

St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

Church Office **989-793-8822**

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& Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Cook (517) 515-9565

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

Under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the

Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I

2017/2018 Parish Council

President - Eftihios Siradakis (2017)

Vice Pres. - Dr. David Nichols (2018)

Treasurer - Dennis Ostler (2018)

Secretary - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Thomas Barris (2017)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Micah Chisholm (2018)

Vicki Clifford (2018)

Soula Economou (2017)

Joanie Porchia (2017)

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez (2018)

James Stamas (2018)

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Altar Boy Advisor

Dr. George Zubulake

Chanters

Andreas Skoutelas

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Andrew Thomas, Erin Haenlein

Choir

Director - Toula Brown

Philoptochos President

Virginia Ulmer

Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

Greek School Director

Elan Nichols

AHEPA President

George Zaharopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President

Vicki Clifford

GOYA Advisors

Dr. Andrew Bazakis

Dr. Bessie Bone

Dance Group Directors

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

Ashley Dietzel, Kellie Malacos

Diakonia Editor

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

DIAKONIA

OCTOBER 2017



Witnesses of the Living God

“For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the nations, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

On October 26th, we celebrate the feast of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr, who was martyred in 304 A.D. His martyrdom was part of the larger landscape of one of the many persecutions of the Church by the Roman Empire, in which thousands of Christians were killed because they would not offer sacrifices to idols, preferring death to life without Christ. Christ warned His disciples that they, and all Christians, would endure persecution and suffering for His sake, even as Christ Himself suffered on the Cross. We read in Luke 21:12, “they will lay hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. This will be a time for you to bear testimony.” In fact, the word “martyr” now means “one who suffers greatly or is killed for a cause” because of all of the Christians, from first century until today, who have chosen death in Christ rather than life without Him.

But, originally, the word “martyr” has no implications of death or suffering – it simply meant “a witness.” A witness is someone who gives evidence or testifies to the truth. So if martyrs are witnesses, to what truth are they witnessing? What was the testimony that St. Demetrios gave that ended in his death?

Ultimately, the witness and testimony of the martyrs is to the truth of the Gospel – the reality of Christ, that God has taken flesh and come among us. No one is willing to die for a lie or for a hoax, but all of the martyrs of the Church refused to give up their faith, even when it meant torture and death. This is the first witness – their endurance testifies for the truthfulness of the Gospel. Even more than their own endurance and courage, God Himself testifies through their martyrdoms by supporting them in their struggles, and revealing himself through various miracles. This is the witness which resounds throughout the world and down through the ages. This is why Tertullian, writing in the 3rd century, says that “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” (Apologeticus, Chapt. 50).

However, the martyrs are not the only ones called to be God’s witnesses. The martyrs remind us by their sacrifice that we and all Christians have the same mission – we are also called to be God’s witnesses. As it says in Acts 13:47, “For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’” Every Christian – from the Apostles down to the child who was baptized yesterday – are witnesses of God’s presence in the world. We are also called to reveal God to the world – His love, His mercy, and His presence, as we have experienced it and as it has been handed down to us from the Apostles, the Fathers, and the Martyrs of the Church. *Continued on Back Page...*



PARISH COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Saginaw, Michigan is to promote the tenets of Orthodox Christianity in the community through ministry, evangelism and spiritual leadership.

VISION OF OUR PARISH

To worship God, Fellowship with One Another, and to Serve the World.

Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule

- Oct. 1 Prosforon: Tena Tarachas
Fellowship: Georgia & Kelly Caris
- Oct. 8 Prosforon: Stephanie Chisholm
Fellowship: Vaia & Shawn Clifford
- Oct. 15 Prosforon: Joyce Coulouris
Fellowship: Elaine & Doug Dallas
- Oct. 22 Prosforon: Vonnie DeLong
Fellowship: Voula & Mike Erfourth
- Oct. 29 Prosforon: Andrea Farris
Fellowship: St. Demetrios Glendi

Many thanks to all the women who prepare the Prosforon each week. It is truly an important offering for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you are unable to prepare Prosforon for your scheduled Sunday, please contact the church office promptly.



