

# St. Demetrios

## Greek Orthodox Church

4970 Mackinaw Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603

Church Office **989-793-8822**  
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989-793-8659  
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989-793-8886

### Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Cook (517) 515-9565

### Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

### Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

### Under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the

### Ecumenical Patriarchate in

### Constantinople

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I

### 2014/15 Parish Council

**President** - Dr. Thomas Barris (2016)  
**Vice Pres.** - Megan Rodriguez (2016)  
**Treasurer** - Dennis Ostler (2016)  
**Secretary** - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)  
Bill Delong (2016)  
Yvonne Delong (2016)  
Soula Economou (2017)  
Eleni Morris (2016)  
Dr. David Nichols (2016)  
Joanie Porchia (2017)  
Efthios Siradakis (2016)

### Parish Ministries & Organizations

#### Altar Boy Advisor

Panayiotis Metropoulos

#### Chanters

Ted Veremis Andreas Skoutelas  
Maria Metropoulos  
Dr. Andrew Bazakis

#### Philoptochos President

Virginia Ulmer

#### Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

#### Greek School Directors

Alexia & Evan Houpis

#### AHEPA President

George Zaharopoulos

#### Daughters of Penelope President

Vicki Clifford

#### GOYA Advisors

Dr. Andrew Bazakis  
Bessie Bone

#### Dance Group Directors

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez  
Alexander Sarantis & Jacob Bone

#### Diakonia Editor

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

# DIAKONIA

JANUARY 2016



## The Church in the Home – Theophany, 2016

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

On I-94 heading west from Ann Arbor, one passes (or used to pass) a billboard which reads “Prepare to meet thy God.” While this might seem a little ominous speeding along a freeway at 70+ miles per hour, this was a sign that I would often pass on my way to church while I was in college, as well as when I was driving home from visiting family. It always seemed particularly fitting when I was on my way to church because, after all, this is precisely what we come to church to do. Especially when preparing to receive communion, we are quite literally preparing to meet our God. The church is a holy place set aside for the divine services, a holy place where we come and expect to find God.

Sometimes, though, church becomes the *only* place where we expect to find God. The church becomes “the” holy place rather than “a” holy place...the church is God space and everywhere else, by extension, is not. But this is not our intention...this is not why we have the holy space that is the church. We have this holy space, this place where we come to meet God, so that we can by coming to the church learn to meet God everywhere else. We have this holy place so that we can learn to recognize the holiness every place we go. This is, by and large, what the Christian life is: learning to recognize God in everyone we meet and everywhere we go, learning by long practice to offer up our whole selves to God.

And if we begin in the holy place that is the church building, the next step is our homes. As the Christian family is an extension of the family that is the Body of Christ (that is, the Church), so also the Christian home is meant to be an extension of the home of the Body of Christ that is the church building. Just as we sanctify the church building, decorate it with icons, and fill it with incense and prayer, so also we hang icons in our homes, burn incense in our homes, and strive above all to fill our homes and daily lives with prayer. This is why we do house blessings this month, following the feast of Theophany and the Great Blessing of the Waters that accompanies it. We bless the church building with the holy water every year, revealing it as a holy place and in the same way we bless our homes with holy water, revealing them also as a holy place, a place where the people of God come together to pray to God and to meet Him.

So as we begin this new year and make our customary resolutions, let us above all resolve to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the church, to “prepare to meet our God” both in the holy place that is the church, and to strive to extend that holiness to our homes and our daily lives so that we might live in the light of Christ every day, and everywhere.



# PARISH COUNCIL

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION OF OUR PARISH

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

## *Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule*

- Jan. 3 Prosforon: Elan Nichols  
Fellowship: John & Carol Musulin
- Jan. 10 Prosforon: Soula Ostler  
Fellowship: Christ & Yiota Psetas
- Jan. 17 Prosforon: Rita Sous  
Fellowship: Andy & Paraskevi Skoutelas
- Jan. 24 Prosforon: Megan Rodriguez  
Fellowship: Stephanie & Karl Stephan
- Jan. 31 Prosforon: Lenore Tsiros  
Fellowship: Nancy & Sandy Haddad



