



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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

V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

A message from Father Philotheos ~

It is truly with much joy and enthusiasm that I greet all of you as we begin the second month of 2024. Our beautiful and vibrant parish of St. Demetrios just completed one of the most successful months, I believe, in recent years as we hosted numerous major events and activities that all proved to be most enjoyable and brought our community closer together.

Our month began with the improved and expanded Annual Epiphany Celebration, where we welcomed our Chief Shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey for his first visit to our parish as our new Metropolitan, as well as had 17 of our GOYAns, together with GOYAns from nearby communities' dive into the frigid waters of the Raritan Bay in order to retrieve the Holy Cross. Our Philoptochos Society hosted the annual Parish Vasilopita Luncheon, a most beautiful event with all the proceeds going to St. Basil Academy. We held the Affirmation of Office for the new members of our Parish Council, and had the election of our Executive Board, which under the leadership of our President, George Kane, are eagerly looking forward to continuing the physical and spiritual improvements of our Community.

However, with all the good things that happened during the month of January, we also suffered a major loss in the life our blessed community with the falling asleep in the Lord of the Rev. Protopresbyter Angelo Michaels, who served our parish for over 20 years. I offer my gratitude to all of you that were able to attend the funeral service, where we had the opportunity to gather together at St. Demetrios in Jersey City, New Jersey to offer our prayers for the repose of Fr. Angelo's soul, as well as to express our gratitude for all that he had done for us and our community.

I hope and pray that this new month brings new joy and hopes to all of your lives and that our historic parish continues to grow and continues to reach former parishioners and new parishioners, as all of us from the youngest parishioner to the oldest continue to work together for the beautiful works and ministries being offered at St. Demetrios for the glory of God.

May our almighty God, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to bless all of you with every good and perfect gift from above.

With love and blessings,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

On December 10, 2023, elections for the new Parish Council members were held, followed at a later date with the election of an Executive Board. The following are the names of the newly elected members of the 2024-2025 Parish Council:

George Kane	President
Nick Giannakopoulos	1 st Vice President
Spero Kalambakas	2 nd Vice President
Ted Kaidas	Treasurer
Kateina Ganiaris	Assistant Treasurer
Stan Suravlas	Alternate Assistant Treasurer
Irene Dimitratos	Recording Secretary
Matina Ganiaris	Alternate Recording Secretary
Zack Giannakopoulos	
Litsa Kaidas	
Afrodite Kanellidis	
Mike Koudis	
Agapios Kyritsis	
Matthew Rizitis	
Demos Simatos	

I'd like to congratulate the five new Parish Council members that enthusiastically joined our group to volunteer their time and services for the betterment of our community.

Additionally, I'd like to thank everyone of you who helped with the Epiphany celebration, either by organizing or simply participating to make that day memorable and a great milestone for the church of St. Demetrios. A big thank you to our GOYANs who not only participated but recovered the Cross! Also, thank you to our young Greek School children who sang the Epiphany carols. His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey sent us a letter, thanking the entire community for our hospitality and excellent organization for this wonderful event that will become an annual event for years to come.

Respectfully,
George Kane

G.O.Y.A. NEWS

January was a busy month for our GOYANS. It started off with a cold plunge into the Raritan River to celebrate the Annual Perth Amboy Epiphany Celebration. Congratulations to our Lucas Estella and Emalee Rizitis, both representing Perth Amboy, for retrieving the Crosses.



We also have been working diligently for Sights and Sounds coming up in March. We went to Clay Pot, in Spotswood to finish our pieces that were hand thrown on a wheel.



The Simatos family hosted an afternoon of crafting. A big thank you to George Kane for his expertise, especially in the area of stained glass.



Friday the group headed to Tenafly for their annual White Out Dance. The kids had fun dancing the night away, all while raising a lot of money to donate toward cancer research.

On Saturday Jan 20 we enjoyed our Painting Party. Thank you to all that came to support the GOYA and showed off their artistic abilities. Also, thank you to all the GOYA parents that helped make the event a success.





On Saturday, March 2nd, the GOYA will be participating in Sights & Sounds. Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 3rd for the annual GOYAN Spaghetti Luncheon.** Come check out our sights and sounds while enjoying a delicious lunch!

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

With



From the PTO!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Valentine's Day and love this month of February!
Love is always to you, our St. Demetrios family, and appreciation for the support you give our
PTO activities!



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners:

On Wednesday, January the 24th we cut our annual vasilopita. Attached find highlights from cutting this year's Greek School Vasilopita! The coin fell on the Greek School and everyone's joy was indescribable! May our school and entire parish be blessed with health this year!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome, His Eminence, Metropolitan Apostolos!

Our Sunday School Welcoming Team was extremely excited and delighted to present Metropolitan Apostolos with a beautiful bouquet of red roses, welcoming signs, and a shower of rose petals to demonstrate the high honor and anticipation of his visitation to our beloved Church.

The enthusiasm for His Eminence's visit and his celebration of our Annual Blessing of the Waters and Diving for the Holy Cross was felt by everyone in attendance.

Congratulations to the lucky divers who retrieved the Holy Cross with special blessings from His Eminence. They were Emily Rizitis and Lucas Estela who both happen to be members of our St. Demetrios Sunday School and GOYA!

This was a beautiful, memorable, and historic day at our beloved St. Demetrios Church!





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos started off the year with its annual Vasilopita Luncheon, which was held on January 14th. The proceeds from the luncheon are designated toward supporting Saint Basil's Academy. We had a great turnout, and many thanks go to Mrs. Helen Suravlas, the Chairperson, and her Committee, who put together a wonderful luncheon for our parishioners. The delicious food was catered by The Barge and desserts donated by our wonderful bakers. Father Philotheos cut up Vasilopita Bread for the Church Ministries, and our psalti, Evangelos Kartsiakalis, got the coin!

SAVE THE DATE! March 9, 2024

The Philoptochos is looking to have an **Apokriatiko Glendi!** More information will follow when details are finalized, so please check out the Philoptochos Bulletin Board and listen for further announcements.

Also, please mark your calendars for the next **Philoptochos General Meeting**, which will be held on **Saturday, February 17th at 1:00 PM** in the church hall. Light refreshments will be provided. Please join us! Together we can do great things!

In Christ,

The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios



Blessing of Icons

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos was so very gracious and thoughtful to take a few moments of his visitation to bless the two icons donated to our Church by Demetria Alfieris. This was a very special and touching moment for the Cocoros-Alfieris family.

The two icons were donated in memory of the parents of Demetria Cocoros Alfieris, Peter Cocoros, and Stella Mezines Cocoros. Both icons have been placed side-by-side in our Church's Narthex where they will be venerated and cherished for decades to come.



His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos blessed the Icons donated by Demetria Cocoros Alfieris in memory of her parents, Peter Cocoros and Stella Mezines Cocoros.



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 March Newsletter, please submit it to stdgoa@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, February 21st to ensure that the Newsletter is distributed in a timely manner to parishioners. Thank you!