

**December 20, 2015**

**Sunday before Nativity**

**The Epistle Reading** is Hebrew 11:9-10, 32-40. The Gospel Reading is Matthew 1:1-25. These Readings may be found on pages 1366 & 1147 in the Holy Bible or on pages 118-121 in the Divine Liturgy Book.

**Today we remember:** Pre-Nativity: The Genealogy; Proetoria of Nativity of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Holymartyr Ignatios the “God-Manteled”, Bishop of Antioch; Neomartyr John; Philogonios, Bishop of Antioch.

**The Altar Table Lamp is lit by:**

- Gus & Ritsa Economakis & Georgia *in loving memory of* their son and her brother, Chris Economakis. May his memory be eternal.

**The Vigil Lamps of the Iconostasion are lit by:**

- Roula Passon-Paterakis *in loving memory of* her son, Pete. May his memory be eternal.
- Gabriel Pantelides *in loving memory of* his late wife, Elaine, who fell asleep in the Lord 17 years ago. May her memory be eternal.
- Cathy & Michael Pizanis & Family *in loving memory of* mother & grandmother, Elaine Pantelides, who fell asleep in the Lord 17 years ago. May her memory be eternal.
- George & Marcella Lambros and Steve & Christina Harris and their families *in loving memory of* their parents & grandparents, Gus & Katie Harris and Spiros & Lemonia Papandreas. May their memory be eternal.
- Bill & Niki Papageorgopoulos *in loving memory of* their parents, George & Dimitra Papageorgopoulos and Nicholas & Eugenia Courtalis; their brothers, Jim, Manuel & George, their brother-in-laws, Gus & Pete and their niece, Gina. May their memory be eternal.
- Sam, Mary & George Tsakiris *in loving memory of* her parents, Kalliopi & Pandelis Theodore and his parents, Anastasia & George Tsakiris. May their memory be eternal.
- Sam, Mary & George Tsakiris *for the health & welfare of* their dear friend, Pete Chrisopoulos. May God look over him.

**The Altar Bread was prepared by:** Maria Antonakas

**Coffee Hour:** Everyone is invited to the Coffee Hour that will be held in the Hermes Rafailides Center directly following the Divine Liturgy. The coffee hour is sponsored by Ladies Philoptochos Society and served by Joy Becker, Marcie Lambros & Katie Papatkakis.

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

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**On behalf of Fr. Lou, the Parish Council and the Church Office, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all the members of our Saint Demetrios Family a very Merry Christmas!**

**Orthodox Studies:** Please be advised that we **will not** be meeting on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will resume on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:30am in the board room. For more information contact Kate Cocoros at 410-692-7590.

**Advent & Christmas Program:** Today, we will conclude our yearly tradition of our Advent Program. We would like to thank all who participated in this year’s programs and on behalf of our Music Ministry & Church School, we wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas.

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**Christmas Service:** The Liturgy for Christmas Day will be celebrated on **Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** beginning with *Orthros at 6:00pm* and the *Divine Liturgy at 7:00pm*. The annual Christmas Concert will directly follow the Divine Liturgy. **Please make note that the only Christmas Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Christmas Eve.** Also, please plan to join us for a Coffee Hour in honor of the Christmas Holiday Season, sponsored by the Parish Council and their families, directly after the concert.

**2016 Calendars:** Today, **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will be distributing the 2016 Ecclesiastical Calendar & Daily Bible Reading Guides to all Stewards of Saint Demetrios. The calendars will be available after the Divine Liturgy in the Hermes Rafailides Center. Please look for Aris Daniels & Stephanie Christ to pick-up your calendar so that we can reduce the amount of postage for sending them through the mail. Because we have a limited amount of calendars, in order to ensure that everyone receives their calendar, only **one** calendar will be given per family.

**Saint Demetrios Pre-School Registration:** We are continuing to accept Registration Forms for the 2015-2016 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 via phone: 410.661.1090 x204 or email: [sdpreschool@comcast.net](mailto:sdpreschool@comcast.net).

**Tickets are available** for the Suburban Players 41<sup>st</sup> Production - “*Wizard of Oz*” Dates are February 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 2016. Tickets are \$48/pp and we are excited to announce that we have added a Saturday matinee on February 20<sup>th</sup> for \$20/pp at 11:00am with light fare for purchase. See Harriet Hatzidimitriou in the Hermes Rafailides Center after Divine Liturgy or call her at 410-248-0582 to purchase your tickets. A delicious meal and wonderful show await you! **Ad space in all sizes is also available** in our program book. This is an inexpensive way to advertise your business, send well wishes to fellow stewards and support your church. See Demetri or Rena in the Hermes Rafailides Center after Divine Liturgy or call 410-823-4805 to purchase your ad. Deadline for all ads is **January 22, 2016**.

**Suburban Players Committee Need Help:** We are trimming dolmades leaves on **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in the Church Kitchen. If you can help, please contact Rena Makres at 410.823.4805. Thank you!

