



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

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V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

OCTOBER 13 – PHILOPTOCHOS BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER!
(See [attached flyer for more information](#))

October 25 – St. Demetrios Vespers (7:00 pm)
October 26 – Celebration of St. Demetrios Day
(Orthros 9:00 a.m./Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.)

A message from Father Philotheos ~

The month of October brings with it much joy and excitement to our beloved parish of St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy as we begin the new Ecclesiastical year and the restart of our parish calendar. Our wonderful ministries have restarted with great success, as we recently celebrated the Agiasmos service to bless all of our youth, teachers, directors and advisors for a most blessed year, filled with faith, hope and the love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This month we are also blessed as we celebrate the Feastday of our Parish, as we commemorate the Great Martyr and Myrrh bearer, St. Demetrios with the Great Vespers on Friday October 25 and the Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Saturday, October 26. I look forward with much anticipation to seeing all of you for these beautiful celebrations so as one family we may give respect, honor and commemoration to our beloved Patron Saint.

Let us all be reminded and inspired in our lives by the words attributed to St. Demetrios before his martyrdom: *“only in Christ do I believe.”*

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

I would like to welcome all our youth ministries of Sunday School, Greek School and GOYA, back to our religious, cultural artistic, playful and athletic programs. Many thanks for the parents and grandparents that take the time to support these valuable programs.

This month also is the celebration of our beloved Saint Demetrios. Please refer to our calendar activities and convey invitations to friends and members of neighboring communities. Between Friday's Vespers, Saturday's and Sunday's Liturgies, there will be a special complimentary luncheon on Saturday right after the Liturgy that will be sponsored by the Parish Council and friends. Hope to see you all there. Also, mark your calendar for November 10th to attend the General Assembly meeting and November 9th for a movie day. The title of the film is " Man of God" starting at 2:00 pm. This film was shown in movie theaters about 2 years ago for 2 days only. Therefore, if you missed it or would like to see it again, this will be the perfect opportunity.

Best wishes to all.

George Kane
Parish Council President

Church Ministries News ~

PTO NEWS

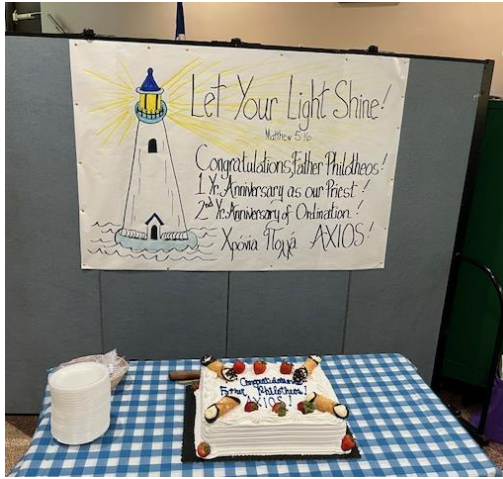
On Sunday, September 22nd we had our first event welcoming back everyone from summer, with our annual "Welcome Back Picnic". This year's event was sponsored in memory of Vicky Sistasis and a celebration of Father Philotheos' anniversaries.

The PTO Welcome Back "Picnic" is an event we look forward too each year and again, it seemed that everyone enjoyed our traditional picnic fare including hot dogs and hamburgers! It is a wonderful way to "kick off" our upcoming school year lessons of Sunday School and Greek School and GOYA activities.

Thank you every one of you who donated money, food items, and your time!

Please enjoy some photos from the event:

🎆 Happy Anniversary, Father Philotheos! 🎆





G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Happy Fall! The GOYA had a wonderful time at the Harvest Dance hosted by St. Athanasios, in Paramus. We are looking forward to the Mr. & Miss Pageant coming up on Sunday, October 13. Luka Simatos and Alena Ortiz-Albino 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 will resume Monday, October 7, at 7:30 pm. It's not too late to join. Please contact Jen Simatos at 732-343-2266.



If you know anyone 12 years or older who is interested in joining, please contact the advisor, Jen Simatos or GOYA President, Luka Simatos, at 908-217-0793.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS, FATHER PHILOTHEOS!

Celebrating Father Philotheos' 1st Year Anniversary as the Priest of our beloved Church, our Sunday School students surprised him with Poetry readings, readings of Bible verses, and a gift of a miniature "Lighthouse" as a remembrance of the day.

The "Lighthouse" served as a symbol of the concept that, with love of our Lord Jesus Christ, prayer and repentance of our sins, our families and our homes become "Lighthouses" for others. God placed us in particular neighborhoods and communities because we are needed there. With that in mind, our great fortune and thankfulness was expressed when Father Philotheos was selected by God to become our Priest because he is needed here.

We are so sincerely appreciative to have an exceptional and extraordinary Parish Priest to lead us, guide us, pray with us in our happiness, sadness, hopefulness and gratefulness with love, hope and support in all life's situations.

Father Philotheos is our "Lighthouse!"



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos will be holding a breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, October 13th (see attached flyer). Please join us for some delicious breakfast foods and camaraderie with your fellow parishioners. Your participation and support go a long way and is always appreciated.

The next **General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 19th at 1:00 PM** in the church hall. Please join us! We will be discussing upcoming events and fundraisers that will help us help those in need.

On **Friday evening, October 25th**, the Philoptochos will host a light reception after the St. Demetrios Vespers service.

The Philoptochos has resumed its weekly collection of non-perishable foods. Over the summer, we had the pleasure of donating many boxes filled with non-perishable food items to Perth Amboy's Salvation Army. They were sincerely grateful, and we look forward to helping them out again in the future. Please look for the bin near the Philoptochos collection box in the Narthex. Your donations are always welcome!

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 13th**. 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 our Bulletin Board for announcements.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

We are so excited that Greek School starts on Wednesday October 2nd and every Wednesday until summer from 4.30-6.30 pm. Also, Greek School celebrations about Saint Demetrios and 'Oxi' Day will take place on October 26th right after the Divine Liturgy. Hope to see you all there.

Adult Greek school classes will also start soon in October. Registration is still open. Please let us know if anyone is interested.

Happy October everyone!!



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.