



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
(732) 826-4466

V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*~ Annual Epiphany Celebration ~
Visitation of His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
January 7, 2024*

A message from Father Philotheos ~

KAAH XPONIA! HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!

It is with much joy that I wish all of you, the beloved parishioners and dedicated faithful of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey a most blessed, healthy, peaceful and Happy New Year 2024!

Having completed my first four months as the presiding priest of the St. Demetrios, it is with much excitement that I look forward to what the new year will bring us as we continue to grow our beautiful ministries here, continue to bring more people into our community and continue to share the Good News of the Gospel with all.

This month we have some very exciting activities taking place with the first being on Sunday, January 7, 2024, for our Annual St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy Epiphany Celebration and Diving for the cross by the youth from throughout the region. This day is even more joyful for all of us as we have the first opportunity to welcome our new Metropolitan, His Eminence Apostolos of New Jersey to our sacred community.

The following Sunday, January 14, 2024, our Philoptochos society will host the parish Annual Vasilopita Celebration, where we will celebrate the new year all together as one family with the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita at our community luncheon after Divine Liturgy. I pray that all of you will be able to be with us on these 2 important Sundays in the life of our parish.

May Christ our true God, the Newborn King, continue to bless all of you and your families with every good and perfect gift from above and may the year 2024 be a most blessed year of spiritual rejuvenation. With blessings and love in the Lord,

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

First, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. Starting with January, our church will offer multiple religious, cultural, social, and other programs throughout the year.

We will begin with the first Liturgy of the year on January 1st to pray and be blessed for a healthy and prosperous year.

On January 7th, our church will celebrate the annual Epiphany and blessing of the waters at our waterfront. This year, due to our special location, Father Philotheos has elevated this event by inviting all the neighboring Greek Orthodox churches to participate. To top all that, our Metropolitan, His Eminence Apostolos of New Jersey, will be visiting and participating in our Liturgy and this great event, which will be followed by a delicious luncheon (an RSVP is required).

On January 9th, the Metropolis of NJ, through the hospitality of Saint George church in Piscataway, NJ, will celebrate the traditional Vasilopita cutting. You are welcome to participate.

On January 14th, we will celebrate our own Vasilopita cutting in our church hall that will be followed by a luncheon (an RSVP is required).

On June 20th, our Youth group is organizing an annual Greek landscape picture painting party that will bring out the artistic side hidden within us. (Since seating is limited, an RSVP is required).

Additionally, we are planning to have a weekly social night in our hall that will be open to all parishioners of all ages – perhaps a movie night with cultural, spiritual, historic documentaries, or selected comedy films. A survey will be conducted to evaluate the support and participation for each subject.

Looking forward to the month of February, the Hellenic Dancers of NJ are celebrating the 50th anniversary. (Many of our young people are dancers and/or organizers in this wonderful group!) The date for their anniversary Gala is February 3rd at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. Celebrate with them and enjoy their performances, a gourmet dinner, live music and dance. (RSVP by January 5th Ceryl Bontales – (732) 796-1006.

Respectfully ~ George Kane

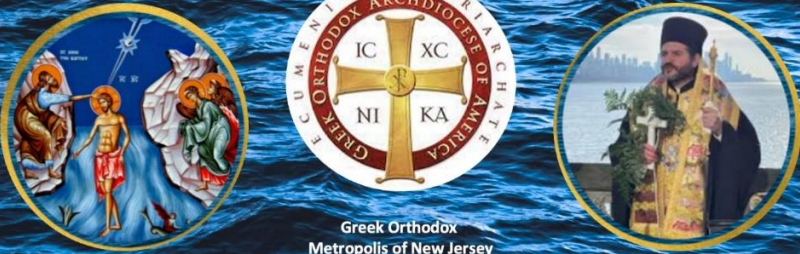
A Message from the Epiphany Celebration Committee

Dear Parishioners of St. Demetrios,

I pray you all had a very Merry Christmas. On behalf of the Epiphany Celebration Committee, I want to share the details about the January 7, 2024 event.

We invite you to join us and stay for a celebratory luncheon with His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey. Seating is limited; please make reservations via phone with Litsa 908-227-0822 or Aphrodite 732-423-7256, or via email with Matina at saintdemetriosperthamboyNJ@gmail.com.

