



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS of NEW JERSEY

SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

41-47 WISTERIA STREET, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
(732) 826-4466
+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

Sunday, January 5th Annual Epiphany Celebration
Blessing of the Waters – Diving for the Cross
Visit by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos
of New Jersey

2025 - Happy New Year!

A Message from Father Philotheos ~

KAAH XPONIA! HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!

It is with tremendous joy that I wish to all of the beloved parishioners and dedicated faithful of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community in Perth Amboy, New Jersey a most blessed, healthy, peaceful and Happy New Year 2025!

This month and new year bring much excitement, beginning on Sunday, January 5, 2025, with our Annual St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy Epiphany Celebration, Blessing of the Waters and Diving for the cross by the youth from our parish, as well as GOYAns from throughout the region. This day is even more joyful for all of us as we have the first opportunity to once again welcome our beloved Chief Shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey to our sacred community.

The following Sunday, January 12, 2025, our Philoptochos society will host the parish Annual Vasilopita Celebration, where we will celebrate the new year all together as one family with the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita at our community luncheon following Divine Liturgy. I pray that all of you will be able to be with us on these two blessed and important Sundays in the life of our parish.

May Christ our true God, the Newborn King, continue to bless all of you and your families with every good and perfect gift from above and may the year 2025 be a most blessed year of spiritual rejuvenation. With blessings and love in the Lord,

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

President's Message ~

Happy New Year!

First, I would like to convey my best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year for you and your entire families. I would also like to thank you for your participation in all the church activities throughout the year. I'm hoping to see more of you at our church services and social coffee hours.

Since the world after Covid-19 experienced many changes that have added to our existing troubles, our community environment should be a small sanctuary – or you may call it the oasis in this “abnormal world society” or “world abnormality.” Therefore, we give you an open invitation to participate in our Sunday services, coffee social hours, movie/cinema days, birthday celebrations, Mardi Gras, bake sales, Palm Sunday luncheon, Epiphany blessing of the waters, and much, much more. Visit our website and Sunday bulletins regularly for upcoming events and keep up with our monthly Newsletter.

If you wish to receive a monthly Newsletter via postal mail, please notify the office.

