



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

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(732) 826-4466
+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 28, 2024
EASTER – MAY 5, 2024

General Assembly Meeting – Sunday, April 7, 2024

A message from Father Philotheos ~

I pray that this message and monthly newsletter finds all of you well, both physically and spiritually, experiencing all of God's Heavenly blessings.

As we enter the month of April, our spiritual journey through Holy and Great Lent is in full swing. Throughout this blessed month, in addition to our usual Sunday Divine Liturgy, we also have the beautiful opportunity to participate in the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts, every Wednesday evening beginning at 7pm, as well as the Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos on Friday evenings beginning at 7pm. I highly encourage all of you to attend as many of these wonderful services as you are able, as they are only celebrated this time of year and offer us a unique opportunity to continue our spiritual growth and development as we prepare for the celebration of the feast of feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout this month I encourage all of you to stay strong and vigilant in your faith as we continue this time of fasting, forgiveness, and preparation. Remember that it is not only that which we eat that we must be mindful, but also the things that we say, as well as the actions that we take. These days of Holy Lent afford all of us the chance to truly prepare ourselves physically and spiritually, as well as allow us to reflect on our lives and the decision we have made, and God willing allow us to make sure that we are all following His path and living our lives according to His will.

May our almighty God, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to grant all of your spiritual prosperity as we continue our Lenten journey

With love and blessings in the Lord,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

Along with the beginning of Spring, we are also commencing our extensive church maintenance schedule starting with refinishing of the terrazzo flooring within the church and our downstairs Hall. For the month of April, we will:

- reconstruct the falling retaining wall on the west side of the church
- repair the front steps
- secure loose railings
- replace the elevator electronic modules
- replace many broken or defaced bricks on the church's exterior walls
- perform a deep cleaning of the kitchen (hood filters, stove, ovens, refrigerator, grease trap, etc.)
- replace and repair some aging wires and control units in the boiler room
- install permanent electrical outlets on the side yard for our festival needs (City Code Enforcement request)
- complete the painting and reorganizing of the two rooms above the altar boys' room and the priest's office.

Thanks to our own volunteers, some of the above work was done or will be done internally, but some of it we will have no choice but to hire the experts.

Please review the Liturgical Schedule, especially during the Holy Week, and mark down on your calendars so you can participate with us. Key events besides church services during this month are:

- General Assembly Meeting – Sunday, 4/7/24
- Palm Sunday Luncheon – Sunday, 4/28/24 (see attached flyer)
- Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, 5/5/24
- Lentil and Bean Soup sales, which will be available every Sunday through the fasting season.

Also, if you are interested the Greek Independence Day Parade will be held in New York on April 14th at 1:30 pm (see flyer).

Respectfully,
George Kane



G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Spring has sprung!

We are able to take a little rest with Sights & Sounds behind us. Thank you to those who attended the Spaghetti Luncheon. We may have a small group, but we are mighty! They have made us proud.

We attended a lock-in with Piscataway and Holmdel churches. It wasn't all fun and games. They attended a seminar about drug prevention and made cards for children battling cancer. We made new friends and fond memories.

Saturday, April 6th Lucas Estella will represent Perth Amboy in the Senior Division in the Oratorical Festival in St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Trenton. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, May 11th we will host Indoor Olympics, a friendly competition among the churches, including backgammon, table tennis, checkers, chess, Just Dance, and Fifa soccer. We are looking for volunteers and judges to help run the event. Any help is welcome.

After Easter, we will start preparing for our festival. Anyone interested in dancing is welcome to join. Practices are Monday night 7:30-9pm. Please let Jennifer Simatos, Despina Markos, or any GOYAN know if you are interested in joining.



PTO NEWS!

JOIN US
EASTER SUNDAY, MAY 5TH
Following Easter morning service!



Following Easter morning service, we'll have the children hunting outside for eggs and treats!
We hope the Easter Bunny will come and visit us again!

Please also keep the following future events in mind:

Sunday April 14th - PTO sponsored coffee hour
(Unless we are otherwise informed)

Sunday May 19th - Graduation Sunday
(Donations will be needed and greatly appreciated!)

Sunday June 16th - Father's Day/ Father of the Year
(Donations will be needed and greatly appreciated!)

Wishing everyone a beautiful Lenten season!



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners:

On Orthodoxy Sunday, March 24th, we celebrated the feast of March 25th in a grand manner in our parish!

Following the Divine Liturgy and the procession of the Icons, we held a special memorial service for the fallen heroes of 1821, with a specially decorated tray with the Greek Flag, made by Mrs. Chrysoula Manousaki. Then, our Greek School children sang and recited poems about the heroes of 1821, followed by a moving speech - "The Parthenon and 1821" - by Mrs. Irimi Tsouka, after which the church resounded with applause!

On behalf of the Greek School, we would like to warmly thank Mrs. Chrysoula Manousakis for the thoughtful decoration of the memorial tray, our students and teachers for the great celebration and Irimi Tsouka for the inspirational speech! It was a beautifully full and blessed Sunday, where we were all moved to tears of pride!!!





SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Godparents' Sunday:

Godparents are selected with love and a nod from above!

With encouragement from Father Philotheos, our Sunday School program happily revived Godparents' Sunday" on March 17th. Special Icon gifts for Godparents were made. They also joined their Godchildren in the Divine Liturgy, received Holy Communion together, and attended our Sunday School classes.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship together with platters of cheese, quiche, fruits and vegetables, bagels, croissants and, of course, a delicious cake!

