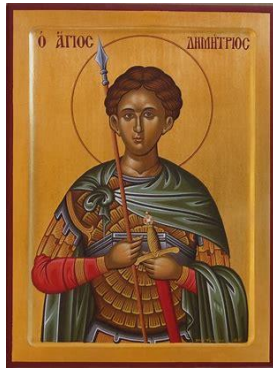




GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



## SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2025**

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

+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

**PHILOTOCHOS**

**APOKREATIKO GLENDI!**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

**RESERVE YOUR SEATS FOR THIS EXCITING  
EVENT!**

*Spanakopita & Pastitsio Sales  
(\$30/\$40 for ½ trays)*

*See Afrodite K, Litsa K, or Irene D for details*

### *A message from Father Philotheos ~*

It is truly with much joy that I greet all of you as we enter the month of February. Our dedicated and wonderful community by the bay of St. Demetrios just finished another beautiful month, as we once again organized highly successful major events and activities that all proved to be most enjoyable and brought our community closer together.

As we move into February, we begin our transition of a time of celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, and His holy Baptism in the Jordan at the hands of St. John the Baptist, to now a time of anticipation and preparation for the quickly approaching Holy and Great Lent. This month as we begin the period of the Pre-Lenten Triodion, we will experience the teachings from the parables of the Publican and the Pharisee and the Prodigal Son, as well as the preparation for Great Lent, with Meatfare Sunday, the last day that our Orthodox Calendar allows for meat to be eaten until Holy Pascha.

I hope and pray that this new month brings new joy and hopes to all of your lives and that our historic parish continues to grow and continues to reach former parishioners and new parishioners, as all of us continue to work together for the many great works and ministries being offered at St. Demetrios for the glory of God.

May our almighty God, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to bless all of you with every good and perfect gift from above.

With love and blessings,

+ V. Rev Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski



(Photos Courtesy of Helen Coutros Horan)

### *President's Message ~*

The excitement from New Year's festivities has passed as we celebrated the great Epiphany and admired our GOYA members who braved the freezing temperatures in order to retrieve the Cross thrown into the Raritan Bay by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey. Additionally, we celebrated Father Philotheos's birthday, and our Greek School students participated in a state-wide group performance at the church of St. Athanasios in Paramus, NJ.

The month of February will be just as active with multiple events, including the Philoptochos' Mardi-Gras dance, the Super Bowl pastitsio and spanakopita sales, as well as other festive events. Be sure to visit our website and read the Sunday bulletins regularly for a list of upcoming events.

George Kane  
Parish Council President

## PTO NEWS



### **Wishes for a Warm and Loving February!**

**Congratulations to our GOYAN young ladies and gentlemen who braved the wind and cold diving for the crosses during the Annual Epiphany Celebration on January 5<sup>th</sup>! It was a beautiful celebration, and we were all honored to celebrate with Metropolitan Apostolos again this year!**

**As we welcome the month of February, we are reminded of the beauty of togetherness and the warmth of love that this season brings. With Valentine's Day approaching, it is the perfect time to spread joy, kindness, and affection to everyone around us.**

**Let's make this February a month filled with love and compassion. Small gestures can make a big difference, whether it's a smile, a kind word, or a helping hand, let us strive to be an example to others that love is all around.**





## GOYA NEWS

January was a busy month for our Goyans. It started off with a cold plunge into the Raritan River to celebrate the Annual Perth Amboy Epiphany Celebration. Congratulations to our youth, Madi and Constantine Katsilis, Luka Simatos, Luca Regan, Jace Kanellidis and Annie Haring for braving freezing temperatures. They make us proud. Congratulations to Luka Simatos and Annie Haring for retrieving the Cross and representing Perth Amboy.

We also have been working diligently for Sights and Sounds coming up in March. We went to Clay Pot, in Spotswood, to make some hand-thrown ceramics on a wheel. We can't wait to show off our winning items in March at our annual Spaghetti Luncheon.



On Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the group headed to Tenafly for their annual White Out Dance. This is the one event where Goyans are allowed to bring friends from outside Goya. The kids had fun dancing the night away all while raising a lot of money to donate toward cancer research.



On Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed our Painting Party. Thank you to all that came to support the Goya and showed off their artistic abilities. Also, thank you to all the Goya parents who helped make the event a success.







We're still selling St. Demetrios Spiritwear. The following items below are available immediately. Use the link to place an order or see Zoe Katsilis or Jennifer Simatos to order.

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



Medium  
& XL  
\$25

XL  
\$28

Small  
\$40



XL  
\$40

Small  
\$28

Small  
& XL  
\$25

## 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

Thank you to the Katsilis family for hosting January's coffee hour. Feb will be hosted by the Kanellidis family.

Save the date for our annual Spaghetti Luncheon: Sunday, March 3rd (\$20 adults, \$5 children). Come be dazzled by our talents and check out our winning sights.

