**Life of the Saint**

Saint John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria, was born on Cyprus in the seventh century into the family of the illustrious dignitary Epiphanius. At the wish of his parents he entered into marriage and had children. When the wife and the children of the saint died, he became a monk. He was zealous in fasting and prayer, and had great love for those around him.

His spiritual exploits won him honor among men, and even the emperor revered him. When the Patriarchal throne of Alexandria fell vacant, the emperor Heraclius and all the clergy begged Saint John to occupy the Patriarchal throne.

The saint worthily assumed his archpastoral service, concerning himself with the moral and dogmatic welfare of his flock. As patriarch he denounced every soul-destroying heresy, and drove out from Alexandria the Monophysite Phyllonos of Antioch.

He considered his chief task to be charitable and to give help all those in need. At the beginning of his patriarchal möchten

*Continued on pg. 8...*
Diakonia
is the monthly newsletter of
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
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St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Mission of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, witness, and service. We invite all people to join us on this journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

"Diakonia" is published on the first of each month. The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the 20th of the prior month.

Published by
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Saginaw, MI

Altar Vigil Candles
October

10/11 - Mike Mackool - to recover from the Coronavirus. By the Ferris family.
10/18 - George Stavros - Memory eternal
By Elan Nichols.
- Mike & Linda Mackool - Recovery & caregiving - By the Ferris family.
- Alex Ahejew - better health.
  By Petro & Sandra Ahejew.
- Marge Paron - Better health.
  By Petro & Sandra Ahejew.
- Peter Brown - Memory Eternal.
  By Tula & Diana Brown.
- George Stavros - Departed/Happy Death
  By the Nichols Family
10/25 - Tina Ahejew - Better health.
  By Petro & Sandra Ahejew.
- Peter Brown - Memory Eternal.
  By Tula & Diana Brown.
- Demetrios Pantazis - Blessed Name Day.
  By Sophia & Johnathon Bernhart.
- Demetrios Pantazis - Blessed Name Day.
  By Christina Zahareos.

Visit our St. Demetrios website:
www.stdemetrios.mi.goarch.org
for our weekly bulletins, newsletter
archives, lives of the saints and daily
scripture readings, news from our
community, and much more!

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Altar Boy Advisors: Evan Houpis, Dr. Andy Bazakis
Bookstore: **vacant**
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Daniel Niederer, Andreas Skoutelas
Custodian: Mark Legner
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Festival Chair: Dr. David Nichols
Philoptochos President: Joni Porchia
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Sunday School Director: Caitlin Niederer
Youth Protection Administrator: Elaine Makas

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of the Holy Metropolis of Detroit

The Reverend Father Timothy Cook, Priest
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Dr. David Nichols, Elan Nichols
FROM THE DESK OF FR. TIMOTHY

LIVING GENEROUSLY WITH ST. JOHN THE MERCIFUL

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” – Luke 6:35

This month, we're featuring St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria as our "cover saint" for the newsletter. Though he is not as well-known as St. John the Baptist or St. Basil the Great, St. John the Merciful is a regular part of our lives just the same. For example, he is commemorated every Sunday in the Orthros and every time we celebrate the Paraklesis service, in the prayer “O God save your people and bless your inheritance…” In fact, any time we remember the great hierarchs of the Church we commemorate St. John alongside St. Athanasius the Great and St. Cyril of Alexandria. We remember him as a great hierarch, one of the great luminaries of Alexandria, but most of all as “the Merciful” because of his great attention to alms-giving and to the poor.

What strikes me about the life of St. John the Merciful, though, is not simply his generous spirit. I think that, given the opportunity, we would all like to be as generous. Our willingness to help is usually, I think, not what keeps us from giving of our time, talent, or treasure – whether to the Church or to our neighbor in need. Whether it is giving to the Church, giving to the poor, or even simply “investing” in our own spiritual lives, I think we all recognize that these are good and even desirable things to do. We want to be more active in the Church, we want to give to God and to our neighbor, we want to be able to respond to the needs of the poor the same way that St. John did – with largesse and generosity. What we lack is not willingness, but the opportunity.

I don’t mean “opportunity” in the sense of the chance (or seemingly so) encounter with someone in need – this happens to us all the time. I mean that we do not give ourselves the opportunity to respond in these situations by preparing for them in advance.

