

August 23, 2020

11th Sunday of Matthew

The Epistle Reading is I Corinthians 9:2-12. The Gospel Reading is Matthew 18:23-35. These Readings may be found on pages 1313 and 1166 in the Holy Bible or on page 80-82 in the Divine Liturgy Book.

Today we remember Apodosis of Koimisis of the Theotokos; Loupos, Martyr; Holymartyr Eireniaios, Bishop of Lougdun; Righteous Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympos.

The Altar Table Lamp is lit:

- *In loving memory of* Father Ernest Arambiges from his children, Vivian, Craig & Renee. May his memory be eternal.

The Vigil Lamp of the Iconostasion is lit by:

- Father Lou & the Parish Council *for the health & welfare of* the entire Saint Demetrios Community. May God watch over you and keep you safe during your summer travels.

The Altar Bread was prepared by Ritsa Economakis

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.

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! Thanks be to God that our church doors are open and once again we can all pray together in our church! To date, we have received 89% of the 2020 Stewardship Pledge Cards. Thank you! We continue to make progress! We ask that all remaining pledge cards be submitted by **August 31st**. 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 goods or healthy snacks for the community to share with their coffee. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Orthodox Dress Etiquette: With the warm weather quickly approaching, we would like to remind you that you are attending an Orthodox Christian Church and modesty and humility should always be in your forethought. Therefore, **shorts, flip-flops, spaghetti straps, short skirts, etc. are not acceptable**. Please remember that this is a House of God and dress accordingly.

Stewardship Envelopes: You may have noticed that the word **“STEWARDSHIP”** has been removed from the blue Stewardship return envelopes. The reason behind this is that several Parishioners and the Parish Council felt that it was advertising the fact that there were checks/cash inside the envelopes. Please **“DO NOT”** write the word **“STEWARDSHIP”** on these envelopes. The office staff is aware that the blue envelopes are designated specifically for Stewardship donations. Thank You.

The Book and Knitting Club will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 8th** at 9:00am in the Library. All are welcome whether you knit, crochet, or just want some good conversation.

Library News: The Library has 5,000 books and DVD's. We have books in Greek for children and adults. We have many religious books. Cookbooks, CD's ~ we have so much to offer. We are taking precautions by wiping the books and DVD's when they are being checked out or in. Don't have time to visit the Library no problem, stop by the Little Library. It is located right next to the mailbox. You just take a book and give a book. Don't have a book to give? Just take one anyway we have plenty to spare.

Parish Council Announces A New Ministry: Ushers. Long before the Coronavirus pandemic upended so much of life as we know it, the Parish Council had been considering the formation of a ministry of ushers, parishioners who would be on hand to help with various duties for the Sunday Liturgy. With the Metropolis reopening guidelines to make church attendance safer, came the immediate need for more help to handle the extra tasks.

Thank you to all who have stepped up to handle these duties during the past weeks after reopening. Most of you have been former Council members who already understand the importance of serving, but also realize that there are spiritual gifts that one receives when serving in this way.

The Council is now looking for parishioners who would like to join this new ministry as ushers for Sunday Liturgy. While the immediate need is to get us through this time of safety precautions, having a permanent ministry of stewards serving on Sundays would have many benefits to the parish and to the individuals who participate.

This new ministry is a way of turning the hardships of the past months into something positive and long-lasting for the glory of God. If you are interested in this ministry or have questions and/or suggestions, please contact Mary Triandafilou at 410.528.1589 or email at: mtrianda28@gmail.com

Protecting Our Earth ~ Saint Demetrios new “Green Team”: We all have it. We all have dirty laundry, washing and drying clothes and household items uses a lot of energy. The book, *50 Ways to Help the Planet* by *Sian Berry*, suggests the following ways to make laundry day more planet-friendly:

- ◆ Choose concentrated detergents with less packaging per wash and buy the largest size you can each time.
- ◆ Replace fabric softener with a cup of clear vinegar added during the rinse cycle. This neutralizes the soap and freshens clothes without using extra plastic packaged products.
- ◆ Always run a full load to get the most out of your machine.
- ◆ Hang things up to dry ~ outdoors whenever you can ~ rather than tumble drying.

