

May 31, 2020

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Epistle Reading is Acts 20:16-18, 28-36. The Gospel Reading is John 17:1-13. These Readings may be found on pages 1284 and 1255 in the Holy Bible or on pages 60-62 in the Divine Liturgy Book.

Today we remember *Seventh Sunday of the Paschal Season*, commemorating the 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea; Sunday Post-Ascension; Hermeias, of the 70 Apostles, Martyr.

The Altar Table Lamp is lit:

- Mary Karavedas & Family *in loving memory of* husband, father, grandfather, Sam Karavedas who fell asleep in the Lord 40-days ago.

The Vigil Lamp of the Iconostasion is lit:

- Father Lou, Parish Council and all Church Ministries are praying that the pandemic passes quickly and that everyone remains healthy & safe.

The Altar Bread was prepared by Katholiki Trintis & Simone Volikas

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

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

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.

Message from Father Lou: I would like to thank everyone who came out last Sunday to honor George Chrisovergis and myself. It was indeed a beautiful day and a very heart-warming experience for both George and I. It has become very lonely celebrating the Divine Liturgies and all of Holy Lent and Holy Week with no parishioners in the pews. Our lives have changed drastically these past three months and I hope and pray that we may one day return to normal life that we had before this coronavirus came into our lives. Until then, please abide by what our Civil Authorities and our Hierarchs have instituted when we begin the process of re-opening. I would like to especially thank Kate Cocoros who coordinated last Sunday's Parade of Appreciation. She was assisted by Eleni Libertini and Family. Joanna Beleos and Pepe's Restaurant provided George and me with lovely lunches. Stephen Christ and his parking crew were in charge of traffic control and Stephanie Christ was our official photographer. Kale enlisted the help of Presvytera Alice, Cali Harkness and Nick Chrisovergis and a special thanks to all of you who came out and participated in our gift cards. May God Bless all of you and I hope to see you all, in person, soon. Please stay safe!

Message from George Chrisovergis: I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Saint Demetrios community. Last Sunday's event was a wonderful tribute and I am deeply honored. Thank you so much for the card and gift card, it is very much appreciated. I would also like to extend my thanks to Kate Cocoros, for organizing the event, and to Eleni Libertini for assisting Kate in the planning and on the day of the event. Also, many thanks to Joanna Beleos and Pepe's Restaurant for the donation of lunch, it was delicious! Thank you also to all of those who helped out on Sunday and for all of those who participated in this wonderful occasion! With Love, Your Psalti, George.

Message from Metropolitan Evangelos: The past couple of months have been particularly challenging for all people as the devastating effects of the Coronavirus have permeated all facets of society. Nevertheless, there have been noticeable improvements to the present situation which has made it possible for some states and communities to recommence in-person gatherings, albeit, in a limited capacity. As such, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey has been developing a Parish Reopening Strategy so that Parishes and parishioners alike may adequately prepare once the Parishes are permitted to once again open their doors to the devout faithful. A critical element of this strategy centers around the parishioners of each community complying with a series of requirements which conform to State and Local regulations, CDC guidance, and additional Metropolis of New Jersey directives/requirements. Church may look a little different when we finally return but please remember if we all do our part in the beginning we will come out of this stronger.

Stewardship News: We pray that you are well and safe! Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Saint Demetrios Church during these trying times! We pray that our church doors can be opened, and we can all pray together in our church! To date, we have received 77% of the 2020 Stewardship Pledge Cards. Thank you! We continue to make progress! We ask that all remaining pledge cards be submitted by **June 4th**. Please also fill out the time and talent sections of the pledge card. Contact the church office if you need another pledge card. We are reviewing the time and talent sections of the pledge cards and providing the information to the various church ministries and committees. Please mail your pledge card to the church office. We appreciate your continued support of our beloved Saint Demetrios Church! May God bless you!

Community Coffee Hour: The fourth Sunday of every month will be designated as Community Coffee Hour. Please consider bringing baked good or healthy snacks for the community to share with their coffee. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Vacation Bible School: Register today for the Rainforest Explorers Vacation Bible School! <https://vbspro.events/p/events/saintdemetrios20>. **June 22nd-26th ~ 9am to 12pm** Children 4 years to 5th grade. Volunteers must be a 6th grader or older. \$20 per child before **June 1st** \$25 after **June 1st**. Nut free snacks will be provided each day along with crafts, bible messages and tee-shirt per child. Email kellymacdonnell@hotmail.com for questions or help registering to participate/volunteer.

GOYA Registration: Early Bird GOYA Registration. *According to the Archdiocese, to join GOYA, a child must be a least 13 years old OR 12 years old & in the 7th grade by September 1, 2020.* For more details please email Paul Rizas at paulrizas.saintdemetriosgoya@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Scholarships: Anyone interested in endowing an academic scholarship at Saint Demetrios, please contact Lou Triandafilou 410.528.1589 or trianda28@gmail.com or the Church Office at [410.661.1090](tel:410.661.1090) x202 or saintdemetriosmd@gmail.com.