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

## ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES



- 11/15 - In Memory of Ron Jaqueman, happy death, by John & Kristen Tsiros
- 11/15 - Better health for Kim Calvert, by John Tsiros
- 11/15 - In Memory of Mary Kouvelas, by Sophia & Johnathan Bernhart
- 11/15 - 11/22 - In Memory of Julie Barris-Cookemaster by the Barris Family
- 11/22 - In Memory of Julie Cookemaster by Lou & Soula Economou
- 11/23 - In Memory of Paasikivi (Voula) Moucandimithes, departed 3 years, by the Povich Family
- 11/23- In Memory of George Kouvelas, brother, uncle, godfather, by Elaine Kimmerly & Family
- 11/29 - In Memory of Voula Moucandimithes, by Sophia & Johnathan Bernhart
- 11/29 - Successful operation for Irwin Hauffe II, by Kurt Hauffe
- 12/6 - In Memory of Nickolas Delollis by Peter & Maria Metropoulos
- 12/6 - In Memory of Mary Kouvelas, may her memory be eternal, by Elaine Kimmerly & Family

# PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Our pre-order bake sale was spectacular! Our wonderful volunteers prepared tiropita, spanakopita & baklava for 2 days...then showed up again to distribute the baked goods on pick-up day. This is only the 2nd year that we have had this but it has been a great way to raise funds for our philanthropy both for our church and our community. A special thanks to Joni Porchia and Eleni Morris for chairing this project and working many, many hours to make this a success!

Because of the bake sale success, we were able again to donate to five worthy charities in the Tri-City area.

Our December meeting was held at Eleni Morris' beautiful (and beautifully decorated) home. We had a great turnout with lots of good food...a productive meeting...and way too much fun!

Thank you, thank you Eleni...it was so kind of you to have all of us over...you are a wonderful hostess!

On December 20th, the Philoptochos hosted a Christmas luncheon in our fellowship hall for all parishioners. Thank you to Koula and Mark Legner for preparing a delicious lunch for all of us to enjoy. I also want to thank our decorating committee, those who helped serve and those who did all the clean-up! What a great team we have!

On that same day, we had our annual Xmas silent auction. We had many donations of beautiful gifts to be auctioned. Again...thank you to all who participated. This is meant to be not only a fundraiser but also a lot of fun as we try to outbid each other!

There were a lot of us that were hoping that we would win the iPad that was raffled. Our lucky winner was F.T. Siradakis. Congratulations! I can't think of anyone more deserving.

We will be celebrating St. Basil's Day on January 10th and enjoying Vasilopita baked by some of our Philoptochos ladies.

Since we have been so extremely busy these past couple of months, we are taking a break and not having a meeting until February 21st.

I keep saying that we have the BEST members but I can't say it enough!! We are so blessed as a congregation to have such wonderful ladies that are always so willing to volunteer their time and talents for the good of our church.

Wishing you all God's blessings in the new year.

