



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

(732) 826-4466

+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Sunday, May 4, 2025

GOYA

Indoor Olympics – May 10, 2025

Outdoor Olympics – May 24-25, 2025

Philoptochos Mother's Day Celebration

May 11, 2025

A message from Father Philotheos ~

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! It is truly with love and great joy in our Risen Lord that I greet all of you, the beloved faithful of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community, as we enter May and continue our glorious celebration of the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are most blessed during this most holy time of year, to be able to continue to celebrate the third day Resurrection of our Lord together and to joyfully be able to proclaim to one another Χρίστος Ανέστη, Αληθώς Ανέστη.

Throughout this month of May, our beloved and sacred Community continues to offer many wonderful works and ministries for our beloved faithful. On Saturday, May 10th our parish will host the Annual Metropolis of New Jersey GOYA Indoor Olympics, where we will truly be blessed to welcome GOYAns, Advisors, and parents from throughout the state of New Jersey for a beautiful day of faith, fellowship and spirited competition. At the end of the month our beloved GOYAns will participate in the Annual Metropolis of New Jersey Olympics at Monmouth University. To our beloved youth, know that we all support you, are behind you and are hoping and praying for your success, both at the Olympics and throughout life.

During this wonderful month of May we also give special attention to Mothers and on Sunday, May 11, 2025, we too will give acknowledgement to the beloved Mothers and Godmothers within our parish, and our Philoptochos will announce the 2025 Mother of the Year. I offer my warmest congratulations and deepest appreciation to all of the beloved mothers within our community and ask that God continues to bless you with all of His heavenly blessings.

Throughout this month much of our attention and focus will be towards our Annual Greek Festival. This beautiful event not only provides us with the necessary resources to continue our wonderful works and ministries, but it truly allows us to come together as one community and one family, working together for the betterment of our parish and the promotion of our Orthodox

Faith. I thank all of you in advance from the bottom of my heart for all of your tremendous efforts for this most important event.

May our Risen Lord, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to bless you and continue to grant all of you every good and perfect gift from above as we continue to celebrate the most joyous news of His Resurrection.

With love and blessings,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski



President's Message ~

Christ is Risen! I hope that you all had the opportunity to spend some quality time with friends and relatives.

Looking forward to this very busy month of May:

- General Assembly (May 4)
- Northern New Jersey Honoree Banquet (May 12)
- Indoor Olympics sponsored by St. Demetrios GOYA, advisors and other volunteers (May 10)
- Outdoor Olympics (May 24-25)
- Our annual Greek Festival (May 30, 31, and June 1)

Most of these events will be covered by many devoted volunteers of our beloved St. Demetrios community. However, our annual festival will require multiple hands – whether you're experienced or not. Please follow our frequent emails and alerts and be a helping hand of this important event which helps to balance our yearly budget.

Most importantly, I encourage you to participate at our General Assembly on May 4th immediately after our Divine Liturgy where you can ask questions or get updated on our current status, as well as our future plans for our small but mighty community.

Respectfully

George Kane

Parish Council President

Good Friday Evening Service

A solemn, traditional Good Friday Service was beautifully delivered by Father Philotheos declaring the death of Jesus through the lighting of candles among the congregation, circling and sensing the Epitaphios, tossing rose petals on the shroud and leading the procession around the block with traditional Holy Prayers and sorrowful Hymns.

(Photos courtesy of Helen {Coutros} Horan)



Χριστός Ανέστη. Ἀληθῶς Ανέστη

Christ is Risen. Truly, He is Risen!

Father Philotheos entered with a single Holy Candle that lit up the dark Nave and illuminated each candle held by parishioners until the entire Church was lit by candlelight. Proceeding outdoors with lit candles, Father Philotheos gloriously proclaimed that “Christ is Risen” as our Church bells rang throughout the neighborhood. The joy, exuberance and celebration through praying, praising, chanting and singing continued to express the joy and happiness of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Indoors, Father Philotheos delivered the Divine Liturgy and distributed the blessed Easter Eggs at the end of the service.





Dear Beloved Parishioners of St. Demetrios,

It's that time of year again! We are thrilled to invite you and your loved ones to our **Annual Greek Festival by the Bay, May 30, May 31 & June 1!** Join us for a weekend of **delicious food, live music, and Greek culture**, all in support of our parish's largest fundraiser of the year, supporting vital ministries, outreach programs, and the life of our parish. We need your help to make it a success!

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Volunteer** your time – there's a role for everyone!
- **Donate** goods or funds to support our efforts.
- **Join the Baking Committee** and help prepare our famous Greek desserts!

