



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

September 15th – Commemoration of the finding of the Holy Cross (Orthros 8:15 am/Divine Liturgy 9:00 am)

September 22 – PTO Welcome Back Picnic
September 29 – Blessing of the Youth Ministries

A message from Father Philotheos ~

It is with great joy and excitement that I greet all of you as we commence the new Ecclesiastical Year. As we begin the month of September, with the Grace of God we begin another year in the life, and cycle of events in our sacred Orthodox Church. Within our own community of St. Demetrios, I hope and pray that all of you had a most blessed, restful and healthy summer and it is with much eagerness that look forward to seeing all of you again at our blessed Church.

This month we have many wonderful things happening within our beautiful community as all of our beloved ministries restart, and with the help and dedication of our beloved Parish Council members, Philoptochos members, teachers, advisors, psalti, Choir members and all of our devoted parishioners, I am truly confident that this will be a most blessed year in the life of our sacred Parish.

Some of the upcoming highlights are on Sunday, September 22nd, we our blessed to have the annual PTO Picnic, and the opportunity to register all of parish youth in the wonderful youth ministry and educational programs offered within our community. The following Sunday, September 29th, we will have the annual Agiasmo Blessing for all of the children of our Sunday School and Greek School.

Hoping to see all of you soon and praying for a most blessed new Ecclesiastical year, I remain

With love and blessings,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

Sad to say, we are approaching the end of the fun summer season, but as our suntans gradually fade, it is time to restart our fun fall activities.

Starting September, we will have an open enrollment for Altar boy participation, Sunday School and Greek School registrations, as well as adult Greek School, and Greek dance lessons for youth ages 9 to 12. Additionally, our small but mighty GOYA would like to invite all the young adults from ages 13 to 18 to join this group and enjoy our spiritual, cultural, athletic, artistic and friendly GOYA.

Our coffee/social hours will commence on September 8th, and we will try to implement a couple of new topics/events through this new season that will hopefully broaden our social circle.

Please note: A General Assembly will be held in early November.

Church Ministries News ~

PTO NEWS

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back everyone! Hope all have enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer and hope you are all looking forward to the start of the new school year!

To start off the new school year, please join us **Sunday, September 22nd** for a **“Welcome Back Picnic”** coffee hour following church services.

(Parents and Teachers, please keep an eye out for email correspondences about this and future PTO events for the children!

God Bless all and looking forward to seeing everyone!

G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Welcome Back! With much anticipation and excitement, we are ready to kick off another fun-filled year of Goya! We are looking forward to our yearly kickoff BBQ, where we will elect our 2024-2025 officers. September 15 is the annual Diving of the Cross in Deal. September 27th is the Harvest Dance hosted by Paramus.

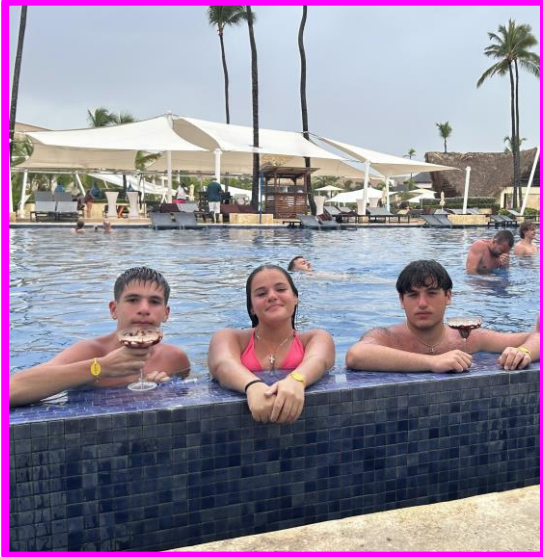
Before we even know it, we will be attending the Mr. & Miss Pageant Dinner at the Hanover Manor on October 13. Luka Simatos and Alena Albino-Ortiz will be representing Perth Amboy. We are supporting them in preparation of their interviews. If you are interested in attending the dinner, RSVP to George Kane or Jen Simatos. Adult tickets are \$80 and children 18 and younger are \$60. Checks should be made out to the NJ State Youth Committee. All profits to benefit the Youth Scholarship.

We have 11 GOYANS and are always happy to add more. If you know anyone 12 years or older who is interested in joining, please contact the advisor, Jen Simatos, at 732-343-2266 or GOYA President, Luka Simatos, at 908-217-0793.

GOYA Summer Highlights



Luka attended a summer program at the Webb Institute in Long Island. The picture on the left was featured on their Facebook page. He is working with his group to create a crane that would be able to lift a 10 lb. weight. On the right is the boat he designed and built. His team placed 3rd in the final obstacle course. They had to navigate their boats in the water around several markers and lift a sunken “treasure” with their crane. Their boat was the only one that stayed dry.

