# THE VINE

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 57 Brown Street, Weston, MA 02493

Jesus said,
"I am the vine;
you are the branches.
If a man remains
in me and I in him,
he will bear
much fruit."

(John 15:5)

### Contents

Liturgical Schedule2
Stewardship Spotlight3
Youth4 & 5
Photos
Events7
Calendar8
Philoptochos9
News & Events10 & 11
Announcements12

### Fr. Vinnie's Message

### Beloved in the Lord,

Glory to God, we are about to enter a very special time of preparation, the Triodion. Ten Sundays before Pascha, this period of preparation begins. The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, February 5th, marks the beginning of this pre-Lenten period.

The Triodion is actually a book of services, hymns, scripture readings and prayers used for services in the Church. The Triodion period, however, is the start of a journey, a path that leads us to Lent, and beyond that to Holy Week and Pascha.

The pre-Lenten period has four biblical themes for each Sunday that serve as an introduction and blueprint for our Lenten Journey. They are:

- 1. Prayer Sunday- Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee- Luke 18: 10-14
- 2. Repentance Sunday- Parable of the Prodigal Son- Luke 15: 11-32
- 3. Judgment Sunday- Parable of God's Final Judgment/Meatfare Sunday-Matthew 25: 31-46
- 4. Forgiveness Sunday- Cheesefare Sunday- Matthew 6: 14-21

Even if we learn how to pray, how to repent, how to treat others, all are worthless unless we learn how to forgive. These must be mastered before we begin to attempt to participate in Great Lent. It is my hope and prayer that we all begin our Lenten journey by taking the very first steps of worship, prayer, fasting, and studying God's word by preparing our souls and hearts to receive Christ.

The Church in her wisdom guides us slowly into the Great Fast and teaches us the true meaning of fasting, beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. It is quite interesting that we begin the Triodion without fasting. There is no fasting during the first week of the Triodion. This is to show us that even though fasting is important, it can become a source of pride and a stumbling block in our journey of union with Christ. It is a reminder that we could become just as prideful as the Pharisee who bragged about all the good he did and how much better he was than the Publican. This is a time when we should turn our thoughts toward Christ and what He accomplished for us on the cross.

Each Sunday, each Gospel teaching can open and soften our hearts and eyes to see clearly what God's will is for us. It is certainly my hope and prayer that we are prepared to receive this joyful message. May God give us strength as we embark on this most holy time of year!

With love in the Lord,

Fr. Vinnie



### SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

### SUNDAY SERVICES ORTHROS, 8:30; DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30

February 5- Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

February 12- Sunday of the Prodigal Son

February 19- Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

February 26- Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)

#### **MID-WEEK SERVICES**

February 2- Presentation of Christ to the Temple Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 am

February 8- Paraklesis, 6 pm

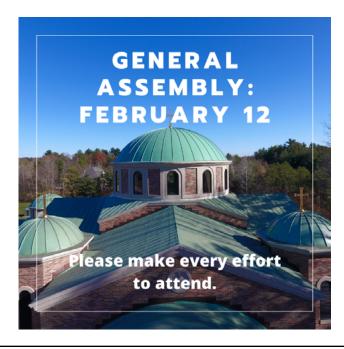
February 15- Paraklesis, 10 am

February 18- Saturday of Souls, 8:30 am

February 22- Paraklesis, 6 pm

February 25- Saturday of Souls, 8:30 am

February 27- Great Compline, 6 pm



#### SATURDAY OF THE SOULS

### February 18, 25, & March 4

All parishioners are invited to submit the names of departed loved ones to our clergy or the office, with the form below offered for your convenience. These vital days encourage our families to gather in holy remembrance; they remind us of the power of prayer. Please note that lists need only be submitted once and will be read at all three services.

# NAMES OF DECEASED ONOMATA ΑΠΟΘΑΝΟΝΤΩΝ

These names will be read at each Saturday of the Souls Service this year.

Please <u>PRINT</u> clearly the first names of departed family and friends that you wish to be remembered at these services.

,		
	X	

### STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Each month we feature a family as part of our Stewardship section of the Vine. Take a moment and learn more about the parishioners who make the fabric of our community here at St. Demetrios

### The Camp Family (Tom Camp and Dr. Cynthia Tsamtsouris Camp, and their sons, Alex, Nick, and Zach)

Tell us about yourself and your family.

We have been living in Weston, Massachusetts, since 2002. Our three boys attended the Weston public schools, graduating in 2014, 2016, and 2021. Alex and Nick received degrees from Tufts University, and Zach is a sophomore at George Washington University in D.C. Alex is in his second year at Boston University Law School and is living in Allston. Nick is working as a Data Analyst at Thompson Habib Denison in Lincoln, MA, and is living in Somerville.