**Festival Chairperson:** If anyone would like to chair our Annual Grecian Festival. Please send a letter of intent, explaining your qualifications to the Parish Council at [saintdemetrios@comcast.net](mailto:saintdemetrios@comcast.net).

**Library:** Merry Christmas from the Library Staff. May God bless everyone with good health & happiness!

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Christmas Eve ~ Office closing at 11:30 am*  
*Christmas Eve Liturgy ~ Orthros, 6:00 pm / Divine Liturgy, 7:00 pm*  
*Christmas Day ~ Office closed*  
*New Year’s Eve ~ Office closing at 12:00 pm*  
*New Year’s Eve ~ Saint Basil Divine Liturgy, 5:00 pm*  
*New Year’s Day ~ Office closed*

*Eve of the Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters ~ Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am*  
*Feast of the Epiphany ~ Blessing of the Waters Divine Liturgy, Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am*  
*Feast of Saint John the Baptist Divine Liturgy, Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am*

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE OF THE WEEK:  
“TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE”**

WELCOME! If you are visiting Saint Demetrios today thank you for worshipping with us. We pray that your visit here is uplifting. We invite you to fill out the welcome card that can be found at the pangari and to join us in fellowship at the Hermes Rafailides Center after liturgy.

For your convenience, Stewardship commitment cards and envelopes are also at the pangari. Remember that at Saint Demetrios we don't pass trays every Sunday because we ask that you include your tray contributions in your annual commitment.

Are you actively serving God, sharing Him with others? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles. We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

**STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS**

	<b>Budget Commitment</b>	<b>Goal ~ Total Operating Budget *</b>	<b>Total Commitments to Date</b>	<b>Collections to Date</b>	<b># of Stewards</b>
<b>2014</b>	\$392,000	\$693,000	\$346,446	\$321,000	486
<b>2015</b>	\$395,000	\$612,300	\$318,485	\$290,096	425

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

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

<p><b><u>Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup></u></b> Pre-School, 8:45am (C) Greek School, 4:30pm (C)</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup></u></b> Pre-School, 8:45am (C) Play Rehearsal, 7:00 pm (H/G)</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b> Pre-School Christmas Program, 11:30am <b>No Greek School</b></p> <p><b><u>Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Office Closing at 11:30am</b> <b>Orthros, 6:00pm</b> <b>Divine Liturgy, 7:00pm</b></p>	<p><b><u>Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Sunday after the Nativity</b> <b>Orthros, 9:00am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy, 10:00am</b> <b>No Church School</b></p>
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**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

**Board Meeting: January 12<sup>th</sup> in the Philoptochos room at 6:30pm**

**General Meeting: January 18<sup>th</sup> in the Philoptochos room 6:30 to 8:00pm**

**Baltimore Rescue Mission:** We have extended the collection for the Baltimore Rescue Mission Center through today. The Mission has been meeting not only the spiritual but also the physical needs of desperate people for nearly sixty years. During the Christmas season, their guests will receive a wonderful Christmas dinner and a gift bag filled with new clothes and toiletries to help meet some of their immediate needs and to brighten their spirits. Most importantly they will hear the message of salvation. Philoptochos will buy gift cards with your cash. If it is easier for you to write a check to St. Demetrios Philoptochos, we can do the shopping for you. Make sure you put Rescue Mission in the memo portion. “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.” Luke 6:31. We thank you for your donations.

**Vasilopita Bread:** Orders are now being taken for Vasilopita Bread. If you wish to enjoy some delicious, home made “New Year” bread, please contact Ritsa Economakis at 410.256.0953. You can also pick-up your pre-orders today, in the Hermes Rafailides Center during coffee hour.

**Christmas Food Baskets: FINAL COLLECTION TODAY** of food donations to be distributed to 15 families in need from our adopted schools. Please place in the Philoptochos blue bin in the church building. **Food examples** include dry goods such as oatmeal, breakfast cereal bags, soups, stuffing, pasta & pasta sauce, cranberry sauce, macaroni & cheese, instant potatoes or dessert mixes, peanut butter & jelly, juices, canned fruits and vegetables. The children carry the bags home so, please, **NO GLASS** and **NO GIANT WAREHOUSE SIZES.** Our Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos will accept monetary donations to purchase additional food for distribution. For monetary donations, please make checks payable to 'Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos' and designate "food baskets" in the memo line.

**Need a last minute stocking stuffer for your favorite cook, The Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Kali Orexi IV cookbook is just the right thing! Purchase a gift set with Kali Orexi IV cookbook, embroidered apron and bonus gifts for \$35.** Contact Mary Triandafilou today during coffee hour or call her at 410.528.1589. Individual books are available for \$20 per copy and individual aprons are \$15 each. The sales of the cookbooks and aprons support the many charities Philoptochos supports throughout the year.



*Merry  
Christmas*

