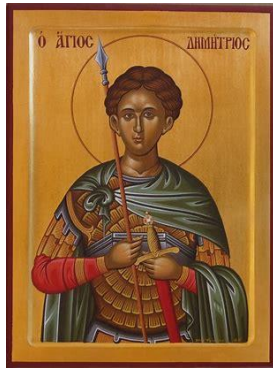




GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

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

+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

Great Lent begins Monday, March 3, 2025
(See attached Liturgical Calendar)

GOYA Spaghetti Luncheon
Sunday, March 2, 2025

**

Sunday School's Godparents Sunday
March 16, 2025

A message from Father Philotheos ~

It is truly with love and great joy that I greet all of you, the most dedicated and blessed parishioners of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community as we enter the beautiful month of March, as we enter Holy and Great Lent.

I begin by first expressing my greatest pride and true appreciation to our most beloved GOYAnS, who so beautifully represented our sacred parish at the recently held first ever Metropolis of New Jersey Music & Dance Festival (MDF). Throughout the weekend our GOYAnS expressed their talents and love of our rich Greek culture through the amazing performances that they offered in front of over 500 young people from throughout our Metropolis. They all did a wonderful job representing all of us, and I offer my deepest sentiments of congratulations to them for this amazing accomplishment!

On Monday, March 3rd we celebrate Clean Monday as we mark the start of the Holy and Great Lent, a blessed time period in our Church that affords us the wonderful opportunity prepare ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually for the celebration of the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year we will once again be offering many services throughout Great Lent, and I wholeheartedly encourage all of you to attend and participate in these wonderful services of the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Salutations to our most Holy Theotokos, services which are only offered during this time of year.

May our almighty God, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to bless all of you with a most spiritually enlightening Great and Holy Lent.

With love and blessings,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski

Please see attached flyers for the following upcoming events:

- March 2025 Liturgical Schedule
- Invitation from His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey for The Light of the Cross Benefit Luncheon sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
- GOYA Spaghetti Luncheon



President's Message ~

Last month was a busy time for our church! The Sunday School children enhanced Father Philotheos' birthday by offering gifts and singing songs to him. The Greek School children participated in a state-wide performance, and the GOYA young adults demonstrated their dancing skill at a multi-state event called MDF (Metropolis Dancing Festival). To top it all, the Philoptochos sponsored a very successful Apokriatiko Glendi. A big THANK YOU to all the participants and organizers who, through their efforts, make St. Demetrios of Perth Amboy's name to stand proudly next to larger communities.

March is a blessed month for more than one reason. First, it is the beginning of Lent. Second, it is the beginning of Spring and toward the end of the month is the celebration of the historic Greek Independence Day of March 25th. Besides celebrations within our church for the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos, we will also participate in the Greek Parade in New York on March 30th. Please notify the office as early as possible to arrange transportation.

Lastly, since there are multiple requests to carry the Epitaphios on Good Friday, you must submit your name to the office as a participant in order to create a fair schedule.

George Kane
Parish Council President



PTO NEWS



Wishing everyone a blessed Lenten season as we prepare with reflection and prayer for Easter Sunday.

A few upcoming announcements:

Sunday, March 9th is our PTO sponsored coffee hour.

Easter Sunday, April 20th will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children!

Please mark your calendars!



GOYA News

February was filled with so much excitement! We competed in our first Metropolitan Dance Festival (MDF) during President's weekend in Philadelphia, PA. Lots of excitement filled the air especially feeding off of the native residents enjoying the Eagles win of the Super Bowl. We met lots of GOYAnS from several different states. We were able to show off our dance moves and great love of Greek dancing!



While we were there, we had the opportunity to participate in a wonderful charitable event called Ryan's Case for Smiles. We each made our own pillowcase to give to a child battling cancer. We started by choosing our fabrics. Then we ironed the pieces together to make them flat and even. We pinned the edges together and finally used the sewing machine to sew the pieces together.





Check out our finished pillowcases!



Sights and Sounds is here. We will be competing on Saturday, March 1 in Westfield. We have worked so hard representing Perth Amboy well. Our small but mighty group has continually grown to surprise many larger groups with our various talents and awards. Hopefully, this year we'll do the same. Join us on Sunday, March 2 following the Liturgy for our Spaghetti Luncheon. You'll be able to see all our Sights and Sounds. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children.

On Sunday March 16 after Liturgy, Luka Simatos and Madeline Katsilis will present their oratorical speeches for your enjoyment. They will compete in the district round on March 22 at St. Andrew's of Randolph, NJ. Best wishes to them both! We are proud to have them represent us.