PRAYER REQUEST

Joyce Coulouris requests prayers for Pete and Maria Metropoulos

BAPTISMS

- August 26th – Simeon Chisholm, parents are Micah & Stephanie Chisholm. Godparents - Dr. David & Elan Nichols
- August 26th - Peyton Grace-May Randall parents are Kristen Ahejew & Travis Randall, Godparent - Ivan Hubbell
- Sept. 16th - Zoe Nichols, parents are Dr. David & Elan Nichols, Godparents - Alexia & Evan Houpis

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

October is a busy month for the Philoptochos members. Our October meeting will be the 8th of the month. October 19th a bus trip to the beautiful Holy Trinity Monastery is planned for all parishioners. No cost, but please sign up early as the bus has only 48 seats. Call Joni Porchia [414-732-5051](tel:414-732-5051) or Marge Paron [989-792-8198](tel:989-792-8198).

Philoptochos will be hosting the St. Demetrios Vespers reception on October 25th and also the coffee hour after the liturgy for the feast day of St. Demetrios on October 26th. At the end of the month we will kick off our annual bake sale. Thank you ladies for all your hard work to make our organization a vital component of St. Demetrios.

Joni Porchia
President

ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES



- 8/21 - Spiritual Favors for the Zacharko Family by Jim & Kathleen Zacharko
- 8/21 - Happy Death for Tula and Frank Sharrard by the Sharrard Family
- 8/27 - Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by Christina Zahareos
- 8/30 - Better Health for Eddie Economous by Gabriella Economous
- 9/3 Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by Panayiota Smiaris
- 9/3 - For our Goyans & College Students - may they have a healthy and successful year by Bessie & Kevin Bone
- 9/3 - In Memory of Sam Rouman and Steve Chronis by George & Fran Rouman
- 9/10 - In Memory of Gus Paron by Marge Paron & Family
- 9/10 - Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by George Athanasioulis
- 9/11 - For the safety and well being for the Florida people and our Brother Jim and his family by Soula Economou
- 9/17 - In Memory of Rev. Economou, in commemoration of his birthday, by Lou and Soula Economou
- 9/17 - In Memory Athanasius & Efstathios Milionis by Barbara Milionis
- 9/17 - For Angelo Ellis by Dorothy Ellis & Helen Boses
- 9/17 - 9/23 - For Special Intention by Petro & Sandra Ahejew
- 9/17 - For Families & Relatives and Recovery and Better Health for Margo Beliveau by The Gowenlocks



Daughter's
Of
Penelope

GYRO & PASTRIES FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 14
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Take-Out Only

Gyros \$6

Assorted Pastry Box \$20

(Includes Baklava, Kourambiethes, Melomakarona, & Galactoboureko)

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
4970 Mackinaw Rd.
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Father's Message Continued...

As we celebrate the witness of St. Demetrios this month, then, we are reminded of our own calling. As Ananias said to St. Paul after his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, "The God of our fathers has chosen you: that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard." (2nd Timothy 3:14) St. Demetrios Church has been a faithful witness to presence of the Living God for eighty years, but God calls us to be continual witnesses to every generation. We are the inheritors of this witness – the deposit of faith that is the Orthodox Tradition, and our task is to see that St. Demetrios continues to be a living testimony of the presence and goodness of God for the next eighty years, so that all who pass through our doors "turn from useless things to the Living God Who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them" (Acts 14:15).

Blessed Feast!
-Fr. Timothy Cook



Parish Feast Day

Join us and His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas,
as we celebrate the Feast of
Saint Demetrios the Myrrh streamer
and the 80th Anniversary of
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church!

Wednesday - October 25th

Festal Vespers: 6:00 pm

With His Eminence
Metropolitan Nicholas
and the Clergy of the Metropolis
The St. Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos
will provide a reception after the Vespers.

Sunday - October 29th

Orthros: 8:50 am

Hierarchical Liturgy: 10:00 am

Feastday Luncheon after the Liturgy.

Thursday - October 26th

Orthros: 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

With His Eminence
Metropolitan Nicholas.
The St. Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos
will provide a reception after the Liturgy.

We will be taking our yearly parish
picture during the Luncheon on
Sunday, October 29th.

