

FEBRUARY 2015

# 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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## FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

My Dear Parishioners,

Ten Sundays before Easter, the period of preparation (the Triodion period) for the feast of the Resurrection begins. Sunday, February 1st marks the beginning of this pre-Lenten period called the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, from the Gospel (Luke 18: 10-14).

Literally, the TRIODION is a book of services, hymns, scripture readings and prayers used for services in the Church. The Triodion period, however, is really a doorway, a passageway that leads us to Lent and beyond that to Holy Week.

The pre-Lenten period has four biblical themes for each Sunday that serve as an introduction and blueprint for our Lenten Journey. They are:

- 1. Prayer Sunday- Parable of the Publican and the Pharisee (Feb. 1)- Luke 18: 10-14**
- 2. Repentance Sunday- Parable of the Prodigal Son (Feb. 8)- Luke 15: 11-32**
- 3. Judgment Sunday- Parable of God's Final Judgment (Feb. 15) Meatfare Sunday**
- 4. Forgiveness Sunday- Cheese-fare Sunday (Feb. 22)- Matthew 6: 14-21**

Even if we learn to pray, how to repent, how to treat others, all are worthless unless we learn to forgive. These must be mastered before we even enter the Great Lent on Kathara Deftera (Clean Monday).

Let us all begin our Lenten journey by taking the very first steps of worship, prayer, fasting, studying God's word by preparing our souls and hearts to receive Christ.

The Church in her wisdom guides us slowly into the Great Fast and teaches us the true meaning of fasting, beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. It is ironic that we begin the Triodion without fasting. There is no fasting during the first week. This is to show us that even though fasting is important, it can become a source of pride and thus become just as worthless to us as to the Pharisee who bragged about how much he fasted and how much better he was than the Publican. This is a time when we should turn our thoughts toward Christ and what He accomplished for us on the cross.

Each Sunday, each Gospel teaching can open and soften our hearts and eyes to see clearly what God's will is for us and our generation.

May this be a special time for all of us as we prepare to meet our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With Love in the Lord,

Fr. Nick





## BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

### AN IMPORTANT NEW YEAR

This May marks the sixth year since the General Assembly authorized the construction of our new St. Demetrios Church. In that period of time our parish has shown such an exemplary commitment, generosity and most particularly unity of

purpose in its journey to a new era with a brand new building constructed without compromise in the durable service to our Faith.

At our last General Assembly we learned in great detail the manifold statistics that are such an integral part of such an undertaking. But even in the short period since that last parish-wide meeting, significant progress has been achieved. Most importantly, the debt will be substantially further reduced by an additional \$500,000 leaving us with an outstanding mortgage balance of \$2,350,000.

This figure will be largely repaid as the 400 parishioners who have made pledges fulfill their commitments. Until that time, we bear a large interest expense which diverts valuable resources from our critical ministries – the performance of which are key among the reasons for the construction of our new Church. Anything you can do to pay down your pledge, increase your pledge or make a pledge for the first time will go a long way to the dedication of significant funds to the service of our Faith.

First time pledges are also among our priorities as we would like to achieve universal support from the stewards of St. Demetrios. No stronger statement can be made – even if your means are limited, a sacrificial pledge is very helpful in closing the gap between funds pledged and our construction budget.

Our furnishings will be arriving in the first quarter of this important new year, and in the next few weeks, the Interior Design and Furnishings Sub-Committee will be hosting a series of guest lecturers on Iconography so that we may all be better informed well prior to the commencement of any formal selection process of iconographers and the associated program they will follow.

A very important year indeed. We urge all parishioners to stay tuned into our St. Demetrios information outlets for notices regarding these opportunities.