### St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

57 Brown St. Weston, MA 02493 (781) 237-5561 (781) 237-8612 (fax) www.stdemetriosweston.org

### Fr. Vincent Minucci

Proistamenos frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org

### Fr. Nicholas Krommydas

Pastor Emeritus frnick@stdemetriosweston.org

#### **Marianne Kent**

Office Administrator office@stdemetriosweston.org

Fr. Vincent Minucci, Proistamenos Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Pastor Emeritus Marianne Kent, Office Administrator Nicholas Korderas, Sexton Athena Kalyvas, Parish Council President Matina Pappas, Philoptochos President

Stewardship, Dimitri Georgakopoulos

Bookstore, Carol Loridas
Choir, Genie Leussis, Chris Tzellas, Athena Kalyvas
Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Library, Cindi Dabrowski
Mailing Ministry, Portia Pantages
Bible Study, Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas
Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
Byzantine Chant Ministry, Yianno Tsamutalis
Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis
Young Adults, Richard and Marianne Kent

#### **Faith and Works Ministries**

St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach, Peter Mitsakos St. Nicholas Giving Tree, Nancy Agris Savage YOCAMA, Jill Kovatsis Peace Ministry, Peter Panagopoulos IOCC, Andrea Katsenes Habitat for Humanity, Gina Pagonis

### **Philoptochos Care Ministries**

**Hellenic Nursing Home**, Pam Brody **Prayer-Shawl**, Elaine Ward **Visitations**, Nikki Stournaras

### YOUTH

Altar Servers, Chris Kourlos
Basketball, Jack Markis
Church School, Leigh Doukas
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis
GOYA, Fr. Vinnie Minucci
Jr. GOYA, Kelly Marks, Carol Stathas, Alycia Spiropoulos
HOPE & JOY, Fr. Vinnie Minucci
Family First Friday, Pres. Nadia Minucci
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
Greek Folk Dancing, Alexandra Lull

Cynthia is a Periodontist, and she owns her own practice located in Bedford, MA, where she specializes in the treatment of gum disease and dental implants. Cynthia's mother and father immigrated from Greece in the 1960s to pursue their medical training. Her father began his career as a pediatrician and finished his medical career as an anesthesiologist. Her mother is a pediatric dentist and Professor Emeritus at Tufts Dental School, and she instilled the importance of God and prayer in their home. The family was a member of the Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church in Watertown.

Tom is a corporate and securities attorney, whose office is located in Wellesley. He works with business owners and investors, helping them structure and negotiate the terms of business acquisitions, investments, other contracts, and the like. As part of his practice, he represents many dentists. Tom grew up in and around Portland, Maine, where his family members were active in the Woodfords Congregational Church (part of the United Church of Christ). Cynthia and Tom met while both were attending Tufts University in the 1980s. Because of Cynthia's strong feelings for the Church and her Greek heritage, Cynthia and Tom chose to be married in the Taxiarchae Church, and they raised their three boys in the Orthodox Faith.

Continued on page 10

p. 3 The Vine:February 2023

### YOUTH

### GOYA & JR. GOYA

This January we had wonderful opportunities for fellowship with our annual Christmas party. We look forward to a fun and exciting February! Please join us for the following events:







- Friday, February 10: Wing-a-thon prep for Superbowl Sunday, 6 pm Come help prep the wing orders and all the fixings for the big game!
- Sunday, February 12: Super Bowl Sunday Wing-athon, 11:40 am Help fulfill Wing-a-thon orders at coffee hour/after church!
- Friday, March 3: Salutations and Pasta Dinner, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm As part of your Lenten journey, join your fellow Goyans for Salutations in church, followed by a light lenten meal and discussion

If you want to be a part of our GOYA (grades 9-12) and Jr. GOYA (grades 6-8), please email Fr. Vinnie (frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org) to be put on our email lists!

### GREEK LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE SCHOOL

Greek School started the spring sessions with a Vasilopita cutting and blessing.









### **YOUTH**



### **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**



With big smiles, beautiful voices, and happy hearts the children of St. Demetrios Church School presented the Nativity Pageant on December 11th. They told the story of Jesus' birth and confirmed 'there is nothing that God cannot do!'













### **BASKETBALL**

The Metropolis Basketball season is at the mid-way point. Our Parish has Teams entered in each of the three divisions; JOY, Girls GOYA and Boys GOYA. Our kids and parents have enjoyed playing at Hellenic College and also had the opportunity to play at St. George in Lynn. The Team coaches are Lefteris Travayiakis and Manny Makkas (JOY), Maria Handrinos and Marc Broome (Girls GOYA) and Tom Rontiris and John Marks (Boys GOYA).



