



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



SAINT DEMETRIOS PARISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

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+V. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE FATHER PHILOTHEOS TOMCZEWSKI

Palm Sunday Luncheon
April 13, 2025

Easter Egg Hunt - April 20, 2025

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Sunday, May 4, 2025

*Congratulations to our Annual 2025 Metropolis of New Jersey
Grand Banquet Honorees:*

Parish Council	- Matthew Rizitis
Philoptochos	- Helen Catelanos
Community Steward	- Tessie Christopoulos
Senior Steward	- Emanuel Balsamides
Greek School	- Irene Tsoukas
Sunday School	- Irene Dimitratos
GOYA	- Alena & Layna Ortiz-Albino
Youth Worker	- Despina Markos



A message from Father Philotheos ~

I pray that this message and monthly newsletter finds all of you well, both physically and spiritually, experiencing all of God's Heavenly blessings.

Throughout the first part of this month of April, as we approach the celebration of the Feast of Feasts, Holy and Great Pascha, I encourage all of you to stay strong and vigilant in your faith as we continue this time of fasting, forgiveness, and preparation. Remember that it is not only that which we eat that we must be mindful, but also the things that we say, as well as the actions that we take. These days of Holy Lent afford all of us the chance to truly prepare ourselves physically and spiritually, as well as allow us to reflect on our lives and the decision we have made, and God willing allow us to make sure that we are all following His path and living our lives according to His will.

Very soon our spiritual journey through Holy and Great Lent is coming to an end as we approach the upcoming celebration of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The schedule for Holy Week has been distributed and I highly encourage all of you to attend as many of these beautiful and prayer services as you are able throughout the week, as our participation in the Liturgical life of Holy Week will truly prepare us for the impending celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May our almighty God, through the intercessions of St. Demetrios our patron saint, continue to grant all of your spiritual prosperity as we continue our Lenten journey

With love and blessings in the Lord,

+V. Rev. Archimandrite Philotheos Tomczewski



President's Message ~

As we are waiting for Palm Sunday and “ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ,” I can't get my mind off of March 25th – Greek Independence Day and just brush over on history and all the critical and heroic events that took place during these difficult times of the Greek population. Reading and searching for historical documentaries of these years, many names were listed on my computer search websites like: Kapodistrias, Ipsilandis, Regas Fereos, Petrobeis, Karaiskakis, Andreas Androutsos, Papaflesas, Bouboulina, Miaoulis, Mavrohordatos, and many more, who sacrificed their lives willingly for our freedom today. So not only on March 25th but for the entire month of March, I salute all these heroes – male or female, scholars or common folk, clergy or politicians who gave their lives for our freedom. ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ!

George Kane
Parish Council President



Church Ministries News ~

PTO NEWS!

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming

PTO Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter Sunday April 20th following morning Easter service!



Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to cover the costs of the Easter filled Eggs for the kids to find and special treats given out!!

Donations of any amount may be given to Diana Regan, PTO President, Jennifer Kanellidis, or to the Church office. Please specify “PTO”. Funding received will be put to this event and upcoming Graduation luncheon in May and Father of the Year luncheon in June!

Email dianapregan@gmail.com with any questions and if you would like to Venmo or Zelle your donations.

GOYA News

Sights & Sounds was another wonderful day. Our small group placed tied for 5th going into the day's competition. We may have a small group, but we are mighty! They have made us proud. We were able to show our talents at our annual Spaghetti Luncheon. Thank you to everyone who attended and offered their support.



On Saturday, March 22nd, Madeline Katsilis and Luka Simatos represented Perth Amboy in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in Saint Andrew Church in Randolph. Each competed against 12 other GOYANs and received Honorable Mention. A big thank you to Olga Daskalothanasis for her guidance and support.



On Saturday, May 10th we will host Indoor Olympics, a friendly competition among the churches, including backgammon, table tennis, checkers, chess, Just Dance, and FIFA soccer. We are looking for volunteers and judges to help run the event. Any and all help is welcome and needed.

After Easter, we will start preparing for our festival. Anyone interested in dancing is welcome to join. Practices are Monday night 7:30-9pm. Please let Jennifer Simatos, Despina Markos, or any GOYAN know if you are interested in joining.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we commemorated the restoration of our Holy Icons and the triumph of our Orthodox Faith with an "Icon Procession" around the perimeter of our beloved Church. The procession was led by our Sunday School children who were showcasing their cherished Holy Icons brought from home to demonstrate their pride in our wonderful tradition on the first Sunday of Great Lent.



Godparents' Sunday

Godparents of our Sunday School children were invited to our beloved St. Demetrios Church to join in the Divine Liturgy, to take Holy Communion and pray together.

The Godchildren read aloud poems that relayed how much their Godparents are so loved and appreciated to be part of their lives. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a lovely reception to celebrate this special occasion.



