

**December 22, 2019**

**Sunday before Nativity**

**The Epistle Reading** is Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40. The Gospel Reading is Matthew 1:1-25. These Readings may be found on pages 1366 and 1147 in the Holy Bible or on pages 118 and 119 in the Divine Liturgy Book.

**Today we remember** Pre-Nativity: The Genealogy; Proeortia of Nativity of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Greatmartyr Anastasia, the Deliverer from Poison; Chrysogenes and Theodota, Martyrs.

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

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

**The Vigil Lamp of the Iconostasion is lit by:**

- Irene Kaputsos & Family *in loving memory of* Marshall, Emmanuel, Anna, Vasili, Stefanos, Irene, Sevasti, Panagiotis, Savvas, Ekaterini, Tony, Annoula and Stefanos.
- Irene Kaputsos & Family *in loving memory of* our brother, Stefanos Kalamouxpos, on the occasion of his name day.
- George Xanthakos, Amanda Albright, Peter Xanthakos & Catherine Xanthakos *in loving memory of* Opal Xanthakos, who fell asleep in the Lord 40-days ago. May her memory be eternal.
- George & Marcella Lambros and their children & grandchildren *in loving memory of* their parents and grandparents. May their memory be eternal.
- Diane Zamaria & Family *for the health & welfare of* Sam Zamaria. May God keep him in His care.
- Voula Georgitsos & Family *in loving memory of* husband, father & grandfather, John who fell asleep in the Lord 2 years ago.

**40-Day Blessing:** Mr. & Mrs. David Bertoni will present their 2<sup>nd</sup> child for the traditional 40-day blessing. Please join me in prayer as we ask God to watch over and protect this family.

**The Memorial Service** is being chanted today *in loving memory of* Opal Xanthakos who fell asleep in the Lord 40-days ago, May her memory be eternal.

**The Altar Bread was prepared by** Ritsa Economakis

**Coffee Hour:** Coffee Hour will be served in the Hermes Rafailides Center following Liturgy.

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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!*

**Welcome:** If you are visiting Saint Demetrios today, we welcome you and 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 (candle stand) and to either return it to a Parish Council member or slip it under the Church Office door.

**2019 Stewardship:** The Stewardship Committee extends our appreciation to our Stewards who have met their 2019 pledge commitment. Stewardship is the lifeblood of our Community and we thank you! If you are not current in your 2019 commitment, we ask that you fulfill your pledge in December. End of Year 2019 Statements will be mailed in January.

**Orthodox Studies:** Please be advised that we **will not** be meeting on **Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**. We will resume on **Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** at 9:30am in the board room. For more information contact Kate Cocoros at 410-692-7590.

**Christmas Service:** Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Orthros at 9:00am / Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. The Liturgy for Christmas Day will be celebrated on ***Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>*** beginning with *Orthros at 6:00pm* followed by the *Divine Liturgy at 7:00pm*. The annual Christmas Concert will follow directly after the Divine Liturgy. ***Please make note that there will not be any services on Christmas Day.*** 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.

**2020 Calendars:** Today, **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** we will be distributing the 2020 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 pick-up your calendar so that we can reduce the cost of mailing them. Because we have a limited number of calendars, to ensure that everyone receives their calendar, only **one** calendar will be given per family.

**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.

**January 25<sup>th</sup>** ~ Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Adult Basketball Tournament & Throwback Bull Roast/Dance Featuring the KOKO Brothers playing your favorite music from the 50's through the 90's (proceeds to go towards a Mortgage payment for Church and securing a Bus for our GOYA Trip to Boston during Lent to visit The Holy Cross Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology)

**Did You Hear the News?** Our wonderful GOYA has pledged to pay a mortgage payment (February) for our Church!!! By using proceeds from their annual "Not Your YiaYia's Bingo", as well as from their annual Throwback Old School Basketball Tournament and Bull & Oyster Roast.

**Library News:** The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals, both Pagan and Christian for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice and it made them think of the spring to Christians used it as a sign of everlasting life with God. The Library Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy & Healthy Christmas. Don't forget to stop by the little Library located by the mailbox. You take a book and leave a book. Don't have a book? No problem, we have many to spare.

**The Book and Knitting Club** will meet on **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am-12:00pm** in the Library. The book of choice is a Christmas book of your choice. We will then discuss our book and what we like about it. All are welcomed whether you knit, crochet or just want some nice conversation.

**Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020** the Library will be hosting a Greek cooking class in the Library at 6:30 pm. All are welcomed to attend for free.

**Cemetery Committee:** We are looking to add an additional Civil Engineer who would be willing to assist with the current and future needs of the Church. For additional information please contact, Manuel Vendelis at 410.409.3047.

