

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
 Schedule.....2

Building on our
 Faith.....3

Youth.....4-6

Lenten Messages.....6

Photos.....7

Calendar.....8

Stewardship &
 Philoptochos.....9

News & Events.....10

Media, Witness
 & Outreach.....11

Announcements.....12

FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

Our Hope is the Risen Lord

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the most profound period of our Lord's life, our thoughts and hearts turn Godward. Filled with everyday anxiousness and "busyness," we are preoccupied with the history of "us," of today, and our personal history. Yet, Christ is also part of that history. His death and Resurrection were and are real. They are as relevant to the events we are living today and the challenges we face each and every day. This is so because the passion, death and Resurrection of Christ, no matter how distant in the past it may appear, have the power to change the history of today and the history yet to be written.

Yet, as we approach the salutary days of Christ's life that have transformed the world and have the power to do the same for us, we come to know the Christ of history through His words, actions, promises and miracles. His love for us is unconditional as it was for the countless saints, martyrs and all who have called Him Lord. We can indeed know Him day after day as the Apostles knew Him. Not the Christ of the flesh alone but the risen Christ alive today. He, if we invite Him inward, can become the Christ of the Spirit, the risen Christ who belongs to time but transcends time. As St. Paul tells us, He is Christ our Lord who spreads His arms upon the cross to embrace each of us, dying once upon the cross yet lives forever.

I invite you again to experience the last days of His sacred life on earth together during what remains of Lent. Then, see, walk and hear His words during His passion, death and resurrection that nurture the soul and fill our hearts with the hope of everlasting life.

Please join us as we celebrate our last Holy Week together in our present Church building.

Yours in Our Risen Lord,

Fr. Nick



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

ORTHOS, 8:30; DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30

April 3

Sunday of St. John Climacus

April 10

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

April 17

Palm Sunday

April 24

Pascha

MIDWEEK SERVICES

(OUTSIDE OF HOLY WEEK SERVICES)

Friday, April 1

Salutations, 7 pm

Wednesday, April 6

PreSanctified Liturgy, 9 am

Friday, April 8

Akathist Hymn, 7 pm

Wednesday, April 13

PreSanctified Liturgy, 6 pm

Saturday of Lazarus, April 16

Orthos, 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

METROPOLITAN METHODIOS WITH US HOLY FRIDAY

His Eminence will be officiating at the Holy Friday Evening Service (The Lamentations). As this will be our last Holy Week together in our present Church structure, Metropolitan Methodios will lead us in this most solemn of services, which has been celebrated in our present sanctuary since 1971. We invite our entire community to join us, thanking God for the many years and memories we have received and also in welcoming His Eminence.

LENTEN VISITS

Do you have a homebound family member who would welcome a visit this Lenten season? Please contact Fr. Nick or Fr. Alex as soon as possible to make arrangements.



HOLY CONFESSION

Like the Prodigal Son, we have all been away from God, we have all been away from God on some level, and it is time to "come home" to our Father who is loving, compassion-

ate and forgiving. Holy Confession is a powerful way to examine our lives and reflect on our spiritual progress, especially during this Lenten season. To make arrangements before Holy Week is upon us, please contact Fr. Nick or Fr. Alex.

HOLY FRIDAY NAMES

Each Holy Friday, the names of loved ones asleep in the Lord are commemorated before the Kouvoulkion (Sepulchre). Names may be brought to Church on Holy Friday or submitted beforehand to the Church office.

FLOWER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

On April 1 and 8, the icon of the Theotokos will be beautifully decorated with flowers for the Salutations and Akathist services, respectively. To sponsor an evening, please contact the Church office. This is a meaningful way to remember a loved one or simply engage in the liturgical life of this holy season.



THE DARKENED CHURCH

Just before midnight on Holy Saturday Night, the lights go out. The Church gradually sinks into total darkness, symbolizing...

The darkness of the grave

The darkness of life without God

The darkness of despair

The darkness of meaninglessness

This is the darkness in which we stand, the darkness within and around us. We are—all of us—threatened by this darkness.