Summer is in full swing . . .

God created the beauty of the beach and mountains that we so much enjoy in the summer. A relationship with God is a two-way street. Don't let it slip into a one-way deal, enjoying the beauty of God's creation while ignoring the creator.

It doesn't matter how you do it, just keep GOD in your summer plans!

PHILOPTOCHOS

This is a “Save-the-Date” notice from the Baltimore Philoptochos chapters to all the Philoptochos Sisterhood in Maryland. God willing, on **October 4th** at the St. Demetrios Orthodox Center in Baltimore, we will sponsor a symposium on human trafficking. Dr. Mary Ann G. Gort, Founder and Executive Director of The Samaritan Women Institute, will be the guest speaker. Human trafficking is an evil that knows no age, gender, race or other socio-economic boundaries. We are asking that we as mothers, sisters, grandmothers should be highly aware of. This can also be a great opportunity for us to “meet and greet.” Look for further details, we hope to see you on **October 4th**.

Postponed

Hunger Knows No Season: Philoptochos Food Drive ~ GEDCO, Baltimore Hunger Project & Veterans. Please consider donating for those less fortunate this year, donations can be placed in the Blue Bin near the bridge, we are also willing to pick-up items from your home. Items needed: canned soups, canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam, ham), canned vegetables (sauerkraut, sweet potatoes, corn, carrots, spinach, green beans, peas, mixed veggies), spaghetti noodles & sauce, instant mash potatoes, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, pudding, cookies, protein bars, healthy drink bags, word find, sudoku and adult coloring books. Monetary donations also accepted: checks can be made payable to: Saint Demetrios Philoptochos (memo check as food drive). We are also collecting monetary donations for school supplies (memo check as school supplies). Please contact Mary Tsakiris 410.245.1291 / tsakisa@comcast.net or Joanna Beleos 410.458.1547 / jbeleos@gmail.com. Thank you for your donations.

Save the date: Philoptochos Big Fat Greek Bingo . . . God willing, will be held on **Saturday, October 17th, 2020** at the Hermès Rafailides Hall. We will follow all COVID-19 guidelines to assure we all stay Healthy and Safe. Reserve your tables. Limited tickets available. Please contact Mary Tsakiris 410-245-1291.

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 Volakis at srintis@hotmail.com for any further information of details.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Crusader Kids Summer Program is open and in full swing. For more information please contact the Saint Demetrios Pre-School at 410.661.1090 ext. 204 or preschool2504@gmail.com.

Pre-School & “Kindergarten” Registration now enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year for Pre-School and a new “**KINDERGARTEN**” class. For more information please contact the Saint Demetrios Pre-School at 410.661.1090 ext. 204 or preschool2504@gmail.com.

Orthodox Observer News: The Orthodox Observer News will no longer be mailing out their newsletter, it is available on-line only. If you would like to continue reading The Orthodox Observer News please register at www.communications@goarch.org and the newsletter will be sent directly to your in-box.

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.

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	\$329,446	\$243,648	432
2020	\$380,000	\$682,704	\$321,515	\$252,593	407

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<u>Monday, August 24th</u> Crusader Kids Summer Program 8:00am-5:00pm	<u>Wednesday, August 26th</u> Crusader Kids Summer Program 8:00am-5:00pm	<u>Friday, August 28th</u> Crusader Kids Summer Program 8:00am-5:00pm
<u>Tuesday, August 25th</u> Crusader Kids Summer Program 8:00am-5:00pm	<u>Thursday, August 27th</u> Crusader Kids Summer Program 8:00am-5:00pm	<u>Sunday, August 30th</u> <i>12th Sunday of Matthew</i> Orthros, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, 10:00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crusader Kids Summer Program, August 24th thru 28th
Memorial Sunday, September 13th
Kids Clothing Exchange, October 6th thru 13th