~ Peter Bassett



## ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**CHURCH SECRETARY**  
Cathy Smith  
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### ST. DEMETRIOS CONNECTIONS 781-237-5561 | [www.stdemetriosweston.org](http://www.stdemetriosweston.org)

Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Pastor  
Vincent Minucci, Pastoral Assistant  
Cathy Smith, Secretary  
Nicholas Korderas, Sexton  
Tom Gatzunis, Parish Council President  
Athena Kalyvas, Philoptochos President  
Bookstore, Carol Loridas  
Choir, Genie Leussis, Chris Tzellas, Athena Kalyvas  
Faith and Works Ministries  
Brown Bag Sunday, Lydia Santangelo  
St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach, Peter Mitsakos  
St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Savage  
Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, St. Demetrios Philoptochos  
Library, Cindi Dabrowski  
Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros  
Outreach and Evangelism, Stacey Kalivas  
Philoptochos Care Ministries  
Hellenic Nursing Home, Pam Brody  
Prayer-Shawl, Tilda Mitsakos  
Quiltathon, Debbie Morakis  
Visitations, Valerie Wiegel  
Prosfora Ministry, Christina Booth  
Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis  
Stewardship, John McVey  
**YOUTH**  
Altar Service, Chris Kourlos  
Basketball, Jack Markis  
Church School, Stavroula Gurguliatos  
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis  
GOYA, Vincent Minucci  
JR. GOYA, Jill Kovatsis  
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers  
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos  
HOPE, Donna Markis  
JOY, Jill Kovatsis  
OCF, Vincent Minucci





"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young..."



## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! On behalf of our Church School teachers, please join us in making the resolution to be on time for Church!

February	Third Grade Bulletin Board Display
February 1	Church School Classes; Godparent Sunday; Triodion Begins; CS Staff Meeting
February 8	Church School Classes
February 15	Church School Classes
February 22	Church School Classes
February 23	Great Lent Begins

### Upcoming Church School Events:

**Godparents' Sunday, February 1st:** Please invite your child/children's Godparents to come with you to church on February 1st. This is an opportunity for our students to come to church school classes with their Godparents and have fellowship with each other, strengthening their special bond.

**Oratorical Festival (7th-12th grade):** The Oratorical Festival for the Junior Division (grades 7-9) and Senior Division (grades 10-12) will take place on **Sunday, March 15th** during their scheduled class time. Students have already received information regarding the festival topics. Please encourage your child to participate.

## GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL



On January 6th, students of the Greek School celebrated Epiphany with a visit from Fr. Nick to their classrooms, as well as, the beginning of the New Year with the cutting of the vasilopita. The children enjoyed participating in this holiday and traditional custom.

Happy New Year from the Greek School!



## CROSS ROAD

Attention all High School Juniors and Seniors! CrossRoad is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual

tradition. Hosted on the scenic Hellenic College Holy Cross campus, overlooking the beautiful Boston skyline, participants experience daily worship, visit local parishes, tour Boston, and spend a day at the beach.

June Session: June 20 – June 30

July Session: July 7 – July 17

Application Priority Deadline: March 2

To apply go to: [www.crossroadinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadinstitute.org)



## GREEK DANCING

### Winter Schedule

Mark your calendar and join us for dancing in 2015!

February 1, 8

March 1, 15 & 25 (Greek Independence Day performance)

For details, contact Margaret Talmers: [Margaret.e.talmers@gmail.com](mailto:Margaret.e.talmers@gmail.com).



...but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12)

# YOUTH



## GOYA

We had a very exciting December and January! Many GOYAns participated in our annual Gingerbread House Making event and Tree Lighting Ceremony, we had a fun evening at our annual GOYA Dance and a wonderful representation of GOYAns at the Christmas Pageant. During Christmas Break, we went to the Cicalis home for our Christmas/New Years Party and Yankee Swap!



A very special thank you to the Cicalis family for hosting us and for the delicious meal!

In January we prepped for our third annual Wing-A-Thon and had a GOYA Movie Night along with the JR. GOYA. We look forward to February where we plan on having a fun GOYA night on Saturday, February 28th and in March where we will have a Lenten discussion after Salutations. Time and date to follow. If you are interested in joining GOYA please contact Vinnie at [vminucci@stdemetriosweston.org](mailto:vminucci@stdemetriosweston.org)!



## Basketball



Our 2014-2015 Metropolis Basketball season has reached the halfway point.

As a new program this year, the Metropolis has created a Jr. JOY clinic program for boys and girls ages 8 to 10. The sessions are held on Saturday afternoons at Hellenic College. Each weekend, dozens of kids from around the Metropolis meet to work on their skills and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Any people interested in having their son or daughter join, should contact Eleni Kalioras at [ekalioras@boston.goarch.org](mailto:ekalioras@boston.goarch.org) or Emanuel Markis at [ejmarkis@markislaw.com](mailto:ejmarkis@markislaw.com)

In addition, the League has announced that the annual Methodios GOYA Invitational Tournament will be held over the weekend of January 30th. As in prior years, we anticipate Teams will be entered from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. The games will be held at Hellenic College's Pappas Gym. We hope that members of our Parish can come to support our Teams.