But the glorious message of Pascha is that Christ is greater than the darkness. The darkness cannot last for long, in our hearts, because Christ has come, the light within us: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:4).

This is the message we will hear proclaimed in the Gospel at the Resurrection Service, and this is the heart of our Orthodox Christian Faith. Kalo Paschal!



BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

RECENT BUILDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

There is a substantial amount of exciting news this month. Firstly we are happy to announce that we have engaged Themeli Builders from Holliston, Massachusetts as our construction managers (CM) for the building of our new Church building. The Development Committee, made up of seventeen volunteer parishioners of St.

Demetrios, chose an extensive search, vetting and selection process to arrive at this important choice. We are so grateful not only for the profound talent available to the project from these parishioners, but for the countless hours given generously by them. It is truly a humbling experience to see such capable people working in harmony for the good of the Church!

Speaking of harmony, Themeli has all the important traits of an extremely strong CM, and they also share with our architect, Yervant Nahikian, a reverence for the special undertaking of building our new place of worship.

Over thirty parishioners attended the Zoning Board of Appeals hearing where our right to build our dome to the design height of 64' was affirmed unanimously by the ZBA. We are grateful to these vigilant stewards of our Church for being there and showing their support.

We are fast approaching \$3.7 million in pledges with almost \$2 million collected, and we continue to reach out to all our parishioners to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime project to realize our common dream and the mandate of the General Assembly.

The Ground Breaking Ceremony will take place after the Divine Liturgy on May 15! We are grateful to have His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios join us on this memorable day, when we will mark the beginning of a new phase of our development. Please mark your calendars, rain or shine: we want everyone in the pictures, for history is going to be made on this day.

Very soon, we will see some significant activity relative to the commencement of construction: temporary storage containers will begin arriving on site; the preparation of the temporary worship space in the all-purpose building will commence; and you will receive notice of the **Last Liturgy** to be celebrated in our existing sanctuary (the following week, we will begin to worship in the temporary space—and this will continue for approximately one year—as construction will begin on our new building).

Stay in touch by reading updates in *The Vine*, and very soon you will be notified about the launch of a new webpage, a sister-page to our Church-site, which will be devoted to information on the construction project, including project updates, webcams focused on the construction in progress, and much more.

—Peter Bassett



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Pastor
Fr. Alex Chetsas, Co-Pastor
Cathy Smith, Secretary
Peter Gramenelles, Sexton
Chris Pappas, Parish Council President
Eugenia Kourlos, Philoptochos President

Bookstore, Carol Loridas
Choir, Gregory Condakes
Fifty-Something Club, Phil & Sandi Chomo
Faith and Works Ministries

A Suitable Image, Nancy Savage
Brown Bag Sunday, Lydia Santangelo
Habitat for Humanity, Elaine Fischer
Helping Hands, Kathy Bakes
St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Savage

Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, Mary Ellen Paravalos
Library, Cindi Dabrowski

Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
Outreach and Evangelism, Peter Gavrilles, Chris Resmini
Philoptochos Care Ministries

Hellenic Nursing Home, Pam Brody
Miracle Kitchen, Dorothea Ocnos
Prayer-Shawl, Tilda Mitsakos
Quiltathon, Debbie Morakis

Prosfora Ministry, Fr. Nick Krommydas
Senior Guild, Tina Haratsis
Stewardship, Dean Coclin

YOUTH

Altar Service, Chris Kourlos
Basketball, Matt Little
Church School, Stavroula Gurguliatos
Church School Outreach, Gloria Moskos
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis

GOYA, Alexey and Stephanie Petrides
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers Galatano
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
HOPE, Donna Markis, Stacy Katsikaris
JOY, Jill Kovatsis
OCF, Peter Gavrilles, Chris Resmini



“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young...”



