

St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

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Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Cook (517) 515-9565

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

Under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the

Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I

2017/2018 Parish Council

President - Eftihios Siradakis (2017)

Vice Pres. - Dr. David Nichols (2018)

Treasurer - Dennis Ostler (2018)

Secretary - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Thomas Barris (2017)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Micah Chisholm (2018)

Vicki Clifford (2018)

Soula Economou (2017)

Joni Porchia (2017)

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez (2018)

James Stamas (2018)

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Altar Boy Advisor

Dr. George Zubulake

Chanters

Andreas Skoutelas

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Choir

Director - Toula Brown

Philoptochos President

Joni Porchia

Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

Greek School Director

Elan Nichols

AHEPA President

George Zaharopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President

Vicki Clifford

GOYA Advisors

Dr. Andrew Bazakis

Dr. Bessie Bone

Dance Group Directors

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

Ashley Dietzel, Kellie Malacos

Diakonia Editor

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

DIAKONIA

JANUARY 2018

The New Year, Theophany, and Beginning Again

By: Fr. Timothy Cook



Happy New Year! I can't believe that it's already 2018, much less that with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee coming up on January 29th, Lent is already looming. (Aren't we still celebrating Christmas?)

The New Year has become the time for us to reflect on the year we just left behind – what we liked, what we disliked, and what we would like to change. We make resolutions that this year we'll do better, this year we won't fall into the same traps. This year, 2018, will be the year of the better, wiser, healthier "us."

Self-assessment is, generally speaking, a good thing. However, I suspect that most people have the same experience that I do. We make grand sweeping resolutions and keep them for a few days, perhaps a couple of weeks, and then fall back into our old routines until the next new year, when we remember our previous failure and try again.

I don't say this to depress anyone, but rather to observe that it's very difficult to implement sweeping changes to our lives. Change, when it happens, comes slowly, and with a great deal of effort on our part and help from others. This is true regardless of whether we're talking about implementing a new exercise routine or trying to take on or increase a spiritual discipline. It takes hard work and community support to make even small changes to our lives.

With that in mind, it is providential that this month is the time in which we celebrate Theophany, the commemoration of the revelation of God in the flesh at Christ's baptism. On January 6th, with the Great Blessing of the Waters, we will participate in the cleansing and consecration of the waters and the renewal of all Creation. Even more, we will renew our own cleansing and consecration which we received at baptism, so that we also might be renewed to begin again the great work of repentance.

Christianity is full of new beginnings – indeed, every year we progress through the same cycle of fasting and feasting, of prayer and repentance, so that each year we can move a little farther into the mystery that is Christ and His Church. As we celebrate this great feast of Theophany and the renewal of all Creation, I encourage all of you to take advantage of the opportunity of the feast to begin again to consecrate yourselves to the Lord – to begin again this year to engage in the life of the Church and the cycles of repentance. Lent is already on the horizon, with all of the struggles and opportunities for repentance that it offers. But let's not try to do it alone, and if we make a resolution at this New Year, let us all resolve that this year will not be another year that gets away. Come to Church, come to Confession – not merely to rehearse a laundry list of sins and manage guilt, but to experience the loving communion of God, and to learn how to make those slow changes with the support of Christ and His Church. Let us feast (and prepare to fast) together, because only together can we change. Only together can we turn back in repentance to God. Only together can we enter the Kingdom of God.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

PARISH COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Saginaw, Michigan is to promote the tenets of Orthodox Christianity in the community through ministry, evangelism and spiritual leadership.

VISION OF OUR PARISH

To worship God, Fellowship with One Another,
and to Serve the World.

Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule

- Jan. 7 P: Pres Peggy Bistolarides
F: Vasilopita & Chris & Yiota Psetas
- Jan. 14 P: Haroula Reitz
F: Megan & Matt Rodriguez
- Jan. 21 P: Fran Rouman
F: Dr. Majed & Rheame Sahouri
- Jan. 28 P: Fani Samaras
F: F.T. & Bev Siradakis



Many thanks to all the women who prepare the Prosforon each week. It is truly an important offering for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you are unable to prepare Prosforon for your scheduled Sunday, please contact the church office promptly.

