



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

(732) 826-4466

+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

**Sunday School & Greek School
Graduation Day!
June 8, 2025**

**June 15, 2025
FATHER'S DAY!
PTO Father of the Year Celebration**

A message from Father Philotheos ~

Dear beloved faithful of the St. Demetrios Community,

I write to all of you with a heavy heart to inform you that His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, upon assessing the needs of our sacred Metropolis as a whole, has made the decision to appoint me as the new full-time Proistamenos of the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, New Jersey effective June 15, 2025. After offering myself and serving the administration of our Metropolis in various roles, His Eminence has decided that now is the appropriate time for me to begin a new chapter in my ministry and service to the Church at the Cathedral of our sacred Metropolis.

For the past 20 or so months I have had the true blessings and joy to serve as the Proistamenos of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy. Upon returning from my time living in Greece in September of 2023, I was warmly and joyfully welcomed by all of you as a loved and respected pastor of the Perth Amboy Community. Here at St. Demetrios, I had the first opportunity after so many years serving the Church, to serve as a parish priest and to participate in the life and the ministries of one community and to have a parish to call my own. I truly believe that together with all of your love, support and assistance our beloved community has experienced.

Although I will not be with serving the parish anymore, all of you remain in my thoughts and prayers and know that I will always do whatever I am able to assist the St. Demetrios Community in Perth Amboy. Please know that His Eminence is working diligently to identify the appropriate priest to serve as your new proistamenos, and in the meantime, the newly appointed Chancellor of our Metropolis, the Rev. Ekonomos Gregory Gilbert will be responsible to ensure that all of the Liturgical and administrative needs of the parish are fulfilled.

As I said when I first started at the parish, I did not know how long I would be assigned, as my service to the community was contingent on my assignment at the Metropolis remaining unchanged. I have never sought or requested a new assignment, however His Eminence, who I am humbly grateful to for his faith in my abilities, believes that after 17 years of serving administratively, now is the time to transition to a full-time pastor, entrusting me with the Cathedral of our Metropolis.

Please know that until the 15th of June I will continue to faithfully serve our beloved community in Perth Amboy, with Sunday, June 8th, being my last Sunday service to the parish. Until then there is still much work to do, as we have our annual Greek Festival only a week away, and God willing I will see you all there, as we continue to work for the glory of God and the continued growth of our beloved St. Demetrios Community.

Praying that our Lord continues to bless all of you and this beautiful Perth Amboy Community and humbly asking for all of your prayers as I begin this new chapter in my life and ministry, I remain

With love and blessings in the risen Lord,

+ Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski



President's Message ~

As I stated in my last message, May was a very eventful month ending with our annual festival. This event, as challenging as it is, brings the community together by creating teams volunteering to bake goods, shopping and materials, soliciting donors, setting up and breaking down, running the food lines or anyother position to the last detail. There are a plethora of names to mention, therefore, I will say a big THANK YOU to all who supported this critical fund raiser. Our very preliminary Festival Report shows similar profits as of the Festival of 2024.

This month's newsletter will be the last of 2024/2025 season until September 2025. As we approach the summer season, and we are looking forward to graduation and Father's Day ceremonies. However, the last event that I'm very reluctant to announce is the departure of our beloved Father Philotheos. Many members shed tears since for the last year and half we have become close to him in a friendly as well as spiritual way. However, we know that his new position is an advancement for his bright future.

Father Philotheos, thank you for all you have done for us, and best wishes for your new community.

Respectfully,

George Kane

Parish Council President

PTO NEWS

Hello Everyone! As we near the end of the school year, please be sure to join us for the following special June events!

Sunday, June 8th Graduation Sunday! *

Special Coffee Hour sponsored by the Greek School!
Please reach out to Dimitri Tsivelis to help support!

Sunday, June 15th Father's Day and Father of the Year!

Special Coffee Hour sponsored by all Parents and Teachers of PTO!
Please reach out to Diana Regan to help support!

Offerings to support these last events until the next school year is greatly appreciated!

* Sunday, June 8th is also our last day with Fr. Philotheos.

The PTO wishes you, Fr. Philotheos, the very best and God's blessings in your new endeavors - you will be greatly missed!



