

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)

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A GIFT FOR ALL



Dear Parishioners,

When we think of Christmas, we think of the giving and receiving of gifts. Usually these are material gifts that we select with care and that will delight the recipient and bring joy to the giver. Normally, gift giving is something we do not do every day but on special occasions of remembrance.

When Saint Paul thought of the meaning of Christ’s birth, this holy feast day, he said: “thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift!” Christ is indeed the unspeakable, the immeasurable gift: the greatest, finest, most lovely gift of all. This is so because mankind deserved no such gift: “while we were sinners, Christ came and died for us...” Christ is the eternal gift, lasting for all time; He is the gift for every one; and through Him, we find peace, forgiveness, help, comfort, life here and hereafter.

As the season passes, we put away the outward expressions of the Nativity, the wrappings. We take down the lovely decorations, the Christmas tree; we stop the singing and playing of carols; the recipes of special foods are put away for another year. It all seems to last but an instant and then it is over.

Perhaps we should all reflect on the gifts we give this Christmas. What is the purpose of our giving and what has motivated us to choose that special gift? I am sure love has something to do with it. If it does, we also know that our love is not meant to last as long as the memory of the gift given but long after. Similarly, as Saint Paul reminds us, God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ is the “eternal gift, lasting for all time.”

Soon the light of Christmas day will be with us and that glorious dawn will be upon us. But when that day comes, will we remember whose birthday it was that made the greatest gift possible? Will we rejoice over the message of life, of love, and of hope that His life offered us? Or rather, will our homes and hearts be so filled with material gifts and feasting that when Christ passes by our homes, He will once again find that there is no room to shelter Him among us? Will home and heart be so filled with “earthly gifts” that there is no place for “eternal gifts”? So that this might never happen, let us gather with those who love us, and whom we in turn love, and together with them let us pause a little and, with thankful hearts, bow our heads in prayer before Christ our Lord. He is the greatest gift of all and truly a gift for all!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

With Love in our Incarnate Lord,
 Father Nick

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

December 5, 10th Sunday of Luke

December 12, 11th Sunday of Luke

December 19, Sunday Before Nativity

December 26, Sunday After Nativity

January 2, Sunday Before Theophany

January 9, Sunday After Theophany

January 16, 12th Sunday of Luke

January 23, 14th Sunday of Luke

January 30, Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs

MIDWEEK SERVICES AT ST. DEMETRIOS

Monday, December 6

St. Nicholas

Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Vesperal Liturgy, 6 pm

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day, St. Basil,

Circumcision of our Lord

Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Wednesday, January 5

Eve of Theophany

Vesperal Liturgy, 6 pm

Thursday, January 6

Theophany

Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Friday, January 7

St. John the Baptist

Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 9 am

VESPERS

Sunday, December 5

at St. Nicholas Church, Lexington, 6pm

Saturday, December 11

at St. Spyridon Church, Worcester, 7pm

Thursday, January 6

at St. John Church, Boston



*"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
—Isaiah 9:6*



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER (ANONYMOUS)

Lord, guide our footsteps back to that wondrous and blessed night in Bethlehem where the Light came to a dark and troubled world. Take us back in spirit to that humble stable where our blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, came to earth to live, suffer and die for our salvation.

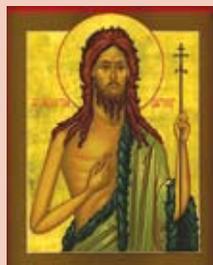
The world is always beset by dark clouds and turbulent, troubled waters. We are often lost like sheep without a shepherd, and each one feels deep within the need for a renewal of our dormant love, faith and hope. We ask, dear Lord, that these precious gifts be given once again to us.

Lead us, we pray, like little children to that glorious first Christmas Eve—that our hearts, our minds, our spirits may be filled with Your everlasting love.

Help us join hands one with another, all God's children, to honor the Prince of Peace; and in so doing, fill our hearts with Your divine grace and bear the glow from the wonderful light which our dear Savior brought to the world—that this glow, from each one of us, may burn brightly to the glory of God.

This we ask in Your Precious Name for all humankind.