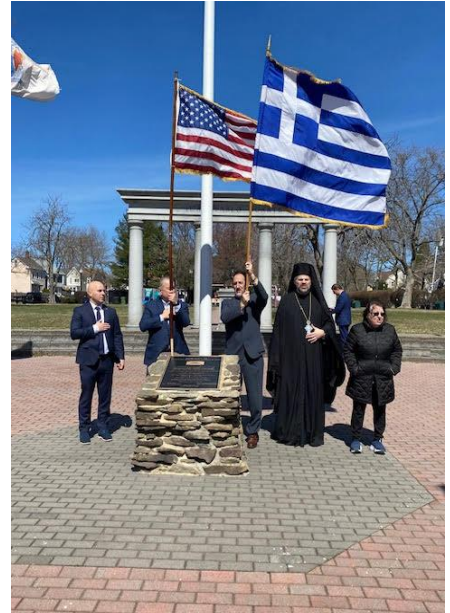
Veneration of the Holy Cross

Along with our entire congregation, our Sunday School children observed the beautiful, traditional Procession of the Holy Cross delivered by Father Philotheos who also reminded us all so eloquently of the great importance that our Holy Cross symbolizes for each of us: the sacrifice that Jesus Christ endured for our salvation. Each parishioner and child received one of the blessed flowers that adorned the Holy Cross to take to their homes.



Flag-Raising Ceremony of our Greek Flag

Upon the celebration of Greek Independence Day, a customary Flag-Raising traditional ceremony took place at the International Park on Sadowski Parkway. Father Philotheos spoke of his family's history that connects him to Perth Amboy when his Great Grandmother first lived in Perth Amboy upon her arrival in America. On this day, we raised our Greek Flag to commemorate the independence of Greece and to honor the Greek Community. Mayor Caba spoke of the important history and contributions of the first Greek settlers in Perth Amboy which continue today. He made a special proclamation presentation, and the Greek flag was raised as everyone sang the National Anthems of America and Greece.



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS



On March 23, the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, our Greek School celebrated the double national holiday of March 25, followed by the Greek flag being raised in Perth Amboy. It was a beautiful day filled with wonderful celebrations that moved us all. Many thanks to our students and teachers!!! You made us all proud!!!





Saint Demetrios Perth Amboy marched proudly on 5th Avenue today for the annual Greek Independence Day parade! It was a great day to come together as a community to celebrate our heritage and we look forward to next year!



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs. Helen Catelanos, the Philoptochos honoree for the Metropolis of New Jersey's Grand Banquet Award! Helen has been a dedicated member of the Philoptochos for most of her life. She volunteers and devotes her time and efforts with love and a selfless commitment toward the Philoptochos mission. She has been a great role model and guiding light, and is so well deserving of this award. Please join us as we recognize and congratulate Helen Catelanos, the epitome of a Philoptochos woman.

The Philoptochos would like to thank everyone who donated toward the California Fires Relief Fund. With your assistance, we donated over \$1,300 toward this cause. Also, thank you to those who donated on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the funds of which are used toward the Social Services Program of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos Society. This program provides much needed assistance to individuals experiencing exceptional hardships in their lives.

With the Easter Season upon us, the Philoptochos has events where volunteers can help:

- **Thursday, April 10 - Making the Palm Crosses** (time to be determined)

Volunteers are needed (no experience is necessary!) to help make the palm crosses ("Vagia") for Palm Sunday. Join us for this long-standing tradition at St. Demetrios. We have several hundred palm crosses to make so the more volunteers, the merrier!

- **Thursday, April 17 - Holy Thursday**

Volunteers are needed to provide COOKED dyed red eggs. If you can provide the eggs, please drop them off in the church hall before Services start (7:00 PM).

Also, on Palm Sunday, April 13th, remember to pick up your tsoureki orders and some delicious homemade cookies during our Bake Sale!

In addition, the Philoptochos invites you to join them on Saturday, April 26th to visit Agia Skepi. Carpooling is available, so please contact Mary Lou Rivera (732-742-0722) as soon as possible if you are interested in going to Agia Skepi so travel arrangements can be finalized.

The next Philoptochos General Meeting will be on Saturday, May 17th at 1:00 PM. **This is an Election Day**, and your input can be important for the future Philoptochos Board. Please make an effort to attend this meeting.

On Saturday, March 29th, four of our Philoptochos Board members attended the Light of the Cross fundraiser held at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Trenton (Hamilton), New Jersey. All proceeds of this Benefit Luncheon will go directly to supporting the beloved *Scholi*, Hellenic College & Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.



Pictured: Evelyn Mariolis, Marietta Khalil, Helen Catelanos, Argiro Ahladianakis

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 May 25**. 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!*