This is what strikes me about the life of St. John – he prepared himself for these encounters, both physically and spiritually. He set aside funds from his own treasury and from the Church treasury specifically for this purpose – much like Metropolitan Nicholas’ “Jesus Pocket” – so that when a need arose he had resources ready with which to respond. Even more, he didn’t have to think about whether he was going to respond, because he had already made up his mind to do so. Even in cases when people seemed to be taking advantage of him, his response was to give, saying simply “perhaps Christ is putting me to the test.”

As Christians, giving is not just a task or a duty, it should be part of our identity. To have a Christian spirit is to have a generous spirit. But, as one priest observed, “the most important things in our spiritual life are what we do and how we do it,” not just what we want or think. To be generous is more than a mind-set, it’s a way of life that takes preparation not only of the will but actual forethought and setting aside of resources. To be generous requires us to pray and to think ahead for how we want to respond when God calls on us to be like Him and like St. John the Merciful and give generously without thought of return.

So how can we be like St. John, and prepare for the opportunities to live generously?

1) First and foremost, we should pray about it! Ask God for help and guidance in being good stewards of our time, our talent, and our treasure so that we can prepare ourselves mentally, spiritually, and physically to truly live as generously as God calls us and we would like to be.

2) Don’t be afraid to ask for help! Just like prayer and fasting, cultivating generosity is a tough discipline to master. Ask your friendly neighborhood parish priest for help and advice!

3) When you sit down to make your weekly, monthly, or yearly budget – start with the giving category. (If you don't have a budget, now is the time to start!) Start with the Church, then budget out each gift in turn, whether it's a planned gift to a ministry like IOCC or the Salvation Army or setting
aside cash so you have something ready to give to someone in need. If we don't plan it and set it aside in advance, our pockets will most likely be empty in that moment.

4) Make up your mind, in advance, that your answer will be “yes.” If we plan ahead and prepare our gifts in advance, it’s much easier to say “yes,” but even when we have something to hand it’s easy for doubts to creep into our heads. In those moments it is good to remember the words of the Lord from Luke 6:30: “Give to everyone who asks of you.” Remember, even if our pocket is empty, we should always have a smile and a kind word.

On November 15th, we begin the Nativity Fast - a 40-day journey to the feast of Christmas. This is a period that is especially devoted to giving and cultivating a spirit of generosity. As we prepare for and journey through this season, may St. John the Merciful be our guide and mentor in cultivating a spirit of true generosity, generosity that is not simply thought or wished, but lived.

Remember – this isn't about completing some task or filling up a measure of generosity. This is about our identity. God has called us to be like Him – in every way. Generosity should be part of our very being, it should be our identity. He calls us to be merciful, just as He is merciful – to go, and do likewise, so that in truth we may be sons and daughters of the Most High.

A blessed month and Nativity Fast to you all!

In Christ,
Fr Timothy

### Daughters of Penelope

The Daughters of Penelope wish to thank all who came and helped with the Gyro Sale and making it a huge success!

A special thank you goes out to Megan Rodriguez who chaired this event again this year.

You are all very much appreciated!

Vaia Economou-Clifford
President

### Philoptochos Corner

Philoptochos continues to reach out to the Saint Demetrios community.

We celebrated our feast day with many beautiful church services. We welcomed our beloved member, Barbara Milionis, back to Saginaw for a quick visit. She loves St. Demetrios and we loved seeing her.

A big "Thank You" to Helen Morris for making our church look so beautiful with all the flower decorations and also to Megan Rodriguez for working so hard to prepare lunch for everyone in celebration of the feast day.

We will have our first meeting Sunday, November 8th, after church at Timber’s Bar and Grill. We will be in the large room in the back so as we can have ample space for distancing. Looking forward to seeing all that are able to attend the meeting.

Joni Porchia
President

### Resources for the "Little Church"

#### Little Church Foundations - Icon Corner
This post gives suggestions for how to set up an icon corner, if you don’t already have one.

#### Illumination Learning - Website
An amazing resource for Orthodox Christian education - at Church or at home.

#### AGES Initiatives - Digital Chant Stand (DCS)
Our source for service books and music, especially for Lent & Holy Week. AGES provides service PDFs as well as sheet music for the hymns.
Feast of St. Demetrios
&
83rd Anniversary of our Parish
Proposed Iconography Project

The Altar

We are nearly finished with the planning for the next phase of iconography for St. Demetrios! The proposed next phase is to complete the iconography in and around the altar area. We have selected an iconographer and the project has been approved by His Eminence - pending the results of the General Assembly we should be able to start moving ahead before the end of the year. The Beautification Committee and the Parish Council are excited to be able to share the fruits of the last few years of deliberation as we move this process forward.