ON THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY



Epiphany means "shining forth" or "manifestation." The feast is often called "Theophany," which means the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the Divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Thus, during His baptism by John (the Forerunner) in the Jordan, Jesus identifies Himself with sinners as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:20), the "beloved" of the Father, whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Luke 3:21; Mark 1:35). And He is revealed, as well, as One of the Holy Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father and the Spirit in the form of a dove. This is the central "epiphany" glorified in the feast day—the Holy Trinity.



BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

THANK YOU

What a remarkable statement is made by the Philoptochos, the first among the many active ministries of our extraordinary parish to undertake a significant effort in support of the construction of our new Saint Demetrios church. In recognition of the central role of so many activities that bind us together in the every-day practice of our faith, the Philoptochos decided to host an extremely successful dinner dance

celebrating Saint Demetrios' nameday and raising money for our new sanctuary.

240 parishioners enjoyed a wonderful evening of good humor, music, dance and the unveiling of the model depicting our new church. At the appropriate time, the amount of funds raised will be announced by the Philoptochos, but I can tell

you, like everything else associated with this exceptional project, the results are fantastic. What does it mean when the members of the organizations that add a unique purpose to our church and our lives understand that their name must be commemorated along with all the individual donors—that this will render their unique service to our parish immortal.

And what does it mean when young GOYANS wash 70 cars in order to be able to raise and donate \$1,000 to the project? The youth are contributing not only the name of the institution of GOYA to be commemorated, they want to insure the future of our parish into the next century. For the clarity of their vision, and the example they have set for all of us, we thank them. The fullness of their hearts and the spirit and energy they put into the project is as inspiring to all as their gift.

For these efforts, and soon we shall be announcing more efforts on the part of our organizations for the benefit of the new church, we wish to express our deepest gratitude.

And to the six members of the Communications Committee who designed and printed the remarkable brochures you recently received and are creating a new website, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter presences; to the 26 members of the Finance Committee who have begun calling each parishioner to reach out in dignity to our parish; to the sixteen members of the Development Committee who have devoted countless hours to designer selection, construction manager selection, permit processing, survey and environmental engineer coordination, temporary worship space plans and preparation and more; to the twelve members of the Compliance Committee who literally have written the book on the control and safekeeping of the funding for this extraordinary project, and to Father Nick and Father Alex who in so many ways bless us with their vision and leadership and unending hard work. I want to thank you for an unbelievable achievement in our first organized year of progress in achieving the dream of all stewards of Saint Demetrios and wish you and all our inspiring parish a Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you, Peter Bassett



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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, Portia Pantages
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, Cindy 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, Christina Booth Steele
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



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

May the peace and joy of the Christmas season fill you with love and happiness.

- December Fourth grade bulletin board display
- December 5 Church School classes
- December 12 Church School classes; Christmas Pageant rehearsal
- December 19 Christmas pageant program
- December 25 Nativity of our Lord
- December 26 Family Worship

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

CHURCH SCHOOL OUTREACH:

“There Is Nothing Mightier Than Love”

Nearly 200 polar fleece hats were recently shipped to children’s orphanages and shelters in Ukraine through the services of the Father John Danylevich Foundation and St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Church. If you would like to help us continue this outreach, you may donate your children’s warm, outgrown, and gently-used clothing and shoes. A box will be placed in the alcove by the back stairs.

ALTAR SERVERS



On November 7, our boys enjoyed a training day, focusing on the season of the Nativity. It was a great session and many thanks to our parents for the great lunch. We also headed to a Northeastern hockey game on the 20th, and it was a fantastic night. Thanks to Mr. George Makris for hosting us. GO HUSKIES!

We look forward to more fun and learning in 2011. Please contact Chris Kourklos with questions or to help with our Altar activities: 508.380.8220; kourkat@comcast.net.

ST. LAWRENCE: DEC. 5 & 19; JAN. 2, 16 & 30

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

ST. STEPHEN: Dec. 12 & 26; Jan. 9 & 23

Captain: Lee Condakes, Vice Captains: Anthony Chirban & Peter Mavrikis
Mike Gatzunis, Matt Gatzunis, Anthony Houhoulis, Luke Pashos

GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL

Join us for our annual Christmas party on Dec. 14! Fr. Nick will share some thoughts about this holy season, and then we’ll decorate our tree, sing carols, and enjoy refreshments with friends old and new. We look forward to celebrating with your family! Please contact Avra Parpos at 508.875.2103.

