



DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY 2014

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 Child is Born

Dear Parishioners,



In God's infinite wisdom, He chose to enter into human history in the form of an infant...a helpless babe. That plan was long ago conceived and later announced by the angel to the shepherds and to us that "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). A wondrous plan to reconcile and restore humanity had a humble beginning and the imprint of the Almighty whose ways are mysterious, and unfathomable. How else could a helpless child, born in a cave, a stable for animals because

there was no other place to shelter Him, become the answer to all that befalls us? The birth of that child has made a tremendous difference in our lives, the lives of millions in the past and millions still yet to be born.

This is the Christmas story – a story that is not of fiction but as real as ours. It is an event as no other that has changed the world and can still transform a broken world – our world – that seeks its own and not "the way the truth and the life" (John 14:5). Such is the "love story" of God for His creation that moves us to imitate Him on the day of His Son's birth to also give from our heart expressing our joy and love to family and neighbor alike. It is during this time of year that we surrender the burdens and sorrows of life in exchange for the blessings and hope of "a Child born" (Isaiah 9:6) that can bring to all who welcome Him the peace we seek.

Let us therefore rejoice at His coming, for God came Himself through His Son, taking on our humanity so that as he became like us we too may become like Him.

May Christ's Birth bring abundant joy, peace and the knowledge of His abiding love for each of us.

*Yours in Our Incarnate Lord,
Father Nick*



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

December 1, 14th Sunday of Luke

December 8, 10th Sunday of Luke

December 15, 11th Sunday of Luke

December 22, Sunday Before Nativity

December 29, Sunday After Nativity

January 5, Eve of Epiphany

January 12, Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 12th Sunday of Luke

January 26, 15th Sunday of Luke

WEEKDAY SERVICES (AT NEIGHBORING PARISHES):

Thursday, December 5, 6:00 pm

@ St. Nicholas, Lexington

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm

@ St. Spyridon, Worcester

Tuesday, January 6, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 7, 9:00 am

@ St. John the Baptist, Boston

Friday, January 17, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 18, 9 am

@ St. Athanasios, Arlington

Saturday, January 25

@ St. Gregory, Mansfield

WEEKDAY SERVICES (AT ST. DEMETRIOS):

Friday, December 6, 9 & 9:30 am

St. Nicholas

Wednesday, December 11, 5:45 pm

Paraclesis

Thursday, December 12, 9 & 9:30 am

St. Spyridon

Tuesday, December 24, 6 pm

Eve of the Nativity Vespertine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 25, 8:30 & 9:30 am

Holy Nativity

Wednesday, January 1, 8:30 & 9:30 am

Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil/

New Year's Day

Monday, January 6, 8:30 & 9:30 am

Theophany

Thursday, January 30, 9 & 9:30 am

Three Hierarchs

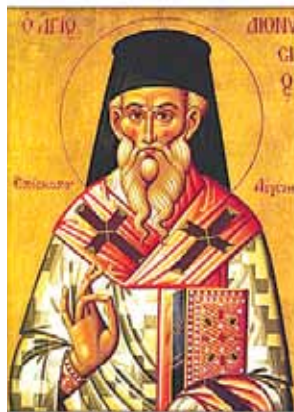
CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!

Christ is born. He is born to us. And, He is born today. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day. It is a day made holy and special by a sacred mystery. It is not merely another day in the weary round of time. Today eternity enters into time, and time sanctified, is caught up into eternity. Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the Church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago, but a new thing which happens today. For today, God the Father makes all things new, in His divine Son, our Redeemer.

—Thomas Merton

ST. DIONYSIUS OF ZAKYNTHOS - Commemorated on December 17

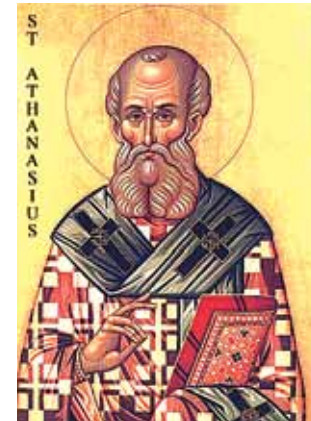
The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of



pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially reveals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.