The project includes the following icons (proposed saints in italics):

1) Four (4) full-figure bishop saints on the lower portion of the altar wall - two (2) on the left, two (2) on the right. (Figure #1)
   Sts. Leo the Great & Ambrose of Milan on the left, and Sts. Spyridon & John the Merciful on the right.
2) Six (6) half-figure medallion icons of bishops on the upper portions of the altar wall - three (3) on the left, three (3) on the right. (Figure #1)
   Sts. Innocent of Alaska, John of SanFrancisco, & Raphael of Brooklyn on the left,
   and Sts. Nektarios, Gregory Palamas, and Dionysios of Zakynthos on the right.
3) Two (2) half-figure medallion icons above the iconostasis, one on the left over the existing icons of St. George & St. John the Russian, one on the right over the existing icons of St. Catherine & St. Anastasia. (Figure #2)
   St. Romanos the Melodist on the left, & St. Cassiani the Hymnographer on the right.
4) One Deisis icon of Christ enthroned with the Theotokos on His right and St. Demetrios on his left in the niche in front of the baptismal font. (Figure #3)
5) Ornamentation on the blank walls to either side of the Platyttera icon in the apse to highlight that icon. (Figure #4)

The total cost of the iconography has been quoted at $44,300 for all the iconography and accompanying ornamentation. This can be covered in its entirety out of the Memorial Fund (which is a restricted account within the Building Fund reserved for iconography and beautification projects) and $25,000 donation which was specifically slated for iconography by the donor. No fundraising is required to complete this phase, though we will of course welcome any donations towards the project as a whole or towards specific icons.

Vladimir Grygorenko is the iconographer we’ve chosen for this project after an extensive search and after considering several other candidates and two other quotes. We chose him because his work was, in our judgement, better than the others as well as being competitive cost-wise. You can view samples of his work on his website: www.orthodox-icon.com. Most recently, he completed a project for St. Gregory Palamas Greek Orthodox Monastery in Ohio.

*The colors and the figures in the mockups to the right are approximations only, and should not be taken as representative either of Vladimir’s work or the the final appearance of the iconography.*
service he ordered his stewards to compile a list of all the poor and downtrodden in Alexandria, which turned out to be over seven thousand men. The saint ordered that all of these unfortunates be provided for each day out of the church's treasury.

Twice during the week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, he emerged from the doors of the patriarchal cathedral, and sitting on the church portico, he received everyone in need. He settled quarrels, helped the wronged, and distributed alms. Three times a week he visited the sick-houses, and rendered assistance to the suffering. It was during this period that the emperor Heraclius led a tremendous army against the Persian emperor Chosroes II. The Persians ravaged and burned Jerusalem, taking a multitude of captives. The holy Patriarch John gave a large portion of the church treasury for their ransom.

The saint never refused suppliants. One day, when the saint was visiting the sick, he met a beggar and commanded that he be given six silver coins. The beggar changed his clothes, ran on ahead of the Patriarch, and again asked for alms. Saint John gave him six more silver coins. When, however, the beggar sought charity a third time, and the servants began to chase the fellow away, the Patriarch ordered that he be given twelve pieces of silver, saying, “Perhaps he is Christ putting me to the test.” Twice the saint gave money to a merchant that had suffered shipwreck, and a third time gave him a ship belonging to the Patriarchate and filled with grain, with which the merchant had a successful journey and repaid his obligations.

Saint John the Merciful was known for his gentle attitude towards people. Once, the saint was compelled to excommuniate two clergymen for a certain time because of some offense. One of them repented, but the other fellow became angry with the Patriarch and fell into greater sins. The saint wanted to summon him and calm him with kind words, but it slipped his mind. When he was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, the saint was suddenly reminded by the words of the Gospel: “If you bring your gift to the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar ... first, be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Mt. 5:23-24). The saint came out of the altar, called the offending clergyman to him, and falling down on his knees before him in front of all the people he asked forgiveness. The cleric, filled with remorse, repented of his sin, corrected himself, and afterwards was found worthy to be ordained to the priesthood.