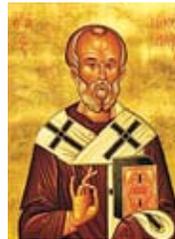


GREEK DANCING

Grades 3 – 12; Sundays 11:45 am – 12:45 pm
Dec. 5; Jan. 9 & 23

Contact Margaret Talmers at margaret.e.talmers@gmail.com; 617.323.4752.

“Saintly Lives” at St. Vasileos, Dec. 12



Alex Santangelo and Barbara Cambus are heading to Peabody to portray Sts. Nicholas and Anna for the children of our sister parish in Peabody. If you would like to join them on the 12th, representing our parish and helping with logistics, please contact Fr. Alex. All are welcome to come along.

Youth Basketball: Our Growing Program



Our program has grown substantially this year, and we’re all very proud of our players and their dedicated coaches. Their sportsmanship and sense of community have been an inspiration to us all. All games are played on Saturdays, at the Hellenic College gym; please try and take in a game or two this season in support of our players. It would mean a great deal to see you

in the stands sometime soon!

Practice Schedule:

Dec. 8, 15 (plus optional “shoot around” Dec. 29, 6 – 8 pm);
Jan. 12, 19 & 26

Jr. JOY: 6 – 7 pm

JOY: 7 – 8 pm

Please contact any of our coaches for more information:

Nick Kakas: nkakas@comast.net

Matt Little: mattlittle@northeastia.com

Mark Luzaitis: luzaitis1@verizon.net

Jack Markis: ejmarkis@markislaw.com

Tom Rontiris: rontiris@gmail.com

PARISH GINGERBREAD-MAKING: DEC. 3, 6–9 PM!

Young or young at heart? Sign up outside the Narthex today to reserve your family's kit and supplies. A pizza dinner will be served. Each individual or family is asked to offer the following:

\$10 suggested donation

2 bags of candy (no nuts please) to share

4 canned goods (will help hold up your "walls" and then will be offered to a local food pantry)

Thanks to our HOPE and JOY leaders for sponsoring this wonderful holiday event, and all our parishioners and friends are invited to join us!



GOYA COMING EVENTS

Dec. 3: Gingerbread House Event. We will decorate our own GOYA Gingerbread House(s) which we will donate to a home for children.

Dec. 11: GOYA Christmas Dance at St. Demetrios. Details to come.

Jan. 9: GOYA New Year's party at the Kourtis house. Save the date! All 7–12 graders are invited to join GOYA. To connect contact Stacey Kourtis: staceykourtis@comcast.net.

FAMILY NIGHT MOVIE NIGHT FEB. 4

Save the date! As a change of pace and special welcome to our 2011 program, we'll be offering a movie night for our children, parents and all parishioners on the 4th. We'll begin with our usual potluck at 6 pm and then begin our movie, complete with popcorn. Please...

*Confirm your potluck offering with Gina Spencer:
gina@pdillc.com

*Bring a bag of candy or another treat (nutless, please) to share

Contact any of our HOPE/JOY leaders with questions or to get involved:

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 DELIVERS 20 THANKSGIVING DINNERS TO LOCAL VETERANS!

Huge thanks to all of our caring parishioners who offered funds, pies, turkeys and a host of sides for our veterans in need. On Nov. 23, OCF leaders and other parishioners delivered the 20 dinners to Sheriff DiPaola, who received them with much appreciation. We wish all our students all the best on their exams. A special January event for all of our students home on break is being planned. Details to follow!

TELLING "WHAT IF FEELS LIKE"



Many parents wonder exactly what their children are listening to on their iPods, what kind of videos they might be seeing/hearing online. What's the music like? Is it dangerous? Does it have meaning? Should I let them listen?