Looking ahead, after Easter the GOYA dance group will resume dance practice to prepare for our Festival. Practices are Monday night, 7:30-9pm. We welcome all incoming GOYAns!

Any questions, please contact Jennifer Simatos 732-343-2266

G.O.Y.A.
Spaghetti Luncheon

Sunday, March 2nd

\$20 Adults
\$5 kids

BE MARVELED BY OUR TALENTS IN ALL AREAS OF THE ARTS!

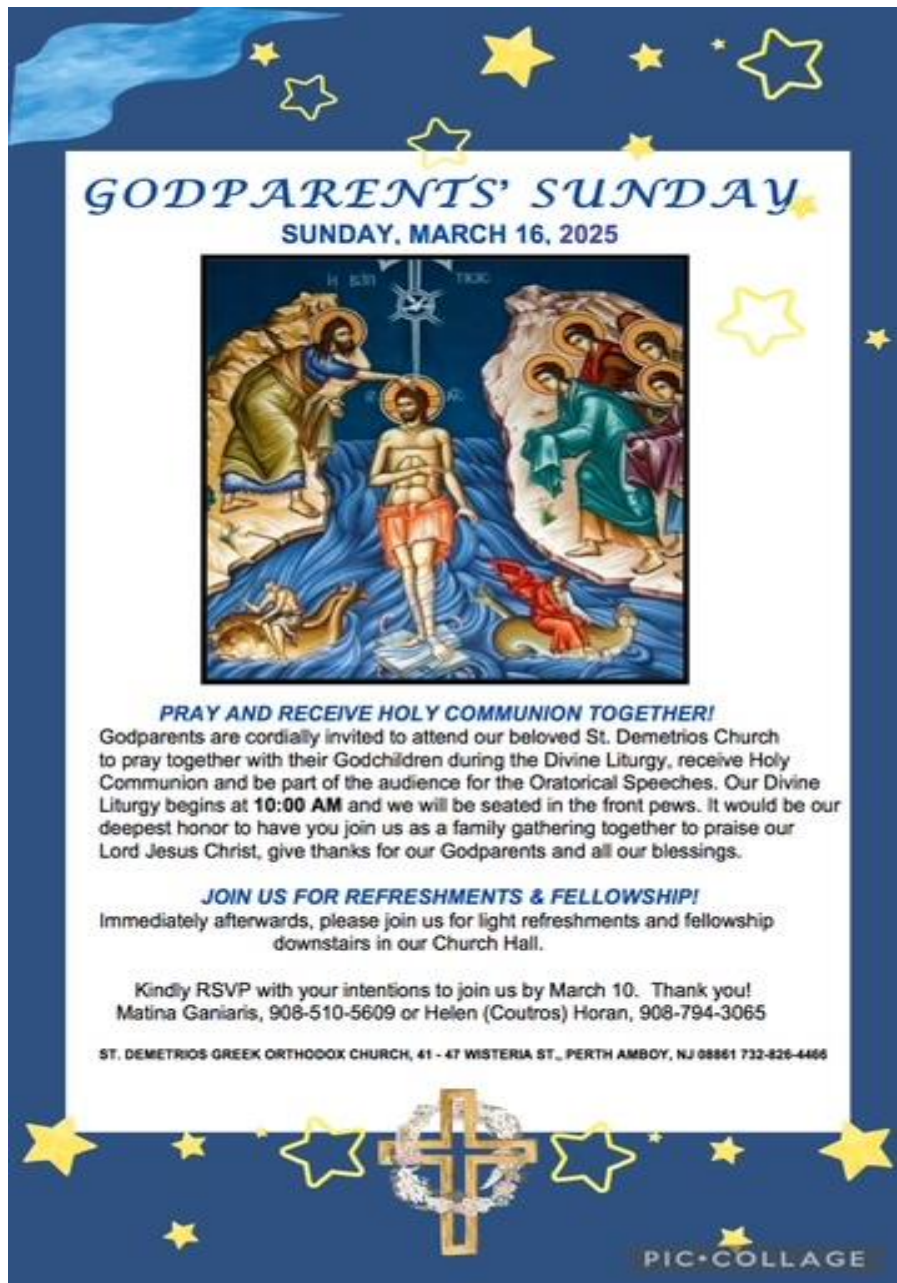
GREEK FOLK DANCING, WOODWORKING, PAINTING, SINGING, POTTERY AND MORE!

