

St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

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989-793-8659
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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

2016/17 Parish Council

President - Megan Rodriguez (2016)

Vice Pres. - Dr. David Nichols (2016)

Treasurer - Dennis Ostler (2016)

Secretary - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Thomas Barris (2016)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Bill Delong (2016)

Yvonne Delong (2016)

Soula Economou (2017)

Eleni Morris (2016)

Joanie Porchia (2017)

Eftihios Siradakos (2016)

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Altar Boy Advisor

Panayiotis Metropoulos

Chanters

Andreas Skoutelas

Maria Metropoulos

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Choir

Director - Toula Brown

Asst. Director - Elan Nichols

Philoptochos President

Virginia Ulmer

Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

Sunday School Directors

Alexia & Evan Houpis

AHEPA President

George Zaharopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President

Vicki Clifford

GOYA Advisors

Dr. Andrew Bazakis

Bessie Bone

Dance Group Directors

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

Alexander Sarantis & Jacob Bone

Diakonia Editor

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

DIAKONIA

JANUARY 2017



Revealing Reality – Theophany, 2017

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

On Christmas we celebrate the coming of Christ, Who is called “Emmanuel,” meaning “God is with us.” Christ comes into the world to save it, and He saves it first by uniting it to Himself. Our nature is purified and sanctified because Christ takes it upon Himself, becoming like us so that we can become like Him. This what Christ does: He unites all things to Himself so that in Him all things might be united with God and in that union be purified and sanctified. Christ saves the world by communing with it, and we find our salvation in communion with Him. This is the new reality that comes into the world with Christ – that God is not separate from us but is with us now and forever as our “Emmanuel,” “God with us.”

At the feast of Theophany we celebrate the service of the Great Blessing of the Waters. All around the world, priests and bishops will bless basins of waters, streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans – participating in and remembering the original blessing when Christ descended into the waters of the Jordan River and sanctified them by His baptism. In the blessing of the waters that we do every January 6th, we remember and reveal again for the world the reality of God with us, the reality that God has come and lives among us, communing with us, and by that communion has changed the world. Our blessing of the waters reveals the blessing that Christ has already brought upon all the waters of the world, it reveals the consecrated waters as a source of life and purity, all that God intended them to be from the foundation of the world. In the same way when we bless our houses, we do not so much change them as reveal the change that God has already made in them – that they are an extension of the church building, a habitation of the people of God and a place where God dwells among men.

This is the reality that we know as Christians – that God is with us. This is the reality that we celebrate at Christmas and Theophany and at every house blessing – that we live continually in the presence of God. As we begin a new calendar year with its traditions of self-reflection and resolutions for the new year, let us resolve first and foremost to live our lives each day a little more in that reality – trusting and loving God more each day, so that each day might be a reflection of the reality that God has revealed to us: that He is with us.

Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule

Jan. 1	P: Annie Bazakis	F: Micah & Stephanie Chisholm
Jan. 8	P: Pres Peggy Bistolarides	F: Mark & Koula Legner
Jan. 15	P: Teona Maghlakelidze	F: Nick & Grace Makrianis
Jan. 22	P: Tena Mendyk	F: Faye Mente & Mersina Karris
Jan. 29	P: Virginia Ulmer	F: Helen & Adam Morris



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.

Thank You!

To all those who donated to the Giving Tree and the Food Baskets. 22 Baskets & accompanying gifts were distributed. Thank you also to those who packed & distributed the baskets. Special thanks to Andrea Farris, Micah and Stephanie Chisholm for chairing these holiday projects. They did a great 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.

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

February 19, 2017

All teens interested in participating contact Tena Mendyk

Theophany is House Blessing Season!



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.

ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES



- 11/27 - Successful operation for Nick & Betty Stamas by Jim & Marsha Stamas
11/27 - Good Health for Stephanie Stephan by George & Virginia Ulmer
11/27 - For Families & Relatives and Better Health for Miriam Nabil by Miriam Haddad
11/27 - Better Health for Electra Tarachas by Petro & Sandra Ahejew
11/27 - Better Health for Penny Metropoulos by Petro & Sandra Ahejew
11/28 - In Memory of Rick Cittadino by the Porchia Family
12/4 - Better Health for Stephanie Stephan by Petro & Sandra Ahejew
12/4 - In Memory of Mother & Grandmother, Mary Kouvelas by Elaine Kimmerly
12/5 - Better Health for my brother, Clete Nichols by Gabriella Economous
12/5 - In Memory of my brother, Charles Nichols, departed 3 years by Gabriella Economous
12/11 - In Memory of my father, John Nichols, departed 22 years by Gabriella Economous
12/11 - Successful Recovery from operation for Nick & Betty Stamas by Jim & Marsha Stamas
12/11 - For Frederick Ostler by Dennis & Soula Ostler
12/11 - Better Health for Olga Anagnost by Christ Anagnost
12/11 - In Memory of my brother Konstantinos Koutras by The Tony Koutras Family
12/14 - In Memory of Derek by the Caldwell Family

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Saginaw, MI
Permit # 107

Church Office Hours:
10a.m. - 2p.m. Mon. & Thurs.
Office # 989-793-8822
Email Address:
stdemetriosmi@gmail.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Daughter's Christmas party & meeting was held on Thursday, Dec. 15th. 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.

PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Our last meeting was held on December 11th...a snowy Sunday that made it difficult to get to church. We did have several members brave the weather to worship and attend our meeting. Since we did not have many members there, we had a very quick, casual meeting so that everyone could get home safely. We still managed to get a lot of plans made.

Our annual Christmas luncheon was held on December 18th. A HUGE thank you to Soula Economou for making her fabulous sauce. She and her crew worked hard in the kitchen so that we could all enjoy a wonderful lenten meal of spaghetti, sauce, salad and rolls. We had a great crowd and Mr. & Mrs. Claus stopped by to visit with all the Sunday School children. A 50/50 raffle was held and the winner was Linda Hubbell. Congratulations, Linda!

We would like to thank Elaine Tambouridis for her generous donation to cover the cost of the Christmas luncheon in memory of her late husband, Costa. May his memory be eternal.

Our Pre-Order Bake Sale was a huge success!! Again...thank you to Joni Porchia and Eleni Morris for chairing this project, doing all the prep work, organizing the baking, packaging and pick-up days. A daunting job...and so well done! These funds will go directly to local charities.

I would like to thank everyone in the congregation that brought coats for our "One Warm Coat" project. Because of your generosity, this winter will be much more comfortable for our needy brothers and sisters. God bless you all...!!!

I pray that everyone had a blessed Christmas day and may we all look forward to a happy, healthy new year.

Virginia Ulmer
President