The answers to these questions must be explored by us all. In any event, even when we don't like the music our children listen to, it's still important to engage it. Why? Simply because anything they like, or are drawn to, warrants our attention. If it speaks to them, we should speak to them about it. Hearing the music, in a sense, is a way for us to hear them.

Eminem's "Love the Way You Lie" is an extremely popular song right now and is being listened to and contemplated by many of our children. His latest album/songs might even be on this year's Christmas list. The song is raw and controversial—but also worth a look and a listen. For instance, the opening lines read:

*"I can't tell you what it really is
I can only tell you what it feels like
And right now it's a steel knife in my windpipe
I can't breathe but I still fight while I can fight"*

How many of the young men and women we love and cherish have deep, sometimes distressing feelings that they can't define but, perhaps, can "tell you what it feels like"? We want them to experience only joy, but sometimes they deal with sadness, isolation, grief, regret, confusion and more. This is reality. We want them to share with us, lean on us. But it's hard for them to put a finger on what's wrong, even harder for them to talk about it. Sometimes, these feelings mount over time and lead to escalating problems with even dire consequences.

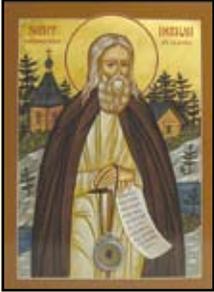
How many of our children and grandchildren here at St. Demetrios, right now, might feel like they "can't breathe" or like they are in the "fight" of their lives? How can we express our love and support ... how can we be there for them?

In this season of reflection and giving, let us give ourselves, anew, to our children. Let's offer ourselves to them, a truly great gift, and be "all ears." They may not think they need us to listen, but they may need us to listen quite desperately.

Maybe it's asking them specifics about their friends; maybe it's checking out what they love to listen to; maybe it's making the effort to share a meal; maybe it's inviting them to "vent" to us; maybe it's telling them we love them.

There's no guarantee, but if we open our ears, and hearts, they just might talk.

**ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA
Commemorated December 13**



In 1793 St. Herman (1751 - 1837) traveled from Valaam Monastery in Russia, with eight other monks, to bring the Gospel to the Aleutian Islands.

As part of the Russian colonization of the Americas, Russians had been exploring and trading there since at least 1740. He built a school for the Aleutian people, and he often defended them from the injustices and exploitation of the Russian traders. He was known to them as "Apa" which means "Grandfather." He lived most of his life as the sole resident of Spruce Island, a tiny wooded sanctuary near Kodiak Island. He was a man of great faith, courage and compassion; he truly changed the lives of the people he served.

Making it real: Not all saints lived in ancient times. Many, like St. Herman, lived in fairly recent times! This month, make a point of teaching your family that God has not stopped "talking to us" through His saints. Look up the lives of recent and modern saints like St. Nektarios and St. Raphael of Brooklyn. Make it a game to see who can find the most modern saints by doing some internet research (orthodoxwiki.org might be a good research tool). The point? The Holy Spirit was at work in our Church 2,000 years ago, 1,000 years ago and today! We're all called to live holy lives, aspiring to the lives of the saints and taking inspiration from their brave words and deeds.