ST. ATHANASIOS - Commemorated on January 17

He was born to pagan parents. When he was in school he saw a group of Christians acting out



services and when he asked to join them, they refused. From then on he declared himself Christian. The patriarch at that time, Pope Alexander, predicted that he would eventually hold a great position. Before reaching the age of 20, Athanasios wrote a treatise entitled *On the Incarnation*, affirming and explaining that Jesus Christ was both God and Man. In about 319, when Athanasios was a deacon, a presbyter named Arius began teaching that there was a time before God the Father begot Jesus when the latter did not exist. Athanasios responded that the Father's begetting of the Son, or uttering of the Word, was an eternal relationship between them, not an event that took place within time. Thus began Orthodox Christianity's fight against the heresy of Arianism. Athanasios is also the first person to identify the same 27 books of the New Testament that are in use today; up until his Easter letter,

various similar lists were in use. However, his list was the one that was eventually ratified by a series of synods and came to be universally recognized as the New Testament canon.



BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

THE NEXT CHALLENGE

In the October of 2012 *Vine*, I wrote about the significance of the church fixtures to our Orthodox Liturgy, and about the Building Committee's commencement of a selection process for the general design and acquisition of these critical items from the Iconostasio to the candlesticks.

I wrote, "Many including myself from time to time have lauded the pioneering spirit of worshipping in a brand new church bereft of altar, iconostasis, bishop's throne, baptismal font and liturgical fixtures behind the altar. This, however, can only be tolerated if we do so while at the

same time we are in the process of achieving the selection, acquisition and installation of all these important fixtures of Orthodox worship. Each and every one of these elements of the interior of our church for over 2000 years plays a specific role in our continuing liturgical renewal. Without them our worship feels somehow incomplete."

Yes, it is significant and yes it really has taken over a year for the Committee to do its work, but soon you will be receiving another masterpiece brochure produced by Steve Damaskos and his Communications Subcommittee. In it you will see representations of the fixtures we must now acquire if we hope to have them installed within the next year. The images you will see are not the exact design, but they are representations of each item we must award to the eventual bid-winning producer. Prices for each gift, large and small, are included in the brochure. Why? Because of the sacred element of all these fixtures, we will not be conducting an auction: each item has a donation amount associated with it. The brochure will outline the process by which your confidential pledge can be made and how each item will be awarded. The process also strictly follows the recent votes of the General Assembly regarding the acquisition of the fixtures.

Please look carefully in your mail over the next weeks and don't miss this package from St. Demetrios. You will not regret it! You will see a stunning piece, and we hope you will be inspired to pledge the named gift that is right for your family to help us to the next generation of Greek Orthodox worship.

—Peter Bassett



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Pastor
Cathy Smith, Secretary
Peter Gramenelles, Sexton
Tom Gatzunis, Parish Council President
Athena Kalyvas, Philoptochos President

Bookstore, Carol Loridas
Choir, Genie Leussis, Chris Tzellas, Athena Kalyvas
Faith and Works Ministries

A Suitable Image, Nancy Savage
Brown Bag Sunday, Lydia Santangelo
St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Savage

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

Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
Outreach and Evangelism, Stacey Kalivas
Philoptochos Care Ministries

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

Prosfora Ministry, Fr. Nick Krommydas
Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis
Stewardship, Dean Coclin

YOUTH

Altar Service, Chris Kourlos
Basketball, Jack Markis
Church School, Stavroula Gurguliatos
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis

GOYA, Yianno Pantazelos
JR. GOYA, Yianno Pantazelos
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
HOPE, Donna Markis
JOY, Jill Kovatsis
OCF, Yianno Pantazelos





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 1	Church School Classes; Church School Staff Meeting
December 8	Church School Classes; Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
December 15	Christmas Pageant Program
December 22	Church School Classes
January	Fifth grade bulletin board display
January 5	Church School Classes; Church School Staff Mtg.
January 12	Church School Classes
January 19	Church School Classes
January 26	Church School Classes

The St. Demetrios Church School students ask you to remember the less fortunate by participating in our "Sock It To Me" sock drive. During the months of January and February, please bring in a new pair of socks (all sizes are needed). We will donate them to the Salvation Army. Socks are the number one most-requested item at homeless shelters. Help us to keep young and old warmer and more comfortable this winter. The Salvation Army is a Christian organization that helps to rebuild lives, community and fellowship while offering comfort and support to those in need in the name of God.