Virginia Ulmer  
President

# Saint Demetrios Calendar of Events • January 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<b>1 ✠</b> New Year's Day FAST FREE Circumcision of the Lord St. Basil the Great Colossians 2:8-12 Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	<b>2 ♦</b> FAST FREE Forefeast of Theophany Sylvester, Pope of Rome Seraphim of Sarov Hebrews 5:4-10 John 3:1-15 No Vespers	<b>3 ✠</b> FAST FREE Sunday Before Theophany Prophet Malachi Timothy 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)
<b>4 FAST FREE</b> Synaxis of the 70 Apostles Theoctistus the Righteous Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-10 John 1:18-28	<b>5 STRICT FAST</b> Eve of Theophany 1 Corinthians 9:19-27 Luke 3:1-18 Royal Hours (9:00 am) Vespers Lit. (10:00 am) Blessing of the Waters	<b>6 HOLY THEOPHANY</b> FAST FREE Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Matthew 3:13-17 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Blessing of the Waters	<b>7</b> Synaxis of the Forerunner Afterfeast of the Epiphany Acts 19:1-8 John 1:29-34 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)	<b>8</b> George of Hozeva Dominica the Righteous Romans 6:3-11 John 3:22-33	<b>9 ♦</b> Saturday After Epiphany Martyr Polyeuctus Ephesians 6:10-17 Matthew 4:1-11 Great Vespers (5:00pm)	<b>10 ✠</b> Sunday After Epiphany Gregory of Nyssa Ephesians 4:7-13 Matthew 4:12-17 Orthros (8:50am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am) Vasilopita
<b>11</b> Theodosius the Cenobiarch Vitalis of Gaza Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 11:27-30	<b>12</b> Tatiana, Martyr of Rome Basil and John, the Hieromartys Acts 18:22-28 John 10:39-42	<b>13</b> Hermylus and Stratonice Maximos the Righteous	<b>14</b> Apodosis of Epiphany Agnes the Virgin-Martyr Acts 2:38-43 Luke 4:1-15	<b>15</b> Paul of Thebes John the Hut-Dweller Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 Luke 12:32-40	<b>16 ♦</b> Veneration of Apostle Peter's Precious Chains Hierodeacon Makarios Acts 12:1-11 John 21:14-25 Great Vespers (5:00pm)	<b>17 ✠</b> 12th Sunday of Luke Anthony the Great Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 17:12-19 Orthros (8:50am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am)
<b>18</b> Athanasios & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19 Parish Council Mtg (7 pm)	<b>19</b> Macarius the Great Mark, Bishop of Ephesus Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 Matthew 19:16-26	<b>20 ☩</b> Righteous Euthymius Zacharias the New Martyr 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Luke 6:17-23	<b>21</b> Maximus the Confessor Neophytos the Martyr of Nicaea Philippians 1:12-20 Luke 12:8-12	<b>22 ☩</b> Timothy of the 70 Martyr Anastasius Timothy 1:3-8 Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30	<b>23 ♦</b> Clement, Bp. of Ancyra Agathangelus the Martyr Philippians 3:20-21; 4:1-3 Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5 Great Vespers (5:00pm)	<b>24 ✠</b> 14th Sunday of Luke Xenia, Deaconess of Rome Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 Luke 18:35-43 Orthros (8:50am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am)
<b>25</b> Gregory the Theologian Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2 John 10:9-16	<b>26</b> Xenophon & Companions Symeon the Elder James 3:1-10 Mark 11:11-23	<b>27 ☩</b> Translation of the Relics of John Chrysostom Peter the Righteous Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2 John 10:9-16	<b>28</b> Ephraim the Syrian Isaac the Syrian Galatians 5:22-26:6:1-2 Luke 6:17-23	<b>29</b> Translation of the Relics of Ignatius the Godbearer Laurence of the Kiev Caves Hebrews 10:32-38 Mark 9:22-41	<b>30 ♦</b> Three Hierarchs Hippolytos of Rome Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19 Great Vespers (5:00pm)	<b>31 ✠</b> 15th Sunday of Luke Cyrus & John the Unmercenaries 1st Corinthians 12:27-13:8 Luke 19:1-10 Orthros (8:50am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am)

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

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U.S. Postage  
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Saginaw, MI  
Permit # 107

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9a.m. - 1p.m. Mon. & Thurs.  
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stdemetriosmi@gmail.com

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

### DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



The Daughter's Christmas party & meeting was held on Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Peggy Nemode who opened her home to the group and prepared the

wonderful main course. An enjoyable time was had by all.

As is the Daughter's custom, during the Christmas season, selecting organizations that need help was the first order of business. It was decided donate to First Choice (an organization that helps the handicapped live on their own), a local family in need, Music and Minors (an organization that teaches music to disadvantaged students, and to a family from Fenton, Mi who has adopted 5 Orthodox boys from the Ukraine and is adopting 2 more.

Our next meeting is on Sunday, Jan. 24 after church services. Mark your calendars for Bingo & Lunch on Sunday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are welcome to attend. Details in next months bulletin.



**It's time to get your house blessed!!  
Call the Church office and schedule  
an appointment with Father Tim.**



**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Commemorative Book  
Only \$20  
Includes Free DVD  
(See any council member)**



**Greek'tober Fest 2016  
Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
11 a.m. - 11 p.m.**