

# THE VINE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 57 BROWN STREET, WESTON, MA 02493

## FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

Christ: The True Light

Dear Parishioners,

The days have grown shorter and the chill in the air, it seems, is here to stay for awhile in New England. December and January are especially stark and dreary months. But, then there is Christmas- the birth of our Lord- followed by Theophany and the feast of lights revealing God in all His Glory. Perhaps the decorations of our homes inside and out, dressed with lights, wreaths, candles, and colorful ornaments reveal the deeper truth and reality of God's illuminating presence in the world.



While our attention is on the tangible gifts and our emphasis on the natural external world, Christmas- the Birth of Christ- comes to remind us of the eternal inner life that God also occupies. While we hear much about God's creation and the beauty of nature, there is a danger of worshiping His creation and not Him the Creator.

The main hymn of Christmas emphasizes that Christ's birth brings with it God's plan to reconcile humanity and transform the world. **"Your Nativity O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom..."** It is Christ- God's Son- that is light and wisdom that is at the heart of this glorious season! It is His message of love that provides every answer to every question that a broken world needs to heal our wounds and bridge our differences. As we are reminded in the Gospel of John, **"for in Him was life, and the life was the light of men... the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** (John 1:4-5)

And so the hymns of Christmas emphasize **"That God eternal is born as a little babe."** Perhaps children can perceive the mystery of this event better than adults and this wisdom is best understood by them because of their innocence and wonder. The **light overcomes darkness** because of Christ's birth and not by the many lights that soon will be taken down and stored till next year.

Let us therefore embrace the **lights and wisdom** of Christmas that is beyond understanding by welcoming the newborn child into our hearts and home. Let us say **yes** to God's plan of love that has the power of becoming the gift of new life for us and our broken world. Let us then joyously proclaim that the child born on Christmas is no other than the **Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace and our Savior.**

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year,

Fr. Nick



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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# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

## SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

### SUNDAY SERVICES

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

December 3- *14th Sunday of Luke*  
 December 10- *10th Sunday of Luke*  
 December 17- *11th Sunday of Luke*  
 December 24- *Sunday before Nativity*  
 December 31- *Sunday Before Epiphany*

January 7- *Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner*  
 January 14- *1Leavetaking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*  
 January 21- *15th Sunday of Luke*  
 January 28- *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:*

### **WEEKDAY SERVICES (AT ST. DEMETRIOS):**

Wednesday, December 6- *St. Nicholas, 9 am*  
 Tuesday, December 12,- *St. Spyridon, 9 am*  
 Sunday, December 24- *Christmas Eve Vespers, 6 pm*  
 Monday, December 25- *Christmas Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am*  
 Monday, January 1- *New Year's Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am*  
 Friday, January 5- *Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters, 6 pm*  
 Saturday, January 6- *Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Holy Theophany, 8:30 am; 9:30 am*  
 Tuesday, January 30- *Three Hierarchs, 9 am*

### **WEEKDAY SERVICES**

#### **(AT NEIGHBORING PARISHES):**

Vespers- Tuesday December 5, 6 pm  
 @ *St. Nicholas, Lexington*  
 Vespers- Monday, December 11, 7 pm  
 @ *St. Spyridon, Worcester*  
 Vespers- Wednesday, January 17, 6:30 pm  
 Orthros & Divine Liturgy- Thursday, January 18, 9 am @ *St. Athanasios, Arlington*  
 Vespers- Wednesday, January 24, 6 pm  
 Orthros & Divine Liturgy-Thursday, January 25, 9:30 am @ *St. Gregory the Theologian, Mansfield*

## ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA- DECEMBER 13



In 1793 St. Herman (1751 - 1837) traveled from Valaam Monastery in Russia, with eight other monks, to bring the Gospel to the Aleutian Islands. As part of the Russian colonization of the Americas, Russians had been exploring

and trading there since at least 1740. He built a school for the Aleutian people, and he often defended them from the injustices and exploitation of the Russian traders. He was known to them as "Apa" which means "Grandfather." He lived most of his life as the sole resident of Spruce Island, a tiny wooded sanctuary near Kodiak Island. He was a man of great faith, courage and compassion; he truly changed the lives of the people he served.

