

January 3, 2021

Sunday before Theophany

The Epistle Reading is Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60. The Gospel Reading is Matthew 2:13-23. These Readings may be found on pages 1267 and 1148 in the Holy Bible or on page 124 in the Divine Liturgy Book.

Today we remember Post-Nativity; Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the prophet, and Iakovos (James) the Brother of our Lord; First Martyr and Deacon Stephen; Righteous Theodore the Composer.

The Altar Table Lamp is lit by:

- The Saint Demetrios Community *in loving memory of* founding steward, Christopher Makres, who fell asleep in the Lord 6 days ago. May his memory be eternal.

The Vigil Lamp is lit by:

- Fr. Lou and the Parish Council for the *health and welfare of* the Saint Demetrios Community for the 2021 New Year.

The Vasilopita Breads cut in church today were generously donated by Gus, Ritsa & Georgia Economakis, *in loving memory of* their son & her brother, Chris Economakis.

The Altar Bread was prepared by Ritsa Economakis.

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.

Registration for weekly services: Due to COVID restricts, please contact the church office to register if planning to attend a weekday service, sacrament or funeral.

The Book and Knitting Club is a very thriving ministry. Our ladies knitted and crocheted many beautiful things, baby blankets, scarves, hats, blankets, etc. 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.

2021 Calendars: Please contact the church office, if you would like your 2021 Ecclesiastical Calendar & Daily Bible Reading Guides mailed to you. 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!

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%. ***We request that all stewards complete their 2020 pledges by January 15, 2022.*** 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!

Library News: Hard to believe that the Christmas Holiday is over. The Vasilopita or the Lucky Bread or Cake is cut at midnight on January 1st in honor of Saint Basil. Ever wonder why this tradition is observed? One time during a terrible famine the emperor imposed an excessive tax on the people of Caesarea. To avoid imprisonment of each family member, the people gave what few coins and family heirlooms they had. Learning of this injustice Saint Basil picked-up his staff and the Holy Gospels and fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. The emperor did repent, and he instructed his tax collectors to return to Saint Basil all the coins and jewelry. Saint Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge pita. He then called each owner and in his pieces were their treasurers. Everyone was joyous and thanked God. In remembrance of this miracle all Orthodox Christians observe this tradition of the Vasilopita on January 1st. Interested in our traditions come and visit our Library. We have a lot to offer. Don't have time to visit the Library, we have the Little Library right next to the mailbox. You take a book and replace it with one of yours. Don't want to give, no problem we have plenty to spare

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](tel:443.390.2981)
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

PHILOPTOCHOS

January 4, 2021 – Board Meeting – 6:30pm

Vasilopita Sunday: Today is Vasilopita Sunday. A collection will be taken with proceeds going to Saint Basil's Academy. Please be as generous as possible.

The Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos would like to wish everyone a Happy Healthy New Year!!

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

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

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.**

Cemetery Cleaning: Please be advised that the cemetery will be cleared of all Christmas decorations the week ending **February 6th**. If you have any artificial decorations that you would like to save for future use kindly remove them before this date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Memorial Sunday ~ January 10th

Parish Council Meeting ~ January 12th at 7:00pm

Book/Knitting Club ~ January 14th at 9:00am

Martin Luther King Birthday ~ Office, Pre-School & Greek School Closed ~ January 18th

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
2020	\$380,000	\$682,704	\$154,507	\$20,295	140
2021	\$380,000	\$621,900	\$162,596	\$17,932	135

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<p><u>Monday, January 4th</u> Pre-School, 8:30am Greek School, 4:30-7:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg, 6:30pm Legally Blonde Rehearsal, 7:00pm</p> <p><u>Tuesday, January 5th</u> Pre-School, 8:30am <i>Eve of the Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters</i> <i>Orthros, 9:00am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy, 10:00am</i> Legally Blonde Set Building</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, January 6th</u> Pre-School, 8:30am <i>Feast of Epiphany & Blessing of the Waters</i> <i>Divine Liturgy, 10:00am</i> Greek School, 4:30-7:30pm Legally Blonde Rehearsal, 7:00pm</p> <p><u>Thursday, January 7th</u> Pre-School, 8:30am <i>Feast of Saint John the Baptist</i> <i>Divine Liturgy, 10:00am</i> Legally Blonde Set Building</p> <p><u>Friday, January 8th</u> Pre-School, 8:30am Life-Line Screening, 8:00-5:30pm</p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 10th</u> <i>Sunday after Theophany</i> Orthros, 9:00am Divine Liturgy, 10:00am Memorial Sunday Virtual Church School Legally Blonde Rehearsal, 12:30pm</p>
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