

Rev. Protopresbyter Nicholas P.
Petropoulakos

President's Message ~

It is a great pleasure to see our church - as well as our community center - full of parishioners and young children who bring extra life to our pleasant coffee hours.

Thanks to the Philoptochos, PTO, GOYA, and Parish Council members for providing lavish and delicious luncheons, coffee, desserts, and refreshments on a weekly basis. I have to congratulate them all and give out a Blue Ribbon for all their efforts!

I would also like to welcome returning and new young people who have joined our Sunday School, Greek School, and GOYA programs. Taking into consideration our smaller community, tuitions for Greek School have been lowered. These smaller classes enhance the student-to-teacher relationships, so please register your child/grandchild if you haven't already done so.

A big thank you goes out to those Parish Council members who helped with the community center's renovations, especially Nick Giannakopoulos, as well as parishioners Spero Kanellidis and Andrew Pakis and his helper who helped with this project extensively. Also, I would like to thank the group of parishioners who came to clean the kitchen, the floors, tables and chairs after this project was completed.

I want to remind you that there will be a General Assembly Meeting held on Sunday, November 9th, after church services. Nominations for the next Parish Council Board members will be held at this meeting, so it is important for us to have a quorum for this to take place. Therefore, please make every effort to attend and participate in this important event.

George Kane
Parish Council President

Saint Demetrios Parish Newsletter OCTOBER 2025

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
(732) 826-4466
REV. PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS P. PETROPOULAKOS

Philoptochos Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Sunday, October 5, 2025
(please see attached flyer for details)

OCTOBER 25 – ST. DEMETRIOS VESPERS (7:00 PM)
**OCTOBER 26 – CELEBRATION OF ST. DEMETRIOS
& “OXI” DAY**

From Father Nick's Desk

St. Demetrios, Warrior for Jesus.

St. Demetrios is often described as "Warrior for Jesus". He received this title because he exhibited the same dedication and service to Jesus as he did as a general in the Roman army. He is one of the most revered military saints in the Orthodox Christian world, often depicted in military attire and paired with Saint George.

According to tradition, Demetrios was born to a noble Christian family in Thessaloniki, Greece, in the 3rd century. His father was a Proconsul for Rome, a very high military position in government. As a military man, he prepared his son, Demetrios, for a military career. Demetrios rose through the ranks, becoming a general. He used his high position as a vehicle for teaching and preaching his Christian beliefs to those under his leadership. Many pagan soldiers became Christians because of his character and his love for Jesus.

When the Emperor Galerius learned that Demetrios was a Christian, he had him imprisoned in a bathhouse next to the gladiatorial arena. While in prison, Demetrios gave his blessing to his disciple, Nestor, who was about to fight the powerful pagan gladiator Lyaeus in the arena. With Demetrios' encouragement, Nestor defeated and killed Lyaeus, enraging the emperor. In retaliation, Galerius ordered both men executed. Nestor was beheaded and Demetrios was martyred by being stabbed with spears in his prison cell. It is reported that Demetrios, knowing that they were coming to spear him, raised his right arm above his head so that they would spear him in the same area of his body as the centurion had pierced Jesus on the Cross. By this act he was preaching Jesus right up to the moment of his martyrdom.

After his death, his body was secretly buried by Christians in Thessaloniki. Centuries later, his relics began to exude a sweet-smelling oil, and many miracles of healing have been attributed to this myrrh. This is why he is known as the "Myrrh-Streamer" (or *Myroblyte*). This fragrant, healing myrrh miraculously flows from his tomb. As more and more of the faithful came to the site of his grave, a basilica was commissioned to be built over the site of his martyrdom.

We are blessed to have this "Warrior for Jesus" as the patron Saint of our parish and we ask him to carry our prayers to our Lord Jesus and to intercede for all our requests.

Let us pray the hymn of his feast.

"The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to naught the boasts of Lyaeus, imparting courage to Nestor in the stadium, in like manner, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy."

God bless you in Christ!

Rev. Protopresbyter Nicholas P. Petropoulakos



Weekly ZOOM Bible Study

Father Nick offers a weekly ZOOM Bible Study each Wednesday night at 7:30. He encourages anyone who would like to participate to use the following information to sign in:

Sign in number 88085372002 **Password** Padre

We are now studying the Acts of the Apostles.



Daily Messages on FACEBOOK

Father Nick publishes messages, religious and practical, every day on FACEBOOK. He began this ministry at the beginning of the Covid Pandemic and continues it to the present time.

To read the daily messages, send Father a friend request at [Nicholas P. Petropoulakos](#).



Be Part of the 2026 Greek Festival!

Our St. Demetrios Greek Festival is set for May 29–31, 2026—and we need YOU to help make it a success!

Next Festival Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 • 7:30 PM
Downstairs Hall, St. Demetrios

We're forming committees now and are seeking **Committee Chairs/Leaders** and **Committee Members**. Whether you can give an hour, a few hours, or take on a bigger role, your time and ideas are invaluable and appreciated.

Areas We're Focusing On

If you can help—or know someone who can—please let us know! Here are some of our first planning needs:

- **Kitchen Help** – chefs, cooks, grill/taverna staff, prep teams, and food runners
- **Advertising** – spreading the word through local papers, bulletins, and announcements
- **Marketing** – social media, flyers, outreach, and promotions
- **Donations & Sponsorships** – connecting with businesses and community supporters
- **Volunteer Outreach** – bring in and welcome volunteers

2025–2026 Festival Meeting Schedule

(Third Tuesday of each month)

- October 21, 2025
- November 18, 2025
- December 16, 2025
- January 20, 2026
- February 17, 2026
- March 17, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- May 19, 2026
- June 2026 – TBA (Recap meeting is held 1–2 weeks after the festival)

Interested or have questions?

