



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

(732) 826-4466

V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

MERRY CHRISTMAS! & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

~ Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 17th ~

*P.T.O. Christmas Lunch & Santa Visit
Sunday, December 17th*

A message from Father Philotheos ~

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ! CHRIST IS BORN!

As we enter into the final month of the calendar year, we are truly blessed with a beautiful month dedicated to the spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation of the Nativity Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I urge all of you to take time during this month of December to reflect upon the beautiful meaning of Christmas, to look beyond the worldly or commercialized version of Christmas that has now overcome our lives, and to focus on the true meaning, the true joy, which is the birth of Jesus Christ. The great celebration of the sacred day in which the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary, took on flesh, and became man.

Let us use this month to rededicate our lives to our Lord, to our faith, and to our Church. Throughout this blessed time period our beautiful community of St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy will offer us many opportunities to join together for the Divine Services, the Christmas Tree Lighting, the Greek School Holiday Arts and Crafts Fundraiser, and the Children's Christmas Pageant. Let us look to spend our time with family and friends, joyfully celebrating with much excitement the approaching day of His birth when we may proclaim aloud for all the world to hear "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!*" (Luke 2:13)

May Christ our true God continue to bless all of you and all the dedicated faithful of our St. Demetrios Community with all of His Heavenly Blessings during this Nativity Season.

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

First, I need to thank all the parishioners who participated in our November General Assembly, listened to our current church status, and Parish Council nominations. You have nominated some of the existing but also new individuals that show passionate interest for the betterment of our beloved Saint Demetrios community. Your ideas and comments will always be welcomed regardless if you are able to participate in these meetings or you just want to present an idea for our overall improvement.

The next thing that needs to be done promptly is to complete your ballots and return them to church on Sunday December 3rd, or Sunday December 10th. Please follow the directions provided on the mailer that was sent out to you or call one of the elections committee members and they will answer all the questions on the voting procedure. If you still have questions, please come to church on the 3rd or the 10th, and one of the election committee members will guide you on how to complete and deposit your very important ballot. If you haven't received a ballot yet or you know another paid member that hasn't received one, let us know and we will correct it.

December is a cold month but also very festive. Please follow the monthly calendar provided and participate as much as possible - from the Sunday services, Christmas Pageant, bake sale, crafts sale, tree lighting, luncheons, coffee hours - but most importantly to take a picture with Santa!

A message from the Stewardship Chairman

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.

After Parish Council elections I will be putting together a stewardship committee. Anybody interested, please email me at opkyritsis@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

STEWARDSHIP CHAIRMAN

Agapios Kyritsis



Church Ministries News ~

G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Thank you for your support throughout the year!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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.



P.T.O. NEWS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM PTO!

Wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and holiday season!

We are looking forward to our

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17th

following church service and annual Children's Christmas Pageant!

Please join us and help support with a food item (hot or cold), baked item or monetary donation to help off-set costs for this very much looked-forward to event!

For more information, please reach out to Diana Regan,
PTO President at 732-861-9575



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners:

The lessons of the Greek School continue normally for the month of December. As we approach the Christmas days, our school organizes a Christmas sale for a good cause again this year! On Sunday, December 10, after the Divine Liturgy at coffee time, you will find us in our community center. There you will find all kinds of decorations for your Christmas tree and your home. All proceeds will be allocated to support the Greek School!

On Sunday, December 17, our students will sing Christmas carols in Greek immediately after the Christmas pageant prepared by the Sunday School.

The last lesson for this year will be on Wednesday, December 20, when we will stop for the holidays.

On behalf of the Greek School, we wish you a Merry Christmas and happy holidays with health, joy and happiness in your homes!!



Saint Demetrios of Perth Amboy

Greek School

Holiday Arts & Crafts Fundraiser

Please Come Support Us

December 10th

after Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Invitation to our Sunday School/Greek School Christmas Pageant and PTO Christmas Party

December 17, 2023

Everyone is cordially invited to our Sunday School Christmas Pageant followed by a PTO Christmas Luncheon Party on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Our Sunday School & Greek School children will delight you with their beautiful portrayal of the Nativity scene which will include Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, Shepherds, Lambs, Stars, Angels, the Three Kings and our very own Little Drummer Boy along with poetry readings and prayers.

Please do not miss this wonderful event !

Our St. Demetrios PTO will be providing a complimentary party for everyone to join together as one family during this very blessed holiday season rejoicing in the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Santa Claus will be joining us in this special celebration, as well.

We hope to see each and every one of you on ***Sunday, Dec. 17th.***

St. Demetrios Sunday School/Greek School
Staff and Children
St. Demetrios PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

It is with much pleasure and appreciation to report that, with the continuous support of its members and members of the St. Demetrios community, the Philoptochos was able to meet our yearly commitments/donations to both the National and Metropolis Philoptochos Societies.

We also provided disaster relief funds toward Turkey & Syria that were rocked by deadly earthquakes, to Maui that was devastated by disastrous wildfires, as well as toward the floods and fires that consumed so many areas of Greece.

Furthermore, we recently held a coat drive and provided a local charity with about 20 coats, gloves, scarves, and hats. Our annual Thanksgiving food collection allowed us to donate two carloads of non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul food pantries.

How wonderful it is that we were able to do all this for so many people in need of our assistance!

In addition to our regular yearly activities, the Philoptochos held a Mezedakia Night, sponsored a trip to Agia Skepi for members of the community, and a Christmas Pot-Luck Luncheon will be held for its members and their families.

As you can see, it was a very busy year...and it continues into 2024 with our **Vasilopita Luncheon, which will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024** after church services.

What is really special is that we've seen an increase in membership and participation. Let's continue this trend! 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.

Wishing you all a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,
The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios