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

April	PK bulletin board display
April 3	Church School classes; Oratorical Festival (Jr./Sr. Divisions)
April 10	Church School classes
April 16	Saturday of Lazarus; Palm-Cross making
April 17	Palm Sunday: family worship
April 18	Holy Monday
April 19	Holy Tuesday
April 20	Holy Wednesday: Epistle readers during afternoon service
April 22	Holy Friday: Retreat; Flower Girls (2nd grade in afternoon, 5th grade in evening)
April 23	Holy Saturday
April 24	Pascha: Agape Service readers

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The Oratorical Festival for the Junior and Senior Divisions will take place on Sunday, April 3 during the scheduled Church School class time.

SALUTATIONS SERVICES

The Salutations service is a beautiful Lenten service in honor of the Virgin Mary. We invite all students to attend.

HOLY WEEK CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

April 16: SATURDAY OF LAZARUS. Liturgy & Palm-Cross-making, 9:30 am. All Church School students and families are invited to prepare Palms for the Palm Sunday Service.

April 17: PALM SUNDAY. Family worship. Middle and high school girls are invited to participate in the Mirofora procession. Please encourage your daughters to participate.

April 20: HOLY WEDNESDAY. We need students to read the Epistle (4th grade and up) for the afternoon service. If you are interested, please contact Stavroula Gurguliatos.

April 22: HOLY FRIDAY

- There will be a Church School/general youth retreat, 11:30 – 3 pm. Sign up by the Church entrance.
- Second grade girls will participate in the afternoon procession.
- Fifth grade girls will participate in the evening procession.

April 24: PASCHA/AGAPE SERVICE. Family worship. We need foreign language readers (students and adults) to help read the Agape Service Gospel. Last year we were fortunate to have the Gospel read in Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, Romanian, German, and Chinese. If you are interested in reading a portion of the Gospel in a foreign language, please contact Stavroula Gurguliatos.

OCMC LENTEN COIN BOXES AVAILABLE

Our Church School children, families and all of us are asked to participate in this annual tradition. Please help support the missions of the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the world. We are called to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). Your prayers and contributions can help make this a reality.

MUSIC PROGRAM: JANE KOURTIS, DIRECTOR

On April 8 our Junior Choir will participate in the Akathist Hymn, a poetic, prayerful devotion to the Theotokos and the mystery of the Incarnation. Parents, grandparents, Godparents and all of our parishioners are invited to worship with us and enjoy the beautiful voices of our children.

Church School Director Stavroula Gurguliatos may be contacted at:
StDemetriosChurchSchool@verizon.net.

ALTAR SERVERS: MEETING APRIL 3 & HOLY WEEK PREPARATIONS



Following the parish luncheon on Sunday the 3rd, we invite our servers to join us for a polishing and cleaning session in our Altar, as well as to participate in a brief meeting (focusing on Holy Week and our fundraiser on May 25). **After our boys have eaten at the luncheon, we ask that parents send them directly to the Church, so we can get started and maximize our time.** This year, following the Resurrection Service, our servers will once again be treated to subs and other goodies following Holy Communion. Parents who would like to help with preparations for this “feast” are invited to contact Fr. Alex. Finally, and most importantly, we all look forward to a meaningful Holy Week. It is truly an honor for us to serve together and participate in these special services. Contact Chris Kourlos: kourkat@comcast.net.

SCHEDULE

April 3: St. Stephen

April 10: St. Lawrence

Palm Sunday: All Available Servers

Palm Sunday Evening: St. Stephen

Holy Monday Evening: St. Lawrence

Holy Tuesday Evening: St. Stephen

Holy Wednesday Afternoon/Evening through

Pascha: All Available Servers

ST. LAWRENCE

Captain: Tom Resmini, Vice-Captain: Jason Theoharis
Walker Littlehale, Kosta Pappas, Alex Santangelo,
Nick Spinale

ST. STEPHEN

Captain: Lee Condakes, Vice Captains: Anthony Chirban & Luke Pashos
Alex Camp, Matt Gatzunis, Thomas Gatzunis,
Anthony Houhoulis

***A blessed Holy Week to our servers
and their families!***

LENTEN YOUTH HAPPENINGS

April 16: Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy, Communion Breakfast & Palm-Cross Making



Once again, our HOPE & JOY ministries will be sponsoring this much-anticipated event. Not only our youth, parents and families, but all our parishioners are invited to join us! Divine Liturgy begins at 9:30 am, with breakfast and our wonderful project to follow. To donate breakfast supplies or help on the 16th, contact Stacy Katsikaris (stacy.katsikaris@comcast.net), Donna Markis (dmarkis@boston.k12.ma.us), or Jill Kovatsis (ja.k@verizon.net).

