

December 20, 2020

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; Holymartyr Ignatios the “God-Mantled, 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 & her brother Chris Economakis. May his memory be eternal.

The Vigil Lamp is lit by:

- Gabriel Pantelis *in loving memory of* his late wife, Elaine who fell asleep in the Lord 22 years ago. May her memory be eternal.
- George & Marcella Lambros and their children & grandchildren *in loving memory of* their parents, grandparents and their brother and uncle. May their memory be eternal.
- Voula Georgitsos and Family *in loving memory of* husband, father and grandfather, John Georgitsos who fell asleep in the Lord 4 years ago. May his memory be eternal.

The Altar Bread was prepared by: Ritsa Economakis.

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!

We have been experiencing telephone difficulties. If you need to reach the church office, please call 410.661.1090 ext. 202 (office) or ext. 204 (pre-school) or email us at: saintdemetriosmd@gmail.com

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.

Community Christmas Card has been mailed. Please accept our apologize for any misspelled names.

Christmas Service (time change): The Liturgy for Christmas Day will be celebrated on *Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th* beginning with Orthros at 6:30pm followed by the Divine Liturgy at 7:30pm. Please make note that there will not be any services on Christmas Day. Due to COVID restrictions the Parish Council and their families **will not** be sponsoring the annual coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy.

2021 Calendars: We have begun distributing the 2021 Ecclesiastical Calendar & Daily Bible Reading Guides to all Stewards of Saint Demetrios. Please pick-up your calendar after Divine Liturgy in the Narthex 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.

2020 Stewardship: If you have made a 2020 Stewardship pledge, please ensure you are up to date in fulfilling your commitment for the year. Let us all strive to be 100% by the end-of-year and finish strong. Thank you for your diligence! per family.

The Book and Knitting Club will meet on **Tuesday, January 12th at 9:00am-12:00pm** in the Boardroom. All are welcomed whether you knit, crochet, or just want some nice conversation.

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! To date, we have received 98% of the 2020 Stewardship Pledges! Please help us to get to 100%. Our 2021 Stewardship drive is upon us. You should have already received your pledge card in the mail for your 2021 commitment. Our financial security is dependent upon Stewardship, and we ask that you carefully consider your 2021 pledge. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our annual Saint Demetrios Greek Festival and other fundraising activities and our Church Play may also be affected. Unfortunately, our church expenses essentially remained the same. Please prayerfully consider increasing your 2021 Stewardship Pledge to help support our beloved Saint Demetrios Church. Our ultimate goal is to support 100% of our operating budget through Stewardship. Won't you do all you can to bring this goal to fruition? Please strive to submit your 2021 commitment prior to the close of 2020. Let's start 2021 strong!

SUBURBAN PLAYERS

The Suburban Players proudly announces that this year's
46th production will be:



Matinee Show Dates:

Saturday, February 13th & 20th, 2021

Doors open at 11:30am / Show starts at 12:00noon

Dinner Theatre Show Dates:

Friday, February 19th & 26th, 2021

Saturday, February 13th, 20th & 27th, 2021

Sunday, February 14th & 21st, 2021

Friday and Saturday Shows:

Doors open at 6:00pm / Dinner at 6:30pm

Show starts at 8:00pm

Sunday Shows:

Doors open at 4:00pm / Dinner at 4:30pm

Show starts at 6:00pm

Tickets are on sale now:

Matinee ~ \$25.00 / Dinner Theater ~ \$55.00

Tickets can be purchased by [calling Eleni Libertini 443.390.2981](tel:443.390.2981) (text or voice) or [email: suburbanplayers2504@gmail.com](mailto:suburbanplayers2504@gmail.com)

For more information, please visit our website: www.suburbanplayers.com

LIFE-LINE SCREENING: Life-Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on January 8, 2021. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation of irregular heartbeat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening form \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word circle to 797979.**

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

ViaVIA's Treasures: The last chance to shop will be today, immediately following liturgy.

Stockings of Joy: Now accepting items to stuff into stockings for Veterans – Items needed are crossword and search word books, masks, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, full size Toiletries: Shampoos, toothpaste, hair gel, shaving cream, razors etc. Please place items into the blue bins in the hallway ~ Please contact Mary Tsakiris with any questions 410.245.1291

Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Fundraiser: Still looking for some gift ideas? Gift cards are still available from Texas Roadhouse. Philoptochos will receive 10% of every gift card sold. The promotion ends Saturday, December 19th. Please go to <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=591596&> to purchase your gift card!

Philoptochos wishes everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas!

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 strintis@hotmail.com for any further information of details.

PRE-SCHOOL

Saint Demetrios Pre-School Registration: We are accepting Registration Forms for the 2020-2021 School Year, for the Saint Demetrios Infant & Toddler Program, Two-Year-Old Program, Pre-School, and Pre-Kindergarten. For more information about this wonderful academic, spiritual and cultural educational program, please contact us via phone: 410.661.1090 x204 or email: preschool2504@gmail.com

Special Thank You: We hope you are enjoying the efforts of the stewards that decorated our beloved Saint Demetrios Church for the Christmas Season. Every year those who help find this to be truly a labor of love. Fr. Lou and Gus Galanakis placed the tree in the stand. The women arrived ready to trim the tree, decorate the windows and hang the wreaths. All of this effort took place on **Friday, December 11th**. Join us next year as we prepare for the arrival of our Savior. May we all enjoy this beautiful time of year with God's Blessing. A Special Thank you to Kelly MacDonnell for chairing this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve ~ Office Closing at 12:00pm ~ December 24th
Christmas Eve ~ Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil ~ December 24th

Orthros, 6:30pm / Divine Liturgy, 7:30pm

Christmas Day ~ December 25th ~ No Services

Pre-School & Office Closed ~ December 26th

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 5th

Orthros, 9:00am / Divine Liturgy, 10:00am

Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters Divine Liturgy ~ January 6th at 10:00am

Feast of Saint John the Baptist Divine Liturgy ~ January 7th at 10:00am

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	\$357,216	\$326,753	465
2020	\$380,000	\$682,704	\$352,866	\$339,305	446

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<p><u>Monday, December 21st</u> Pre-School, 8:30am Greek School 4:30pm-7:30pm Legally Blonde Rehearsal, 7:00pm</p> <p><u>Tuesday, December 22nd</u> Pre-School, 8:30am</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, December 23rd</u> Pre-School, 8:30am No Greek School Legally Blonde Rehearsal, 7:00pm</p> <p><u>Thursday, December 24th</u> <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil</i> <i>Orthros, 6:30pm</i> <i>Divine Liturgy, 7:30pm</i> Office Closing at 12:00pm No Pre-School or Child Care</p>	<p><u>Friday, December 25th</u> <i>Merry Christmas</i> No Services Pre-School & Office Closed</p> <p><u>Sunday, December 27th</u> <i>Sunday After Nativity</i> <i>Orthros, 9:00am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy, 10:00am</i> Virtual Church School Legally Blonde Rehearsal, 12:30pm</p>
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