November Family Night



GOYA
Lawn
Busters





PHOTOS

Building on our Faith Dinner-Dance



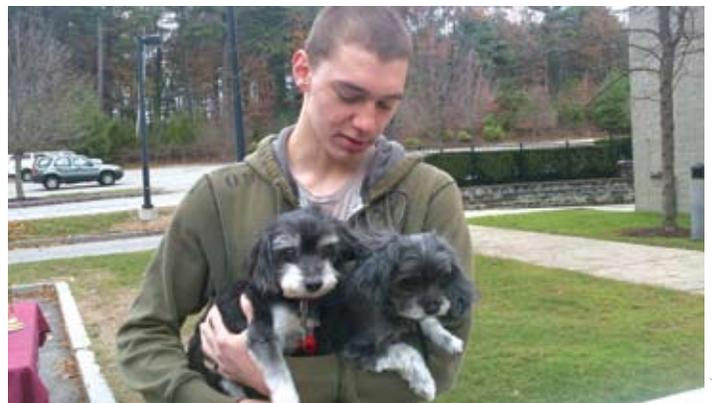
OCF Turkey Drive



Stewardship Wine-Tasting



Pet Blessing

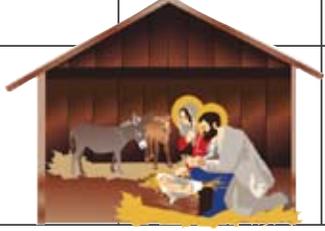


CALENDAR



DECEMBER 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Philop. wreath-making, 7 pm	2 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	3 Gingerbread House Making, 6-9	4 
5 - 10th Sun. Luke Stewardship Brunch Brown Bag Blitz Vespers, St Nicholas, Lexington, 6 pm	6 St. Nicholas Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Christmas Card donations due	7 Knitting Ministry, 1-3 Greek School, 4-6	8 - Senior Guild Outing Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm Philopt. Board Mtg, 7:30 pm	9 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	10	11 Vespers, St. Spyridon, Worcester, 7 pm GOYA Christmas Dance, 8-10:30 pm
12 11th Sun. of Luke St. Nicholas Tree gifts due Saintly Lives at St. Vasilius	13 St. Herman Feast Day	14 EPOCH Outreach, 10:30 Grk School Christmas party, 6 pm	15 Basketball practice, 6 & 7 pm	16 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	17	18 Bingo at Hellenic Nursing Center, 2-3:30
19 Sunday Before Nativity Christmas Pageant	20	21	22 	23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	24 Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy, 6 pm Reception	25 Christmas Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am
26 Sunday After Nativity Church School Family Worship	27 	28 	30	31  		

JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Happy New Year!!</i>						1 New Year's Day St. Basil the Great Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am
2 Sunday before Theophany/ Blessing of the Waters	3	4 Knitting Ministry, 1-3	5 Eve of Theophany Vespers Liturgy, 6 pm	6 - Theophany Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Greek School, 4-6 Vespers, St. John's, Boston, 7 pm	7 - St. John the Baptist Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am	8
9- Sunday after Theophany Vasilopita reception GOYA New Year's Party	10	11 EPOCH Outreach, 10:30 am Greek School, 4-6	12 Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm Philopt. Board Mtg, 7:30 pm	13 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	14	15 Bingo at Hellenic Nursing and Rehab. Center, 2-3:30

St. Demetrios Community Christmas Card

Include your name in the St. Demetrios Community Christmas Card. As in the past, a card will be sent to every member of St. Demetrios; enclosed with each card will be a list of the subscribers. \$20 donation. Make checks payable to "St. Demetrios Philoptochos" and forward to Pat Liacopulos (715 Pleasant Street, Marlboro 01752) by Dec. 6. Pat may be contacted at 508.481.8025.

2ND ANNUAL WREATH-MAKING DEC. 1, 7 pm:



This year we are expanding the selection of ribbons and decorations! Also, feel free to bring your own additional decorations, as well as a pair of scissors to share.

Bring a friend, family member or colleague from work. \$25 per person. Please sign up in advance so we may have enough supplies: Pam Brody (781.891.8269), Lia Sgourakes (617.695.3230), or Amalie George (781.444.7659; amalie@aageorgecpa.com).

GREEK COLLECTION COOKBOOK

\$20 each. The cookbook makes a wonderful gift for Christmas, birthday, a hostess gift, or any occasion.

CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION DECEMBER 24

If you would like to provide home-baked goods for the reception, please contact Eugenia Kourlos: 508.881.2409; kourkat@comcast.net.



ANNUAL VASILOPITA RECEPTION JANUARY 9

If you would like to bake a Vasilopita for the reception, please contact Eugenia Kourlos: 508.881.2409; kourkat@comcast.net.

PHILOPTOCHOS CARE MINISTRIES

Cancelled stamps and used eyeglasses (ongoing): We thank you for your donations and ask that you continue saving used eyeglasses and cancelled stamps for our many worthy endeavors. They may be dropped off in the Church office.