# **PHOTOS**

# Services for Theophany







### Vasilopita Sunday



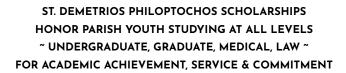




### Parish Council Oath of Office



### **EVENTS**



#### The deadline will be in April 2023

Each spring for forty-five years, the Philoptochos Society has awarded more than 100 scholarships to our community's young people to recognize their accomplishments across a broad spectrum of involvement from dedication to parish, love of the arts, academic achievement, community service, leadership, and more.

The scholarship funds were established to recognize several of our community's most treasured former members by their families. Each is given with a particular emphasis on the areas of life that were important to those in whose name the awards are given.

All scholarships are available to graduate and undergraduate students and must be used for educational expenses. Applicant or applicant's family must have been members in good standing of our parish for at least the last two years, be enrolled or accepted into a degree-granting, accredited college/university in the U.S., and be a U.S. citizen. Eligible applicants, which include former recipients, are encouraged to apply for one or all of the scholarships.

Applications are available::

- 1) online at: http://www.stdemetriosweston.org/philoptochos/ Under Resources & Scholarships on the Philoptochos page of the parish website;
  - 2) by email to NancyASavage@gmail.com
  - 3) by calling the church office at 781-237-5561 to have one mailed to you.

Scholarships will be presented in June 2023, during a ceremony following Divine Liturgy services.

#### The Scholarship Committee

Nancy Agris Savage, Chair; Matina Pappas, Ex Officio, Philippa Condakes, Amalie George, Kathleen Hamilton, Carol Loridas, Mary Ann Pappanikou





## Philoptochos Invites You to a Hands-On Self Defense Training & Info Session

Presented by Grand Master Michael Woods Hanshi 9<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt – Kenpo Karate Owner, Next Generation Martial Arts & Police Officer in Holliston

> Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11am St Demetrios Gymnasium

### Open to Women Ages 15 and Over \$20 per Participant

Using his 30+ years' experience in the martial arts field & career as a police officer, Grand Master Woods and his team will guide us through a 90-minute class covering:

Strategies to keep us safe in various situations Heightened awareness to recognize our surroundings Hands-on techniques to fight off / disarm a would-be attacker Common phone & internet scams

What to wear: Comfortable Clothing & Sneakers What to bring: Questions, Concerns & Scenarios you'd like addressed

RSVP: <a href="mailto:olga-calivas@comcast.net">olga-calivas@comcast.net</a> / text: 617.335.4062 or visit the Philoptochos table during coffee hour

### OKAKAKAKAKAKAKAKAKAKAKAKA O



p. 7 The Vine:February 2023



# **CALENDAR**

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8	2- Presentiaton of Christ to the Temple Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:45 am	10	11
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Godparent Sunday Church School	0	Greek School, 4	Paraklesis, 6pm	Bible Study, 10 am	GOYA Wing-A- Thon Prep, 6 pm	
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School GOYA Wing-A- Thon General Assembly	13	Greek School, 4 pm	Paraklesis, 10 am	Bible Study, 10 am	17	Saturday of Souls, 8:30 am MBC Winter Camp
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am MBC Winter Camp	20- President's Day Church Offices Closed MBC Winter Camp	21	22 Paraklesis, 6 pm	23 Bible Study, 10 am	24	25 Saturday of Souls, 8:30 am
26 Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am	27- Clean Monday Great and Holy Lent Begins Great Compline, 6 pm Orthodox Life Lecture, 7 pm	28 Greek School, 4 pm	March 1 Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm	March 2 Bible Study, 10 am	March 3 Salutations, 6pm	March 4 Saturday of Souls, 8:30 am





Dear Philoptochos Sisters,

"A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

- Saint Basil the Great

Happy New Year! Kali Xronia!

Thank you to all that supported our fundraising efforts during the Christmas Season and to those that visited the homebound to offer good cheer and fellowship.

Thank you also to the following that graciously chaired events during the months of November, December and January.

### November to Remember Veteran's Drive-Eugenia and Chris Kourlos.

We raised \$2,100.

November Kindness Counts Initiative- Susan Denn. Spreading kindness Initiative, we sent sweet treats to the Weston Fire and Police Departments.

Care Ministry- Nikki Stournaras.

Christmas Bake Sale- Kathy Damaskos and Gena Liacopoulos.

Christmas Card- Pat Liacopoulos.

Tenderloin Raffle- Kathy Hamilton. Congratulations to our 2 winners: George Karageorge and Mary Papastavros. Vasilopita Sunday- Chris Tzellas.