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year! ~ Matina Ganiaris / 908-510-5609



**Annual Perth Amboy
Epiphany Celebration**
Sunday January 7, 2024

Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
9:00 AM Celebrated by His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

Blessing of the Waters & Cross Dive
Following Diving Liturgy on the sands of the Raritan Bay

Luncheon
Stay for a celebratory luncheon with His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
Seating is limited, please make reservations via phone with
Litsa 908-227-0822 or Aphrodite 732-423-7256 or via email with
Matina at saintdemetriosperthamboyNJ@gmail.com

ADULTS: \$30 YOUTH: \$20

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
41-47 Wisteria Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Church Ministries News ~

G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Happy New Year to all!

Thank you to our wonderful teachers, George and Despina Markos, the GOYANS, and parents for a joyous Christmas party. An extra thank you to George and Despina for their generosity and instilling the love of traditional Greek Folk dancing to our GOYANS. It is such a gift to see the kids so excited to see each other every week and come alive when the music starts playing.



The GOYANS also danced the night away with GOYANS from across the state at the annual GOYAN Christmas Dance, hosted by St. George's Church in Clifton.



Ahead we will set our eyes on Sights and Sounds, hoping to make our mark again. We will begin play practice this month and continue working on our projects. Thank you to George Kane for his continued support and guiding us in the art of stained glass.

On January 7th come support us directly after Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Water, as we dive for the cross in the Annual Perth Amboy Epiphany Celebration. This year we will be honored to have His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey present for the celebration.

Join us on Jan 20th at 4:30 pm for our Painting Party. Light refreshments and wine will be provided to enjoy while we learn how to create a beautiful painting. No experience is necessary. See the flyer below.

A flyer for a painting party. The background is a gradient of blue and teal with abstract white and light blue shapes. The title "PAINTING PARTY" is in large, dark blue, hand-drawn letters at the top left. Below it, text in a similar font says "Join us for a Painting Party benefiting the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Youth Group of Perth Amboy". Further down, it says "Must be 16+ to paint". The date and time are "Date: Saturday January 20th 2024" and "Time: 4:30pm". The location is "Location: St. Demetrios Church Hall, 41-47 Wisteria St, Perth Amboy". A white box contains the price "\$50.00 PER PERSON" and a list of inclusions: "INCLUDES: -ALL PAINTING SUPPLIES, -LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, -WINE (21+)". On the right, there is an illustration of a wooden easel holding a painting of a yellow lighthouse on a rocky shore with pink cherry blossoms and a blue sky with white clouds. The text "Painting Image" is written on the easel's base. At the bottom, it says "RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY 1/15/2024 TO: JENNIFER SIMATOS 732-343-2266" and "PAYMENT ACCEPTED VIA VENMO @JENNIFER-SIMATOS CASH OR CHECK (MADE PAYABLE TO ST. DEMETRIOS GOYA)".

PAINTING PARTY

Join us for a Painting Party benefiting the
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Youth Group
of Perth Amboy

Must be 16+ to paint

Date: Saturday January 20th 2024
Time: 4:30pm
Location: St. Demetrios Church Hall
41-47 Wisteria St
Perth Amboy

\$50.00 PER PERSON
INCLUDES:
-ALL PAINTING SUPPLIES
-LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
-WINE (21+)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY 1/15/2024 TO:
JENNIFER SIMATOS 732-343-2266

PAYMENT ACCEPTED VIA VENMO @JENNIFER-SIMATOS
CASH OR CHECK (MADE PAYABLE TO ST. DEMETRIOS GOYA)

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.

PTO NEWS - WELCOME 2024!!

Thank you - parents, teachers, and parishioners - for your wonderful and generous support for the PTO CHRISTMAS PARTY!

December 17th was such a beautiful day, with a fantastic attendance to support the children's Christmas pageant. It is because of our wonderful parishioners here at St. Demetrios, that the Christmas party was once again such a success with food and fun!

A great time was had by all and the children had fun with Santa!

Thank you Santa for visiting us!!



WISHES FOR A BLESSED AND HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners:

We wish you and your families a happy new year full of health, love and creativity. We wanted to inform you that the Greek School will return to classes on Wednesday, January 10, i.e. the first Wednesday after Epiphany. The Greek School for adults will resume classes on Saturday morning, January 13th. Thank you for your support! Be well!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to Helen Catelanos!