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


SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

All Godparents of our Sunday School children are cordially invited to join us in prayer, participation in our Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion on Sunday, March 16, 2025. We are all looking forward to spending this special day with you.

Please save the date!



GODPARENTS' SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025



PRAY AND RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER!
Godparents are cordially invited to attend our beloved St. Demetrios Church to pray together with their Godchildren during the Divine Liturgy, receive Holy Communion and be part of the audience for the Oratorical Speeches. Our Divine Liturgy begins at **10:00 AM** and we will be seated in the front pews. It would be our deepest honor to have you join us as a family gathering together to praise our Lord Jesus Christ, give thanks for our Godparents and all our blessings.

JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP!
Immediately afterwards, please join us for light refreshments and fellowship downstairs in our Church Hall.

Kindly RSVP with your intentions to join us by March 10. Thank you!
Matina Ganiaris, 908-510-5609 or Helen (Coutros) Horan, 908-794-3065

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 41 - 47 WISTERIA ST., PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861 732-826-4468

PIC•COLLAGE

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

We invite you to join us for a special celebration of Greek revolution of 1821 at Saint Demetrios Perth Amboy on March 23rd right after Divine Liturgy.

We also invite you to march with us this year at the Greek parade in NYC on March 30th and represent our beautiful church!



CELEBRATE GREEK HERITAGE WITH US



Please join us on a special celebration of Greek revolution of 1821 at Saint Demetrios Perth Amboy on Sunday March 23rd after Divine Liturgy.

Σας προσκαλούμε να γιορτασουμε την εθνική μας επέτειο της επανάστασης του **1821** στον Άγιο Δημητριο του **Perth Amboy** την Κυριακή στις **23** Μαρτίου αμέσως μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία. Μην λείψει κανείς!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos would like to express our deep appreciation for all the support we received for our 2025 Apokriatiko Glendi, which was held on Saturday, February 22, 2025. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance having a great time dancing, enjoying the delicious foods provided by our very own ladies of the church and The Barge Restaurant, or participating in the basket raffles and 50/50. Our church's GOYA children did an awesome job dancing, and at the end of their performance they encouraged guests to join them in a popular kalamatiano dance. We also had the phenomenal Hellenic Dancers of NJ performing, which is always an exciting event to watch. What made the performance extra special was seeing several St. Demetrios alumni GOYAns dancing: Nickolas Vosinas, Victoria Rivera, Jennifer Seitis, and Samantha Koudis, as well as Luka Simatos.

Speaking of entertainment, a huge Thank You goes out to Olga (Mantsis) Daskalothanasis, our "DJ" of the night. She provided the music that kept the dance floor filled with dancers.

Rita Lalis won the 50/50 and donated a part of her proceeds back to the Philoptochos. Thank you very much, Rita! You are always so supportive of our organization.

It takes a lot of work to put together a successful event such as our Glendi, and it's sometimes difficult to recognize everyone during speeches. I'd like to take this time to thank the following individuals (in no particular order) for all their help. (If I've inadvertently left off someone, please accept my sincere apologies!)

Committees

Appetizers & Desserts: Marietta Khalil (Thank you to all who donated food!)

Decorations/Party Supplies: Cindy Giannakopoulos, Peggy Kantor, Callie Vosinas

Basket Raffles: Evelyn Mariolis & Helen Catelanos

50/50 Helen Suravlas & Litsa Kaidas

Set Up: Marietta & Akram Khalil, Peggy Kantor, Mary & Tessie Simatos, Helen Catelanos, Evelyn Mariolis, Callie Vosinas, Helen Horan

Clean Up: Thank you to all who stayed to help clean up after this big event!

Please mark your calendars regarding the following upcoming events. Be sure to check our Bulletin Board located near the downstairs entrance, check your emails (if you aren't getting Philoptochos notifications by email and would like to, please let me know), or the Sunday bulletins.

Sunday, March 2
March (TBD)

Saturday, March 22

Sunday, April 13

Saturday, April 26

Saturday, May 17

Taramasalata Sale (continues each Sunday until April 13)

Tsourekia Sale starting in March; look for future flyer for details

Philoptochos General Meeting at 1:00 PM in the church hall

Bake Sale

Visit to Agia Skepi (please RSVP as soon as possible so we can arrange transportation)

Philoptochos Elections – Members, please attend this important event, which will determine the future Board of the Philoptochos.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a blessed Lenten season...

Mary Lou K. Rivera, Philoptochos President



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 March 25th. 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!

