



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

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V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

PHILOTOCHOS APOKRIATIKO GLENDI – MARCH 16, 2024!

General Assembly Meeting – Sunday, April 7, 2024

A message from Father Philotheos ~

It is truly with love and great joy that I greet all of you, the beloved faithful of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community as we enter the beautiful month of March.

Throughout the first part of this Month we are blessed to have many wonderful events taking place within our parish. On Saturday, March 2nd our beloved GOYAns will participate in the Annual GOYA Sights and Sounds in Westfield and then the next day will offer a Spaghetti Luncheon at our parish and offer to us a glimpse of their many wonderful performances. To all of our GOYAns please know that the entire community is behind you, supporting you, and praying for your success.

On Saturday, March 16th our Philoptochos sisterhood will offer a beautiful and fun night of celebration in preparation for the start of Holy and Great Lent with the Apokriatiko Glendi which I hope that all of you will be able to participate in. The following day on Sunday, March 17th, after many years our parish will once again celebrate Godparent Sunday and we invite and encourage all of our children and all of our Godparents to be present and participate in this beautiful celebration. Following the Liturgy there will be a wonderful coffee hour reception and a Loukoumades sale to benefit the works of our Philoptochos society.

On Monday, March 18th we celebrate Clean Monday as we mark the start of the Holy and Great Lent as we prepare ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually for the celebration of the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year we will be offering many services throughout Great Lent and I wholeheartedly encourage all of you to attend and participate in these wonderful services of the Great Compline, the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Salutations to our most Holy Theotokos.

May our almighty God, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to bless all of you with a most spiritually enlightening Great and Holy Lent.

With love and blessings,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

The last two months of this year were very eventful. Sadly, we lost Father Angelo Michaels, who was our parish priest for nearly 20 years, as well as one of the last beloved pillars of our church community, Mr. Peter Christopoulos.

We had a couple of internal issues that needed resolving. Also, our elevator has developed electronic control issues that will be costly and difficult to replace. However, at the same time, we had a few successful events, such as the Epiphany Celebration, the GOYA Painting Party, and the Philoptochos Vasilopita Luncheon. We are looking forward to the GOYA Sights & Sounds Spaghetti Luncheon on March 3, Philoptochos Glendi on March 16, Godparents Sunday on March 17, as well as the heroic date of March 25...Greek Independence Day, and more.

The next General Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 7th. Your attendance is important.

In conclusion, I would like every one of you to participate and support our events as much as possible.

Respectfully,
George Kane



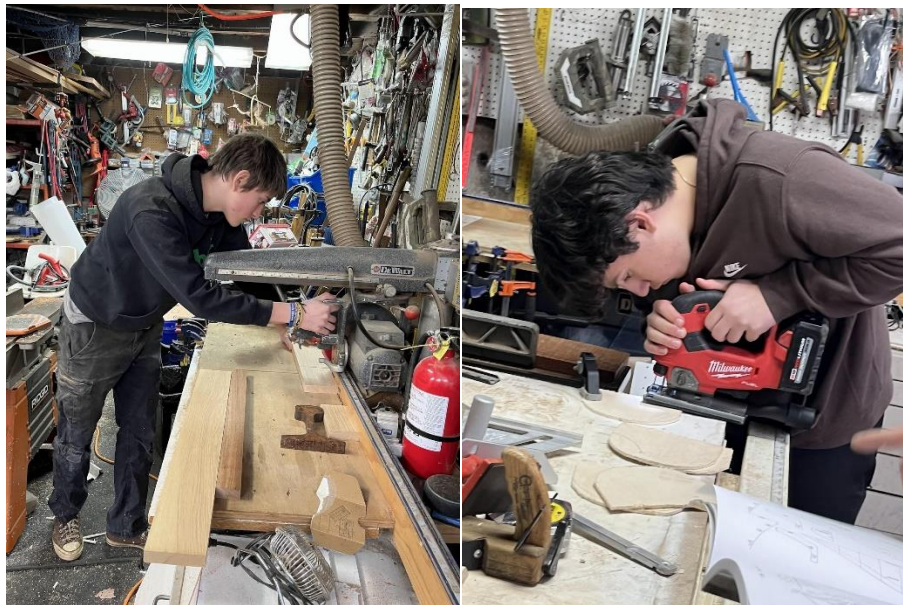
G.O.Y.A. NEWS

February has flown by. We spent many hours preparing for Sights and Sounds which will be held Saturday, March 2. Madi and Annie are getting ready for their singing duet and the boys are practicing their group song.