Knitting Ministry: Regular knitting days, 1 – 3 pm, are planned for Dec. 7 and Jan. 4 and 18. Join us—all are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2011

December is the time when we are in the midst of preparation for Christmas but it's also the time for our 2011 Stewardship drive. Soon you will receive your 2011 Stewardship package which will ask you to prayerfully review your past contributions to the Church in time, talent and treasure and to make a pledge for the coming year. Our events kick off with Stewardship Sunday on December 5. As we did last year, we ask that all our Stewards come to Church with their pledge cards to be deposited in special collection trays. Afterwards, we will enjoy a nice omelet brunch prepared by our Parish Council.

The Parish Council has been especially diligent about controlling expenses but nonetheless certain costs continue to rise. If we all make the same pledge as we had in previous years, the Church will continue to fall behind in meeting its obligations. Please consider increasing your pledge even just a small amount, to insure we can meet our expenses and continue the many ministries we offer.

For the first time, I'm pleased to introduce a new, on-line donation capability. From the St. Demetrios website, you can make Stewardship (or other contributions) using your banking details or credit cards. From here you can set this up to deduct regular payments, automatically from your account or credit card. This has been requested by many parishioners and if this capability interests you, please visit www.stdemetriosweston.org/stewardship. Click on "Online Donations." This service is secure and is provided by a third party which undergoes regular security audits and is compliant with all credit card security standards. If you would rather make your contribution in person, or over the phone, this option is also available at the Church office.

Dean Coclin
Stewardship Chairman



*Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing,
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing,
Returns to you glad.*



- John Greenleaf Whittier

ADULT EDUCATION

ORTHODOX LIFE MINISTRY

"Come & See: the Architecture of Faith"

Our November presentation, offered by Dr. Jim Skedros, connected our spiritual lives to the beautiful elements of the Orthodox Church building. We appreciate Jim's time and also his inspiring, approachable presentation. Further offerings on this vital topic are forthcoming. Please check the weekly bulletin for dates and times.

Our Church Building: The Beautiful Gates



The central doors of the icon screen are referred to as "beautiful" because Christ the King is carried through them within the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Their magnificent presence reminds us that Christ alone is the door leading to Communion with the Father. As Christ proclaims in the Gospel of St. John, "No one comes to the Father, but by me" (14:6).

SEASONAL PASTORAL VISITS

Visits to our homebound parishioners, as well as those in nursing and rehab centers, are underway. Please contact Fr. Nick or Fr. Alex to arrange a visit for yourself, a family member or loved one.

SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

Our struggling economy continues to take its toll on our professional and personal lives. This beautiful season of giving is also, for many of us, a season of critical need. If Fr. Nick and Fr. Alex can be of support to you or your family in any way, never hesitate to contact them for assistance, or even just to talk.

IN SERVICE TO OUR CHURCH

We are always pleased to hear about our various stewards who have been selected, or appointed, to serve in various Metropolis and Archdiocesan positions. Our own Philipa Condakes is President of the Boston Metropolis Board, and Demetra Safiol was appointed to the National Board of Philoptochos. Also, Peter John Condakes and Angelo Stamoulis have been appointed to serve on the Archdiocesan Council over the next few years. Congratulations to all of them, and we thank them for their service to the national Church.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to host a Fellowship Hour this year. We still have 14 open Sundays to fill. Please consider helping one Sunday—individuals or groups. All supplies provided. Please sign up on the board in the hall or contact co-coordinators Mary Ellen Paravalos (781.349.8077) or Julie Kavas (781.762.1647).



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE 50-SOMETHING CLUB

The Fifty Something Club wishes you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year. May all you desire and hope for come true in 2011!



SENIOR LUNCH & MUSIC, DEC. 8

In lieu of our Salem Cross trip, we'll be carpooling to the Sherborn Inn (33 N. Main St., Sherborn) for a 3-course lunch and outstanding music, offered by prominent Boston musicians. Depart Church: 11 am. Program concludes: 2 pm. \$22 per person, which includes lunch, tax, gratuity and music. Contact Pam Brody: 781.891.8269.

