

February 8, 2015

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The **Epistle Reading** is I Corinthians 6:12-20. The **Gospel Reading** is Luke 15:11-32. These Readings may be found on pages 1311 & 1223 in the **Holy Bible** or pages 130-132 in the **Divine Liturgy Book**.

Today we remember: Prodigal Son; Theodore the Commander, Great Martyr; Zacharias the Prophet; The Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmeleia, Nona and Anthousa.

The Altar Table Lamp is lit by:

- Georgia Kerasiotes & Family *in loving memory of* husband, father & grandfather, Nicholas Kerasiotes, who fell asleep in the Lord 11 years ago; and brother & uncle, Pete Skopas, who fell asleep in the Lord 9 months ago. May their memory be eternal.

The Vigil Lamps of the Iconostasion are lit by:

- The Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community *for special blessings and the health & welfare of* our Psalti, Sotirios Mitilineos. May God continue to bless him.
- Chris Spanos & Family *for the continued health & welfare of* her husband, their father and grandfather, Jimmy Spanos.
- The family & friends of Basilios A. Trintis, for his *continued health & welfare*. May God continue to bless him.
- Roula Passon *in loving memory of* her son, Peter. May his memory be eternal.
- The Stavrakis & Lekakis Families *in loving memory of* son, brother & uncle, Demetrios Lekakis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago. May his memory be eternal.
- Irene & Eleni Peltsems *in loving memory of* Demetrios Lekakis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago. May his memory be eternal.
- Lisa & Lambros Venetos *in honor of* their 1st wedding anniversary. May God grant them many more happy & healthy years together.
- Lisa Jones Venetos *in loving memory of* her grandparents, Marie (5 years) & Robert (34 years) Jones and Betty (4 years) & Sherman (17 years) Dahlgreen. May their memory be eternal.
- Lambros Venetos *in loving memory of* his parents, Effie (5 years) & John (39 years) Venetos. May their memory be eternal.
- James Audra & Alicia Messick *in loving memory of* their grandmother, Theresa Messick (11 years), cousin, David Cain (12 years), and great grandmother, Marie (Jones) Wheeler (5 years). May their memory be eternal.
- Mary, Sam & George Tsakiris *in loving memory of* her aunt, Sevasti Eliadis, who fell asleep in the Lord 9 years ago. May her memory be eternal.

The **Memorial Service** is being chanted today *in loving memory of* Demetrios Lekakis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago and *in loving memory of* Sevasti Eliadis, who fell asleep in the Lord 9 years ago. May their memory be eternal.

The Altar Bread was prepared by: Bessie Conits & Georgia Kerasiotes.

Coffee Hour: The coffee hour will be hosted by the family of Demetrios Lekakis. Coffee Hour is sponsored & served by the Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society, whose members provide the refreshments. It is done in the spirit of love, to promote fellowship among our parishioners.

For more information about the events listed in the bulletin, please look for literature on the Narthex Table or call the Church Office.

2015 Parish Council: We would like to congratulate the new members and the continuing members of our Parish Council and wish them a very fruitful 2015. The 2015 Parish Council Executive Board consists of Demetrios Makres, President, Kirk Rogers, Vice-President, Stephen Kucharski, Treasurer, Jimmy Kastanaras, Financial Secretary and Stephen Christ, Recording Secretary. Please take time to thank them for serving our community.

Orthodox Studies: Want to learn more about your Orthodox Faith? Join us on Friday, February 13th at 9:30 am in the board room. Please remember that if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed or delayed due to weather, we will not meet. For more information contact Kate Cocoros at 410.692.7590.

Godparent/Godchildren Sunday: Godparent's Sunday will be observed on the following dates in the following churches. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

- Sunday, February 15th ~ Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
- Sunday, February 22nd ~ SS. Mary Magdelene & Markella Greek Orthodox Church

Salutations to the Virgin Mary: For five consecutive Friday's beginning February 27th, we will be singing praises to the Virgin Mary. It has been a tradition here at Saint Demetrios to adorn the Icon of the Panaghia with a flower arrangement each Friday. If you are interested in donating one of these arrangements, (4 arrangements left), please call the church office at 410.661.1090 x202 to reserve a Friday. Your tribute will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Demetrakia Dance Troupe: Registration for the 2015 Demetrakia Dance Troupe session will be held during coffee hour today. Registration is free. Dancers must be at least 4 years old and in pre-school at the time of registration. Please contact any dance instructor or Emily Liadakis at ELiadakis@aol.com for more information.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE and are going fast for the Suburban Players 40th Production ~ "**Shrek The Musical**". Show dates are **February 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2015.** Tickets are \$45/pp. See Harriet Hatzidimitriou in the Hermes Rafailides Center after Divine Liturgy or call her at 410.248.0582 to purchase your tickets. Don't miss out on this fantastic show and a wonderful meal!