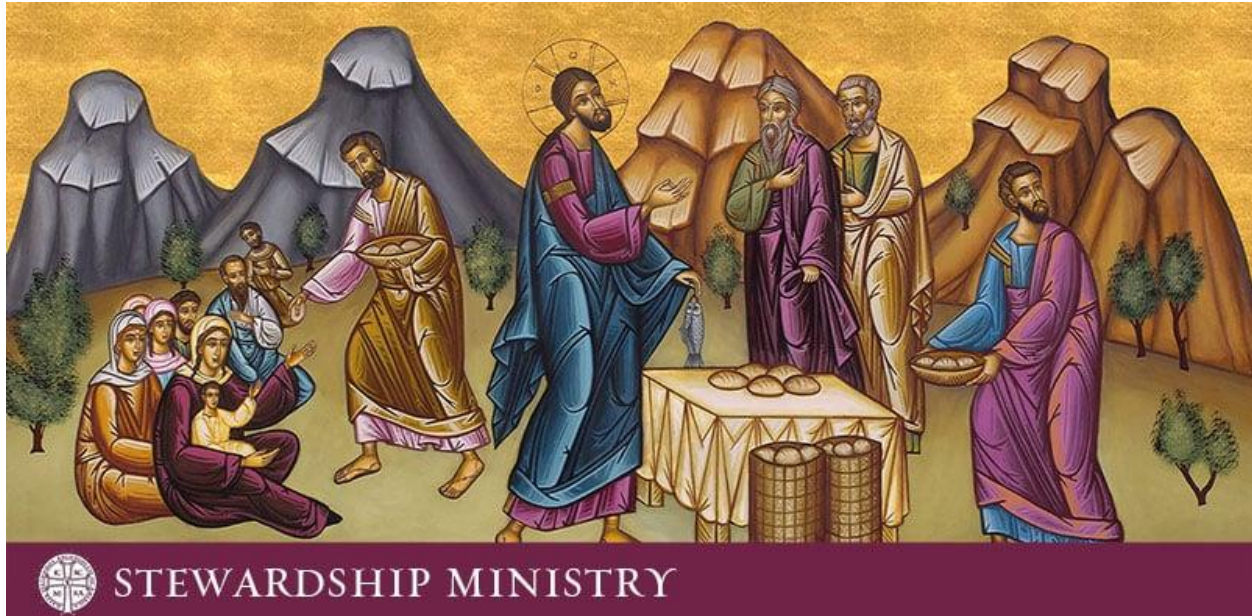
George Kane
Parish Council President



PHILOTIMO REPORT

- George Koutsoubis attended a Housing redevelopment meeting at Perth Amboy City Hall.
- A Zoom meeting was held on Friday, December 20, 2024, to discuss new found qualified contractors.
- An in-person Board meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2025, to examine the capabilities of the new-found contractor and set up a date to meet the mayor of Perth Amboy.





Dear Parishioners,

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life that acknowledges our responsibility before God. Primary goals of Stewardship Ministry are spiritual growth and stronger faith. We become Stewards when we act on our belief in God. As Orthodox Christians, we acknowledge that all we are and all we have come from Him. We are called to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

As we enter 2025, we invite you to reflect on how you can commit to the ministry and mission of our church through stewardship. Your time, talents, and/or treasure help us continue to grow in faith and serve our community.

Please consider making a stewardship pledge or one-time contribution. 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: saintdemetriospertamboynj@gmail.com.

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

Stewardship Committee

Any questions or for more information, please contact the church office, 732-826-4466.

Annual Epiphany Celebration – Reserve Your Spot & Support the Celebration!

Our **Annual Epiphany Celebration** is just around the corner! Join us on **Sunday, January 5, 2025**, as we come together to celebrate this sacred feast day with **His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**. It promises to be a beautiful and meaningful occasion for our parish family!

Seating is limited, so be sure to make your reservation today! Don't miss out on being part of this special event.



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
saintdemetriosperthamboynj@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

PTO NEWS



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PTO!

We hope you all enjoyed Christmas with your families and wishing a blessed and happy New Year!

The Christmas Pageant performed by the children of St. Demetrios was absolutely beautiful, and all had a great time at the Christmas Party!

Thank you for your generous donations that make everything so enjoyable!

Looking forward to our next PTO sponsored event – Children’s Easter Egg Hunt!



GOYA NEWS

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a blessed Christmas and are looking forward to 2025.

The GOYA enjoyed their annual Christmas present exchange. There were lots of laughs and sweet treats.



We also enjoyed celebrating Christmas with our fellow GOYAnS at the annual Christmas Dance. This year it was held at our sister church, St. Demetrios, Union. We were treated to a live bouzouki band and Angelo's DJing skills.

The freezing waters await our entrance during the Annual Epiphany Celebration where Metropolitan Apostolos will guide us in the retrieval of the cross. GOYAnS from various churches will join us again. A luncheon will follow in our church hall. If you'd like to make reservations, call the church office 732-826-4466 or Litsa Kaidas or Aphroditi Kanellidis. to reserve your seats or a table.

Our dance group has registered to participate in the first annual Metropolitan Dance Festival (MDF) held in Philadelphia, PA. We have added an extra day for practice to help prepare us for this exciting competition. In addition, we are sponsoring a St. Demetrios Spirit Wear Fundraiser to offset the costs. Show off St. Demetrios pride with a new t-shirt, sweatshirt, or pajama pants.

Orders can be made at church or use the link or QR code below. Contact Jen Simatos 732-343-2266 or Zoe Katsilis 201-310-9283 for assistance.

GOYA APPAREL FUNDRAISING SALE

Support our GOYA Ministry
while enjoying St. Demetrios Apparel

All proceeds will go directly to the GOYA to help
pay for events throughout the year.