Thank You!

To all those who donated to the Giving Tree and the Food Baskets. There were 92 names on the Giving Tree that received gifts and 52 Food Baskets were distributed. Thank you also to those who packed & distributed the baskets.

Special thanks to Andrea Farris, for chairing these holiday projects. She did an amazing job!

It is a great joy and privilege to be able to share the love of Christ to those in need and a blessing to see his ministry grow.

ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES



- 12/3** - Better Health for Angela (Stamas)
Wojda by Jim & Marsha Stamas & Family
- 12/3** - Spiritual Favors & Special Purposes for
Orora Sezenias by George & Virginia Ulmer
- 12/3** - In Memory of my Mother, Mary
Kouvelas, by Elaine Kimmerly
- 12/7** - In Memory of my Brother, Charles
Nichols, departed 4 years by Gabriella
Economous
- 12/11** - In Memory of my Father, John
Nichols, departed 23 years by Gabriella
Economous
- 12/17** - In Memory of Derek by the Caldwelles



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Daughter's Christmas party & meeting was held on Sunday, Dec. 10th. Many thanks to Peggy Nemode who opened her home to the group and prepared the wonderful main course. An enjoyable time was had by all.

As is the Daughter's custom, during the Christmas season, selecting organizations that need help was the first order of business. It was decided donate to First Choice (an organization that helps the handicapped live on their own) and Music to Minors an organization that teaches music to disadvantaged students. Additionally, the Daughters picked up the remaining 17 names off the giving tree and bought them all gifts. Much thanks again to Peggy Nemode who did all the shopping. We wish everyone a

HAPPY & HEALTHY 2018!!!

PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Happy New Year to all our Philoptochos sisters! 2017 was a great year for us, we served our church and community with love and good deeds. 2018 will bring new and exciting opportunities for us to build on our goals to help and give hope to those in need. Mark your calendars for January 11, 2018 for our monthly meeting at 6:00 pm, Red Lobster, Bay Road . Looking forward for another great year! Thanks to all for your hard work and commitment to our goals!!