Helen Catelanos was surprised with recognition and appreciation for her service as the Director of Our St. Demetrios Annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant with an award plaque and bouquet of flowers to demonstrate our thankfulness. Father Philotheos and Helen (Coutros) Horan made the presentation to honor Helen with deep respect and love.

Congratulations to Helen Catelanos for her 30-year devotion to our Annual Christmas Pageant!

The award plaque was engraved with the following message to Helen which was, also, embellished with an insert of a beautiful Nativity Icon.

Our deepest respect and love are expressed to our dear

Helen Catelanos

We recognize, acknowledge and honor your unconditional devotion to our Sunday School Program as the Director of our exceptional and highly anticipated Annual Christmas Pageant for the past 30 years. Your direction of our children's beautiful portrayal of The Nativity with your very own unique ingenuity and creativity was reflected by the admiration and appreciation of our entire Parish.

May God's blessings be with you always!

The entire congregation of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Perth Amboy, New Jersey

December 17, 2023



JOY TO THE WORLD

In celebration of the miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, our Sunday School and Greek School students prepared a wonderful program. Sunday School Students recited and narrated spiritual and joyful poems significant to the magnificent events that led to the birth of Jesus Christ and all those who came to witness our Savior in the tiny town of Bethlehem.

Afterwards, the students who were dressed in beautiful costumes performed our Annual Christmas Pageant from Angel Gabriel, Joseph and Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus, Angels, Stars, Shepherds, baby animals, the Three Kings, The Brilliant Star of Bethlehem, The Little Donkey and The Little Drummer Boy.

In conclusion, Greek School students led the entire congregation in singing Christmas carols in Greek and English altogether. It was a joyful, memorable event that is bound to be remembered by everyone for many years to come.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT MEMORIES





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Happy New Year! It is our hope that you had a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year season.

The Philoptochos celebrated Christmas with a Pot-Luck Luncheon for its members and their families. It was a wonderful success, and a big thank you goes out to the chairperson, Marietta Khalil, and her committee for putting together such a joyous event. The delicious food was made or provided by our Philoptochos members and supporters. In addition, many thanks go out to the members who donated door prizes and the lovely gift baskets. We also appreciated the carolers – especially the men! – who led the singing of Christmas songs in both Greek and English. A fun time was had by all! (Pictures were displayed in the Church Hall.)

The Philoptochos continues its celebrations into 2024 with our **Vasilopita Luncheon, which will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024**, after church services. Reservations are being accepted. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

The next Philoptochos General Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 1:00 PM** down in the church hall. Light refreshments will be provided. Please join us to find out what events are upcoming. We're always grateful when our members participate in these activities. Together we can do great things to help those in need.

In November, the Philoptochos reached out to the community, respectfully requesting donations toward the cost of the poinsettia plants used to decorate the church, in memory of loved one or in good health of a loved one. We wish to thank the following individuals who donated (in no particular order):

*In Memory of Ethel Ubanik and
Mary & Al Ziro
(Stephanie Lennehan)*

*In Memory of Millie Doukas & Georgia Colpos
(Kathy & Ken Doukas)*

*In Good Health for Peter & Johnny
(Tessie Christopoulos)*

*In Memory of her Grandmother, Georgia Gavaris
(Kali Lalis)*

*In Memory of her Husband, John
(Rita Lalis)*

*In Memory of her Mother, Betty Efremedis
(Kally Durso)*

*In Memory of her Grandmother, Loula Chrisafidou
(Mary Lou K. Rivera)*

Donations:

*Matina Ganiaris
Angelique Tsivelis
Emanuel Balsimides
Kalliopi Papagiannakis*



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Do you have any announcements you'd like to share with the community...Milestone birthdays or anniversaries? Weddings? Births? Graduations? Special Awards?

If yes, please contact the church office (by phone, email, or drop by the office with the information), and it can be included in the next distributed Newsletter.

Ministry Leaders ~ If you'd like to have an article published in the February Newsletter, please submit it to stdgoa@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, January 17th to ensure that the Newsletter is distributed in a timely manner to parishioners. Thank you!