April 22: Holy Friday Youth Retreat A Prayer in the Garden: Seeking the Will of our Father

"... and He knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done'" (Luke 29:41 - 42).

There are few things more difficult in life than accepting the will of God, rather than what we want or think we need. As He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His betrayal, even Christ struggled with the "cup" given to Him. His choice to obey the will of the Father was not an easy one, but resulted in the gift of salvation to us all. In our lives, choosing to follow God's will is also a "saving" choice. Making this choice starts with prayer and ultimately leads to courageous, thoughtful action.

Sponsored by our Church School, this year's Holy Friday retreat will explore this theme in depth, with age-appropriate sessions and activities. Please save the date, and put this holy day aside. Together, we will approach the garden, fall on our knees and join Christ in prayer, striving to seek and follow the will of God.

- 11:30 am to 3 pm
- HOPE, JOY, GOYA, Church School, Greek School & all our families
- Please sign-up in the foyer by April 17
- Parental/Parishioner help and support is more than welcome!

Contact Stavroula Gurguliatos:
StDemetriosChurchSchool@verizon.net.



GOYA Notes: Alexey Petrides



With Summer fast approaching, GOYA is in full swing! In February and March alone GOYA held six events, focusing on our Family Night theme of Matthew 25, mixing outreach with fun! From ministering to the

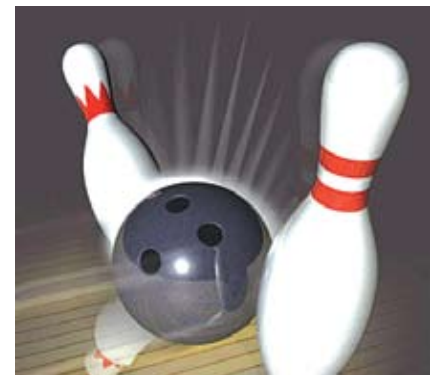
homeless to ice skating, reading as a group in the PreSanctified Liturgy to showcasing our individual talents in the Talent Show, we have participated in worship, outreach, and fellowship, learning about ourselves and our faith along the way. Following our latest outing, a trip to the Aquarium, we will be holding a "lock-in" on April 15 (the night before Saturday of Lazarus) and participating in the parish-wide Holy Friday retreat on April 22, all in preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord. Please join us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming events such as our Mother's Day Celebration on May 8. A big "thanks" goes out to all our young leaders for being so active in their faith!

FAMILY NIGHT BOWLING MAY 13

Our HOPE, JOY, GOYA children and parents—as well as all our youth, families, and parishioners—are invited to join us for a fun night of bowling and friendship on Friday the 13th (don't let the date scare you!). We'll meet at Fairway Bowling on Rte. 9 at 6:45 pm, get our shoes and be bowling by 7 pm. The lanes will be ours until 8 pm, when we'll enjoy a private party room until 8:45, where we can share ice cream, snacks and more fun.

This is our last Family Night before summer. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

- \$10 per person
- Lane reservations/payment to Fairway will need to be made in advance by our Church. RSVP/forward funds to Jill Kovatsis by May 6, so we can reserve the proper amount of lanes/space for our group.



HOPE (K-2nd)
Donna Markis:
dmarkis@boston.k12.ma.us
Stacy Katsikaris:
stacy.katsikaris@comcast.net

JOY (3rd-6th)
Jill Kovatsis: ja.k@verizon.net



OCF: "THE WALK" IS MAY 1

Once again, we are planning to join The Walk for Hunger. College students are asked to save the date, and join our team ASAP (visit www.projectbread.org and search for "Metropolis of Boston"). Our day will once again begin with Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral Chapel in Brookline, and van transportation to Boston will be provided. We wish our OCF members all the best in their exams—and let's stay close to Church during Lent and throughout the summer to come!