Thank you to Nick and Cindi Giannakopoulos for hosting a woodworking event, where we collaborated to make some projects. We learned new skills and had lots of fun.





Please join us on Sunday March 3, for our annual Spaghetti Luncheon, immediately following the liturgy. You will be delighted to see all our sights and our dance performance, hopefully with many awards. \$15 for adults, \$5 for children.

This beautiful group attended the Flemington Valentine's Day Dance on Friday Feb. 16



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



*Please Join us on Sunday
March 24th for a special joint
celebration at Saint Demetrios
Perth Amboy after Divine
Liturgy!
Memorial of the fallen heroes
and Greek school celebration
to follow.*

Σας προσκαλούμε να γιορτάσουμε
μαζί την διπλή εορτή του
έθνους μας την Κυριακή 24
Μαρτίου! στον Άγιο Δημήτριο
Perth Amboy αμέσως μετά
την Θεία Λειτουργία. Θα
ακολουθήσει μνημόσυνο για
τους Έλληνες ήρωες του 21
καθώς και μεγάλη γιορτή
απ'τους μαθητές του Ελληνικού
σχολείου.
Μην λείψει κανείς!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, our Sunday School staff along with Father Philotheos, attended the Religious Education Seminar hosted by Saint Nicholas, Constantine and Helen Church in Roseland, NJ. The theme was “Keeping Christ as the Center of our Religious Education”.

The guest of honor was His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, whose remarks were very eloquent and relevant to the topics relayed by the presenters.

Numerous issues were addressed, particularly relating to the challenges our youth are facing in today’s society. It is necessary for our teachers to be as patient, understanding, and accepting of their concerns and frustrations as they face these challenges in their young lives and in making important decisions. Parents and teachers are central in assisting our children to understand these societal complexities and in providing the tools to create synergy between the home, the parish, and the children to instill the feeling of love, hope, trust and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

All the presenters were very interesting, motivating and inspiring. Thank you very much to our very own Agapios Kyritsis, Dr. Zenon Christodoulou and Dr. Peter Tarhanidis. Also, our gratitude is extended to Reverend Ekonomos George Khitri for his caring remarks and for hosting this meaningful seminar.



A Surprise for Father Philotheos!

Our Sunday School children surprised Father Philotheos with cheers and good wishes for his Name Day! He was greeted with large signs wishing him Happy Name Day and Xronia Polla, sweet, caring, happy faces upon each child, plus, he was presented with individual cards, created personally by the children.

The children studied the life of Saint Philotheos in class and read the findings of their research to him. Afterwards, there was a special cake and many treats to celebrate together!

St. Philotheos of Samosata

St. Philotheos was the master builder of a monastery in Mount Athos. It is 12th in hierarchical rank among all the monasteries. This monastery possesses the miracle working Icon of Mother of God, Gerontissa. This sacred monastery contains a piece of the True Cross and the right hand of St. John Chrysostom among other relics.

Saint Philotheos was martyred for Christianity along with his companions Romanus, Jacob. Hyperechius, Abibus, Julianus, Paregorius.

The name Philotheos is derived from two Greek words which are translated to mean beloved friend of God.

Happy Name Day, Father Philotheos!
Xronia Polla, Father Philotheos!





Our Saint Demetrios Sunday School is reviving “Godparents Sunday”! We encourage all Godparents of our Sunday School students to join us on Sunday, March 17, 2024.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

A Philoptochos General Meeting was held on Saturday, February 24th. Many topics were discussed, the most important being the passing of the 2024 Budget and future fundraisers. As a result, we have several (delicious) fundraisers coming your way in March!

- On Sunday, March 17th, we will have the first of TWO Loukoumades sales. The second sale will take place on Sunday, April 7th.
- Orders for Tsourekia from Agia Skepi are now being accepted by Irene Dimitratos (see attached flyer for more information). ***Last day to order will be Sunday, March 31st.***
- And don't forget our biggest fundraiser...the Philoptochos Aprokreatiko Glendi, which will take place on Saturday, March 16th. Your support helps us help those in need, so please make your reservations for a nice evening with family and friends! (See attached flyer for more information.)

The Philotochos membership drive is in full swing! If you are not already a member and are over 18, please consider joining this wonderful organization. Come to our next Philoptochos General Meeting and learn more about us and what we do to help others. Meetings are posted on the Philoptochos Bulletin Board, in the Sunday Bulletins, as well as through email. New members are always welcome!

In Christ,

The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios



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 April Newsletter, please submit it to stdgoa@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, March 20th to ensure that the Newsletter is distributed in a timely manner to parishioners. Thank you!