## MBC Winter Camp



MBC GOYA Winter Camp: February 13-16, GOYA Winter Camp is great fun. If you are planning on attending, call the church office for car-pooling information.

MBC Family Winter Camp: February 27-March 1- Join Orthodox families from around the Massachusetts area for a weekend of family fun and growth at the Metropolis of Boston's campground in Contoocook, NH. Family Winter Camp is an opportunity for families to step away from the hustle and bustle of their daily lives and connect with each other as well as other families and friends from across the Metropolis. The weekend together will be a combination of family, adult and camper activities, with a variety of options so that everybody can find something to do! Visit [www.boston.goarch.org/ministries/mbc/winter\\_camp/](http://www.boston.goarch.org/ministries/mbc/winter_camp/)





# PHOTOS

Churching of Baby Mott!



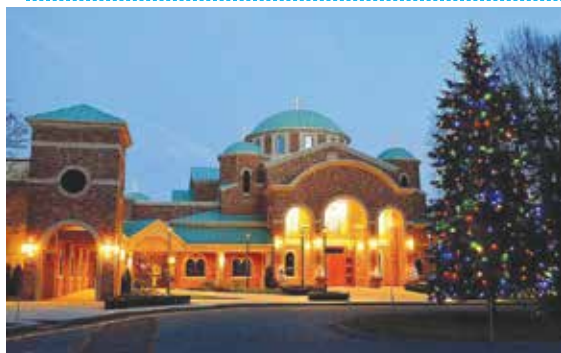
Philoptochos Wreath Making



Christmas Pageant



Vasilopita Sunday





# PHOTOS



## Tree Lighting & Gingerbread Houses



## Nativity Lectures





# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee</b> Godparent's Sunday GOYA Wing-A-Thon Parish General Assembly Greek Dance	<b>2</b> <b>Presentation of Our Lord</b> Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am	<b>3</b> Greek School, 4-6 pm	<b>4</b> Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry, 1:00 pm	<b>5</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b> Greek Dance	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Greek School, 4-6 pm	<b>11</b> Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7 pm	<b>12</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Saturday of the Souls</b> Orthros and Liturgy, 9 am Learning Program, 8:30 am
<b>15</b> <b>Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday</b>	<b>16</b> <b>President's Day- Offices Closed</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry, 1:00 pm	<b>19</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Saturday of the Souls</b> Orthros and Liturgy, 9 am Nursing Home, 2:30 pm Apokreatiko Glendi, 6:30 pm
<b>22</b> <b>Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday</b> <b>Forgiveness Vespers, 5 pm</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Clean Monday- First Day of Lent</b> Compline, 6 pm	<b>24</b> Greek School, 4-6 pm	<b>25</b> <b>Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm at St. Demetrios</b>	<b>26</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	<b>27</b> <b>Salvations, 7 pm</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Saturday of the Souls</b> Orthros and Liturgy, 9 am Jr. GOYA & GOYA Night-6 pm
<b>March 1</b> <b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Greek School, 4-6 pm	<b>4</b> Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry, 1:00 pm <b>Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm location Annunciation Cathedral</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Salvations, 7 pm</b>	<b>7</b>



# STEWARDSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS



## PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Philoptochos Members,

Happy New Year! May 2015 bring happiness and health to you and your loved ones.

Thank you to the following who graciously chaired events during the festive month of December:

Christmas Card – Pat Liacopulos who has led this project for over 30 years. We appreciate your continued diligence and enthusiasm!

Christmas Bake Sale – Gena Liacopulos, Francesca Callas and Stephanie Skedros for co-chairing a very successful bake sale over two weekends. Our parishioners enjoyed the pre-packaged, assorted baked goods that they purchased.

Wreath Making Social– Amalie George. Another fun evening of fellowship and Christmas cheer.

Care Ministry - Valerie Wiegel and the many volunteers who visited the shut-ins, including the Philoxenia House.

Christmas Eve Reception – Eugenia Kourlos for chairing the well-attended reception.