A TREMENDOUS SEASON!

This year, our 3 basketball teams made amazing progress and had a tremendous season. Our JOY "B-Team" even made it to the finals against Roslindale! While we are all proud of the growing skills and success of our children, we are most proud of the way they and their coaches carried themselves throughout the season: with dedication to our faith, sportsmanship and a strong sense of friendship. This year's banquet was hosted, once again, by the Taxiarchae Church in Watertown. Our players and their families had a wonderful time. St. Demetrios also received a host of special recognitions:

"JOY A-Team"

3rd Place, Regular Season
Michael Stournaras & John Markis,
Team MVPs

"JOY B-Team"

2nd Place, Regular Season
2nd Place, Championships
Colin Little & Chris Coclin, Team MVPs
Matt Little, "Coach of the Year" Award

"Jr. JOY Team"

Our coaches and players were congratulated on a terrific season!

THE MEANING OF PALM SUNDAY



"The Liturgy of Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. With palm branches in our hands, we identify ourselves with the people of Jerusalem. Together with them we greet the King, singing 'Hosannah' to Him. But what is the meaning of this today for us? First, it is our confession of Christ as our King and Lord. We forget so often that the Kingdom of God has already been inaugurated—and that on the day of our Baptism, we were made citizens of this kingdom and pledged our loyalty to it, above all other loyalties...."

The branches in our hands signify ... our readiness and willingness to follow Him on His sacrificial way and our acceptance of sacrifice and self-denial as the only royal way to the Kingdom. And finally these branches, this celebration, proclaim our faith in the final victory of Christ. His Kingdom is yet hidden and the world ignores it. It lives as if the decisive event had not taken place, as if God had not died on the Cross and Man in Him was not raised from the dead. But we, Orthodox Christians, believe in the coming of the Kingdom in which God will be all in all—and Christ the only King." (from www.greekorthodox.org/au/general: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia).

FROM THE AKATHIST HYMN (APRIL 8)

Rejoice, through whom is the joy to shine forth; rejoice, through whom is the curse to vanish.

Rejoice, restoration of Adam the fallen one; rejoice, liberation of Eve from tears.

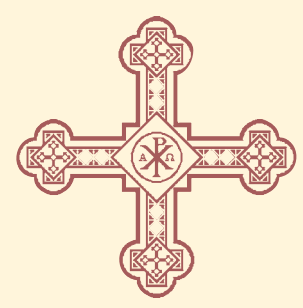
Rejoice, height to which the thoughts of men are hardly able to ascend; rejoice, depth which for the Angels' eyes is very hard to apprehend.

Rejoice, for you are a throne for the King; rejoice, for you hold the One who holds everything.

Rejoice, the star causing the Sun's manifestation; rejoice, the womb of the divine incarnation.

Rejoice, through whom is creation re-created; rejoice, by whom is the Creator procreated.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!



"They divided My garments among them. And for My clothing they cast lots." (Psalm 21:19)



Lenten Orthodox Life Series



Quilt-a-Thon



Greek School Independence Day Program



Sunday of Orthodoxy






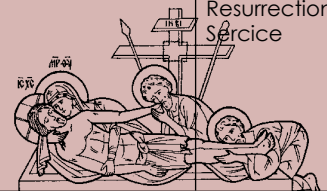
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy





CALENDAR

APRIL 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Salutations, 7 pm	2 Adult Lenten Retreat, St. Michael, Cotuit, MA
3 Sunday of St. John Climacus Parish Luncheon Oratorical Festival Altar Server Cleaning/Mtg.	4	5 Greek School, 4-6	6 Presanctified Liturgy, 9 am	7 Kourambiethes Baking Workshop, 10 am Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	8 Akathist Hymn, 7 pm Junior Choir	9
10 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Brown Bag Blitz Greek Independence Day Parade	11 Koulourakia Baking Workshop, 9:30 am	12 Koulourakia Baking Workshop, 9:30 am Greek School, 4-6	13 Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm Orthodox Life Parish Council meeting, 7 pm Philoptochos board meeting, 7:30	14 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	15 GOYA "Lock-in"	16 Lazarus Saturday Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 9 am Communion breakfast and Palm-Cross making Hellenic Nursing Home, 2-3:30 pm
17 Palm Sunday Bake Sale/Lamb drawing 	18 Holy Monday 	19 Holy Tuesday 	20 Holy Wednesday 	21 Holy Thursday BEFORE THE CROSS WE BOW 	22 Holy Friday Youth Retreat, 11:30 am-3 pm 	23 Holy Saturday Pascha Reception following Resurrection Service
24 Pascha Agape Service	25	26 Greek School, 4-6	27	28 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	29	30

STEWARDSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS



PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD MEETING

April 13, 7:30 pm

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS AND EVENTS:

2011 Membership Drive

Membership information has been mailed to our parishioners. Every woman in our parish is encouraged to become a member of Philoptochos. Members will benefit by becoming part of a group of committed woman who give their time, talent and love to many outstanding ministries on the local, Metropolis and national level. Please complete your membership form, and join today. For questions, contact Linda Toyias (lat09@yahoo.com; 617.244.4442) or Eugenia Kourlos (kourkat@comcast.net; 508.881.2409).

Time to Bake!

April 7, 10 am: Kourambiethes Workshop

April 11 & 12, 9:30 am: Koulourakia Workshop



Join us and learn to make these wonderful goodies. All are welcome! For the Kourambiethes Workshop, contact Georgia Mavro: 508.655.4024; regarding the Koulourakia Workshop, contact Georgia Cosmopoulos: 508.872.6827.

April 17: Palm Sunday Bake Sale/Lamb Drawing

All proceeds from both events will benefit the Philoptochos charities (Hellenic Cardiac Fund, Salvation Army Miracle Kitchen, and more). For homemade Bake Sale donations, please contact Jane Kourtis at 781.453.1986. Tickets for the Lamb Raffle (7 fresh, whole lamb legs) are \$2 each or 6 for \$10 and will be mailed to parishioners, as well as available during Fellowship Hour. Please make checks payable to St. Demetrios Philoptochos. Contact Pam Brody (781.891.8269) or Valerie Wiegel (978.443.7674).

April 24: Pascha Reception (following Resurrection service)

If you would like to donate homemade baked goods, contact Eugenia Kourlos: 508.881.2409; kourkat@comcast.net.

May 18: General Assembly & Elections, 7 pm

A new board will be elected, consisting of the following: President, V. President, Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer/Membership, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and 6 board members. Any interested member of Philoptochos is encouraged to contact Eugenia Kourlos, president, at 508.881.2409; kourkat@comcast.net. Serving on the Philoptochos Board is a wonderful and personally fulfilling opportunity. The organization is always seeking new leadership, and ideas, to continue its important philanthropic work.

STEWARDSHIP

Online giving is here! Do you hate envelopes, writing checks and forgetting to make your Stewardship payment? Welcome to our new online donation system where you can easily setup one-time or recurring payments. Say you want to automatically have your payment made at the same time every month from your bank account or credit card. It's easy. Just go to the "Stewardship" section of our website: www.stdemetriosweston.org/stewardship and click on "Online Donations." The page below will appear.



The instructions are simple, and it's secured using the latest technology. You can make your Stewardship payment, a donation to the Capital Campaign or a donation for a memorial or special offering.

We have many Stewards taking advantage of this simple method for insuring your payments are processed quickly and securely. Why not join them?