GOYA News

May was very busy for the GOYA. We hosted the annual Indoor Olympics. In attendance were 140 Goyans and their advisors from 13 different churches, the largest number in recent history. It was a great day with friendly competition and fellowship. Constantine Katsilis took 1st place in Sr. Checkers, Madi Katsilis took 1st place in Jr. Backgammon, and Annie Haring took 3rd place in Sr. Backgammon. Perth Amboy placed third overall behind Union and Piscataway! Congratulations to all of our participants and winners.

A big thank you to Callie Vosinas, Marietta Kahlill, George Kane, Nick Vosinas, Maria Vogiatzidakis, Jadyn and Kali Simatos, Nick and Zach Giannakopoulos, Irene Dimitratos, Rachel Giannakopoulos, Debbie Mattos, and our Goya parents, Zoe Katsilis, Diana Regan, Alberto Albino, Demos and Jennifer Simatos, Jennifer Kaneilidis, Matt and Jessica Rizitis, and David Haring for all of your help and support. We also had great help judging from Angelo Tsimpedas, our chess master, and Angelo Vrohidis, from Union. In addition, thank you to the Barge Restaurant for providing a delicious lunch for all and Evan's Restaurant for breakfast bagels. We could not have such a successful event without all of you.





Congratulations to Despina Markos and Alena and Layna Ortiz-Albino! They are this year's Youth worker and Youth member Honorees for the Metropolis of New Jersey's Grand Banquet Award dinner, held May 12. Please join us in congratulating them for receiving this award.

Congratulations to all the other recipients this year!

On May 24 & May 26 the Goya participated in the Outdoor Olympics. We led the parade and enjoyed the overnight stay at Monmouth University. Events included track and field, swimming, and volleyball. Luca Regan placed second in the senior softball throw, Luka Simatos placed second in the long jump, and Vasili Katsilis placed in the top 6 for junior boys 400 meter.



Our seniors, Luka, Alena and Layna held the flags for the parade. Perth Amboy always leads the parade out of respect for starting the event over 50 years ago.



Getting ready to play volleyball



Once again our youth tried things they have never done before with grace and enthusiasm, taking advantage of all that is given to them. They challenged themselves to do things they would never have thought they would do. We are so proud of our Goyans! They have had an amazing year.



We will sadly be losing Luka Simatos, Alena Ortiz-Albino, and Layna Ortiz-Albino. They are graduating high school and moving on to college. All three have been an integral part of our group for the full 6 years. They have always given a lending hand and stepped up to try new things, always with a smile and grace. It will definitely not be the same without them. As the kids say, "It's the end of an era." We wish you the best and continued success in all that you do!

If you know of any youth aged 12 and entering 7th grade in the fall, join our group. Contact Jen Simatos 732-343-2266 or email at jsimatos9815@gmail.com or Zoe Katsilis 201-310-9283. We have several fun events planned over the summer. Come join us!



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

With the grace of God, we reached the end of the school year again. Our young students, after a tiring but enjoyable year, are ready to start their summer vacation!

The last class for this year will be on Wednesday, June 4th, and graduation day will be on Sunday, June 8th where, after the Divine Liturgy we will have a special celebration where our students will receive their certificate and then we will all enjoy lunch together!!

On behalf of the Greek School, we wish you a wonderful summer full of health and happiness!!! See you in September!



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

CONGRATULATIONS 2025 GRADUATES!



Layna Ortiz-Albino

I enjoyed my high school years and all of the friends and memories that came along the way. I found myself involved in various activities, those notably being dance and theatre. Both of these areas instilled newfound passions and confidence in me for which I will be forever grateful. My time in these programs sparked my deep appreciation for the arts which I intend on pursuing in the future. Besides this, I plan on furthering my education at Kean University, majoring in early childhood education with an endorsement in special education and a concentration in theatre.

The twin sisters were very active in the St. Demetrios GOYA and especially loved to participate on our Greek Dance Team. They also attended Sunday School in their younger years.



Alena Ortiz-Albino

My high school years were nothing short of a great time. I met lifelong friends and created long lasting memories along the way. I was heavily involved in dance, as well as theater. Also, being the tech manager took up a lot of time but showed commitment. During high school, I found a great love for photography and knew I wanted to carry that into my future. I will be attending Seton Hall University in the fall double majoring in marketing and entrepreneurship with a minor in sports media.