YOUTH BASKETBALL



The St. Demetrios Basketball Ministry is off to another great year. So far, approximately 75 kids have signed up, with another dozen having indicated that they anticipate joining.

Through this Ministry, the youth of our Parish have the chance to interact and build friendships amongst themselves and with other Boston Area Parishes.

Our Parish is fielding five Teams this season:

- One Jr. Joy Team (ages 8 to 10)
- Two JOY Teams (ages 10 to 13)
- One Girls GOYA Team (ages 14 to 17)
- One Boys GOYA Team (ages 14 to 17)

The Teams are being coached by Marc Broome, James Markis & William Luzaitis (Jr. JOY), James Tsiantoulas & Steve Rontiris (JOY), Mark Luzaitis & Steve Damaskos (Boys GOYA) and David Newkirk & Nick Katinas (Girls GOYA).

GOYA, both Boys & Girls, played their first games last weekend. The JOY season will begin their season on the 23rd. Jr. JOY will start after Thanksgiving.

In light of our Gym being restored – many of the Jr. JOY and JOY games will be hosted by our Parish this season.

Any people interested in more information – or signing up their children - should contact the Church office or Emanuel Markis EJMarkis@MarkisLaw.com.



GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL



*Χριστος γεννεται σημερον
Εν Βηθλεεμ τη πολει
Οι ουρανοι αγαλλονται
Και χαιρει η κτισισ ολη*

On Tuesday, December 10 from 5–6 pm in the Church Hall, the Greek School students and staff will celebrate the Christmas season with its annual Christmas party. The children will decorate a Christmas tree, sing Christmas carols, as well as enjoy tasty Christmas treats and a visit with Santa Clause. A light dinner will be served.

Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to join the festivities.

On Tuesday, January 7, each Greek School class will enjoy Vasilopita as teachers will facilitate the traditional Vasilopita Cutting.

We wish all families a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2014!

GOYA

So far our year in GOYA has been very successful. We have had many fun events, especially our car wash and trip up to MBC!

Our next main event for December has been planned, and we are happy to share it with you! It is: **Our annual Christmas Dance!** It will be held **Saturday, December 14 from 7:30-10:30 pm** in our church hall, and we are inviting GOYAns from other parishes in the area. It will be a fun event, as always, with food, fun and dancing!

In addition, GOYA will be sponsoring two children from the St. Nicholas Giving Tree. More information about this will be emailed. If you think that your email is not on our list, please email sakourtis@verizon.net, and we will add you right away. Feel free to also contact me if you have any questions!

Susan Kourtis
GOYA President

Junior GOYA



Junior GOYA hosted its first event of the year, "Movie Night," which took place Saturday, November 9. We watched the film *Nacho Libre* and had some snacks with a discussion that followed. We are hoping for more upcoming events as the New Year approaches. On Sunday December 15 we will have a Junior GOYA meeting immediately after Church School in the board room. Please keep your eyes open for our First Annual Coat Drive and trip to Skyzone in January! Anyone in grades 6-8 who are interested in joining Junior GOYA, please contact Yianno at: Yianno@stdemetriosweston.org

Hope and JOY



FAMILY NIGHT/GINGERBREAD NIGHT DECEMBER 13TH

The much-anticipated night is here! HOPE, JOY, GOYA, parents and all parishioners are invited!

Join us 6:30-8:30 pm, Friday, December 13. A sign-up poster will soon be up at the Youth Bulletin Board. Please note, for logistical reasons, dinner will not be served this year—please eat before you come and we will enjoy cookies, juice and other treats at the event. Please...

- Sign-up/reserve your kit by Dec. 8th
- Offer a \$15 donation per family/kit
- Bring 2 bags of nut-less candy to share
- Bring 4 canned goods for the Boston Rescue Mission

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

The Lord's Prayer and Santa Clause

When Danish researchers at Aarhus University asked 20 devout Christians to offer up a personal prayer, recite the Lord's Prayer, recite a rhyme, and wish to Santa Clause while having MRI scans of their brains, they discovered some surprising differences. While both prayers activated a part of the brain called the dorsal striatum, which is associated with the release of dopamine (a neurotransmitter that fights tiredness, depression and cravings), the Lord's Prayer had more than double the positive effect.

Why? In the paper, the researchers speculate that it could be due to the fact that the Lord's Prayer "according to Christian tradition, is sanctioned by Jesus as encompassing all important aspects of life. This God-given authorization may reinforce practitioners' expectations of reciprocity in comparison with the often more idiosyncratic and individual requests in personal prayers." As for the rhyme and wishing to Santa Clause? Both decreased the activation of this dopamine-releasing part of the brain.



PHOTOS

Youth Basketball



GOYA Retreat





PHOTOS

Senior Guild



St. Demetrios Church and Chapel



Quilt-a-thon



CALENDAR

DEC 2013 ~ JAN 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 14th Sunday of Luke Church School Staff Meeting	2	3 Greek School, 4-6 pm	4 Christmas Wreath Making Social, 7 pm	5 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	6 St. Nicholas Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am	7 Senior Guild Trip, 11 am
8 10th Sunday of Luke Pageant Rehearsal	9	10 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 pm Greek School Christmas Party	11 Paraklesis, 5:45 pm	12 - St. Spyridon Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	13 Family Night/ Gingerbread House Making, 6:30-8:30 pm	14 GOYA Dance, 7:30 pm
15 11th Sunday of Luke Christmas Pageant Jr. GOYA Meeting	16	17 Greek School, 4-6 pm	18	19 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	20	21 Bingo at Hellenic Nursing Center, 2-3:30 pm
22 Sunday before Nativity	23	24 Christmas Eve Vespertal Liturgy, 6 pm Reception	25 Christmas Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am	26 	27 Miracle Kitchen, 4-7 pm	28
29 Sunday after Nativity	30 	31	January 1 New Year's Day/ St. Basil Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am	2 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	3	4 GOYA Christmas/ New Year's party, 4-8 pm
5 - Sunday be- fore Epiphany Church School Staff Meeting Jr. GOYA Christ- mas/New Year's party	6 Theophany Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am	7 Greek School Vasilopita	8 Parish Council Board Mtg, 7 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7 pm	9 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	10	11
12 Sunday after Epiphany Vasilopita Sunday	13	14 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 pm Greek School, 4-6 pm	15	16 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	17	18 Bingo at Hellenic Nursing Center, 2-3:30 pm
19 12th Sunday of Luke	20	21 Greek School, 4-6 pm	22	23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	24 Miracle Kitchen, 4-7 pm	25
26 15th Sunday of Luke	27	28 Greek School, 4-6 pm	29	30 Three Hierarchs Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	31	

PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Philoptochos Members,

On behalf of the Saint Christine Chapter of the Saint Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society, I extend joyful greetings to you and your loved ones during this Christmas season. We are thankful for the blessings that we all share with our families but also grateful for all the acts of charity that this organization continues to provide for those in need. Thank you again for your genuine commitment. Please note the following upcoming events during the Christmas season and into 2014.

Monthly Paraklesis Service - Wednesday, December 11. Join members of the Parish for an inspirational Paraklesis service, the second Wednesday of the month at 5:45 pm in the Chapel.

Saint Demetrios Christmas Ornament. The Philoptochos is selling a Limited Edition 2013 Saint Demetrios Christmas Ornament for \$25.00. Contact Stephanie Skedros at (978) 760-3347/sskedros@gmail.com for more information. What a perfect Christmas gift for family and friends!

Christmas Wreath Making Social – Wednesday, December 4. Join us for an evening of fellowship and Christmas cheer while we decorate wreaths for our homes on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm. Open to all Parishioners and friends. \$30.00 per person. Please RSVP to Amalie George at (781) 953-2493/amalie@aageorgecpa.com.

Christmas Eve Reception- Tuesday, December 24. If you are able to assist with the reception, contact Eugenia Kourlos at kourkat@comcast.net or (508) 735-8866.

Vasilopita Sunday – Sunday, January 12. If you are able to bake a Vasilopita or any other baked goods for the Sunday coffee hour, please contact Athena Kalyvas at (781) 718-5264/adkalyvas@gmail.com.

2014 Membership Drive. Details to follow in January

Apokreatiko Glendi – Saturday, February 22. Save the Date. The Glendi will be held in the Saint Demetrios Church Social Hall. Details to follow.

Philoptochos Retreat - March 7-8, 2014 - Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center. "Be still and know that I am God." (Ps.46:10). Chairpersons: Presbyteria Elaine Krommydas and Nikki Stournaras.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at adkalyvas@gmail.com or (781) 718-5264.

May you and your families enjoy this Christmas season and the New Year 2014, filled with good health and happiness as we continue to work together to help those less fortunate and all of the Philoptochos ministries.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Athena Kalyvas
President

STEWARDSHIP 2013



By now you should have received a pledge package which includes a pledge card for 2014. Our latest "tradition" has been to bring your pledge card with you to church on Stewardship Sunday, Decem-

ber 8th, so that you can make your pledge along with the Parish Council. This has been a wonderful example to the entire parish which shows unity, commitment, and support to our beloved St. Demetrios. No payment is required! The purpose of the pledge card is to let the Stewardship Committee know what to expect from you in 2014. And this is not just a financial commitment. We also ask that you support our various ministries with your time and talents.

What does that mean? Each of us has something to contribute. With the many ministries that our parish makes available to individuals, families and youth, there is something for everyone. And in many cases, there are a multitude of things we can participate in. For example, a young family with 2 children has a variety of options. From Sunday School, Greek School, Athletics, Youth Groups, to social and religious activities for the parents, there are no shortages of ministries which can benefit from our participation.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of making a commitment up front before the start of the year. The church relies on each of us to participate in our programs and to plan its own budget for the year. Yet for various reasons, some of us don't bother pledging. What message does that send to the church? Does it mean we are afraid from making a commitment to God? Or did we just forget to do so? How can the church effectively budget if we don't have 100% participation in the Stewardship Pledge program?

So please, have another look at the pledge card you received in the mail. Take a moment to evaluate your own personal financial situation. Evaluate it from a weekly perspective. What is a fair amount to give weekly? Consider your other weekly expenses and ask yourself, is the church worth more or less to me than my daily latte or weekly gym membership? Hopefully this will help put things into perspective.

Dean Coclin
Stewardship Chairman
deancoclin@msn.com

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION

December 24, 2013, hosted by Philoptochos. Please contact Eugenia Kourlos with your baked good offerings at 508-735-8866.

SEASONAL PASTORAL VISITS

Throughout the Christmas and Theophany season, our clergy make a special effort to visit parishioners who may be in the hospital, at a rehab or nursing center, or homebound. To arrange a visit for yourself or a family member, please contact Father Nick at 781.237.5561.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at St. Demetrios on Tuesday, December 10, January 14 and February 11 at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to join us for fellowship, knitting or crocheting, and prayer.

SENIOR GUILD

The Senior Guild will be going to the Reagle Music Theatre on Saturday, December 7, 2013 for our December trip. We will meet at the Church for brunch at 11:00 am and will leave for the show at noon. We will be car-pooling to the show. The show starts at 1:00 PM. There will not be a Senior Guild meeting in January due to possible inclement weather. Please contact: Artemis Martakis, The Senior Guild Coordinator, with any questions or concerns at 508.785.0045.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED



Interested in hosting a Fellowship Hour? A number of Sundays are still open. All supplies are provided. Please see the sign-up sheet in the social hall.

GOYA WING-A-THON

Last year's GOYA Wing-A-Thon was a hit. Plan ahead this year and pre-order. Look for flyers and order forms in January. Pickup will be after church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2nd.

MIRACLE KITCHEN NEWS

After thirty years of continuous service, Dorothea Ocnos has informed us that it is time for her to step down from her position as coordinator of the Miracle Kitchen Ministry. Dorothea gathered volunteers, shopped, cooked and served thousand of meals over the years at the Salvation Army in Framingham. We are grateful for the zeal and faithful service she has provided and it will be difficult to replace her. As a matter of fact, for some time, we have been unable to identify someone who will be able to continue this remarkable ministry. Although, we have asked and searched for a successor, no one as yet is able to lead this effort. We hope someone or a team of volunteers will be able to continue this once a month effort to serve the needs of the homeless and most needy. Unfortunately, if we cannot find a person or two to coordinate this effort, we will have to inform the Salvation Army that we will not be able to continue. Please consider this invitation and call Father Nick for details about the Miracle Kitchen Ministry. Thank you.

BROWN BAG BLITZ IS JANUARY 5



Led by our GOYAns, we will once again begin this series of outreach efforts on behalf of those in need. The beneficiary of our fall drive will be the Boston Rescue Mission.

Please receive your bag(s) on the 5th (extra bags will be in the coatroom bin), fill it with any and all canned/non-perishable goods, and return it to the church by February 23. To help with this ministry, contact Lydia Santangelo: lydiaeventsplst@aol.com.

12TH ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS GIVING TREE MINISTRY

This month, our parish will mark the 12th Annual St. Nicholas Giving Tree—the opening of our hearts to the neediest children in our own area during the holiday season. On Sunday, November 17 and 24, the names of 200 children of all ages under the care of the Mass. Dept. of Children and Families and their “wish lists” will be available for you and your family to sponsor. **The absolute deadline for the gifts to be returned to the church will be Sunday, December 15.**

Our “parish Santas” will again enjoy the opportunity to share God’s blessings with those who would otherwise have the bleakest of holiday seasons. Please plan to sponsor at least one child or, if possible, one for each child in your own family. This is the best lesson in the true spirit of giving for our children to emulate and as Christian adults it provides a beautiful expression of God’s charge to us to spread His love.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Savage at nancysavage@gmail.com or 508-652-9020.



CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY: A NATURAL CONNECTION



During the early Christian centuries Christmas and Theophany or Epiphany were celebrated together. The liturgical tradition concentrated on Theophany which marks the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of His adult ministry as the initial great event revealing Jesus' significance to humanity. During the early fourth century the Church of Alexandria observed both Christmas and Theophany on January 6th. In due time

Christmas began to be celebrated separately—first in Rome (354), then Cappadocia (380), Antioch (386), Constantinople (400), and gradually everywhere on December 25th. By choosing this date the church wished to Christianize the "Feast of the Invincible Sun," a popular observance making the shift in the sun's cycle in late December when the days again became longer. For the church Fathers Christ was the only invincible Sun of Righteousness Who by His birth illuminated the world and inaugurated the dawn of a new age. In the liturgical year it is still natural to observe the period from Christmas to Theophany as a continuous celebration of Christ's coming to the world. On Christmas we celebrate the incarnation of Christ while Theophany we remember His public appearance as the Son of God. To think of the period between these two holidays as having the same significance, that is, Christ's coming to the world, may help us to appreciate more deeply the meaning of Christ's coming to our own lives. May it always be so.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

BOOK OF THE MONTH:

Faith for a Lifetime

Archbishop Iakovos
Catalogue Code R



Sharing his personal observations and experiences on the inner way of the Christian life, Archbishop Iakovos explores the steps each of us must take in our journey to God. Here is the Private Way, the private roads of spiritual development that include personal prayer and meditation; the exploration of the meaning of faith; the search for the place of adoration and worship during the spiritual journey; and the study of the Bible as the cornerstone of faith, especially the centrality of the Cross of Christ.

We have set aside this book in our Recommendation Shelf and needs to be returned within two weeks.

Please check for books that you may have forgotten to return. We have several cards which indicate that books were checked out but never returned. Thank you.

The Library is opened every Sunday after Divine Liturgy as well as Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. We invite you to come and visit the library to check out some of these books. Remember, this library is for **you and your family**.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE THANKSGIVING FOR VETERANS DRIVE IN MEMORY OF IAN MCVEY



A special thank you to the St. Demetrios Community for their support and generosity in providing Thanksgiving Dinners to our Veterans. Once again this year we exceeded our goal and provided 50 complete turkey dinners to Veterans. The OCF students and GOYAN's put together the baskets and our parishioners delivered them to the Middlesex Sheriff's Office. We thank all of you for this community effort and we look forward to helping more Veterans next year.

Thank you, Chris Kourlos and Yianno Pantazelos.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

The daughter of Ryan Nass and Abigail Putnam was baptized on Saturday, November 16, and named Eloise Jacobson. The sponsor was Nathan Putnam.

May God bless her with His divine grace!

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are extended to:

Olga Bassett, on the falling asleep of her mother, Efrosini.

May her memory be eternal!

FUNERALS

Angela Varsamis Jobson of Detroit, MI., November 3.

Christopher Stevens of Framingham, November 8.

Chris Argyris of Weston, November 16.

Peter Demos of Newton, November 21.

May their memory be eternal!



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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