Children recited poetry that expressed their love and appreciation to their Godparents for their care and guidance in bringing them closer to God.

The success of this event ensured that Godparents' Sunday is certain to become an annual event, once again.





Sunday School Participates in the Icon Procession on The Sunday of Orthodoxy

Our Sunday School children were delighted and excited to participate in the Icon Procession on the Sunday of Orthodoxy by displaying their Icons as they proudly followed Father Gregory and the Altar Servers around the perimeter of our Church.

Our Orthodox tradition was instilled and reinforced in their young lives through this very special ritual which will, hopefully, become an essential part of their Orthodox faith and culture as they grow and develop into adulthood as devoted Orthodox Christians.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

On Saturday, March 16th, our Apokreatiko Glendi was held, and we were happy to see so many people in attendance. Some of the ladies wore beautiful hair accessories that matched our theme. We even had our very own Phantom show up (great costume, George Kane!) The delicious food was catered by The Barge Restaurant, and the appetizers and desserts were provided by our very own members. There were many door prizes and basket raffles to be won, and we must thank Stan Suravlas who donated the funds he won from the 50/50 back to the Philoptochos. It was a fun night, and we hope to see you all again next year.

On Sunday, March 17th, the Philoptochos had a successful Loukoumades Sale. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Zeffie Filindras, Mary Simatos, and Diana Regan who worked very hard to provide those tasty loukoumades! We hope to have a second Loukoumades Sale on Sunday, April 7th, right before the General Assembly begins - 5 for \$5.00 - so you can enjoy your sweets during the meeting.

Orders for Tsourekia from Agia Skepi are being accepted by Irene Dimitratos. *Last day to order will be Sunday, April 7th.* Your order will be available for pick up on April 28th, after Palm Sunday church services.

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

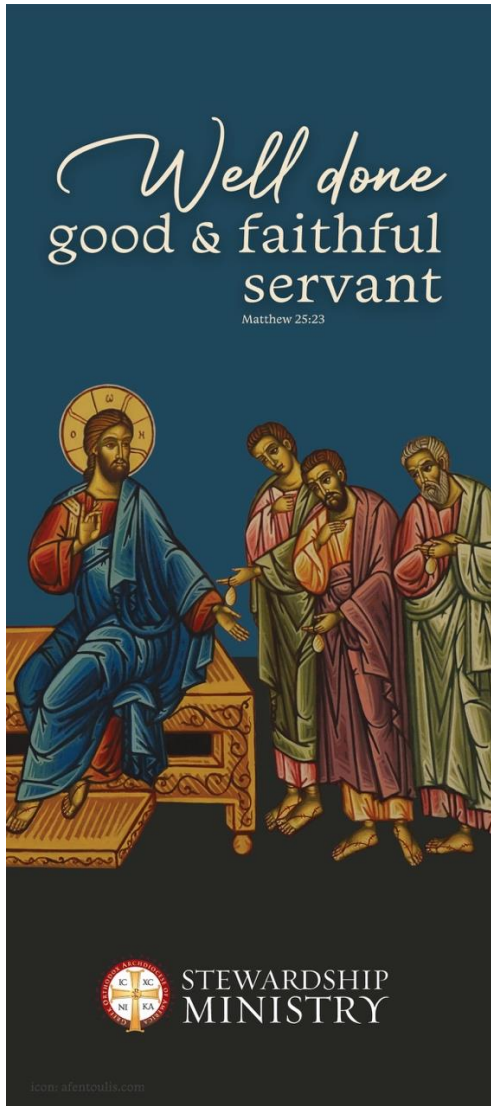
Aprokreatiko Glendi Highlights
March 16, 2024











"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"

Our Stewardship theme for 2024 is **"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant,"** from the Parable of the Talents. We are all blessed with certain gifts. This parable stresses the importance of developing our gifts, multiplying them, and offering them back in service to God.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God.

Please take the time to make your offering today and enable our Church to continue to enhance the spiritual growth of Orthodox Christians.

May our Lord richly bless you in all things.

My Commitment to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Our Spiritual Home

Giving to His Church is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?" or "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

\$ _____ per year month week

Give online - coming soon!

Information

NAME

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

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, April 17th** to ensure that the Newsletter is distributed in a timely manner to parishioners. Thank you!*

GREEK PARADE

Celebrating the 203rd Anniversary
of Hellenic Independence



50 Years Illegal Occupation of Cyprus

July 20, 1974 - July 20, 2024

The Dream of a Free Cyprus will never die!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 @ 1:30 PM

5TH AVENUE | NEW YORK CITY | 64TH TO 79TH STREET

FEDERATION OF HELLENIC SOCIETIES OF GREATER NEW YORK

22-51 29th Street, Astoria NY 11105 • 718.204.6500

nyhellenicsocieties@gmail.com

 @ FederationNY  @ NYGreekParade



*On April 28th, you are cordially invited to
attend a*

Palm Sunday Luncheon!

Join us as we celebrate as a church family.

Menu ~

Skordalia
Bakaliaros (Cod)
Rice
Salads & Beets
Delicious Desserts

Cost ~

Adults: \$30.00
Children (5-18): \$15.00

RSVP ~

By Sunday, April 21, 2024
Afroula (732) 423-7256 / Litsa (908) 227-0822

**Please make checks payable to:
ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**