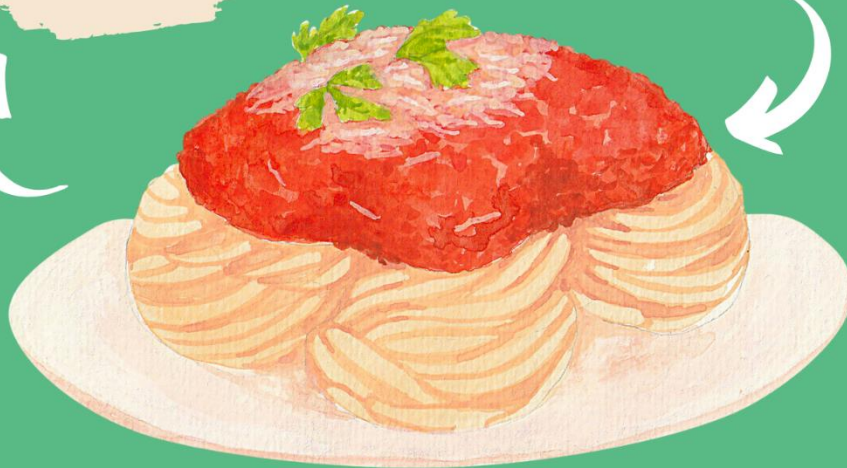
The Goya



# G.O.Y.A. Spaghetti Luncheon

Sunday,  
March 2nd

\$20 Adults  
\$5 kids



**BE MARVELED BY OUR TALENTS IN ALL  
AREAS OF THE ARTS!  
GREEK FOLK DANCING, WOODWORKING,  
PAINTING, SINGING, POTTERY AND MORE!**

RSVP to Jennifer Simatos 7325247250 or  
@jsimatos9815@gmail.com



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Epiphany Feast Day, January 5, 2025

Our Sunday School children were an integral part of the Epiphany celebration on January 5th. Beginning with our “Welcoming Tradition” for His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos which included beautiful smiling faces, a red rose bouquet presentation, large welcome signs and a shower of red rose petals and shouts of “Axios” and welcome, our Sunday School children were delighted to greet our beloved Metropolitan Apostolos to our beloved St. Demetrios Church.

Following the welcome, everyone joined His Eminence as he led the Epiphany Service with Father Philotheos and our faithful and adoring parishioners.

Afterwards, everyone proceeded outdoors to the banks of our riverfront directly across the street for the Blessing of the Waters and our Dive for the Cross event. His Eminence conducted the blessings and tossed the crosses into the water as our GOYA boys and girls plunged into the freezing river to retrieve the cross.

Anastasia Haring and Luka Simatos were the lucky retrievers of the crosses who received special blessings and love. His Eminence was sure to bless all of our youth for their participation, as well.

It was a spiritual and wonderful day for all of us at St. Demetrios who celebrated afterwards with a delicious luncheon honoring His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos with a special meal and a brief presentation and gift of a handmade Icon of St. Demetrios made by our Sunday school students.

Congratulations to all! Συγχαρητήρια σε όλους!

(Photos Courtesy of Helen Coutros Horan)



# The Girls' Dive





# The Boys' Dive



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## Sunday School Pays Tribute to Father Philotheos

In celebration of Father Philotheos' Name Day, our Sunday School children presented him with a reading of the life of Saint Philotheos, a handmade Icon of St. Demetrios, a delicious cake and, of course, their beautiful smiling faces!



# GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners ,

Our Greek School students participated in the celebration of Three Hierarchs and Greek letters at Saint Athanasios in Paramus on January 25th. We are extremely proud of our children and the amazing job they did representing our Perth Amboy Greek School! A huge thank you to our teachers and of course parents and grandparents who made our success possible!









## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

On Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Philoptochos hosted the annual Vasilopita Luncheon. We had a great turnout, and many thanks go to the Chairperson, Mrs. Helen Suravlas and her Committee. The delicious food was catered by The Barge and the home-made desserts were donated by members of our wonderful community. Father Philotheos cut up Vasilopita Bread for the Church Ministries, and our dear Kyria Alexandra Velmahos got the lucky coin!



### SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 22, 2025

The Philoptochos is hosting an **Apokriatiko Glendi!** We are excited to announce that, along with our GOYA dancers, the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey will be performing. Please see the attached flyer for more details and make your reservations by **February 12<sup>th</sup>**. Costumes are welcome!

Something to look forward to: From March 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup>, each Sunday the Philoptochos will be selling homemade taramasalata in 4 oz. containers at \$5.00 each. Don't miss out on this delicious treat!

The Philoptochos invites you to take a trip to Agia Skepi on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining us, please see the attached flyer for contact information. We will make carpooling arrangements once we have a final count.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the next **Philoptochos General Meeting**, which will be held on **Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM** in the church hall. Light refreshments will be provided. Please join us! Together we can do great things!

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.



## Upcoming Philoptochos Events

Save the Dates!

~ Taramasalata Sales ~

Each Sunday from March 2~April 13, 2025

\$5.00 per 4 oz. container



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~ Trip to Agia Skepi ~

Save the Date!

The Philoptochos of St. Demetrios invites you to join them on Saturday, **April 26, 2025**, to visit this beautiful monastery located on a mountain overlooking the Lehigh River Valley in the Poconos Mountains.

In order to determine cost, time, and transportation details, we will need to get a headcount. If you are interested in going to Agia Skepi (and if you would consider driving for a carpool), please contact us by **March 2, 2025**:

Marietta Khalil (732-925-9699 / [mariettakhalil@hotmail.com](mailto:mariettakhalil@hotmail.com))

Mary Lou K. Rivera (732-742-0722)