Membership and Meze-Olga Calivas.

Birthday Wishes Fundraiser- Philippa Condakes.

Easter Candles (Lambathes) Fundraiser-Taslene Gatzunis and Marianne Gigliotti.

#### Please Note:

We will NOT be hosting the Apokratiko Glendi on February 12, and instead, the GOYAn's will be hosting their Super Bowl Sunday Wing -A -Thon. Let's support our youth with this fun and delicious annual fundraiser.

**Upcoming Events:** 

Philoptochos Annual Membership Drive

The membership letters have been mailed and our drive is well underway. We are thankful to our current members for your support and participation. We welcome and encourage new members to make this the year you join. Our chapter members are a true sisterhood, a group of vibrant, fun loving, compassionate women who are dedicated to the Philoptochos mission- to simply help those in need. Come join us! For more information please contact Olga Calivas at: olga-calivas@comcast.net or Matina Pappas at mpappas@paphome.com.

Agape Gift Card Tree Raffle- Drawing on Sunday, February 12

Enter for a chance to win gift cards totaling over \$250.00. A perfect Valentine's Day gift! The drawing will be held during coffee hour, February 12 and all proceeds will directly benefit our charities. Please see the flyer for details.

Pascha Lambathes-Sunday, February 26

This year we are offering for sale, a limited supply of Easter Candles. These beautiful candles for girls and boys have been hand decorated by Taslene Gatzunis and Marianne Gigliotti. We will start selling on February 26. Candles are \$18.00. All proceeds will directly benefit our charities.

#### Save the Dates:

Self Defense Class- Saturday, March 18- See flyer for details.

Presentation and Book Signing-Sunday, March 26- Author Niro Feliciano, LCSW. Featured on the Today Show, NBC. Details to follow.

Annual Lenten Retreat- Friday, March 31- Saturday, April 1- Contoocook, NH. See flyer for details.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale & Lamb Raffle-Sunday, April 9

With Love in Christ, Matina Pappas, President

The Vine:February 2023



### **NEWS & EVENTS**

### Continued from page 3



How long have you been a parishioner of St. Demetrios?

We have been members of St. Demetrios since 1996, and each of our boys was baptized here. Over the years, we have watched our children grow in the Church, participating in many of its ministries, including attending Church School and Greek School, playing on the JOY and GOYA basketball teams, participating in the Metropolis summer camp in New Hampshire and Ionian Village in Greece, and serving as altar boys here in our parish. Tom has served on the Parish Council, and as Stewardship Chair, and now participates on the ushering team.

What is the fondest memory you have from St. Demetrios?

As our children grew in their spiritual lives in the Church, we also deepened our own relationship with Christ. During this journey, Tom received the

sacrament of Chrismation surrounded by Cynthia and our children, which is our fondest memory of our time here at St. Demetrios.

How has the church impacted your life?

Faith forms the core of our family's values, and our participation in the life of our parish community has provided a strong foundation for our children's development and a guiding light for each of us as we navigate the many challenges of the modern world. Sending our children into the world knowing that they take Christ and the power of prayer with them gives us, as parents, great comfort, no matter where their journeys may take them. We, like many families, have had health challenges and have experienced the loss of loved ones. We firmly believe that our faith in God and the many prayers of our families, fellow parishioners, friends, and Priests have led us through these challenging times, and will continue to guide and comfort us in the future. For this, we are forever grateful.

What do you hope to see in the future of our church?

We hope to see a growing number of young families in our parish community and Church School. We also hope that these young families enjoy their years with our parish, and take joy seeing the growth of their children in the Faith, as we have.

We also look forward to continued outreach from our parish to members of our Orthodox community, including those families with spouses of both Greek and non-Greek heritage. It is important that these families know that they form an integral part of our community, and that St. Demetrios is their spiritual home.

What does stewardship mean to you?

To us, stewardship includes the devotion of one's time, talent, and treasure. Without this support, St. Demetrios could not open its doors to the many faithful who worship here, and we could not support the many ministries offered today. Fr. Anthony Coniaris wrote that "It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today."

We are thankful for our many blessings, including being a part of our St. Demetrios community.

### ST. DEMETRIOS BOOKSTORE

GREAT WOOK
PASCHA
CHICAGO GUICA

ANNORE GOINE

OF PATRICE

OF PATRICE

AND PATRICE

The Institute

The Institut

Take a look at some Lenten offerings for your spiritual enlightenment from our bookstore.