To volunteer or contribute, please contact:

Nick Giannakopoulos – 908-616-3857 or Demos Simatos – 646-335-2402

For baking info, contact:

Aphrodite Kanellidis – 732-423-7256 or Litsa Kaidas – 908-227-0822

Let's come together in faith, fun, and fellowship to make this year's festival unforgettable!

With thanks,
The Parish Council

Church Ministries News ~

PTO NEWS

Easter Sunday, April 20th we had a beautiful morning Agapi Service, and the weather was perfect for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt! It was wonderful to see the children who came on Easter Morning and this year we had a surprise with the Easter Bunny and his helper!!





UPCOMING SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR EVENTS:

SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH GRADUATION SUNDAY (Headed by the Sunday and Greek Schools)

SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH FATHER'S DAY (Headed by PTO)



GOYA News

Christos Anesti

The GOYA has taken a little rest during the month of April during the Lenten season for time of renewal and grace.

Some of our GOYANS enjoyed the GOYA prom on Friday April 23, held at Kefi in New Brunswick. It was hosted by St. George, Piscataway.



On Saturday, May 10, beginning at 9am we will host our annual Indoor Olympics at Wilentz School. Thirteen churches are scheduled to compete in chess, backgammon, checkers, table tennis, badminton, FIFA soccer, and Just Dance. We could use some help judging some of the events or monitoring the hallways. If you can lend a helping hand, please contact Jen Simatos at 732-343-2266.



On Monday, May 12 we will honor GOYANS Alena and Layna Ortiz- Albino for our youth and Despina Markos for our youth worker at the NJ Honoree Grand Banquet at The Venetian. We are so proud of them and appreciate all they have done for our group. It is a well-deserved honor.

Towards the end of the month, over Memorial Day weekend, we will compete in Outdoor Olympics. It is held at Monmouth University. We will stay overnight in the dorms for our first "college" experience. We will lead the opening ceremonies parade at 9am. Some events are long jump, shot put throw, track events and swimming. Luca Regan is trying to beat the softball throw record. Once again our youth is stepping up and competing in areas they are not used to, all in the spirit of trying new things, making new friends, and representing our church community.

Thank you to the Rizitis Family for hosting April's GOYA coffee hour.

Dance practice has resumed, and we are excited to have some new and upcoming GOYANS join us. Practices are on Mondays 7:30-9 pm.

Anyone interested in participating in dancing for the festival is welcome.

New GOYA members are welcome too!

Contact Despina Markos 908-692-5567 or Jennifer Simatos 732-343-2266



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen!! I hope you and your families had an amazing Easter. The Greek School lessons continue as scheduled for the month of May, and we are in the final month for this year as on Sunday, June 8th, the celebration for the completion of the Greek and Sunday School year will take place. Also on May 12th, Mrs Irene Tsoukas our Greek school teacher, will be honored at the Clergy Laity of NJ as our teacher of the year of our parish! Congratulations Mrs Tsoukas! Thank you for your services in our parish and all Greek schools!!!

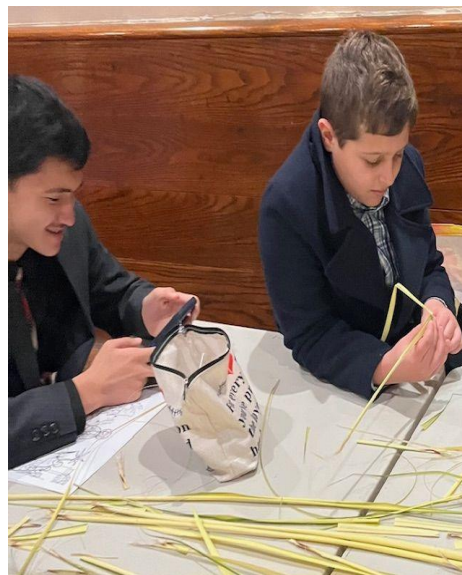


SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Making of Palm Crosses

Our long-standing tradition of creating decorated Palm Crosses and to continue this Orthodox custom for our young children, we conducted this activity on Sunday, April 6th. Our Sunday School teachers worked closely with each child to demonstrate the procedure step by step which resulted in very beautiful palms adorned with colorful flowers, ribbons and butterflies.

On Palm Sunday, Father Philotheos blessed the decorated Palms during the Divine Liturgy and distributed them to each child to take home. The smiles on their faces are priceless.



Myrophores

The Orthodox custom of having “Myrophores” guard the Epitaphios on Good Friday evening returned this year thanks to our four Sunday School young girls, Gerilena Pinto, Audree Rizitis, Kallista (Kylie) and Khloe Tsoukas.


