



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861

(732) 826-4466

+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

Sunday, December 15th

Christmas Pageant & PTO Christmas Party

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A message from Father Philotheos ~

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ! CHRIST IS BORN!

As we enter now into the beautiful and festive month of December, we are truly blessed with a time dedicated to our spiritual preparation and joyful anticipation of the joyous celebration of the Nativity Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I urge all of you to take time during this month of December to reflect upon the beautiful meaning of Christmas, to look beyond the worldly or commercialized version of Christmas that has now overcome our lives, and to focus on the true meaning, the true joy, which is the birth of Jesus Christ. The great celebration of the sacred day in which the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary, took on flesh, and became man.

Let us use this month to rededicate our lives to our Lord, to our faith, and to our Church. Throughout this blessed time period our beautiful community of St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy will offer us many opportunities to join together for the Divine Services, the various Christmas celebratory events within our parish and our sacred Metropolis. Let us look to spend our time with family and friends, joyfully celebrating with much excitement the approaching day of His birth when we may proclaim aloud for all the world to hear "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!*" (Luke 2:13)

May Christ our true God continue to bless all of you and all the dedicated faithful of our St. Demetrios Community with all of His Heavenly Blessings during this Nativity Season.

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

I would like to thank all the parishioners who attended and participated at our 2nd General Assembly of the year held on November 10th to discuss our Church's progress, including all the present and future concerns. Thank you!

A few independent words regarding the Philotimo housing project:

As a result of additional people joining this group and the concerns of parishioners raised during the presentations at the General Assemblies, the group's actions have shifted into a higher gear. We are maintaining continuous connections with the city officials and have set up a Philotimo group meeting for early December to propose leads for new reliable builders and examine multiple building options. Any option approved and/or proposed by the builder/developer will be examined and presented to the entire parish prior to any final decision. The two standard items of all options will include (A) a new community center and (B) parking spaces. I will be publishing Philotimo housing group news monthly.

On Saturday, November 9th, a few of us enjoyed the viewing on the large screen the famous religious documentary film about Saint Nectarios entitled "Man of God". Hopefully, more people will join in on movie day with the next film.

At the end of last month, we celebrated all the November born parishioners present with a decorated cake, candles and a confusing HAPPY BIRTHDAY song since we didn't know whose name to call first! We'll do better next time. Therefore, if your birthday is in December, be here on December 29th to celebrate your birthday with your Saint Demetrios friends and family.

I hope you enjoy all the events presented by our ministries since they are all working hard to promote and present their activities. Please make their efforts worthwhile.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year!

George Kane
Parish Council President





HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PTO!

Wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and holiday season!

We are looking forward to our

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15th

following church service and annual Children's Christmas
Pageant!

**Please join us and calling on all to support with a food item
(hot or cold), baked item or monetary donation to help off-set
costs for this very much looked-forward to event!**

For more information, please reach out to Diana Regan, PTO
President at 732-861-9575



GOYA NEWS

The GOYA was busy on November 2nd. We started in the crisp morning air gathering at Jonas Salk Middle School in Old Bridge, NJ to participate in the Old Bridge community clean up. We geared up and went to work. Who knew cleaning up the sides of the road would be so much fun! Our group always goes above and beyond. They were climbing and reaching much farther than was requested to get to all the trash we could find.



Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch together at a nearby diner.

Later that day we participated in Fairview's annual Bowling Tournament. We teamed up with other members of various GOYA's and enjoyed some friendly competition. Afterwards, we danced the night away.





Here Luka is showing off his Greek dance moves!

We are looking forward to celebrating the joyous season with our fellow Goyans. Our sister church, St. Demetrios in Union is hosting this year's Christmas Dance. Before the dance we will exchange gifts and enjoy some hot cocoa.

Thank you to Claire Veiga and her family for leading our November coffee hour.

December will be led by Luka Simatos and his family.

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



Invitation to our Sunday School Christmas Pageant, Greek School Caroling and our PTO Christmas Party

December 15, 2024

Everyone is cordially invited to our Sunday School Christmas Pageant followed by a PTO Christmas Luncheon Party on Sunday, December 15, 2024. Our Sunday School children will delight you with their beautiful portrayal of the Nativity scene which will include Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, Shepherds, Lambs, Stars, Angels, the Three Kings, “The Littlest Angel” and our very own Little Drummer Boy along with poetry readings and prayers. Our Greek School children will entertain us with Christmas Caroling.

Please do not miss this wonderful event !

Our St. Demetrios PTO will be providing a complimentary party for everyone to join together as one family during this very blessed holiday season rejoicing in the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Santa Claus will be joining us in this special celebration, as well.

We hope to see each and every one of you on *Sunday, Dec. 15th.*

St. Demetrios Sunday School/Greek School
Staff and Children
St. Demetrios PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)

Christmas Blessings



Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 15, 2024
(directly after the Divine Liturgy)
PTO Reception to follow

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Presented by our Sunday School & Greek School

Peace Joy Love

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

On November 23rd it was a fun day of arts & crafts as we get ready for the holidays! Thank you to Mrs. Zoi Papakosta for sharing her talents with our Perth Amboy Greek School children and community!

On December 8th our Greek School will be sponsoring a Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar during the coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy. All the proceeds will be donated to our Greek School program.

Some of the items for purchase include: beautifully handmade tree ornaments, bracelets, miniature decorated wreaths, Christmas angels and other elegant Christmas decorations.

Please join us!!

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Once again, thanks to your continued support of this Philoptochos, we met our commitments to both the Metropolis of New Jersey and National Philoptochos Societies, and fulfilled many of our donation goals, including several Social Services situations.