The Orthodox Christian Way returns Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015, in the Hermes Rafailides Center at 6:15 pm. There will be four evenings of presentations on the Orthodox faith, followed by group discussion and a question and answer session with the panel of clergy and lay presenters. Presentations will begin at 7:00 pm, following a light supper. Mark your calendars for Tuesdays, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st. Please note that we will not meet on March 24th, due to the Annunciation Vespers at the Cathedral.

The topics for this session are:

- March 3rd ~ Coming to Orthodoxy / Personal Journeys
- March 10th ~ Resurrection and Immortality
- March 17th ~ Forgiveness
- March 31st ~ The Season Coming of Christ

Call the church office at 410.661.1090 x202 for more information.

Religious Educators Seminar: Our annual Religious Educators Seminar will be held on **Saturday, February 28th, 2015** following the Divine Liturgy, our seminar will commence at 10:30am in the Hermes Rafailides Center. The theme this year will be "Sowing Seeds." Admission is free and a luncheon will be served. Clergy and Church School Religious Educations are encouraged to attend this Christ-centered, interactive, enlightening symposium. Parents and parishioners are also welcome. For more information please call George Zaverdinos, Church School Director at 410.638.2637.

Saint Demetrios Pre-School Registration: We are continuing to accept Registration Forms for the 2014-2015 School Year, for the Saint Demetrios Pre-School (age 3) and Pre-Kindergarten (age 4). Registration forms can be found on the Narthex Table. To set up a visit, or for more information about this wonderful academic, spiritual and cultural educational program, please contact Kiria Betty at 410.661.1090 x204 or sdpreschool@comcast.net.

The Book & Knitting Club will be meeting on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015 at 9:00am - 11:30am, with lunch to follow at 510 Johnny's in Bel Air. The book of choice for this month is *"The Witness"* by Nora Roberts. All knitters and crocheters are welcomed. Experience not necessary we will teach you.

Library News: What is an artist? An artist is a person who has a vision and either paints a picture that he envisions in his head or an artist that can be a musician that brings joy or memories from his songs. An artist can be a weaver who weaves beautiful sweaters or blankets out of sheep's wool. Is Christ an artist? I say yes. He is the artist of the earth who had a vision for man. He took illiterate men and he created wisdom. He took fisherman and created apostles. He created heroes out of cowards and immortals into saints. I know that a lot of people have Kindles and I-Pads and we can easily download books, read the paper or the news off our computers. It would be very upsetting to see our Library close. We have a lot of new books and new DVD's. Please come see what we have to offer! We also are in need of volunteers. Everyone is welcomed, no experience necessary, we will train you.

The Craig Arambiges Lecture: Please plan to attend this year's library lecture on Saturday, March 7th, *"Living in the Scriptures: the Orthodox Story,"* presented by Elissa Bjeletich. Ms. Bjeletich is the author of the popular Ancient Faith Radio podcast, Raising Saints: Educating Our Youth in the Orthodox Faith, Both at Home and in the Parish, and the book, *"In God's Hands: A Mother's Journey through her infant's critical illness"* published by Ancient Faith Publishing in 2013. She currently serves as the Sunday School Director at Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Austin, TX.

Ms. Bjeletich is also the speaker for "My Ladies Luncheon," the annual Philoptochos event the following day, when she will speak on a related, but different topic, "The Life Giving Cross." The morning will begin with a light breakfast at 9:30am, and Ms. Bjeletich's presentation will begin at 10:00am. Following the lecture, lunch will be provided. This event is free and good will donations will be accepted. Register after the liturgy today or call Mary Triandafilou, 410.528.1589.

The Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade: The Annual Maryland Greek Independence Day Parade will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015. Look for more information in the upcoming weeks.