As of March 8, we have received 306 pledges totaling \$308,481. In addition, 90 donors have sent in \$18,031. Our average annual pledge has increased to over \$1000 so far. Last year, we had a total of 589 donors, so we still have a long way to go. If you haven't made your 2011 pledge yet and need a pledge card, please contact the office and we will send you one. **Have a blessed Lent.**

Dean Coclin
Stewardship Chairman

APRIL 10: GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



- The parade route is from Boylston Street to Charles Street; parade starts at 1 pm.
- Bus transportation is available and requires advance reservations.
- Ethnic costumes are available upon request.
- Greek School, Church School, HOPE, JOY and GOYA members will be taking part in the march. Please see teachers/advisors for specifics.
- Pre-parade refreshments and snacks will be provided.
- Adult parade attire: navy top and bottom with white shirt underneath (parade sashes will be provided; ethnic costumes also welcome).
- Everyone is encouraged to participate in this proud and memorable day. Your support is extremely important in keeping the spirit alive as well as representing St. Demetrios.
- If you have questions, please contact Linda Theoharis at 508.529.3835.

AN INVITATION FROM THE CHETSAS FAMILY

Our entire parish family is invited to Roman's baptism! Please just bring yourself—your friendship and prayers are the greatest gifts.

Saturday, May 21, 4 pm

Annunciation Church (Harris & Park Sts., Newburyport, MA)

Reception: 25 Federal St., Newburyport

RSVP to Brandy Chetsas: abchetsas@hotmail.com; 508.653.0561

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 3: PARISH LUNCHEON

Our Parish Council invites us all to a wonderful luncheon, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please save the date, and plan to join us. As we journey through Holy Lent as a parish family, it is good to come together, gathering our families and reconnecting with friends. **Special children's menu! Adults, \$15. Children, \$8.**

50-SOMETHING CLUB BACK IN ACTION! Please mark your calendar for our first social gathering of the year. **We are presenting "Dinner and a Movie" in the hall on Saturday, May 7, 4 pm.** This will be a chance to get acquainted and re-acquainted, as well as enjoy a short reception, entertaining movie, and dinner "on the club." We will be making further announcements regarding our event.

SENIOR GUILD

We will not be having the luncheon following the PreSanctified Liturgy on April 6, as originally planned. However, please look for news regarding our next get-together in late spring. Kalo Pascha to all our seniors and their families!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

All supplies are provided. Please contact co-coordinators Mary Ellen Paravalos (781.349.8077) and Julie Kavas (781.762.1647). Thank you!

ORTHODOX LIFE/ADULT EDUCATION

"Prayer" Series Concludes April 13

In March, our parish deeply appreciated the reflections and wisdom of both Dr. George Stavros and Dr. Jim Skedros, who spoke on the power of personal and corporate prayer, respectively.

On the 13th, following PreSanctified Liturgy, we will enjoy a final presentation, synthesizing the concepts of personal and corporate prayer.

We hope and pray this Orthodox Life series has provided good "food" for our hearts and minds

this Lent, especially as we approach Holy Week. Thanks to all for attending and supporting adult education at our parish!

Adult Lenten Retreat: April 2

Our entire parish is invited to a unique retreat led by Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, hosted by the St. Michael

the Archangel Church, Cotuit, MA. The day will be broken into two sessions: (I) "The Making of a Christian" and (II) "The Feeding of a Christian." \$20 covers the retreat and lunch. To register,

contact St. Michael's at 508.240.2412.

Learning to Read & Chant

During Lent and throughout Holy Week, our services are characterized by moving readings and inspiring hymns, all directing us to the foot of the Cross—and the glorious

Resurrection to come. Paul Lundberg, who is chanting at St. Demetrios throughout Lent and Holy Week, invites interested parishioners to connect to these Lenten services by learning to read and chant simple hymns. All are invited. Please contact Paul to learn more: 617.903.7285; plundberg@hchc.edu.

Holding On To Prayer

"In the atmosphere of the world today, prayer requires super-human courage. The whole ensemble of natural energies is in opposition. To hold on to prayer without distraction signals victory on every level of existence."