We donated toward the disaster relief fund which provided assistance to victims affected by the devastating affects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Furthermore, we recently held a coat drive (thank you, Cindy Giannakopoulos for taking the lead of this event!) which provided a local charity with more than 15 coats. Also, a special thank you must be given to our very own Ourania Gatanas, who donated so many beautiful handmade scarves for both men and women. What a thoughtful and wonderful gift of giving!!

We also had our annual Thanksgiving food drive (many thanks to Peggy Kantor and Mary Lou Rivera who arranged for and packed up all the food items collected). Although we didn't receive as many donations as previous years, we were still able to provide six large boxes of non-perishable food items to both the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul food pantries, so thank you to those who were able to donate.

(Please note...our food collection does not stop with Thanksgiving. We will continue to collect non-perishable food items and distribute them to local food pantries throughout the year!)

We are hoping to have a Toy Drive for Christmas. More details will follow.

In addition to the above, this year the Philoptochos hosted an Apokreatiko Glendi which brought our community together with delicious foods, games, and dancing! On Saturday, December 14th, Philoptochos members and their families will celebrate the holidays with a luncheon at The Barge Restaurant.

Please mark your calendars ... Here are some important dates:

Sunday, December 15th – Philoptochos Bake Sale!

Sunday, December 22nd – Pick up your Vasilopita bread orders after church services.

Sunday, January 12th – Philoptochos Vasilopita Luncheon

Saturday, February 22nd – Apokreatiko Glendi (Save the Date!)

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios



Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the close of the year, we invite you to reflect on how you can commit to the ministry and mission of our church through stewardship. Whether through your time, talents, or treasure, your support helps us continue to grow in faith and serve our community.

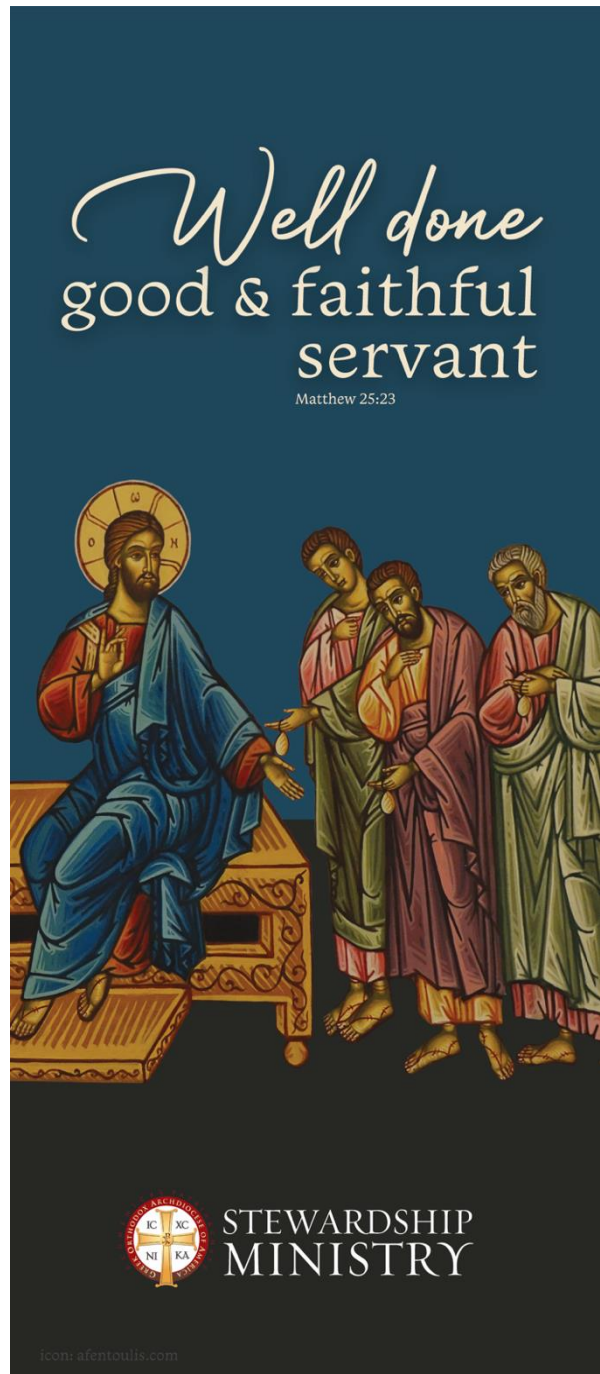
Please consider making a stewardship pledge or one-time contribution before December 31. Every gift, big or small, makes a meaningful difference.

To make your pledge, make your check payable "St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church" or send it with Zelle to our email: saintdemetriosperthamboynj@gmail.com.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our shared journey of faith!


Stewardship Committee

For more information, contact the church office, 732-826-4466.



Well done
good & faithful
servant

Matthew 25:23



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NI KA

STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY

icon: afentoullis.com



Annual Epiphany Celebration – Volunteers & Donations Needed!

Our Annual Epiphany Celebration is around the corner and will take place on **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. We are excited to welcome back His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey as we celebrate this special feast day!

If you are interested in helping in any way – whether through volunteering, providing resources, or making a financial contribution – please reach out to Kateina Ganiaris, 908-757-3057.

Together, let's make this Epiphany celebration a joyful and memorable occasion for our parish family.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Epiphany Celebration Committee



St. Demetrios Perth Amboy Annual Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

**9:00 AM Celebrated by His Eminence
Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**

Blessing of the Waters & Cross Dive

Following Diving Liturgy on the sands of the Raritan Bay

Stay for a celebratory luncheon with

His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey

**Seating is limited, please make reservations
saintdemetriospertbamboynj@gmail.com**

Aphrodite 732-423-7256 or Litsa 908-227-0822

ADULTS: \$30

YOUTH: \$20

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

41-47 Wisteria Street

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

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 **no later than Friday, December 27th**. 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!*