The American College of Greece (ACG) is accepting applications for **Heritage Greece 2015**, an experiential educational and cultural program for college-aged, Greek-American students. Developed by the National Hellenic Society (NHS) and hosted by The American College of Greece (ACG), Heritage Greece is an unforgettable opportunity for young people to explore their Greek heritage. This year, the Heritage Greece Program will run from **June 11th – 28th, 2015**. Participant will attend a four-credit Greek language and culture course and will travel to the Greek Islands, traditional villages, and archaeological sites. They will have the opportunity to take a Greek cooking class, learn Greek dancing, and experience an insider's tour of the Acropolis museum. ACG is accepting application through **March 27th, 2015**. We are seeking Greek-American college students who have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and have never or seldom been to Greece. We invite you to visit our website at: <http://www.acg.edu/admissions/study-abroad/heritage-greece/apply-heritage-greece>, where you can apply as well as learn more details about this year's program.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE OF THE WEEK: "TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE"

If you are visiting Saint Demetrios today, thank you for worshipping with us. We invite you to fill out the welcome card that can be found at the *Pangari*. For your convenience, Stewardship commitment cards and envelopes can also be found at the *Pangari*.

Dear Stewards, remember that at Saint Demetrios we don't pass trays every Sunday because we ask you to include your tray contributions in your annual commitment.

Your Stewardship Dollars at Work: As you think about your Stewardship commitment, remember that our monthly utilities (electricity, propane & water) average **\$5,917**.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ walked among us for 33 years. Could you add 33 cents a day to your pledge to help maintain His home at Saint Demetrios? That would be an additional \$9 a month to your pledge. Think of what you have, and remember what He gave up for you.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS

	Budget Commitment	Goal ~ Total Operating Budget *	Total Commitments to Date	Collections to Date	# of Stewards
2014	\$392,000	\$693,000	\$202,241	\$50,370	251
2015	\$395,000	\$612,300	\$202,584	\$46,396	220

**Our goal as Christian Stewards is to fund 100% of the Church operating budget.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

<p><u>Monday, February 9th</u> Pre-School, 8:45 am (C) Home School, 9:00 am (C) Greek School, 4:30 pm (C) Play Rehearsal, 6:30 pm (H/G) No Sweet Adelines</p> <p><u>Tuesday, February 10th</u> Pre-School, 8:45 am (C) Play Rehearsal, 6:30 pm (H/G)</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, February 11th</u> Pre-School, 8:45 am (C) Greek School, 4:30 pm (C) Play Rehearsal, 6:30 pm (H/G)</p> <p><u>Thursday, February 12th</u> Pre-School, 8:45 am (C) Philoptochos Meeting, 6:30 pm (B) Play Rehearsal, 6:30 pm (H/G) Adult Choir, 7:00 pm (M)</p> <p><u>Friday, February 13th</u> Pre-School, 8:45 am (C) Orthodox Studies, 9:30 am (B) <i>SHREK The Musical ~ Opening Night</i> <i>Dinner, 6:30 pm</i> <i>Show, 8:00 pm</i></p>	<p><u>Saturday, February 14th</u> 1st Saturday of Souls ~ Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am <i>SHREK The Musical</i> <i>Dinner, 5:30 pm</i> <i>Show, 7:00 pm</i></p> <p><u>Sunday, February 15th</u> Meatfare Sunday Orthros, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am No Church School Godparents Sunday at Saint Demetrios <i>SHREK The Musical</i> <i>Dinner, 4:30 pm</i> <i>Show: 6:00 pm</i></p>
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***In order to provide meeting space for all ministries, please take notice as to where your ministry is scheduled to meet within the facility.**

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



February Philoptochos meeting-Special Guest Speaker, Special Date and Time ~ THIS WEEK ~ THURSDAY, February 12th beginning at 6:30pm in the Parish Board Room. Please note day and time change for the February General Meeting, in conjunction with our Chapter Challenge, a special presentation will be given by guest speaker, Dennis Courtney from Project Reboot. Project Reboot is a nonprofit organization providing low cost computers to low income adults, families and seniors.



February is 'Heart Health' Month ~ Today is "Go Red Sunday". In support of this, Philoptochos members and the Saint Demetrios community are wearing red. For more information from the American Heart Association pick up the flyers from the Narthex table available throughout the month.