Vasilopita Sunday – Thank you to Chris Tzellas who prepared the delicious Vasilopita distributed to the various ministries within the Church and all of the members who brought Vasilopitas for the coffee hour on Sunday, January 11.

### Upcoming Events

**Annual Membership Drive** – Renew your 2015 membership and join the largest Christian women's organization - the Philoptochos. For more information on joining the Saint Christine Chapter, please contact Gina Spencer at gina@pdillc.com or Athena Kalyvas at adkalyvas@gmail.com.

**Women's Winter Retreat, March 13-14 at the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center.** Topic: "Let Us Lift Up Our Hearts - Understanding, Praying and Living the Divine Liturgy." Father Alkiviadis Calivas - Retreat Leader. Chairpersons: Presbytera Elaine Krommydas and Nikki Stournaras. All women of the Parish are invited to attend a spiritual overnight gathering. Suggested agape donation: \$75.00. For more information contact Nikki Stournaras at nstournaras@hchc.edu.

**Hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour** – Please contact the Church office if you wish to host coffee hour with your family and friends. Cathy Smith will forward your name and contact info to Pam Brody, 781-864-5327, Brodster52@yahoo.com and/or Eugenia Kourlos, 508-735-8866, kourkat@comcast.net who will provide a step-by-step information on the process. What a great opportunity to meet and greet other Parishioners and assist with this very important Fellowship Hour!

### Philoptochos Supports the Mission Projects

Please remember Philoptochos is here to help the Saint Demetrios Community members participating in any mission or service trip! Contact Jenn Brody at Brody.Jenn@gmail.com or 781-864-5032 with any questions or inquiries.

**Hellenic Nursing Home Visits** – Pam Brody visits the Hellenic Nursing Home the third Saturday of every month. Contact Pam if you are available. (781) 864-5327 or brodster52@yahoo.com.

I am thankful to each and every one of you for your support, selfless service and compassion and sincerely hope that during 2015, we will continue to successfully assist those in need.

Warmest regards,

Athena Kalyvas - President

## STEWARDSHIP

Dear fellow Stewards in Christ,

Thank you for all of the support you continue to give and have given to our beloved St. Demetrios during the course of the year as you complete your Stewardship Commitment for 2014. Without your help, love, and support the mission of our beautiful church could not be sustained.

We are grateful to those who have returned their Stewardship cards for 2015. We encourage those who have not as of yet to please do so. Having an idea of what we can expect through your Stewardship offerings of treasure provides us with much needed information to plan for the year ahead. Please also complete the information requested about your family and areas you may wish to offer your time and talent as well. Thank you!

Let us all look forward to 2015 with an attitude of gratitude for all that our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, has done and continues to do for us each and every moment of our lives.

"Christ is born - let peace and good will exist among all peoples."

This is our Lord God's message and our mission to fulfill as we welcome the New Year.

May God continue to bless each and everyone of you; and may each of us find comfort, redemption, and life in His blessing and love.

With best wishes from our hearts to yours.

The Stewardship Committee

## New Iconostasis Icons in the Chapel





# NEWS & EVENTS

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE SENIOR GUILD

The Senior Guild will not be meeting in January or February due to possible inclement weather. The Senior Guild would like to thank all of the members whom attended the Christmas Luncheon at the Dolphin Restaurant. We had a very good time being with our family and friends. The next meeting of the Senior Guild is in March. We hope to see you there.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us during the month of February as we knit prayer shawls for those who are in need. We will be meeting on February 4th and 18th at 1pm in the Fr. Manikas Library..

For more information contact Tilda Mitsakos at [tpmitsakos@comcast.net](mailto:tpmitsakos@comcast.net)

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND AND CONSTANTINOPLE

Our trip to the Holy Land and Constantinople on April 19th to the 30th is quickly approaching! Join Fr. Nick on a 12 day pilgrimage highlighting the most sacred places of our Lord and a visit to Constantinople where the Ecumenical Patriarchate is located. We will see the Church of the Nativity, Mount Tabor, where Christ was Transfigured, the Holy Sepulcher, Agia Sophia, the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul and much more!

