



Rev. Protopresbyter Nicholas P.
Petropoulakos

President's Message ~

October was another eventful month starting with the Mr. & Miss GOYA Pageant, where our own Luca Regan was selected as Mr. GOYA. We celebrated our St. Demetrios Day followed by a plentiful and delicious luncheon with tasty homemade pastries. We also celebrated OXI Day, which is one of the greatest historical events that played a significant role in Hellenic existence.

Thanks go out for the short program performed by the Greek School, who through their poems and their singing of the Greek National Anthem reminded us of the heroic days in October of 1940. I thank Dimitri Tsivelis, the teachers, the young kids, and, of course, all of you who participated in these important events. I also want to thank the people who baked the food and pastries or provided their services for set up and/or clean up. Mostly, I'd like to thank our visitors from neighboring communities who religiously attend our annual celebration.

Lastly, a few reminders: We have our General Assembly on November 9th, and the Philoptochos' Coat and Food Drives run by the Philoptochos to help the needy. Please show your support by participating in these events.

Respectfully,

George Kane
Parish Council President

Saint Demetrios Parish Newsletter November 2025

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Sunday, November 9, 2025
Nominations for New Parish Council Board

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PHILOPTOCHOS
~ COAT DRIVE (ENDS NOVEMBER 9TH) ~
~ THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE ~

From Father Nick's Desk

All About Thanksgiving

Our Orthodox Christian faith is all about thanksgiving. Society believes that thanksgiving is fairly important, and we have Thanksgiving Day once a year. I, myself, love this holiday. Every November when the leaves start to change color and the days become a little cooler, we gather, if possible, with our families and friends and sit down to a turkey dinner, rejoicing in family warmth and security. Even though not everyone gives thanks for what God has blessed them with, at least once a year our self-entitled culture tells us that it is good to give thanks and to be grateful.

It is different in the Church. In the Church, we should not give thanks just once a year. We must give thanks every day, maybe many times a day. That makes every day a Thanksgiving Day. At every Vespers we chant from Psalm 104, "I will sing praises to my God while I have my being!" In the Orthros we hear, "Let every breath praise the Lord!". In the Anaphora of the Divine Liturgy we pray, "It is meet and right to hymn You, to bless You, to praise You, to give thanks to You, and to worship You in every place of Your dominion". It is a given that praise and thanksgiving is what we do as Orthodox Christians, all the time.

In truth, we do not praise and thank God all the time. Sometimes we need to be reminded to do so. That is why we need these 'reminders' through the liturgical life of the Church. This is most evident in the weekly Sunday Divine Liturgy, when we are preparing to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. That is why this service is called the Eucharist. This is derived from the Greek word 'eucharistia', thanksgiving.

As Christians, we can transcend the physical world we live in and rise to God. As Father Alexander Schmemmann, of blessed memory, has written as a reminder to us: Man is a 'worshipping man' with the divine image of God within us as we worship Him. As such we can transcend the merely physical in which we usually live, and rise up to God.

This month we will celebrate the annual, secular reminder of being thankful for all we have. But isn't it even better that the Church reminds us to thank and praise God every Sunday as we participate in the Divine Liturgy, our weekly 'eucharistia'? Yet even more wonderful is our daily reminder to give thanks.

Thanksgiving Day is great because we see family and we eat a heavily laden table, surrounding that big turkey. Enjoy it! But, remember, participation in the kingdom of our Lord, means that we thank Him for everything on that table and much, much more.

Here is a prayer for Thanksgiving (and every day):

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings You have bestowed on my life.

You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined.

You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me.

You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions.

I praise and glorify Your Holy Name, not just on this Thanksgiving Day, but every day that You bless me with.

I pray this in Your Holy Name.

Amen

God bless you in Christ,

Father Nick

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 2

His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, has designated Sunday, November 2, as Ladies Philoptochos Sunday for 2025. This special day is an opportunity for all of us to show our appreciation for these ladies and to commemorate the memory of those ladies who now serve in God's Kingdom.

Patriarch Athenagoras, of blessed memory, had a vision for a Ladies Society to serve the needs of all those who required assistance of any kind. That is why he founded this organization in 1931 when he was Archbishop of America. He referred to this Society as the 'right hand of the Church.'

From these humble roots the Ladies Philoptochos Society has grown into the 2nd largest women's philanthropic organization just behind the Jewish Women's Organization of America, 'Hadassah'.

On this Sunday we will celebrate an Artoclasia for the health of all Parish Philoptochos members and a Mnimosinon for the memory of all deceased members.

All Philoptochos members in attendance will be called to the Soleas for a blessing at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SUNDAY

Father Nick will be starting a new education ministry for the Parish. Each second Sunday of the month, instead of a sermon, Father will entertain religious questions from the congregation.

It is hoped that by addressing your individual questions, Father will be fulfilling everyone's needs for answers.

November 9th will be Question-and-Answer Sunday.





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](#).

SPECIAL ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

On [Wednesday, November 12th](#), during the ZOOM Bible Study, Father will give a talk on the topic: ***Why I Should Go To Church!***

Father is inviting all High School students to join us and bring their questions.

The Study begins at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see all our current Bible students and all of you who are interested.