—Dr. George Stavros (March 16 "Jesus Prayer" Presentation)

MEDIA, WITNESS AND OUTREACH



ARCHITECTURE OF FAITH: THE GOSPEL BOOK



Within church "architecture," there are few items as powerful or sacred to us as the Gospel Book. Within it we find our holy Sunday and feastday readings, from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And within

it, we find the precepts of salvation: the compassion, healing, love and promise of our Lord. Whenever a deacon, priest or bishop opens the Gospel and reads to us, God is speaking to His people. This is also true, whenever we open our Bibles at home and read with an open heart. When it is not being read from or processed with, the Gospel Book ("Evangelion" or "Good News") is enthroned on the Holy Altar. The gilded covers are notable as well: one side depicts the Resurrection, and this side always faces up/toward the people on Sundays, as well as during the Easter period; the other shows the Crucifixion and faces up during the rest of the week. This most holy of books is the center of our life at St. Demetrios.

PHILANTHROPY and SOCIAL ACTION

APRIL 10: BROWN BAG BLITZ!

Our April/May program will benefit The Boston Rescue Mission (www.brm.org/). The Mission is a true lighthouse on rocky shores for those in need, and we are proud to support its mission. Please take as many bags as possible on the 10th; extra bags will always be available in the drop-off bins. Thanks to all for your support. Contact Lydia Santangelo to get involved: lydiaeventspclst@aol.com.

MAY 1: WALK FOR HUNGER

Once again, this profound event is upon us. Our GOYAns and OCF students are leading the charge, but we can all get involved and walk to end hunger and homelessness in New England. Donations in support of our Metropolis team are welcome and needed. They may be forwarded to Fr. Alex (checks should be made out to "Project Bread"; memo: "Metropolis of Boston"). Thanks to all for your support.

To register for our team, follow these simple steps:

Go to: www.projectbread.org/site/

PageServer?pagename=walk_register

Select: "Join A Walk Team"

Search: "Metropolis of Boston"

ST. DEMETRIOS BOOKSTORE: LENTEN READING



The Way of a Pilgrim. A beautiful spiritual classic about an anonymous pilgrim in search of the compelling question: How does one pray? Ultimately, he discovers the different meaning and materials of prayer as he travels to Jerusalem.

The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The ascetic life is portrayed by St. John as a ladder which each must ascend, each step being a virtue to be acquired or a vice to be surrendered.

Introduction to St. Gregory Palamas. Fr. George Papademetriou offers an excellent introduction to this saint and a valuable contribution to the study of his theology.

MEDIA/INTERNET

The Vine: Online delivery is here!

The Vine is available each month at www.stdemetriosweston.org, along with our weekly bulletin, calendar, photo galleries, You Tube page and so much more. **Our parish has made the transition to electronic delivery of *The Vine*.** Each month, hard-copies are available in the Narthex and office for those without access to a computer. **To remain on our hard-copy mailing list, simply contact the office.** Thanks to our parish family for supporting this effort. Together, we are conserving substantial resources for our ministries and being better stewards of God's creation!

A Lenten Guide

Each week of Lent, visit lent.goarch.org. There, you can learn about the various Sundays of Lent and the meaning of Holy Week, as well as listen to hymns, watch Lenten services and even send "iconograms"!

New at www.stdemetriosweston.org

Our website continues to develop. Your suggestions and ideas are welcome! New this month: "The Process" and "Important Events" ("Building On Our Faith" You Tube videos). Coming soon: Philoptochos Page. Keep visiting us each week for calendar updates, new video and "Reflections" updates.

St. Demetrios on FaceBook

Search "St. Demetrios Church, Weston," and choose to "like" our site. On a weekly basis, you'll receive pictures of special events, reminders, inspirational pieces and more.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS



Sunday, March 6

The family of Stamata Rempis.

Sunday, March 13

Spyros and Rose Gavriss.

Sunday, March 20

Desi Doulos Ayers, in loving memory of her mother, Irene.

Sunday, March 27

Carol Jarvis and Family, in loving memory of Antonio Jarvis.

FUNERALS

Peter James Condakes of Weston, March 6th.

May his memory be eternal!

SAVE THE DATE!

Important St. Demetrios events:

May 1

Walk for Hunger

May 13

Family Night Bowling

May 15

Groundbreaking Ceremony

May 18

Philoptochos General Assembly

May 25

Altar Chorale/Fundraiser

May 27

Miracle Kitchen

THE VINE ONLINE IS HERE. See page 11 for details.



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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