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## PHILOPTOCHOS

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ~ Board Meeting, 6:30pm  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ~ General Meeting, 6:30pm

**Christmas Dinner:** Thank you to Kriss Cocoros and Georgia Vavas for doing a fantastic job chairing the Christmas Dinner. Everyone had a great time!!

*The Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!*

*A big Thank You to everyone for the support, love and hard work throughout the year. All the work we do could not be done without everyone's help and support.*

## SUBURBAN PLAYERS

The Suburban Players proudly announces that this year's 45<sup>th</sup> production will be  
**"Footloose"**

Show Dates: February 14<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### TICKET SALES ARE OPEN!

Dinner Theatre: \$50 (Friday Shows: \$45) / Matinee: \$25 / Cash Bar  
All Shows. For tickets contact Eleni Libertini at 443.390.2981  
(text/voicemail) or [Suburbanplayers2504@gmail.com](mailto:Suburbanplayers2504@gmail.com)

Scan code with your smart-phone camera to access event details;  
click "going" to stay up to date on all our production details.



## KORITSIA

Koritsia will be hosting CPR, First Aid & AED Training at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020** or **February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, check in time is **9:00am**. Class promptly begins at **9:30am** until **1:30pm**. (Bring your own snacks, this will be a working lunch). You will not receive credit for being certified if you are not at the entire class. Certification Cards will be handed out at the end of class. Any person age 9 and above is encouraged to attend. Cost of class is \$85.00 per person ~ make checks payable to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and memo check as CPR class. To register please contact Simon Volikas at [stintis@hotmail.com](mailto:stintis@hotmail.com) or 410.510.7557. There are only 25 seats per day available, deadline to register is **January 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **February 20<sup>th</sup>**. For more information please pick up a registration form from the Narthex Table.

**GOT SNEAKERS FUNDRAISER: Back by popular demand . . .** Saint Demetrios has partnered with Got Sneakers, a sneaker recycling organization, which will compensate us \$1.00 for every wearable sneaker and 10¢ for every other type of shoe. This includes adult and children's shoes and any gender. Please drop off your shoes in the bin marked "**SHOE DONATION**" in the hall by the ladies' room. Contact Simone Volikas at [stintis@hotmail.com](mailto:stintis@hotmail.com) for any further information of details.

**Scrip Gift Cards:** Simply buy gift cards to retailers where you already shop, and SCRIP rebates a percentage to the Church. All you need to do is complete the Family Order Form, attach a check payable to Saint Demetrios and mail or drop off the form (w/check) to the church office. 100% of the proceeds will go directly towards the Church Mortgage. Please contact Maria Angelos at [mvailas@aol.com](mailto:mvailas@aol.com) or 443.280.2690 with any questions.

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

### "TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE"

In every Liturgy God brings words of eternal life through the Scripture readings and the sermon. Through the Sacrament of Communion, He comes to be born again and again in the shabby stables of our hearts. He is able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, transfiguring ministry through the Church.

Are you actively serving God, sharing Him with others? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life considering 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

	Budget Commitment	Goal ~ Total Operating Budget *	Total Commitments to Date	Collections to Date	# of Stewards
2018	\$380,000	\$727,395	\$366,336	\$329,191	467
2019	\$382,000	\$791,705	\$357,216	\$326,753	465

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

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Pre-School, 8:45am (C) NO Greek School Footloose Rehearsal, 7:00pm (H/G)	<b>Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <i>(No Services on Christmas Day)</i> <b>Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Office &amp; Pre-School Closed</i> <b>Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup></b> Pre-School, 8:45am (Year-Round Child Care Only)	<b>Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup></b> Dance Practice, 10:00am (H/G) <b>Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Sunday after Nativity</i> <b>Orthros, 9:00 am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy, 10:00am</b> NO Church School Dance Rehearsal, 12:00pm Footloose Rehearsal, 2:00pm (H/G)
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## Upcoming Events

*Christmas Eve ~ Office Closing at 12:00pm ~ December 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*Christmas Eve ~ Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil ~ December 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*Orthros, 6:00pm / Divine Liturgy, 7:00pm*  
*Christmas Day ~ December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ No Services*  
*Pre-School & Office Closed ~ December 26<sup>th</sup>*  
*New Year's Eve ~ Office Closing at 12:00pm*  
*New Year's Eve ~ Divine Liturgy at 5:00pm*  
*Eve of the Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters ~ January 5<sup>th</sup>*  
*Orthros, 9:00am / Divine Liturgy, 10:00am*  
*Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters Divine Liturgy ~ January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am*  
*Feast of Saint John the Baptist Divine Liturgy ~ January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am*  
*Three Hierarchs Divine Liturgy ~ January 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am*