See you on November 12th!



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, November 18, 2025 • 7:30 PM
Downstairs Hall, St. Demetrios

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)

- 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 behalf of the PTO, wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving to all
with many blessings to you and your families!
Thankful for all of you and all the support you give to the PTO!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday Nov. 9th

PTO Sponsored Coffee Hour (Also the General Assembly)

Sunday Dec. 14th

Christmas Pageant and PTO Sponsored Christmas Party



GOYA News

Luca Regan and Emalee Rizitis proudly represented Perth Amboy in the Mr and Miss Pageant October 18th at the Hanover Manor. We are honored to have Luca crowned as Mr GOYA!!



On Oct 4th the GOYA participated in the Old Bridge Clean Team program volunteering to help keep the road clean. The kids had a great time and were surprised by all the things we found.



We are looking forward to Fairview's Bowling tournament Saturday, November 1st. Afterwards we will join in fellowship and dance at Fairview Ascension Church.

Thank you to Jacier Kanellidis and his family for leading our October coffee hour. Claire Veiga and her family will lead this upcoming coffee hour on the 16th.

Dance practice is on Monday nights, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm downstairs in the church hall. Any youth 12 years of age (7th grade) or older who is interested in joining dance or the GOYA, it's not too late!

Please contact Jennifer Simatos at 732-343-2266.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS



Dear Parishioners:

On Sunday, October 26, our Greek School proudly celebrated the national anniversary of "OXI" Day and honored the patron saint of our parish, St. Demetrios! Our students recited poems and sang national songs, drawing the warmest applause. Congratulations to our children, parents and teachers!

We also would like to inform you that there will be no class on Thursday, November 27th since it is Thanksgiving.

Happy November everyone and Happy Thanksgiving!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In commemoration of our Patron Saint's Feast Day, our Sunday School students created their very own individual St. Demetrios Icon keychains that could have many uses. They can be used as keychains, of course, but they can, also, be used as a backpack charm, or as a wall hanging, all of which will be reminders for them that our Patron Saint Demetrios is always with us and his intercessions to the Lord can be relied upon. The Icon keychains were on display for our Vesper Services and Feast Day Divine Liturgy receptions.

The children were excited to have Father Nick join them for a photo as they happily showcased their Icon keychain keepsakes which they will take home and treasure for many years to come.



On behalf of our Sunday School, Angelo and Petros Tsivelis gifted the Chancellor, Father Gregory Gilbert, Father Nick, and our Church President, George Kane with our St. Demetrios Icon Keychains during our Vesper Service Reception.



This year's **Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 14th**. Rehearsals for the pageant will start on Saturday, November 29th at 11:00 AM, and will continue on December 6th and 13th. Parents of Sunday School and Greek School students are encouraged to bring your children/grandchildren, so they may participate in this lovely Christmas event!



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



On October 5th the Philoptochos hosted a Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser. Great job, Helen Catelanos and Evelyn Mariolis, our chairwomen who put together this event! We must thank our volunteer pancake assistant – Dimitri Tsivelis – who helped the ladies prepare the delicious breakfast. Thank you to all who donated other breakfast items and helped with setup and cleanup. The funds raised for this event will be used to help us meet our Metropolis and National Philoptochos commitments.



A big thank you goes out to Marietta Khalil who chaired the lovely St. Demetrios Vespers after-services reception held on October 25th. In addition, much gratitude goes to all who donated food, as well as to those individuals who helped set up and clean up this event. All your time and efforts are truly appreciated, as always.



Many thanks to Cindy Giannakopoulos, who chaired our Winter Coat Drive. Thank you to all who brought in donations. Coats will be distributed to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Perth Amboy, so winter will be a little warmer for some individuals in need of assistance. If you haven't already donated, there's still time! We are still accepting coats until November 9th! ***Please note, we are not collecting regular clothes.***



The Philoptochos is also collecting **non-perishable food items** for Thanksgiving donations to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul (see attached flyer for suggested donations). You may drop off your donations in the bin near the Philoptochos collection box in the Narthex as well as in a bin set up on the stage. We are **not** accepting turkeys at this time. Thank you to everyone who participates in the food drive to feed those in need. Your donations are always welcome!



In addition to these collections, the Philoptochos will be initiating a Toy Drive in early December. Further details will be made available shortly, so please keep checking your emails and Sunday Bulletins.



The Philoptochos will be hosting a **Christmas Luncheon** for its members and their families on **Saturday, December 6th** in our newly renovated church hall! Members interested in attending the luncheon, please contact Irene Dimitratos or Marietta Khalil (see attached flyer for more information),

The next ***Philoptochos General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 15th at 1:00 PM*** in the church hall. Please join us! Newcomers are always welcome! We will be discussing upcoming events and fundraisers. If you have a new idea or suggestion, we'd love to hear about it.

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

ST. DEMETRIOS DAY VESPERS

Saturday, October 25, 2025



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.



NOVEMBER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Sunday	November 2	5 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	November 9	7 th Sunday of Luke St. Nektarios of Pentapolis Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Saturday	November 15	Nativity Fast Begins	
Sunday	November 16	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Friday	November 21	Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	November 23	9 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	November 30	Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.