United Chios Society of Baltimore: Scholarship Applications for the Academic Year 2020-2021 are now available. Please drop the church office an e-mail and we will gladly e-mail you the application. **The application must be post-marked no later than July 8th, 2020. Recipients or their representatives MUST be present during church services at Saints Mary Magdalene and Markella Greek Orthodox Church, 3719 Dublin Road, Darlington, MD. 21034 on July 19th, 2020, where presentations will be made.**

FAITH Scholarship for Academic Excellence: Applications are available to be downloaded at: thefaihtendowment.org/scholarships. To be eligible, applicants must be a member of a Greek Orthodox parish and graduating high school senior enrolling in a 4-year accredited U.S. university this Fall. Application deadline is **June 26th, 2020.**

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos 2020 Membership ~ Please join us! Due to these unprecedented circumstances in social distancing and community shutdowns, collection for 2020 Philoptochos stewardship will continue until August 15th. Philoptochos is group of friendly, hardworking ladies spreading love and joy to those in need of a helping hand, kind words of encouragement and smiles. Membership is open to all stewards of Saint Demetrios, 18 years of age and older. Membership is per calendar year and based on Stewardship donations. When considering your stewardship, please note Philoptochos is a National organization with over 26,000 members in 400 chapters. We are also members of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos with over 3,600 members and 43 chapters. \$23 of your donations will be applied to your National and your Metropolis membership, while the remainder will be used to support the various local charity projects ~ feeding the homeless (Beans & Bread), serving the community (Ronald McDonald House), student assistance at local schools. Payments accepted: Cash, Credit Card or PayPal Philoptochos2504@gmail.com (Payments questions ~ Philoptochos Treasurer, Lisa Jones-Venetos, 443.621.6805). Membership ~ Elaine Sackleh, 410.472.3258 or Mary Triandafilou, 410.528.1589.

PHILOPTOCHOS IS ~ PHILANTHROPY ~ FELLOWSHIP ~ FAITH IN ACTION

CALLING ALL GRADUATES: In **June (date TBD)** all graduates of the Saint Demetrios Community will be honored at Graduate Sunday. Philoptochos needs your help in reaching out to all our graduates (high school, college, graduate, and trade schools) to be included in the annual Graduate Sunday Program Booklet. Please have graduates you know fill out a biography form and submit it along with both a baby and senior photo for inclusion in this year's booklet. We don't want to miss recognizing any graduate. **June 1st** is the final day to submit information/photos to Maria Stamas at colossalcare@gmail.com. If you have any questions or need a form emailed to you, please email or call Maria Stamas, 443-253-2561.

Save-the-Date: God willing, on **October 4th** at Annunciation Orthodox Center in Baltimore, we will sponsor a symposium on human trafficking, led by Jeanne L. Allert, Founder and Executive Director of The Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care, we as mothers, sisters, grandmothers should be highly aware of. This can also be a chance for us to "meet and greet." Look for further details; we hope to see you **October 4th** at this important event. Stay safe and healthy under God's blessings. If anyone has any question please contact Margo Lambros at mlambros@comcast.net.

Protecting Our Earth ~ Saint Demetrios new "Green Team": Mosquitoes can make summer a challenge, and there are many companies out there that offer sprays, but these sprays are harmful to you and the environment, even if they are labeled as natural. You can more effectively combat mosquitoes in earth-friendly ways that won't be toxic, pollute air quality and kill good insects like honeybees. First, look around your yard for standing water and address these areas. Then, plant things mosquitoes hate like marigolds, catnip, citronella, lemon grass, scented geraniums, peppermint, lavender and basil! If you drink coffee, collect your grounds and sprinkle them around your home weekly, especially in wetter areas of your yard. This helps to stop the larvae. Finally, a Dynatrap device doesn't zap but uses carbon dioxide to lure mosquitoes and is very effective. Place it near where you like to be outside but not directly next to you for it to work best.

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
2019	\$382,000	\$791,705	\$313,125	\$177,261	399
2020	\$380,000	\$682,704	\$288,781	\$176,030	351

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

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ~ [2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7th ~ Holy Pentecost

June 14th ~ Memorial Sunday

June 14th ~ Flag Day

June 22nd ~ Philoptochos End-of-Year Dinner (*)

June 23rd ~ Scholarship Committee Meeting

June 22nd – 26th ~ Vacation Bible School (*)

June 29th ~ Apostles Peter & Paul Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

(*) denotes if church is open

KORITSIA

GOT SNEAKERS FUNDRAISER: 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. Please drop off your "**SHOE DONATION**" under the Portico. Contact Simone Volikas at strintis@hotmail.com for any further information of details.