There was a time when a certain citizen insulted George, the Patriarch’s nephew. George asked the saint to avenge the wrong. The saint promised to deal with the offender so that all of Alexandria would marvel at what he had done. This calmed George, and Saint John began to instruct him, speaking of the necessity for meekness and humility. Then he summoned the man who insulted George. When Saint John learned that the man lived in a house owned by the church, he declared that he would excuse him from paying rent for an entire year. Alexandria indeed was amazed by such a “revenge,” and George learned from his uncle how to forgive offenses and to bear insults for God’s sake.

Saint John, a strict ascetic and man of prayer, was always mindful of his soul, and of death. He ordered a coffin for himself, but told the craftsmen not to finish it. Instead, he would have them come each feastday and ask if it was time to finish the work.

Saint John was persuaded to accompany the governor Nicetas on a visit to the emperor in Constantinople. While on his way to visit the earthly king, he dreamed of a resplendent man who said to him, “The King of Kings summons you.” He sailed to his native island of Cyprus, and at Amanthos the saint peacefully fell asleep in the Lord (616-620).

**Synaxarion Verses for St. John**

*John distributed and gave to the hungry, Which was received by Christ who stood beside them! The Merciful departed on the twelfth without anything.*
SAINTS/FEASTS OF THE MONTH
November 1
Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother Saint Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, Saint Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, “Freely have you received, freely give.” (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Saints Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, “Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When Saint Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. Saint Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where Saint Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (July 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).

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- Shaded days denote a fast day.
- ☼ denotes a Liturgy
- ✡ Great Vespers/Compline
- ✤ Akathist/Paraklesis
- ✏ Presanctified Liturgy
- 🐟 fish/wine/oil allowed
- 🍇 wine/oil allowed
Metropolis of Detroit COVID-19 Pandemic Response

General Requirements
(see website or call office with questions)

- Anyone who is currently experiencing any symptoms of illness must stay at home.
- All at risk persons are strongly encouraged to stay at home.
  - At risk persons are those with pre-existing health conditions, and those over the age of 65.

*St. Demetrios will continue to live-stream all of our services, so anyone who is so desires may continue streaming our services from home.*

- Everyone is required to wear masks. Masks are available at the door if needed.
- The faithful should refrain from kissing the icons and other holy objects, showing reverence instead with a bow.

St. Demetrios Christmas Card!

We're getting ready to place our order for the parish Christmas card. To be included in this year's card, please fill out this form and drop it off at the pangari desk after the service or send it to the Church Office along with a check for $10 made out to St. Demetrios.

Mail to: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
4970 Mackinaw Road
Saginaw, MI 48603

Your name: __________________________________________

How you would like to be listed in the card:

_________________________________________________________

Christmas card forms will also be available at the Pangari. Simply fill one out when you come to the church. Your $10 donation helps defray the cost of the card.
November 7
Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny of Brooklyn

He was born in Beirut, modern-day Lebanon, to Damascene Syrian parents of the Antiochian Orthodox faith who had come to Beirut fleeing a massacre of Christians in Damascus.[3] He was first educated at the Damascus Patriarchal School that had become the leading Greek Orthodox institution of higher learning in the Levant under the leadership of Joseph of Damascus. He furthered his study of Christian theology at the Patriarchal Halki seminary in Constantinople, and at the Theological Academy in Kiev.

Father Raphael was sent to New York City in 1895 by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia to administer the local Orthodox Christian community which then included mainly Russian, Greek, and Levantine immigrants.

In 1904 he became the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America; the consecration was performed in New York City by Archbishop Tikhon (Bellavin) and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky). He served as Bishop of Brooklyn until his death.

During the course of his ministry as an auxiliary bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church in America, Raphael founded the present-day cathedral of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America, established twenty-nine parishes and assisted in the founding of Tikhon’s Orthodox Monastery.

The Orthodoxy of Saint Raphael’s life and teaching was demonstrated over and over again by his words and his actions. He always upheld and defended the spotless Faith which was “delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Although at first he did not understand the teachings of the heterodox, he later discovered how far removed they were from Orthodox doctrine. When he realized this, he took steps to protect his flock from harmful influences. He directed his people not to attend heterodox services lest they become confused by “divers and strange doctrines” (Heb 13:9). He believed it would be preferable for the head of the household to read the Hours at home from the Service Book when it was not possible to attend an Orthodox church.