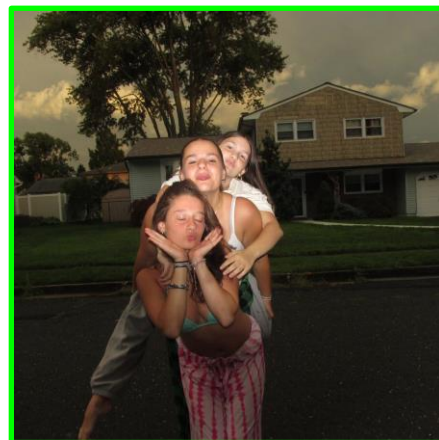


Constantine, Madi, and Vasili had a great time with their family in the Dominican Republic. They enjoyed a private boat tour, snorkeling, and a whole lot more.



Alena and Layna having a pool party with GOYA friends from Union.

Madi, Emalee, and Annie
Girls just wanna have fun!



Beach fun!

Jace had a wonderful trip to Disney and played lots of baseball.



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Perth Amboy Community,

We hope you are all well and had a beautiful summer filled with quality time with your families! The new 2024-25 school year is quickly approaching, and we couldn't be more excited! This year we are thrilled to have expanded our teaching team to include three seasoned teachers with strong Greek School experience.

To kick off the 2024-25 school year, please join us for the annual PTO Picnic on Sunday, September 22, to register your children/grandchildren in the Youth educational and recreational programs this year. The school year will formally begin with a Youth Ministry Blessing after the Divine Liturgy on September 29, followed by the first Greek School lesson taking place on Wednesday, October 2 from 4:30-6.30 pm. We look forward to reuniting with all of our children again and wish every one of our families a blessed school year!!



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We hope everyone enjoyed the summer! The Philoptochos is looking forward to continuing to perform our Mission, which is:

To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, and to offer assistance as best as we can to anyone who may need the help of the church through fundraising efforts.

It is anticipated that our first General Meeting will be held in October. Please check the Philoptochos Bulletin Board, the Sunday Church Bulletin, and/or future emails for updates on meetings, events, and special announcements. It is our hope to welcome into this great organization new members who can bring fresh ideas or help carry out the tried-and-true ones that help us aid those experiencing challenging circumstances.

The Philoptochos will be resuming its weekly collection of non-perishable foods (this is different from the Thanksgiving collection which takes place in November). Please look for the bin near the Philoptochos collection box. Your donations will be given to various local pantries who provide food to individuals in need.

In addition to the food collection, the Philoptochos will be initiating a Coat Drive (see attached flyer). As Autumn rolls in, followed closely by Winter, there are men, women, and children who will need your kindness to stay warm during the colder months. Therefore, when you go through your change-of-season clothing, please check to see if you have a **gently used** coat, jacket, or gloves, hats and scarves to spare for someone less fortunate. New purchases are welcome as well!

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

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios



CONGRATULATIONS, FR. PHILOTHEOS!

Let Us Celebrate Father Philotheos Together!
1 Year Anniversary as our Parish Priest
2nd Year Anniversary of His Ordination
to the Priesthood



Sunday, September 22, 2024
Recognition & Presentations

(Directly after our Divine Liturgy Service)

(A Reception will follow at our PTO Welcome Back Picnic)

PTO church picnic

WELCOME BACK
PICNIC !

Join us on Sunday,
September 22, 2024
after Church Services
for a light lunch and
dessert.





St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

PLEASE JOIN US FOR FATHER PHILOTHEOS'
"BLESSING OF ALL OUR YOUTH MINISTRIES"

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024



Father Philotheos will bless all our Youth Ministries on
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024
(After the Divine Liturgy)

May God bless all our St. Demetrios Youth!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL, GREEK SCHOOL, GOYA,
GOYA DANCE TEAM, YOUTH ALTAR SERVERS**

**ST. DEMETRIOS YOUTH MINISTRIES' REGISTRATION
WILL TAKE PLACE**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Congratulations to Bill and Susan Spillman who will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on October 10th!

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.



The following photos were taken during our May and June festivities.

Enjoy the memories!

*Put together by Helen (Coutros) Horan
Thank you, Helen!*



ANGELO
KOSTOPOULOS

**Happy
Father's
Day**



**We love
you!**

PIC•COLLAGE

GRADUATION

2024



Graduate



Greek School



Sunday School



Best Attendance



Altar Servers

PIC • COLLAGE

GRADUATION

2024



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

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

GRADUATION Sunday

JUNE 9, 2024

Greek School and Sunday School Graduation
Teacher Appreciation - Altar Boy Appreciation
Recognition of Graduates
PAPA Awards
Memorial Scholarship Awards

Refreshments sponsored by the PTA

PIC•COLLAGE

Greek Festival by the Bay



PIC • COLLAGE

Greek Festival by the Bay