Myrophores are the individuals mentioned in the [New Testament](#) who were directly involved in the burial or who came to the tomb with “myrrh” to anoint Jesus but discovered the [empty tomb](#) following the [Resurrection of Jesus](#). Our Myrophores did a wonderful job standing guard, showering the Epitaphios with rose petals and following it in the procession around the block.



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

**OUR ENTIRE CHURCH COMMUNITY
IS CORDIALLY INVITED
TO CELEBRATE
OUR SPECIAL DAY!**

GRADUATION Sunday



JUNE 8, 2025

**Greek School and Sunday School Graduation
Teacher Appreciation Altar Boy Appreciation
Recognition of Graduates
Philoptochos Awards
Memorial Scholarship Awards**



Refreshments sponsored by our PTO

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PERTH AMBOY, NJ

GRADUATION SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UPCOMING GRADUATES OF HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, ADVANCED DEGREES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR GRADUATE TO APPEAR IN OUR ST. DEMETRIOS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHY TO HELEN COUTROS HORAN AT HER EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

helehoran@yahoo.com

PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHY MUST BE SUBMITTED BY **MAY 21st** AT THE LATEST. ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT HELEN (COUTROS) HORAN AT **908-794-3065**.

PHILOPTOCHOS AWARDS

AS IN MANY YEARS PASSED, THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS WISHES TO HONOR **ALL GRADUATES BELONGING TO OUR ST. DEMETRIOS COMMUNITY**. THE PRESENTATIONS OF GIFTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025. KINDLY RETURN THIS FORM **BY MAY 21st**.

PLEASE MAIL TO OR TELEPHONE: Helen Catelanos
37 Wiley Ave.
Edison, New Jersey 08837
732-549-0508

SCHOLARSHIP/MEMORIAL AWARDS

KENNETH ARIANAS AWARD: PRESENTED TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES in our Community.
BYRON AND ELENI STOIMENIDES AWARD: PRESENTED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES who attended Sunday School through Grade 12.
GEORGE AND ROSE MARIE PROTONENTIS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: PRESENTED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES who attended Sunday School through Grade 12 and will continue their education.

KINDLY COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN BY **MAY 21st AT THE LATEST**.

FULL NAME OF GRADUATE _____ TEL. # _____

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE: COLLEGE TO ATTEND _____
MAJOR _____

COLLEGE GRADUATE: COLLEGE ATTENDED _____
DEGREE _____

GRADUTE SCHOOL GRADUATE: COLLEGE ATTENDED _____
MASTERS _____ DOCTORATE _____

TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE: _____

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX WHICH INDICATES THE DIPLOMA THE GRADUATE IS RECEIVING AND THE COLLEGE, SCHOOL, DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATION BEING RECEIVED. PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL TO HELEN CATELANOS, 37 Wiley Ave., Edison, NJ 08837 OR CALL HELEN C. AT 732-549-0508.

**** PLEASE RETURN BY MAY 21st ****

THE DATE FOR GRADUATION SUNDAY IS PLANNED FOR JUNE 8, 2025

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Easter Season is always a very busy one for the Philoptochos, but with all the support we receive from members and parishioners, we do amazing things. We'd like to take this time to express our appreciation for the help we received with the following events:

On Thursday, April 10th we had a lovely time making the palm crosses ("vagia") for Palm Sunday. Many people showed up to help, so we made over 400 crosses to pass out to the community (see photos below).

On Holy Thursday, several ladies stayed after the late service to help wrap red Easter eggs in tulle and ribbon. Many thanks go to Helen Suravlas, the chairperson, Maria and Litsa Karanikas, Zeffie Tzitzis, Matina Gianaris, Callie Vosinas, and Mary Lou Rivera. And thank you to all who donated the eggs!

Thank you to Mary Simatos and Diane Kostopoulos, who chaired our Palm Sunday Bake Sale, and to all the ladies who baked the delicious cookies and pastries. It was a great success, and we hope you enjoyed your purchases.

For the first time, Cindy Giannakopoulos was our chairperson for the Tsourekia Sale. She did a great job obtaining and placing the orders. Thanks also to Irene Dimitratos and Mary Lou Rivera for transporting all the bread ordered from Agia Skepi. The weather was not the best, but we got the breads safely to the church.

Our next exciting event is Mother's Day. Who will be this year's Mother of the Year? Please join us on Sunday, May 11th for a special coffee hour to honor this auspicious occasion.

The next Philoptochos General Meeting will be on Saturday, May 17th at 1:00 PM. This is an **Election Day** to select our Philoptochos Board members for the next two-year term.

Happy Mother's Day!

Making Palm Crosses



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.