Scan here

Text **GOYAAPPAREL**

to 234-324-3332 to
receive link to shop

Visit website

<https://goya-apparel-fundraiser.cheddarup.com>



Short Sleeve T-Shirts
Hoodies/Sweatshirts
Flannel Pants



[Click here for link for Spiritwear order](#)

A big Thank you to the following members

for sponsoring GOYA dance -

Father Philotheos (3 classes), Marietta Khalil, and Peggy Kantor

Thank you for your continued support!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



In celebration of the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Sunday School and Greek School students prepared a wonderful program. Our Greek School students began the program by singing Greek Christmas Carols. Sunday School Students recited and narrated spiritual and joyful poems significant to the magnificent events that led to the birth of Jesus Christ and all those who came to witness our Savior in the tiny town of Bethlehem.

Next, the students dressed in lovely costumes performed our Annual Christmas Pageant from Angel Gabriel, Joseph and Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus, Angels, Shepherds, baby animals, the Three Kings, The Littlest Angel, The Brilliant Star of Bethlehem, The Little Donkey and The Little Drummer Boy.

The children all performed so beautifully and made us all so very proud! It was a joyful, memorable event that is bound to be remembered by everyone for many years to come. Then, everyone celebrated together at the wonderful PTO Christmas party, especially when Santa Claus arrived.

It is hoped that all our St. Demetrios families enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Holiday Season and New Year Celebrations!



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year to you and your families!!

On Sunday December 8th the Greek School organized our annual bazaar. Thank you everyone who supported our Greek School and made our holiday fundraiser a success! Special thanks go to our teachers Zoi Papakosta, Irene Tsouka, our president George Kanellidis, and the ladies Mrs. Kalliopi Papakosta and Mrs. Georgia Soro for all the beautiful handmade arts and crafts! Also thank you to Mr. Evangelo Kartsakali from Evan's Restaurant for all the many generous food donations, and of course our Greek School children, parents and families for their contributions.

We also would like to announce that on January 25th, our Greek School will participate at the Three Hierarchs and Greek letters celebration which will take place at Saint Athanasios in Paramus, NJ.





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Happy New Year! We hope your holiday season was filled with much joy and that the new year brings you good health and happiness.

The Philoptochos would like to send out a big Thank You to all of the parishioners who donated so many toys for our Toy Drive! We got a late start on our request for donations - and next year we'll work to start sooner – but despite the short notice, the big collection box was filled with toys! We can always depend on our community to do their best to help those in need, and for this we thank you.

In addition, thank you to all who supported our Vasilopita Sale, as well as all the other events and fund raisers we've had over the past year. Your contributions go a long way toward helping the Philoptochos meet our missions, which include helping the poor, the hungry, as well as those who may have fallen on hard times, especially when natural disasters strike. Your generosity is always appreciated.

And on that note, as a reminder, the Philoptochos will continue working with local food pantries to help feed the hungry so please keep bringing in your non-perishable food items and leave them in the collection box located in the Narthex.

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, Philoptochos members and their families celebrated Christmas with a Luncheon at The Barge Restaurant. The food was delicious, of course. We also had a small raffle table as well as many door prizes. Music and laughter filled the air, and a fun time was had by all. Pictures are available for viewing in the church hall.

The Philoptochos continues its celebrations into 2025 with our **Vasilopita Luncheon, which will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025**, after church services. Proceeds from the luncheon will go to St. Basil's Academy as well as to other youth ministries. Reservations are being accepted, so if you haven't already done so, please contact Helen Suravlas as soon as possible to reserve your seat(s).

The next Philoptochos General Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 1:00 PM** down in the church hall. Please join us to find out what events are upcoming. We're always grateful when our members participate in these activities. Together we can do great things to help those in need.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Philoptochos Apokreatiko Glendi

~ Details to Follow Soon ~

Philoptochos Toy Drive



Thank you for your donations!



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 January 22nd. 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!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

