



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

(732) 826-4466

FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

THANKSGIVING DAY – NOVEMBER 23, 2023

General Assembly Meeting – Sunday, November 12, 2023

A message from Father Philotheos ~

As we enter the month of November, the month where we as blessed and proud Americans celebrate the beautiful holiday of Thanksgiving, let us remember to give thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for all that He has blessed us with. Recently we celebrated together as one family in Christ, with much joy and enthusiasm, the beautiful Feastday services of our patron saint, St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer and Great Martyr of Thessaloniki. I offer my most heartfelt gratitude to all of the devoted members of our Parish Council, the esteemed women of our Philoptochos Society, and all of our beloved parishioners for your tremendous efforts in order to ensure the success of these sacred celebrations in the life of our historic community.

This month of Thanksgiving, let us continue to dedicate our lives to Christ and continue to give God thanks and praise for all of His heavenly blessings that He has bestowed on all of us. Our St. Demetrios Community has much to be thankful for as our beautiful ministries, most especially our youth ministries, are growing and expanding, bringing more and more faithful into our community. Our Lucas Estela was blessed to be crowned as the 2023 Mr. GOYA, the first ever recipient of this prestigious award in the history of our sacred Parish. Our Greek School children offered an amazing presentation for our community in commemoration of the celebration of OXI Day.

My beloved in the Lord, have no doubt that God is with us, that He is looking down on us and He is constantly blessing us. Therefore, *“Εὐχαριστήσομεν τῷ Κυρίῳ. We give thanks to the Lord.”*

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

During my long vacation in Greece, I have missed a few important events. However, it's extremely pleasant to see that your participation in the church services and other church activities have increased. We thank you for that, which gives us the incentive to work harder and see our small community flourish again.

Don't forget that on November 12th we have our General Assembly Meeting to discuss important issues and to nominate members for the new Parish Council. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions on the nominations procedures.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners:

On October 29th, our Greek School celebrated the national anniversary of "OXI" Day! Our students recited poems and sang national songs, drawing the warmest applause. Congratulations to our children, parents, and teachers! We are also delighted to share the special joy and blessing that our beloved Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros, has followed our Facebook Greek School page!!!

Your Eminence, on behalf of our Perth Amboy community and children, we thank you very much for this great honor and humbly appreciate your support and prayers!







SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



During the month of October, our Sunday School students studied the life of our Church's Patron Saint, St. Demetrios, from how he was raised as a young boy learning about Christianity from his parents which he carried with him as an adult and then as a warrior which led him to be imprisoned by the pagans. He prayed with his friend, Nestor, who was successful in slaying the giant Lyaeos, but this led to both of their deaths. "Myrrh" was streaming from St. Demetrios' tomb which healed people from illnesses, and he became known as the "Myrrh-Streamer." St. Demetrios continued to perform miracles after his death especially to protect his hometown of Thessaloniki.

The children seemed interested and excited to learn about our Patron Saint and are now eager to continue our studies as we enter November with the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple on November 21st and the holiday season which is right around the corner.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our St. Demetrios families. May God's blessings be with you all as we enter the holiday season.

Important Dates to Remember:

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals: Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9 and 16th. Times will be determined as we get closer to the dates.

Christmas Pageant "Live" Performance: Sunday, December 17, 2023, followed by our PTO Christmas Party with Santa Claus.



P.T.O. NEWS



Fall is here and the holiday season is soon upon us!
Announcements for upcoming events:

Sunday, November 12th is PTO's scheduled sponsoring of coffee hour. This is also the **General Assembly meeting** which hopefully you are all planning to attend. Email to Parents and Teachers will be sent for assistance with donating a food or drink item for the coffee hour. In the event our coffee hour date changes to a later Sunday in the month, this will also be conveyed to Parents and Teachers.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday December 17th - Christmas Pageant and PTO Sponsored Party!

More info to come!

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Diana Regan
PTO President



G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Happy Fall!

The weather may be getting colder, but the GOYA dancers are keeping it HOT. They have been learning new dances every Monday night at dance practice. On Sat the 28th we enjoyed a trip to Edison High School to support Alena and Layna in a performance of the play Clue. Layna starred as the character Scarlett and Alena helped behind the scenes with the stage crew. They both did a fantastic job!

The GOYA will be looking forward to participating in Fairview's Bowling tournament on November 4th. It will be followed by fellowship and a dance at Fairview Ascension Church. We are working on setting a date to volunteer at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church's food pantry, serving a sit-down dinner to the homeless.

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 or the GOYA, it's not too late!
Please contact Jennifer Simatos at 732-343-2266.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Argiro Ahlandianakis who chaired the St. Demetrios Vespers after-services reception, as well as much appreciation to Mrs. Helen Catelanos and all the ladies who assisted and donated to this event. Also, thank you to Helen Catelanos and Helen Horan, who handled the coffee hour following the St. Demetrios Day services. All your time and efforts are truly appreciated, as always.



Helen Catelanos, Argiro Ahlandianakis, Marietta Khalil, Cindy Giannakopoulos, Helen (Coutros) Horan, Peggy Kantor, Mary Lou K. Rivera

A **Philoptochos** General Meeting was held on October 14th and several upcoming events were discussed. We are happy to announce that we will once again host a Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Saturday, December 2nd for ***Philoptochos Members and their families***. We're always grateful for our members, and this is just a small way to demonstrate our appreciation. More details will be forthcoming so please check your emails, the Philoptochos Bulletin Board, and/or the Sunday Bulletin for further information.

A huge thank you goes out to Ms. Cindy Giannakopoulos, who chaired our Winter Coat Drive. Thank you to all those who brought in donations. Coats, blankets, hats, scarves, and gloves will be distributed to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Perth Amboy, so winter will be a little warmer for some individuals in need of our assistance.

The Philoptochos will once again be collecting non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving donations to local pantries. A suggested list of items is provided on the Philoptochos sign near the Narthex collection box. Also, a **LIMITED NUMBER** of turkeys will be accepted. However, **before** you drop off any turkeys, please check to see that we are still accepting turkey donations. Thank you to everyone who participates in this food drive to feed those in need during this holiday season.

National Philoptochos requested donations to provide disaster relief for the out-of-control fires and floods that devastated so many areas of Greece. We are happy to announce that our Philoptochos will donate \$1,000 toward this cause, in addition to the \$225 we received from parishioners.

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

As always, your continued support is appreciated. Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

In Christ ~ The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios