

St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

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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 - Megan Rodriguez (2016)

Vice Pres. - Dr. David Nichols (2016)

Treasurer - Dennis Ostler (2016)

Secretary - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Tom Barris (2016)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Bill Delong (2016)

Yvonne Delong (2016)

Soula Economou (2017)

Eleni Morris (2016)

Joanie Porchia (2017)

Eftihios Siradakis (2016)

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Altar Boy Advisor

Panayiotis Metropoulos

Chanters

Ted Veremis Andreas Skoutelas

Maria Metropoulos

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Interim Choir Director

Toula Brown

Philotochos President

Virginia Ulmer

Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

Sunday 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

FEBRUARY 2016



The Forty-Day Blessing of Our Lord

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

On February 2nd we celebrate the Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on which day we commemorate the coming of Christ to the Temple on the fortieth day after his birth. According to the Jewish law, any firstborn son was to be brought to the Temple to be redeemed, as it says in the Gospel of Luke “they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’)...”

As Christians, we continue to observe this tradition, but with one significant difference. For the Jews, the forty-day blessing was reserved for the first-born male child of each family. For us, every child receives the forty-day blessing; every child is sanctified and called “holy to the Lord.” For this reason, the feast of the Presentation is sometimes referred to as the feast day of babies, since in the blessing of Christ all babies are blessed.

When we bless babies on the fortieth day after their birth, it is the first instance of what is called holy imitation. The Christian life is not just about observing a certain morality or accepting a philosophy, but is rooted in an active imitation of Christ. Christianity without action is not true Christianity, and the actions that we take begin and end in imitation of the life of Christ. As He was blessed, so are we. As He was baptized, so are we. Christ is not blessed or baptized because He needed a blessing or purification, but to bless us and sanctify us, and the way we receive that blessing and sanctification is by participating in His blessing and His baptism, and this is what we call holy imitation.

But as we celebrate the Presentation of Christ, first and foremost we should remember that the blessing we received on our fortieth day and the baptism we received as infants are only the beginning. We are called “holy to the Lord” at our forty-day blessing, and we are called to continue to pursue holiness and unity with Christ throughout our lives. As the Great Forty Days of Lent appears on the liturgical horizon, that great period which is set aside for holy imitation as we increase the tempo of our prayer and fasting, we should remember the blessing that began our lives and strive with renewed vigor to live our lives in imitation of Christ, to show the light of Christ in our lives and truly live as those who are “holy to the Lord.”



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.

The Parish Council is looking for parish members to join 3 of our committees. Additionally, we would like a member from all of our organizations to get involved in these committees too. We know there's great talent in our parish. Our goal is a greater involvement by our parish members to provide more ideas, more opportunities and more resources in these 3 areas. If you have the time and are interested in helping please see the council chairs listed below:

- HELEN MORRIS - SPECIAL EVENTS
- DR. ANDY BAZAKIS - CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
- DR. DAVID NICHOLS - STEWARDSHIP

Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule

Feb. 7	Prosforon: Virginia Ulmer Fellowship: Tom & Irene Veremis
Feb. 14	Prosforon: Esmini Zubulake Fellowship: PARISH COUNCIL
Feb. 21	Prosforon: Pres. Peggy Bistolarides Fellowship: Sandy & Pete Ahejew
Feb. 28	Prosforon: Tula Brown Fellowship: Lou & Soula Economou



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.



Scholarship Opportunities

Once again, the Order of AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation will be awarding educational scholarships to high school students who are graduating in June 2016. In addition, the Foundation will also be awarding scholarships to current college students. Applications are now available! Application

requirements are explained in detail within the application document. Please call Vaia Economou-Clifford at 751-5610 or e-mail veclifford@icloud.com and an applications can be mailed or e-mailed to you. A couple are also on the church bulletin board.

Thank you!
**Vaia Economou-Clifford - DOP Dryas 169 Chapter President,
DOP District 10 Governor**



PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

A HUGE thank you to Georgia Caris, Matina Ioannidis, Mersina Karris, Penny Metropoulos, and Gust Triantafillou for preparing the Vasilopita for our St. Basil's service this year!!

We have received wonderful thank you notes for the donations that we made around the holidays. What a blessing to be able to give to worthy causes. There are so many in need and we are so fortunate to be able to help.

We did not have a meeting this month so there isn't much to report. We tried to have a board meeting but the weather was against us. Hopefully, we can sneak one in before our next meeting which will be on Sunday, February 21, 2016, after church services.

Each month I have voiced my appreciation to all of our members for their dedication and hard work. After Gust Triantafillou volunteered to bake Vasilopita, I realized that I have neglected to say thank you to the members' husbands who have stepped up when we need help. Thank you so much, gentlemen!!! We are really lucky to have you!!

For those of you who have not joined Philoptochos yet...what are you waiting for?? We would love to see you at our next meeting!

Virginia Ulmer
President

ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES



1/17 - Successful Operation for James Stamas by Jim Stamas

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4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Saginaw, MI
Permit # 107

Church Office Hours:
9a.m. - 1p.m. Tues. & Thurs.
Office # 989-793-8822
Email Address:
stdemetriosmi@gmail.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A SUNDAY SCHOOL



A special **THANK YOU** to Philoptochos for donating McDonald's gift certificates to all of our parish children for Christmas. They were much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

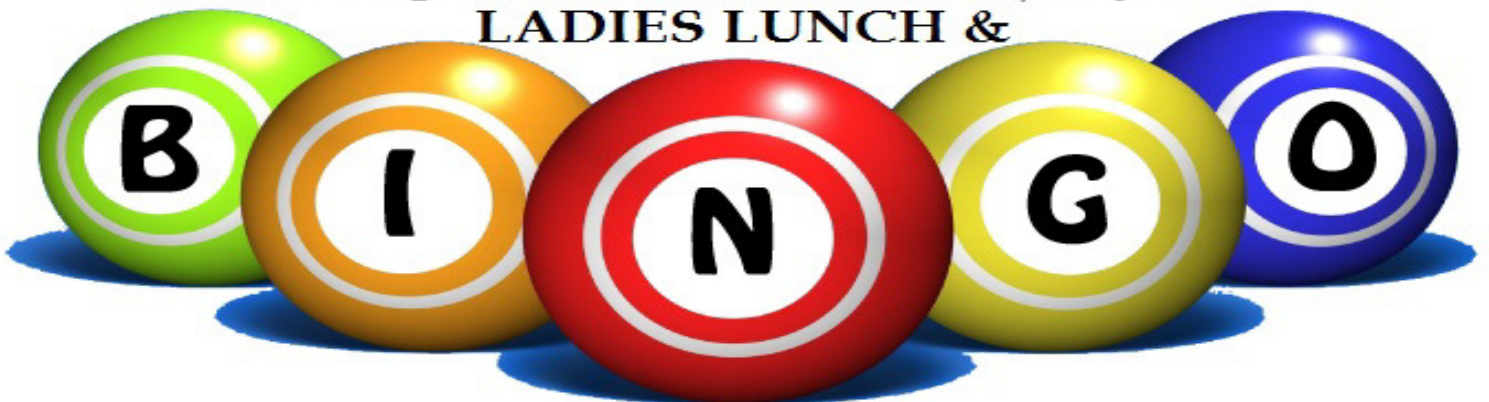


**GREEK FESTIVAL
TIROPITA
MAKING DAY!**

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 20TH**

9 a.m.

**The Daughters of Penelope invite you to a
LADIES LUNCH &**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, after Services.
Enjoy a nice lunch, learn about the Daughters,
and play some free bingo for fun prizes.**