In the summer of 1896, Saint Raphael undertook the first of several pastoral journeys across the continent. He visited thirty cities between New York and San Francisco, seeking out the Master’s lost sheep in cities, towns, and on isolated farms. He fed the spiritually hungry people with the Word of God in each place where he stopped. He performed marriages, baptisms, heard confessions, and celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the homes of the faithful where there was no church building. In other words, he zealously fulfilled his ministry as a preacher of the Gospel, enduring many hardships and afflictions, and he was watchful in all things concerning the care of his flock (2 Tim 4:5).

In 1898, with the blessing of Bishop Nicholas, Saint Raphael produced his first book in the New World -- an Arabic language Service Book called The Book of True Consolation in the Divine Prayers. This book of liturgical services and prayers was very useful to priests in celebrating the divine services, and also to the people in their personal prayer life. The English version published by Archimandrite Seraphim Nassar is still being used today.

Taking heed of Saint Paul’s words to pray in a language that people understood (1 Cor.14:15-19), Saint Raphael recommended the use of the Service Book of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Apostolic Church (translated by Isabel Hapgood) in all of his parishes.

From his youth, Saint Raphael's greatest joy was to serve the Church. When he came to America, he found his people scattered abroad, and he called them to unity. He never neglected his flock, but traveled throughout America, Canada, and Mexico in search of them so that he might care for them. He kept them from straying into strange pastures, and he protected them from spiritual harm. During twenty years of faithful ministry he nurtured them and helped them to grow. At the time of his death, the Syro-Arab Mission had thirty parishes with 25,000 faithful.

He was also a scholar, and the author of several books. He wrote many, if not most, of the articles that appeared in The Word. He served his own Arabic community, and also reached out to Greeks
and Russians, speaking to them in their own language. He became fluent in English, and encouraged its use in church services and educational programs.

Saint Raphael came into contact with all sorts of people, and was a gentle father to them. He gained their love and respect by first loving them, and also through his charming personality and excellent character. He was always kind and merciful to others, but was strict with himself. He accomplished many good things during his earthly life, and now he joins the holy angels in offering ceaseless prayer and praise to God.

November 8

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaia 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him -(Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

November 14

Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359. His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica.
November 21

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Today in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the three-year-old Most-holy Virgin, led by her father and mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the “King's daughter, the Bride of God” (Psalm 44:13-15).

Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers. Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zachariah, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the “Holy of Holies,” the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. Zachariah “was outside himself and possessed by God” when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain —otherwise, his action could not be explained.

The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

November 23

Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium

Saint Amphilochius, who was born in Cappadocia, shone forth in asceticism and divine knowledge even from his youth. He was consecrated Bishop of Iconium in 341, he struggled courageously against the blasphemies of Eunomius, Macedonius the enemy of the Holy Spirit, and the followers of Arius. He was present at the Second Ecumenical Council of the 150 Fathers, which took place in Constantinople, convoked during the reign of Theodosius the Great in the year 381. In 383 Amphilochius wished to persuade the Emperor Theodosius to forbid the Arians from gathering in Constantinople and to commit the churches to the Orthodox, but the Emperor was reluctant to do such a thing. The next time that Amphilochius entered the palace, he addressed Theodosius with proper honour, but slighted his young son Arcadius in his presence. Theodosius was indignant, and said the dishonour shown to his son was equally an insult to himself. To this Saint Amphilochius answered that as he would not suffer an insult to his son, so he ought to believe that God is wroth with those who blaspheme His Only-begotten. Saint Theodosius understood and admired Amphilochius’ ingenious device, and he issued the desired edict in September of the same year. Saint Amphilochius, having reached deep old age, reposed in peace about the year 395. Saint Basil the Great wrote many letters to Saint Amphilochius, his friend and Fellow champion of the Faith, and at his request wrote his treatise On the Holy Spirit, which besides demonstrating the divinity of the Holy Spirit and His equality with the Father and the Son, defends the Church’s unwritten ancient traditions, such as making the sign of the Cross, turning towards the East in prayer, no kneeling on Sunday, and so forth.

(See goarch.org/chapel for additional saints’ lives)
Our 2020 Stewardship goal is $170,000. As of October 29 we have received pledges reflecting 80% of that goal.