2025 GRADUATE CONGRATULATIONS, LUKA!



Our Sunday School Graduate, Lukas Simatos, is graduating from Old Bridge High School. He attended Sunday School from Kindergarten through Grade 12 and has been very active in our GOYA since 7th grade. He served as Vice President for 2 years and President for 4 years. He joined the Hellenic Dancers last year and enjoys Greek Dancing immensely. He represented our St. Demetrios GOYA this year in the Mr. and Miss Pageant and in the Oratorical Festival Competition. He has been a leader and spark of joy to the group.

In High School, he played Lacrosse for 2 years and became the Automotive Teaching Assistant in his senior year, helping him to earn his Automotive Certification.

Luka just earned the Presidential Award for being in the top 20% of his senior class and was awarded the Technology Scholarship.

Luka has been fencing for 10 years. He has his Referee License and coaches younger members of his club. This year in Fencing, he qualified for Junior Olympics for the North East Region and the National Tournament which was sidelined by his broken collarbone.

Luka will be attending the Maine Maritime Academy for a 5-year Program to attain a degree in Marine Engineering, plus, the USCG 3rd Engineer Assistant License.

Class of
2025
CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES



Donna Kakadelis is graduating from Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS). She will be attending the Rutgers Mason Gross School of Arts and majoring in Art and Design. She graduated from Saint Demetrios Greek School in Perth Amboy in 2017. A talented artist, Donna attended Teen Arts NJ Arts High, a talented and gifted program in art, for 4 years. She is the co-president of the National Arts Honor Society and the editor-in-chief of the school's IMAGES Literary Magazine. As a varsity member of the SWMHS swim team, Donna helped lead the school into qualifying for the State Championships after an absence of 15 years. She also received varsity in Set Design Construction for the school's theatrical productions. In 2024, Donna was chosen to paint a mural of Jon Bon Jovi which was dedicated to him and the newly named Jon Bon Jovi Performing Arts Center in SWMHS. She will be graduating with honors from the National Arts Honor Society, National English Honor Society and National Hispanic Honor Society.



Kyriaki Kakadelis is graduating from Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS). She will be attending the Rutgers School of Environmental & Biological Sciences and majoring in meteorology. She graduated from Saint Demetrios Greek School in Perth Amboy in 2017. Kyriaki is the secretary of the National Arts Honor Society and the editor-in-chief of the school's IMAGES Literary Magazine. As a varsity member of the SWMHS swim team, she helped lead the school into qualifying for the State Championships after an absence of 15 years. She also received varsity in Set Design Construction for the school's theatrical productions. In 2023, Kyriaki's artwork was chosen as the State Representative in 2D Visual Art in the New Jersey State Teen Arts festival. In 2024, she was chosen to paint a mural of Jon Bon Jovi which was dedicated to him and the newly named Jon Bon Jovi Performing Arts Center in SWMHS. She will be graduating with honors from the National Honor Society, National Arts Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Science Society and the National Hispanic Honor Society. Kyriaki is also being awarded the Seal of Bilingualism in Spanish.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos was delighted to announce that Kyria Alexandra Velmahos received this year's Mother of the Year Award! It is estimated that Kyria Alexandra taught close to 1,000 St. Demetrios community children during her career as a Greek School teacher. With love and patience, she taught the beautiful Greek language and instilled a pride of our culture to many of us, our children, and even some grandchildren! She also worked as the church Secretary for many years where she took care of our parishioners' needs without fail. Kyria Alexandra has been a member of the Philoptochos for decades and always gives her support in any way she can. She is a beloved member of our community and well deserving of this award. Please join us in congratulating Kyria Alexandra!



On Saturday, May 17th, at the Philoptochos General Meeting, nominations were made to select new Board Members for the next term (2025-2027). Once the names have been ratified, the oath taking, followed by the election of Officers, will take place. The names of the new Board and Officers will be posted once everything has been finalized.

Attention Philoptochos Members! Our end-of-year Luncheon will be held on Saturday, June 14th at the Agapi restaurant located on Route 27 in Rahway. Please see attached flyer for details.

Have a wonderful summer!



~ Attention Philoptochos Members ~

You are cordially invited to join us at our
Philoptochos End-of-Year Luncheon!

When: Saturday, June 14, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Where: Agapi Restaurant

Lincoln Plaza

124 NJ-27, Rahway, New Jersey

Cost: \$50.00 pp

Set Menu Includes:

Appetizer, Salad, Main Course, Coffee, Tea,
Dessert

RSVP: No later than June 8, 2025

Mary Lou

732-742-0722 or MLKR@comcast.net

(This is a BYOB restaurant – Soda is separate.)



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.