Email us the festival team at pagreekfestival@gmail.com and we will be in contact!



PTO NEWS

On Sunday, September 21st we had a fantastic start to our new Sunday School, Greek School and GOYA year with a special blessing by Father Nick in church, the first day of Sunday School, and a fun celebration afterward!

A heartfelt thank you to all the support that was received to make this event so enjoyable!

We have some wonderful events ahead to look forward to through the end of the school year!

Parents and Teachers, please know that PTO sponsored coffee hours are typically every 2nd Sunday of the month, with the exception of special events that we will need to switch with our other ministries. Please keep an eye out for announcements ahead of PTO coffee hours if you are able to support by offering an item to the coffee hour.

The next special event that is hosted by the PTO will be Sunday, December 14th, the annual Christmas Party following the Children's Christmas Pageant.

Love and appreciation to all!



GOYA News



Happy Fall - GOYA News

The GOYANs had a wonderful time reuniting and welcoming new friends at our Welcome Back Picnic. Thank you to the Kanellidis family for hosting, and thank you to all the parents who brought goodies.

INTRODUCING OUR 2025-2026 GOYANs

SENIORS



Luca Regan



Zoe Fotiou



Sophia Zamouzakis

JUNIORS



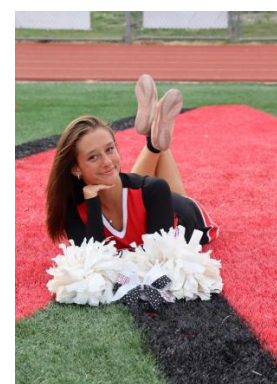
Annie Haring



Jace Kanellidis



Constantine Katsilis



Emalee Rizitis

SOPHOMORES



Madi Katsilis



Vasili Katsilis



Claire Veiga

7TH GRADERS



Gerilena Pinto Antonatos



Lucas Kanellidis



Milo Kanellidis



Zoe Kanellidis



Niko Satafoglu



Angelo Tsivelis

On Saturday, October 4th, we will be volunteering in Old Bridge Township joining the township's Clean Team helping to keep our Earth clean.

We are looking forward to the Mr. & Miss Pageant coming up on Sunday, October 18th. Luca Regan and Emalee Rizitis are getting ready for their interviews. We wish them the best! We are so proud of them. Tickets for the dinner are still on sale: \$80 for adults and \$60 for children.

Thank you to all who supported our Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. It was a great success! Keep an eye out for your deliveries and enjoy munching on that delicious popcorn.

Dance practice has resumed and it's not too late to join. Please contact Jen Simatos 732-343-2266 if you are interested.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

On September 21st we had the Blessing for the new school year in our parish! Father Nicholas blessed our youth from the Sunday and Greek Schools, GOYA, dance group as well as the altar servers! It was a wonderful Sunday with all our youth that made us all very proud! Wishing a blessed new year to all our children and teachers!!!

We would also like to inform you that we are planning to have our “OXI” day celebration on Sunday, October 26th, right after the Divine Liturgy on Saint Demetrios Day. Please join us!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Blessing of our Youth Ministries

Father Nick delivered beautiful blessings and prayers for the youth of our community and sprinkled each and every child with Holy Water as each kissed the Holy Cross. Afterwards, children proceeded downstairs for the very first day of Sunday School classes to begin our new Ecclesiastical Church year by studying our Orthodox Faith.

It was wonderful to see everyone back together, again, participating in the Divine Liturgy and in our Sunday School classes alongside their peers, their friends, their classmates. May God grant us a blessed, productive year within all our Youth Ministries, Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, GOYA Dancers and Altar Servers.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The next *Philoptochos General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 4th at 1:00 PM* in the church hall. Please join us! Newcomers are always welcome! We will be discussing upcoming events and fundraisers that will help us help those in need. If you have a new idea or suggestion, we'd love to hear about it.

The Philoptochos will be hosting a **Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, October 5th** (see attached flyer). Please join us for pancakes and other breakfast goodies while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow parishioners. Your participation and support go a long way and is always appreciated.

On Saturday evening, October 25th, the Philoptochos will host a light reception following the St. Demetrios Vespers service.

The Philoptochos has resumed its weekly collection of non-perishable foods. Please look for the bin near the Philoptochos collection box in the Narthex. Your donations are always welcome and will be distributed to local food pantries.

In addition to the food collection, the Philoptochos will be initiating a Coat Drive (see attached flyer). As Autumn rolls in and you begin your change-of-season clothing switch, please check to see if you have a **gently used** coat, jacket, gloves, hats and/or scarves to spare for someone less fortunate. You may start bringing in these items on Sunday, October 12th. ***Please note, we are not collecting regular clothes.***

The Philoptochos hopes to initiate additional collections and events during the year that will help those in need, so please keep checking the Sunday Bulletins for announcements.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios

GENTLE REMINDER: The bank with whom we have accounts has become more strict about how checks are made payable to the Philoptochos. Therefore, to ensure that future checks for memberships/events/donations, etc. are accepted by the bank, please note that checks should be payable as follows:

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY 3 HIERARCHS OF ST. DEMETRIOS

Thank you!!

*Philoptochos General Meeting
Saturday, 10/4 @ 1:00 PM
Please join us!*

*Philoptochos Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Sunday, 10/5/25
Please join us!*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Congratulations to Susan and Bill Susman, who will be celebrating their 26th Wedding Anniversary on October 10th!



Please join us in wishing Susan Spillman a very
Happy 65th Birthday
On October 15th!

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.