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2020. Please join them in their support of our St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

(please submit any corrections to the church office)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Pledges: $136,220.00</th>
<th>Offerings Received: $123,333.57</th>
<th>Largest pledge: $15,000.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stewards pledged: 104</td>
<td>Offerings Unfulfilled: $28,732.25</td>
<td>Median pledge: $840.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rev. Fr. Timothy &  
Pres. Catherine Cook
Rev. Fr. Peter &  
Pres. Peggy Bistolarides
Russ & Augusta Ahejew
Debra Ahejew
Petro & Sandra Ahejew
Petro Ahejew Jr.
Chris & Olga Anagogos
George Andros
John & Kathi Andros
Dr. Thomas & Angela Barris
Dr. Andrew & Annie Bazakis
Warren Bensinger
Johnathan Bernhart
Sophia Bernhart
Tom & Joan Billingsley
Dr. John & Dr. Judy Blebea
Jeremy & Taylor Blohm
Dr. Kevin & Bessie Bone
Dimitra Brown
Perry Bujouves
Georgia Caris
Dr. Constantinos &  
Mimi Constantinou
Bill & Vonnie DeLong
Ashley Dietzel
Soula Economou
Austin Economou
Edward & Gabriella Economou
Dorothy Ellis
Michael & Dr. Stavroula Erfourth
Bill & Alexia Evans
Corey & Andrea Ferris
Kathleen Gavalas
Quincy & Kimberly Govenlock
Betty Lou Gustafson
Kurt & Svetlana Hauffee
Evan & Alexia Houpis
Bambi Howard
Kathy Huber
John & Melissa Ioannidis
Matina Ioannidis
Dr. Risty & Karen Kalivas
George & Alexandra Kallos
Mersina Karris
Katerina & Athanasios Katsiouras
Ron & Connie Kelso
The Kennedy Family
Elaine Kimmerly
James & Mary Kokas
Anthony & Rula Koutras
Thomas & Athena Kurtz
Mark & Koula Legner
Dr. Elaine Makas
Andrew & Stephanie Mehl
Katherine Metropoulos
Dominic & Amanda Moes
Adam & Eleni Morris
Tom & Peggy Nemode
Dr. David & Elan Nichols
David Ortega
Dennis & Soula Ostler
Eleftheria Paez
Jose & Joni Porchia
Eliana Porchia
Leonardo Porchia
Jamey Paron
Dr. Kelly Paron
Marge Paron
Dr. Nicholas & Julie Paron
Douglas & Leta Povich
Julia Povich
Chris & Yiota Ptas
Christine Rapanos &  
John Mighion
Matt & Megan Rodriguez
George & Frances Rouman
Dr. Majed & Rheame Sahouri
Chris & Fani Samaras
Patricia Sharrad
Efthios & Beverly Siradakis
Andreas & Paraskevi Skoutelas
Athanasios & Glykeria Skoutelas
John Skoutelas
James & Marsha Stamas
William & Linda Stavropoulos
Alexandra Sous
Michael & Dawn Sous
Rita Sous
Elaine Tambouridis
Achilles & Tena Tarachas
Electra Tarachas
William & Thespo Tarachas
Dr. George Triantafillou &  
Jean Farrington
Gustav & Marty Triantafillou
Art Tselepis
Tamara Tsulaia &  
Vasil Mamaladze
Dr. George & Virginia Ulmer
John Veremis
Kanella Veremis
Theodore & Georgia Veremis
Athanasios & Eipvn Veremis
James & Kathleen Zacharko
Ludmil & Adriana Zambov
Dr. George &  
Dr. Gladys Zubulake
James & Esmini Zubulake
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
2020 Stewardship Commitment Form

"Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
Psalm 90:12

A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN

Please bring this form to the Church or mail it to the Church Office at 4970 Mackinaw Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Name: ___________________________ City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip Code: ____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual or Family</th>
<th>Spouse (if applicable)</th>
<th>Children (if applicable)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>____________________________</td>
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</table>

(last, current)

In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ’s work at St. Demetrios Church for 2020.

$________ weekly $________ monthly $________ quarterly $________ semi-annually $________ annually

Our goal as a parish is to raise our stewardship by $20/month for the 2020 calendar year. However, stewardship is a spiritual discipline that should be discussed with your spiritual father.

