



## SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861  
(732) 826-4466

V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>  
MOVIE NIGHT ~ *MAN OF GOD* ~

*General Assembly Meeting - Sunday, November 10, 2024*

### *A message from Father Philotheos ~*

As we enter the month of November - the beautiful month which affords us the wonderful opportunity to gather together with our friends and families and give Thanks, with the wonderful celebration of Thanksgiving - let us never forget to give thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for all that He has blessed us with. Having joined together as one community, together with the faithful from our sister parishes, it was with much joy and hope that we celebrated the beautiful Feastday services of our patron saint, St. Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer and Great Martyr. I offer my gratitude and deepest appreciation to all of the devote members of our Parish Council, the esteemed women of our Philoptochos Society, the wonderful GOYAns who performed so brilliantly their traditional Greek Folk Dance Routine, the Greek School students and teachers for their beautiful OXI Day program and all of our beloved parishioners for your amazing efforts in order to ensure the success of these sacred celebrations.

As we continue to give thanks to almighty God, let us be inspired and reinvigorated to continue to dedicate our lives to Christ, giving thanks to Him for all of the blessings that He offers to our parish and to each of us. Our sacred community of St. Demetrios has many things to be grateful for, and I pray that with this month we continue to strive to offer all that we have to our parish, and to the works and ministries of our community, most importantly to our youth ministries. We must give thanks for the presence of our youth in our Sunday School, Greek School, GOYA, and Acolyte ministries and fully support all of the amazing works of our wonderful youth programs. Our youth are the present and the future of our parish and we see them, we should also see the hope for a bright future for St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy.

My beloved in the Lord, have no doubt that God is with us, that He is looking down on us and He is constantly blessing us. Therefore, *“Εὐχαριστήσομεν τῷ Κυρίῳ. Let us give thanks to the Lord.”*

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

## President's Message ~

A big thanks to all the parishioners for participating in and supporting our October events. I am hoping that this trend will continue throughout the year since we have scheduled some new activities for your social enjoyment. An important reminder for November, among the many, is the General Assembly on November 10<sup>th</sup>, Movie Day on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, and the Monthly Birthday Celebration on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

George Kane



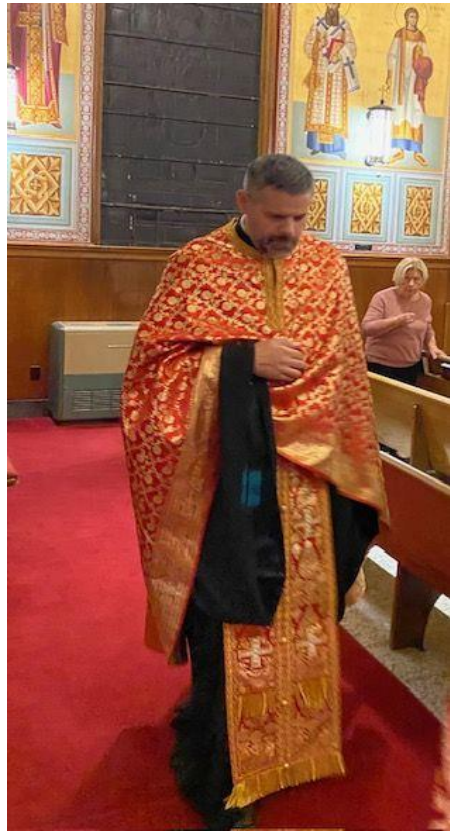
### St. Demetrios Celebration - Vesper Services

Five priests, Deacons and Psaltis from local parishes joined Father Philotheos, and our own Altar Servers and Psalti in our celebration of St. Demetrios at our Vesper services on Friday evening, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 which was followed by a delicious Philoptochos reception of Greek delicacies, desserts and a GOYA Dance Performance for all to share together in faith and fellowship.

*~ Photos courtesy of Helen (Coutros) Horan ~*









FROM THE PTO!

On behalf of the PTO, wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving to all with many blessings to you and your families! We have many things to be thankful for! Thankful for all of you and all the support you give to the PTO!

Please keep a lookout for email announcements!



## G.O.Y.A. NEWS

Luka Simatos and Alena Ortiz-Albino proudly represented Perth Amboy in the Mr. and Miss Pageant.



The Goya was delighted to perform Friday Oct 25th after Vespers for St. Demetrios Day.



We are looking forward to participating in Old Bridge Community Clean-up, a service project that helps keep the roads clean of debris on Sat. Nov. 2. Followed by Fairview's Bowling tournament. Afterwards we will join in fellowship and dance at Fairview Ascension Church.

Thank you to Luca Regan and his family for leading our October coffee hour. Claire Veiga and her family will lead this upcoming coffee hour on November 17th.

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.





## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

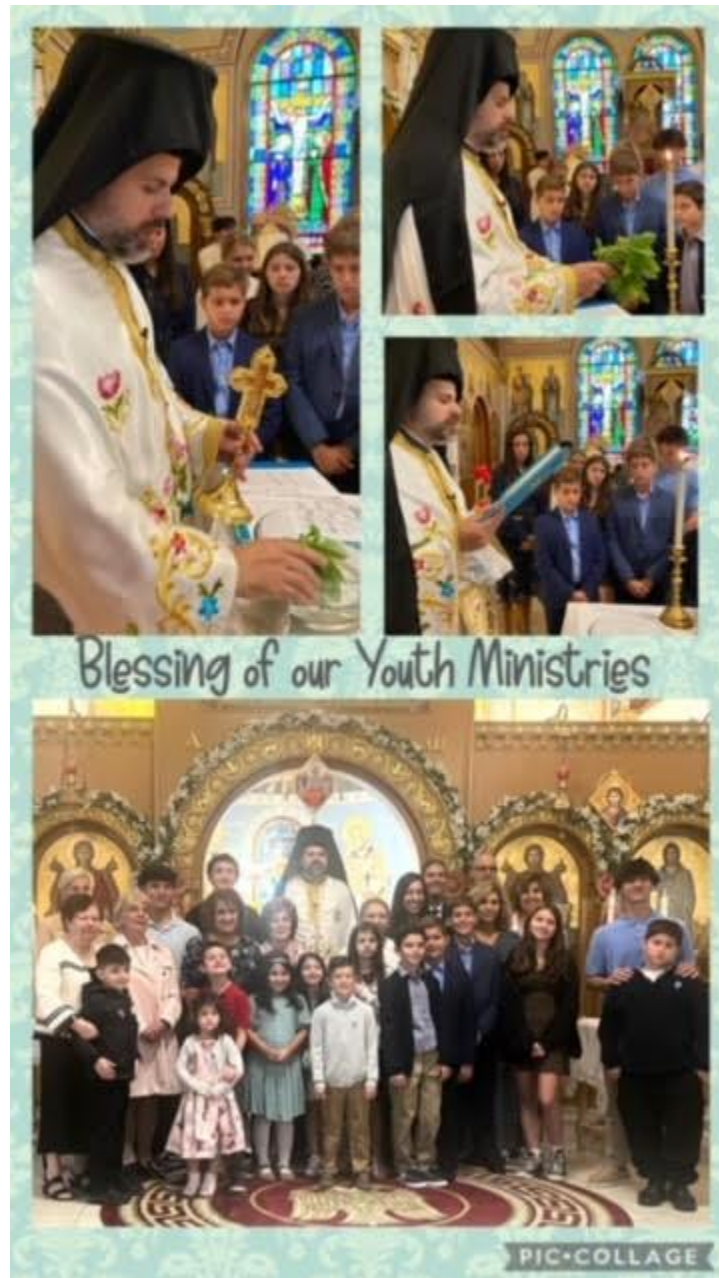
In commemoration of our Patron Saint's Feast Day, our Sunday School students created their very own individual icons of St. Demetrios which were adhered to marble tiles and embellished with gemstone decorations. They were on display for our Vesper Services' and Feast Day Divine Liturgy receptions.

Father Philotheos offered a special blessing over our Icons, which makes them sacred keepsakes for our students to take home and treasure for many years to come.



## Blessing of our Youth Ministries

At the start of our Ecclesiastical Church Year, Father Philotheos delivered a blessing of our youth ministries with spiritual prayers and the sprinkling of holy water over our youth, teachers, advisors, and coaches who all gathered together for this special ceremony. We are all especially delighted to begin our activities and events with God's blessing!





# GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

On Saturday, 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 Wednesday, November 27th since it is Thanksgiving eve. Happy November everyone and happy Thanksgiving!!





## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Philoptochos hosted a Breakfast Fund Raiser. Great job, Helen Catelanos and Marietta Khalil, our chairwomen who put together this delicious event! We must thank our cooks - Nick Giannakopoulos and Angelo Kostopoulos - who cooked eggs, breakfast meats, and hash browns. 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 those in need.



A big thank you goes out to Marietta Khalil who chaired the lovely St. Demetrios Vespers after-services reception. In addition, much gratitude goes to all the wonderful ladies who assisted and donated food and desserts to this event. All your time and efforts are truly appreciated, as always. Also, we were delighted to have our GOYAns dance in celebration of our patron Saint Demetrios (see GOYA News).



Many thanks to Cindy Giannakopoulos, who chaired our Winter Coat Drive. Thank you to all those who brought in donations. Coats, hats, scarves, and gloves 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.

**NOTE:** We are extending the due date for coat drop-offs by two weeks, so if you have any extra gently used cold weather jackets to donate, please do so by **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**.

The Philoptochos is also collecting non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving donations to local pantries (see attached flyer). 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. Your donations are always welcome!

In addition to these collections, the Philoptochos will be initiating a Toy Drive in December. Further details will be made available shortly, so please keep checking your emails and our Bulletin Board for announcements.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,  
The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios



### ***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.

*Ministry Leaders ~ If you'd like to have an article published in the December Newsletter, please submit it to [stdgoa@gmail.com](mailto:stdgoa@gmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, November 20th**. Please try to get the articles in by this date to ensure that the Newsletter is distributed in a timely manner to parishioners. Thank you!*