Joni Porchia
President

SAINT DEMETRIOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS • JANUARY, 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY Leavelaking of Nativity Alypius of Adrianopolis I I Timothy 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	1 FAST FREE Circumcision of the Lord Basil the Great Colossians 2:8-12 Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	2 FAST FREE Forefeast of Theophany Pope Sylvester Hebrews 5:4-10 John 3:1-15	3 FAST FREE Forefeast of Theophany Prophet Malachi Martyr Gordios I Timothy 3:13-16;4:1-5 Matthew 3:1-6	4 FAST FREE Forefeast of Theophany Synaxis of the 70 Apostles Theocistus the Righteous I Corinthians 4:9-16 John 1:18-28	5 STRICT FAST Ewe of Theophany I Corinthians 9:19-27 Luke 3:1-18 Royal Hours (8:00 am) Vespers Liturgy (10:00 am) Great Blessing of the Waters	6 HOLY THEOPHANY Theophan the Recluse Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7 Matthew 3:13-17 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Great Blessing of the Waters
7 SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY Synaxis of St. John Acts 19:1-8 John 1:29-34 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Cutting of the Vasilopita PC Oath of Office	8 George of Hozeva Dominica the Righteous Romans 6:3-11 John 3:22-33	9 Martyr Polyeuctus Eustratios the Wonderworker II Timothy 2:1-10 Mark 1:9-15	10 Gregory of Nyssa Domnetian, Bishop of Melitene Ephesians 4:7-13 Luke 3:19-22 Journey to Fullness (6 pm)	11 Theodosius the Cenobiarh Nektarios of Crete Hebrews 13:7-16 Luke 4:1-15	12 Martyr Tatiana Hieromartyrs Vasilios & John Acts 18:22-28 John 10:39-42	13 ◆ Saturday after Epiphany Hermylus & Stratonicus Ephesians 6:10-17 Matthew 4:1-11 Choir Rehearsal (4:00 pm) Chant Meeting (5:00 pm) Great Vespers (5:30 pm)
14 LEAVETAKING OF THEOPHANY Agnes the Virgin-Martyr Nina of Georgia Ephesians 4:7-13 Matthew 4:12-17 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Philoptochos Meeting	15 Paul of Thebes John the Hut-Dweller Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2 Luke 12:32-40 Parish Council Mtg. (7 pm)	16 Veneration of the Chains of the Apostle Peter Righteous Makarios Acts 12:1-11 John 21:14-25	17 ☩ Anthony the Great Anthony of Bertrapas New Martyr George Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23 Journey to Fullness (6 pm)	18 Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria Zenia the Martyr Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19	19 Macarius the Great Mark, Bishop of Ephesus Arsenius of Corfu Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2 Matthew 22:35-46	20 ◆ Euthymius the Great Zacharias the New Martyr II Corinthians 4:6-15 Luke 6:17-23 Choir Rehearsal (4:00 pm) Chant Meeting (5:00pm) Great Vespers (5:30 pm)
21 15 TH SUNDAY OF LUKE Maximus the Confessor I Timothy 4:9-15 Luke 19:1-10 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	22 Timothy of the 70 Martyr Anastasius of Persia II Timothy 1:3-8 Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30	23 Hieromartyr Clement Martyr Agathangelus Philipians 3:20-21;4:1-3 Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5	24 ☩ Xenia, Deaconess of Rome Hieromartyr Babylas Galatians 5:22-26;6:1-2 Mark 12:28-37 Journey to Fullness (6 pm)	25 Gregory the Theologian Synaxis of the New Martyrs of Russia Hebrews 7:26-28;8:1-2 John 10:9-16	26 Xenophon & Companions Symeon the Elder II Peter 1:1-10 Mark 13:1-8	27 ◆ Relics of John Chryssostom Hebrews 7:26-28;8:1-2 John 10:9-16 Mt. Pleasant Liturgy (10 am) Choir Rehearsal (4:00 pm) Chant Meeting (5:00pm) Great Vespers (5:30 pm)
28 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE Triodion Begins Ephraim & Isaac the Syrians II Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	29 Relics of Ignatius the Godbearer Laurence the Recluse Hebrews 10:32-38 Mark 9:33-41	30 ◆ Three Hierarchs Hippolytos, Pope of Rome Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	31 Cyrus & John, the Holy Unmercenaries I Corinthians 12:27-31;13:1-8 Matthew 10:1, 5-8 Journey to Fullness (6 pm)			

• Shaded days denote a fast day. ☩ denotes a Liturgy ◆ Great Vespers/Compline ❖ Akathist/Paraklesis ⌘ Presanctified Liturgy ⏪ fish/wine/oil allowed ☩ wine/oil allowed

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ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

February 11, 2017

All teens interested in participating contact
Tena Mendyk



If you would like to have your house blessed this season, please fill out the following information and submit it to the Church office. You can also fill it out online at www.stdemetrios.mi.goarch.org/house-blessings

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Date desired: _____ Time of day: _____

House Blessing FAQ

1. Who should be present? Answer: As many familymembers as possible. We are blessing both the house itself and the people who live in it, as an extension and reflection of the Church.
2. What do I need to have ready? Answer: An icon on a table near your icon corner, or in the kitchen or dining room. Candles and/or incense are welcome but not required. A bunch of fresh basil or some kind of greenery is also welcome, but not required.
3. Do I need to deep-clean the house? Answer: Whatever makes you comfortable.
4. Do I need to have a meal ready? Answer: No. There are many homes to bless, and not enough hours in the day to get everything done and share a meal with every parishioner (as nice as that would be).
5. My house was blessed last year, do I need to do it again? Answer: It's up to you! It's traditional to do it every year, as a renewal of the dedication of our homes as "little churches," but there's no expiration date on the blessing.

Other questions? Call or email Fr. Timothy at 989-793-8822 or frtimothycook@gmail.com.