Please indicate areas of expertise or interest where you would like to serve:
(Individuals should provide a check mark and families provide "H" for husband, "W" for wife and "C" for children)

| ADMINISTRATION | ______________________________________ | ______________________________________ | ______________________________________ |
| Audit Committee | Website / Email | Family Ministry | Audit Committee | Website / Email | Family Ministry |
| Election Committee | Adult Education | Hospitality / Welcome Ministry | Finance Committee | Bookstore / Library | Outreach Ministries |
| Parish Council | Intro to Orthodoxy | Visitation Ministries | Office help | Stewardship Committee | (Youth) |
| Stewardship Committee | ____________________________ | Church School Teacher |
| ______________________________________ | ____________________________ | ____________________________ |
| BUILDING & GROUNDS | ____________________________ | ____________________________ |
| Garden & Landscape | ____________________________ | ____________________________ |
| Iconography / Beautification | ____________________________ | ____________________________ |
| Property Maintenance | ____________________________ | ____________________________ |
| COMMUNICATIONS | ______________________________________ | ______________________________________ | ______________________________________ |
| Computer / Technical | Coffee Hour Ministry | (Other) |

I/we would like to receive notifications from St. Demetrios by: ___ email ___ paper mail

You can also submit your stewardship card and your contributions online at www.stdemetrios.mi.goarch.org/stewardship

CONFIDENTIAL: For Authorized Parish Personnel Only
ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP REPORT – NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER, 2020

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FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

YTD 2020 – 8 donors

Cook, Fr. Timothy and Presbytera Catherine
Bistolarides, Fr. Peter and Presbytera Peggy
Ahejew, Petro and Sandra
Houpis, Evan and Alexia

Rouman, George and Frances
Stamas, Jim and Marsha
Ulmer, George and Virginia
Zubulake, George

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED YOUR PLEDGE CARD,**
**PLEASE DO SO TODAY!**

DONATE ONLINE TO
FRIENDS
OF THE METROPOLIS

pray
give
grow

www.detroit.goarch.org/friends
Taking from God

Has anybody ever stolen something from you? Maybe somebody stole a toy of yours or even a bike. Maybe you left your dessert on the table and your sister ate it when you got up from the table! It is not a good feeling when somebody takes something that belongs to you!

In today’s Gospel reading, we hear the story of the rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. We hear about how the rich man wouldn’t help the poor man. He ignored Lazarus, even though Lazarus begged every day outside his gates. Inside, the rich man ate delicious food, but outside, the poor man didn’t have anything. This story reminds us that we have to help the poor! As Christians, we can’t just ignore them like the rich man did in the story today.

Our great saint, Saint John Chrysostom, was a bishop who gave many, many sermons about helping the poor. He wrote about this same story from the Bible, and he tells us how important it is. St. John said that when we don’t share our money and our wealth with the poor, it “is theft from the poor. We do not have our wealth, but theirs.” St. John means that when we don’t share what we have, we are taking something that doesn’t belong to us! In other words, we’re stealing! That’s because God gives us everything. He asks us to love one another. He asks us to take care of one another, including the poor. When we don’t do that, we are taking something that belongs to God. Let’s always remember to share with others, especially the poor people in the world.
WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

APOSTLE
FRIEND
GALILEE
INTRODUCE
MERCIFUL
MERCY
NATIVITY FAST
PHILIP
SAMARITAN

What’s in an Icon?

Here is another icon of the holy Apostle Philip.

Did you know this icon is more than 1,100 years old? It comes from the St. Catherine Monastery on Mount Sinai.

Do you see who is in the corner? Our Lord, Jesus Christ!
We are beginning our preparations for our annual Food Baskets Outreach! It's still a ways off, but we've started the planning process. Our goal this year is to make and distribute 100 baskets, along with gifts and we need your help to reach our goal!

**How can you help?**

(1) At this stage, we're just collecting names and information. So if you know anyone who is in need of a basket this winter, please send the following information to Andrea Ferris (amackool@gmail.com / 313-995-9121). For anyone to be considered, we need their: Name, address, phone number, along with childrens' names/gender/ages/sizes of the children, along with particular needs (winter coat, boots, etc). **Information forms are available on the table outside the office in the Narthex.**

(2) If you would like to donate to this ministry, please send it to the Church marked "Food Baskets."

(3) Mark your calendars! The Giving Tree will open on November 8th; the food will be delivered on December 17th, Packing Day is December 18th, and Delivery Day is December 19th. We'll need all hands on deck for each of those days!

(4) Pray for us! By God's grace, we have expanded this ministry each year. Please keep both the ministry and the families we minister to in your prayers throughout the year.

*If you have questions, please speak to Andrea Ferris (amackool@gmail.com / 313-995-9121).*

---

**DONATION FORM**

Name: ________________________________  Cash ☐

Amount: ______________________________  Check ☐

*Please make checks out to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, with "Food Baskets" in the memo line.*

*"Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." - St. John Chrysostom*