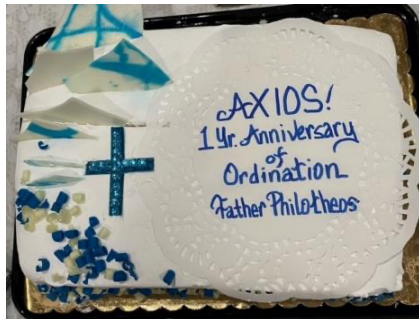
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

We were excited and delighted to honor Father Philotheos during our PTO Welcome Back Picnic on Sunday, September 10, 2023, for his 1-Year Ordination Anniversary and his Name Day. Father Philotheos opened the PTO event with a prayer and words of thankfulness to our PTO President, Diana Potaris Regan and Vice President, Jennifer Kanellidis and all PTO members.

Everyone enjoyed hotdogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings plus delicious desserts, and two special cakes designed and decorated for Father Philotheos' Celebrations.

This was a happy event that brought together a room full of parishioners, parents, grandparents. Sunday school and Greek school, students, and GOYANS, all enjoying the day as one united St. Demetrios family!





On Sunday, October 1, 2023, Father Philotheos performed a beautiful “Blessing of our Youth Ministries” with a prayerful, meaningful ceremony. Father Philotheos then sprinkled each Child, Teacher, Director, Adviser and Coach with Holy Water. He proceeded to bless all our dear parishioners who were present in Church as well, and wished everyone a happy, productive Ecclesiastical Church year. He stressed to our youth that he is always available to them to talk, answer questions or help them in any way possible. We extend our gratitude to Father Philotheos for this splendid, inspirational day to remember.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The next **Philoptochos General Meeting will be held on October 14th at 1:00 PM** down in the church hall. Light refreshments will be provided. Please join us and meet members of the new Board. Find out what events are upcoming. We're always grateful when our members participate in the festivities.

On **Wednesday, October 25th**, the Philoptochos will host a light reception following the St. Demetrios Vespers evening services.

The Philoptochos has resumed its weekly collection of non-perishable foods. (This is different from the Thanksgiving collection which takes place in November.) St. Peter's Church food pantry in Perth Amboy will be receiving several boxloads of food. Thank you to everyone who brought in these non-perishable food items to feed those in need.

National Philoptochos has requested donations toward disaster relief in Maui, Hawaii, where out-of-control fires devastated parts of the island. We are happy to announce that we were able to donate \$1,000 to this cause.

Please check the Philoptochos Bulletin Board for news regarding meetings, bake sales, and other upcoming events.

As always, your continued support is appreciated.

In Christ,
The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios



Ministry Leaders ~ If you'd like to have an article published in the November Newsletter, please submit it to stdgoa@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, October 16th. Please try to get the articles in by this date to ensure that the Newsletter is distributed in a timely manner to parishioners. Thank you!