The book offerings are as follows:

Great Week: Pascha in the GreekOrthodox Church by Father Alkiavidis Calivas

The Lenten Triodion

Great Lent by Alexander Schmemen

On Fasting and Feasts by St. Paul the Great

The Seven Mysteries of the Lord's Prayer

Additionally, there are St. Demetrios crosses, brass vigil lamps, censers, prosfora seals and much more. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items from the bookstore,

please contact the main office at office@stdemetriosweston.org.

### **NEWS & EVENTS**

#### AGAPE TREE GIFT CARD RAFFLE



\$10 A TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN OVER \$250 WORTH OF GIFT CARDS

STOP BY THE PHILOPTOCHOS TABLE DURING COFFEE HOUR TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT stdphiloptochos.square.site

DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ST. DEMETRIOS PHILOPTOCHOS CHARITIES

### PRESENTATION OF CHRIST FEBRUARY 2

The Holy Icon shows that the meeting takes place inside the Temple and in front of the altar. The altar has a book or a scroll on it and is covered by a canopy. The Theotokos stands to the left and is holding out her hands in a gesture of offering and humility. The one hand of the Theotokos is covered by her cloak or as it is known, the maphorion. She has just handed her Son to Simeon.

Christ is shown as a child, but He is not in swaddling clothes. He is clothed in a small dress and his legs are bare. Jesus appears to be giving a blessing. Simeon holds Jesus with both hands which are covered. This shows the reverence Simeon had for the Messiah. Simeon is bare headed and there is nothing to show that he is a priest. Some biblical scholars say that Simeon was probably a priest of the Temple or a Doctor of the Law.

Joseph is behind the Theotokos. He is carrying the two turtle doves for the sacrifice. Anna the Prophetess is also standing behind the Theotokos and is pointing to the Christ child.

Joseph offers the sacrifice of a poor family while Anna

#### **SENIOR GUILD**

The Senior Guild will have their next meeting on Saturday, March the 25th, 2023 (The Annunciation) following Divine Liturgy. Please wear something blue and white! The Senior Guild hopes to see you there.

Sincerely yours, Artemis Martakis, Coordinator of The Senior Guild

#### THE FR. MANIKAS LIBRARY



As we are approaching Great Lent, the following books are recommended:

The Way of a Pilgrim
Come along with the Pilgrim
in his search to discover how

one does pray constantly? Through his journeys and travels and under the guidance of a spiritual father he learns the power of the Jesus Prayer – its uninterrupted communion with God. We have several books under various translators (French and Bacovcin).

Other books to consider:

The Lenten Spring by Thomas Hopko (J)

John Climacus The Ladder of Divine Ascent translated
by Colm Luibheid (B & Q)

Annual Resource Companion: The Triodion edited by Rev Dr Frank Marangos (J)

The Lenten Covenant by Leonidas Contos (J) Great Lent by Alexander Schmemann (J)

the Prophetess praises God and "speaks about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." Luke 2: 38

The words Simeon spoke when he saw the Christ Child are known as "St. Simeon's Prayer." This prayer is sung daily at the evening Vespers services of the Orthodox Church.

In the Orthodox Church, both baby boys and baby girls are taken to the Church on the fortieth day after their birth. This is done in remembrance of the Theotokos and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple.



p. 11 The Vine:February 2023



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were generously donated by the following parishioners:

December 4

From Elizabeth, in loving memory of beloved grandparents, George and Helen Makris

From the Mavrikos family in honor of their son's marriage In loving memory of Nicholas Condakes from his family

December 25

From Patti Dukakis and Amalie George in memory of loved ones

January 15

In loving memory of Daphne Bouzi, a beloved sister and aunt from the Margaritis family

In loving memory of Pres. Effie Manikas from her family

January 29

In loving memory of Panos Spiliakos from his family In memory of Fr. Andonios Papathanasiou from family and friends

### Weddings

Dean Mavrikos and Ashley Brooks were marred on December 4th. Their sponsor was Andrew Mavrikos.

### **BAPTISMS**

Clark Ioannis, son of Jonathan and Chrissy Waters was baptized on Saturday, December 3. The sponsor was Christina Lappas.

Isabella Olivia, daughter of Robert and Silvina Ramsdell was baptized on Saturday, December 3. The sponsor was Gergana Bardukova.

Owen James, son of Jason and Bridget Patsio was baptized on Saturday, December 10. The sponsor was Peter Patsio.

Gabriel George, son of Fotis and Nicole Loulourgas was baptized on Sunday, December 11. The sponsor was George Loulourgas.

### **FUNERALS**

Charles Metrakas of West Newbury, December 7

Pres. Euphoria (Effie) Manikas of Framingham, December 17

Basil Leussis of Millis, January 5

5t. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Weston, MA 02493