SAINT DEMETRIOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS • OCTOBER, 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 2ND SUNDAY OF LUKE Ananias, Apostle of the 70 Acts 9:10-19 Luke 6:31-36 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Altar Boy Meeting	2 Cyprian & Justina Eleutherios & Roustikos I Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 6:24-30	3 Dionysios the Areopagite John the Chozebite Acts 17:16-34 Luke 6:37-45 Chant Meeting (6:00pm)	4 Hierotheos, Bp. of Athens Dommina and her daughters Ephesians 5:25-33 Luke 6:46-49; 7:1 Journey to Fullness (6:00 pm)	5 Charitina the Martyr Methodia of Kimolos Ephesians 5:33; 6:1-9 Luke 7:17-30	6 Thomas the Apostle Eroteits of Cappadocia I Corinthians 4:9-16 John 20:19-31	7 Sergius & Bacchus of Syria Hieromartyr Polychronios I Corinthians 15:39-45 Luke 5:27-32 Mt. Pleasant Lit. (10 am) Choir Rehearsal (4:00pm)
8 3RD SUNDAY OF LUKE Pelagia the Righteous II Corinthians 9:6-11 Luke 7:11-16 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Philoptochos Meeting	9 James the son of Alphaeus Andronicus & Athanasia of Egypt I Corinthians 4:9-16 Matthew 9:36-38; 10:1-8	10 Eulampios & Eulampia Theophilus the Confessor Philippians 1:8-14 Luke 8:1-3 Chant Meeting (6:00pm)	11 Apostle Philip of the 70 Theophanes, Bp. of Nicaea Acts 8:26-39 Luke 8:22-25 Journey to Fullness (6:00 pm)	12 Symeon the New Theologian Philippians 1:20-27 Luke 9:7-11	13 Carpos, Agathodoros, Pappulos, & Agathoniki Benjamin the Deacon Philippians 1:27-30; 2:1-4 Luke 9:12-18	14 Nazarios, Gervasios, Protasios, & Celsus I Corinthians 15:58; 16:1-3 Luke 6:1-10 Daughters' Gyro/Baklava Sale (11am-3pm) Choir Rehearsal (4:00pm)
15 SUNDAY OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL Loukianos of Antioch Titus 3: 8-15 Luke 8: 5-15 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	16 Longinos the Centurion Philippians 2: 12-15 Matthew 27: 33-54 Parish Council Mtg. (7 pm)	17 Hosea the Prophet Cosmas & Damian of Arabia Romans 9: 18-33 Luke 9: 23-27 Chant Meeting (6:00pm)	18 Luke the Evangelist Colossians 4: 5-11, 14-18 Luke 10: 16-21 Endowment Mtg. (5:30pm) Journey to Fullness (6:00 pm)	19 Joel the Prophet Varys the Martyr Acts 2:14-21 Luke 9: 49-56	20 Artemios of Antioch Gerasimos of Cephalonia II Timothy 2: 1-10 Luke 10: 1-15	21 Hilarion the Great II Corinthians 9: 6-11 Luke 7: 1-10 Church Cleaning Day (10:00am) Choir Rehearsal (4:00pm)
22 6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE Averkios of Hierapolis Galatians 1: 11-19 Luke 8: 26-39 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	23 James the Apostle Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople Galatians 1: 11-19 Matthew 13: 54-58	24 Arthas the Great Martyr Sebastiane the Martyr Colossians 1: 1-3; 7-11 Luke 11: 1-10 Chant Meeting (6:00pm)	25 Marcianos & Martirios Colossians 1: 18-23 Luke 11: 9-13 Hierarchical Vespers - St. Demetrios (6:00 pm) Philoptochos Reception	26 Great-Martyr Demetrios II Timothy 2: 1-10 John 15: 17-27; 16: 1-2 Orthros (9:00am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am) Philoptochos Reception	27 Nestor of Thessaloniki Kyriakos, Pat. of Constantinople Colossians 2: 1-7 Luke 11: 23-26	28 Holy Protection of the Theotokos Terrence & Eunice Hebrews 9: 1-7 Luke 10: 38-42; 11: 27-28 Choir Rehearsal (4:00pm)
29 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE Anastasia of Rome Galatians 2:16-20 Luke 8:41-56 Orthros (8:50 am) Hierarchical Liturgy (10 am) St. Demetrios Glendi	30 Cleopas of the 70 Zenobios & Zenobia Colossians 2:13-20 Luke 11:29-30	31 Stachys of the 70 Nicholas the new Martyr Romans 16:1-16 Luke 11:34-41 Chant Meeting (6:00pm)				

• Shaded days denote a fast day. ✠ denotes a Liturgy ♦ Great Vespers/Compline ❖ Akathist/Paraklesis ⌘ Presanctified Liturgy ⚡ fish/wine/oil allowed ☞ wine/oil allowed