**PHILANTHROPY
and SOCIAL ACTION**

BROWN BAG MINISTRY: "STACKS OF SNACKS"



Our Dec./Jan. effort will support the Chesterbrook Learning Center of Waltham. The theme will be "Stacks of Snacks" and will focus

on after-school snack foods: fruit snacks, crackers, granola bars, Goldfish, breakfast bars, etc. Please accept a brown bag on Dec. 5 ("Blitz Day") and return it to one of our drop-off bins by Jan. 30. Thanks to all for your generosity in this season of reflection and giving! Contact Lydia Santangelo to get involved: lydiaeventspclst@aol.com.

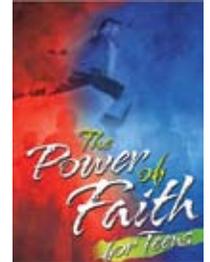
EPOCH OUTREACH: DEC. 14 & JAN. 11, 10:30 A.M.

Our EPOCH parishioners would love to spend time with you! Contact Fr. Alex to join us for an upcoming visit.



ST. DEMETRIOS BOOKSTORE

Now is the time to start thinking of Christmas gifts. There are many wonderful books, icons and items to choose from. Some of the latest additions include *The Power of Faith for Teens*, written by teens describing their dramatic and personal stories, and also "The Legend of the Three Trees," which tells how the trees learn that God has a special purpose for them in His kingdom. Visit us in the hall!



THE VINE ONLINE

Each month, the latest Vine is readily available online at www.stdemetriusweston.org/the-vine/. It presents beautifully online, and it's easy for all of us to print out the calendar page and post it on the "fridge" or other convenient spot. If you are not receiving weekly E-blasts and updates from our Church office, you're encouraged to contact us today or sign up at our "Vine Online" table in the hall. This will allow us to share parish news, special events, website updates and much more in the most immediate, convenient and cost-effective way. Thanks to all for supporting this important effort.

WWW.OCF.NET

This vital resource for our college students continues to grow in scope and value. Stay connected on campus!

WWW.GOARCH.ORG/CHAPEL

Scroll to the bottom of this page and subscribe to daily scriptural readings via email. Starting the day with the Gospel can make all the difference.

ST. NICHOLAS GIVING TREE

Dear St. Demetrios Santas:

Thank you for choosing to help make it a Merry Christmas for a child under the care of the Department of Children and Families. This is a wonderful way for those of us who enjoy so many blessings to share them with those who have so few.

What better lesson for our own children in the true meaning of this most holy season?

The "wish lists" we have received were compiled by the social worker and the child.

Please do not be turned off by a request for an iPod, Playstation or the like. Even children without homes have dreams at Christmas. Do

what you can—and then maybe a little more. The wish list is meant only as a guide for you. If you are able to buy a jacket, clothing or shoes, please include a gift receipt.

All gifts should be enclosed within one large wrapped box or gift bag. Please take a moment to write a nice message in the card to your "chosen child." Then, securely affix the Christmas card to the package. Gifts must be returned to Church no later than Sunday, December 12.

If you commit to sponsoring a child, please follow through. A gift not returned means that particular child will go without. Thank you so much for helping to make this one of St. Demetrios' most special traditions.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Agris Savage: 508.652.9020; nancyasavage@gmail.com.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

The daughter of Jeffrey and Anastasia Foufas-Chausse was baptized on Saturday, November 6th, and named **Eva**. The sponsors were Theodoros Foufas and Lori Chausse.

The daughter of Anthony Limberis and June Fang was baptized on Saturday, November 13th, and named **Caroline**. The sponsors were George and Joanne Limberis.

The daughter of Ameen Haddad and Kristen Deftos was baptized on Saturday, November 20th, and named **Taylor Ashleigh**. The sponsors were William Deftos and Andrea Robbins.

*May God bless them with
His divine grace, always!*

ALTAR FLOWERS

*Altar flowers were generously donated
by the following parishioners:*

Sunday, November 7

In loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. George S. Speare by their family, Jean and George Canellos, Diane and Jim Triant, Cynthia Zervas.

Sunday, November 28

Andy and Debby Rempis, for the health of loved ones.



SAVE THE DATE!
Important St. Demetrios events:

January 9:
Vasilopita Sunday

January 28:
Miracle Kitchen

February 4:
Family Night



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
57 BROWN STREET
WESTON, MA 02493