**** We hope the women of our community enjoy the special flowers today.** We invite you to become a Philoptochos Member or Associate Member (for the men in our community). Pick up a Membership Form at the Narthex Table and return it to the church office. Attention 'Philoptochos Membership' on the envelope. Remember that \$22 of your donation will be applied to your National and Metropolis membership, while the remainder will be used to support the various local charity projects. Please specify "Philoptochos Stewardship" on the memo line of your check. For more information contact the Membership Committee, Thorina Trintis 410.866.2127 or Violette Cocoros 410.256.6283.



Ronald McDonald House Visit/Dinner Service ~ Monday, February 9th this month our menu theme is "Warm your heart with soup and stew". To help cook & serve or more information, please contact Mary Tsakiris 410.592.7319 or Renee Papavasiliou 410.529.9378. Through this program Philoptochos members provide home-cooked meals for children being treated in area hospitals, and their families staying at the Baltimore Ronald McDonald House.

Save The Dates ~ Lenten Speaker Series with special guest Elissa Bjeletich, Sunday School Director, Author & mother of five, sponsored by the Saint Demetrios Library Ministry and the Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos:

****Saturday, March 7th ~ The Craig John Arambiges Memorial Lecture**, beginning at 9:30a in the Hermes Rafailides Center, Elissa's presentation: "Living in the Scriptures, The Orthodox Story". For more lecture information, please contact Mary Triandafilou, 410.528.1589.

****Sunday, March 8th ~ Father Lou Noplos invites you to join him for 'My Ladies Luncheon'** Elissa will present, "The Life Giving Cross ~ Youth, Marriage, Parenting & Caregiving", sponsored by the Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society and held at the Towson Country Club. For more luncheon information and tickets (\$35pp includes lunch and presentation), call Denise Poletis 443.841.2833.



****Charity Initiative:** Health supplies are low- please help replenish for our adopted schools. Kleenex tissues, hand sanitizers (it's cold and flu season) and baggies - sandwich, quart and gallon sizes. Please drop off the items into the Philoptochos Blue Bin in the church building.



****Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero ~** Thank you to those who have already made a donation to this important Christian Orthodox project! Our first installment has been sent for our chapter from member contributions and we are well on our way to achieving 100% participation from our Saint Demetrios chapter members, family and friends. National Philoptochos is asking each of the 27,000 Philoptochos members along with our family and friends, to contribute \$100 per person, to make a total Philoptochos commitment of more than \$2 million towards this worthy project. Please direct your donation to 'Saint Demetrios Philoptochos' and specify in the memo line on the check to earmark for the 'Saint Nicholas Shrine'. The chapter liaison to National Philoptochos for this project is Margo Lambros, our Assistant Treasurer. When making your donation please put "attention: Margo Lambros" on the envelope. Saint Nicholas National Shrine will be the only religious structure at Ground Zero and it will be ORTHODOX.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Philoptochos General Meeting ~ Thursday, February 12th, 6:30 pm
- *1st Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy ~ Saturday, February 14th at 10:00 am*
- *Shrek The Musical, February 13th, 14th & 15th (see insert in today's bulletin)*
- **Godparents Sunday at Saint Demetrios ~ Sunday, February 15th**
- No Church School ~ Sunday, February 15th (due to Godparents Sunday)
- Greek School Closed ~ President's Day ~ Monday, February 16th
- Office Closed ~ President's Day ~ Monday, February 16th
- Pre-School Closed ~ President's Day ~ Monday, February 16th
- Parish Council Meeting ~ Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm
- *2nd Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy ~ Saturday, February 21st at 10:00 am*
- *Shrek The Musical, February 20th, 21st & 22nd (see insert in today's bulletin)*
- **Lent Begins ~ February 23rd**
- *Holy Unction, Divine Liturgy ~ Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm*
- *1st Pre-Sanctified Liturgy ~ Wednesday, February 25th at 6:00 pm*
- Pre-School Bull Roast Meeting ~ Thursday, February 26th at 6:30 pm
- *1st Salutations to the Virgin Mary ~ Friday, February 27th at 7:00 pm*
- *3rd Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy ~ Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 am*
- Religious Education Seminar ~ Saturday, February 28th (following Liturgy)

1st Annual Hope / Joy

Saturday, March 14, 2015 6-8 pm
Hermes Rafalides Center

**CROSSFIT
W.S.A.**



More details
coming next
week!

Family Fitness Night