If you are interested in this truly incredible opportunity, we do have limited spaces left but we expect the trip will be sold out soon. Please contact the church office for more information or speak to Fr. Nick directly.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Parish Wide Lenten Retreat:** join us on Saturday March 28 for a Lenten Retreat with guest speaker Fr. Maximos of Simonopetra. More details to follow

**St. Demetrios Greek Festival:** we are happy to announce that our community of St. Demetrios will host a Greek Festival over the weekend of May 30th. More details to follow but save the date!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO OUR VETERANS!



Thank you to the St. Demetrios Community for your generosity to the November to Remember Veterans Drive. This year we were able to

accomplish even more than previous years due to the many donations from our community of time, talent and treasure. These included:

- 50 turkey dinners were delivered to Veterans through the Middlesex County Deputy Sheriff's Association
- Gift cards were presented to Veteran families through the Massachusetts National Guard Family Program
- Many items were delivered to the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos for the Operation Housewarming Project and then will be delivered to the Veterans Administration Facility in Bedford, Massachusetts.
- Chaplain (LTC) Ryan Sarenpa and Helon A. Wyllie III, Massachusetts National Guard, Family Program Office, Family Assistance Center Supervisor presented at the November Philoptochos General Assembly.

We thank you and appreciate your continued support to our Veterans.

Chris and Eugenia Kourlos







## ST. DEMETRIOS

### WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

**"LET US LIFT UP OUR HEARTS"**

**UNDERSTANDING, PRAYING AND LIVING THE DIVINE**

**LITURGY**

**FR. ALKIVIADIS CALIVAS**

**St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center**

**329 Camp Merrimac Road,**

**Contoocook, NH**



Save the date and join us for our second  
annual retreat

**March 14**

**March 13**

4:00-5:00 Arrival - room assignments

5:00 Be Still -

6:00 Dinner

6:45 Prosforo workshop

7:30 Akathist Hymn

8:30 Refreshments

8:00 Liturgy

9:30 Breakfast

10:30 First Presentation

11:30 Personal quiet time

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Second Presentation

2:00 Gathering in group

*Generously sponsored by the Saint Demetrios Philoptochos*

*Suggested Agape donation \$75.00*

*Rsvp [nstournaras@hchc.edu](mailto:nstournaras@hchc.edu)*

*[ekrommydas@verizon.net](mailto:ekrommydas@verizon.net)*

## FR. MANIKAS LIBRARY



**Book of the Month:**

**The Mother of Jesus in the New Testament by John McHugh**

Explores all the New Testament evidence concerning Mary, her life, and her place in Christian thought. This includes a full treatment of St. Luke's Infancy Narrative and the doctrine of Mary's virginity, as well as a study of Mary in the theology of St. John.

This book has been set aside on our Recommendation Shelf.

Important! 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. For the library to function successfully, we need everyone's cooperation.

Remember, this library is for you and your family.

## A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

Join us for a  
Night of Dancing at  
the Saint Demetrios  
Apokriatiko Glendi on  
Saturday, February 21, 2015  
at the Saint Demetrios Church

**6:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

**Music by DJ Salonica Boys**

**Appetizers and Dessert**

**Tickets: Adults \$25.00 Children \$5.00**

**Details To Follow**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

### **December 7**

Betty Titus, in loving memory of her parents, Demetrios and Calliope Sarantopoulos.

### **December 14**

The Triant and Canellos Families, 25th memorial year for Dr. George S. Speare.

### **January 11**

Cindi Dabrowski, in loving memory of her mother, Helen Lewis.

### **January 18**

Steve and Nancy Trogos, in loving memory of their son, Nicholas Condakes.



## BAPTISMS

The son of Peter and Sophia Viglas was baptized on Sunday, December 14th, and named Brooks Lampros. The sponsors were Kassiane and Michael Campopiano.

The son of Christopher and Kristen Slowe was baptized on Saturday, December 20th, and named Michael David. The sponsor was Evangeline Condakes.

The son of Dmitri and Evangelia Giannos was baptized on Sunday, January 4th, and named Gilbert Gerasimos. The sponsor was Constantina Kotsari.

*May God bless them with His Divine Grace!*

## WEDDINGS

William Robert Stephen White-Cooper and Caroline Valerie Kitidis were united in marriage on Saturday, November 29th. The sponsor was Claire Mitrokostas.

## FUNERALS

George Lolos of Ashland, December 5th.

Helen Gavrilles of Dedham, December 6th.

Theodora Stanton of Framingham, December 10th.

***May their memory be eternal!***



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