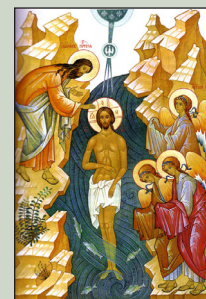
*Making it real: Not all saints lived in ancient times. Many, like St. Herman, lived in fairly recent times! This month, make a point of teaching your family that God has not stopped "talking to us" through His saints. Look up the lives of recent and modern saints like St. Nektarios and St. Raphael of Brooklyn. Make it a game to see who can find the most modern saints by doing some internet research (orthodoxwiki.org might be a good research tool). The point? The Holy Spirit was at work in our Church 2,000 years ago, 1,000 years ago and today! We're all called to live holy lives, aspiring to the lives of the saints and taking inspiration from their brave words and deeds.*

## EPIPHANY: JANUARY 6, 2017

The Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord is celebrated each year on January 6.

The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the feast is Theophany, meaning manifestation of God.

Join us Friday, January 5th, 6 pm, for Liturgy on the eve of this great feast as well on Saturday January 5th at 8:30 am

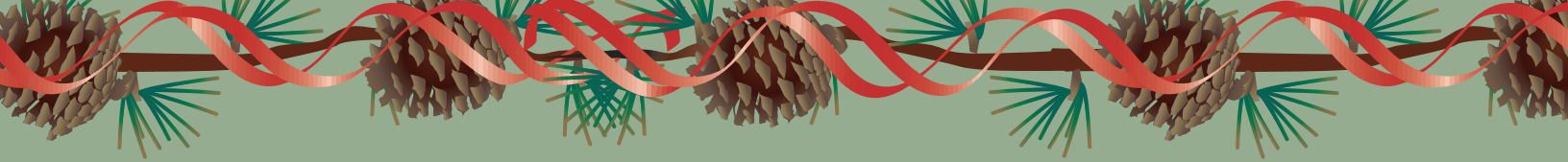


### HYMN OF HOLY THEOPHANY

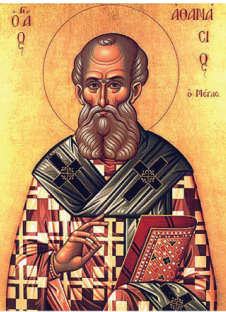
When You, O Lord were baptized  
 in the Jordan  
 The worship of the Trinity was  
 made manifest  
 For the voice of the Father bore witness to You  
 And called You His beloved Son.  
 And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,  
 Confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
 O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself  
 And have enlightened the world,  
 glory to You!







## St. Athanasios - Commemorated on January 17



St. Athanasios 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 begat 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.



## 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. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Presbyter**  
**Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presbyter**  
**Marianne Kent, Office Administrator**  
**Nicholas Korderas, Sexton**  
**Gina Pagonis, Parish Council President**  
**Nikki Stournaras, Philoptochos President**

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

Brown Bag Sunday, Alex Santangelo  
St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach, Peter Mitsakos  
St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Agris 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, Elaine Ward**  
**Quiltathon, Debbie Morakis**  
**Visitations, Valerie Wiegel**

**Prosfora Ministry, Christina Booth**  
**Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis**  
**Stewardship, Tom Camp**

### YOUTH

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

**GOYA, Fr. Vinnie Minucci & Jill Kovatsis**  
**Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers**  
**Greek Language School, Avra Parpos**  
**HOPE, Diana Katsikaris & Mina Johnson**  
**JOY, Fr. Vincent Minucci**  
**OCF, Fr. Vincent Minucci**  
**Young Professionals, Samuel Johnson**





## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

*May the peace and joy of the Christmas season fill you with love and happiness!*

December 3	Church School Classes;
	Church School Staff Mtg.
December 10	Church School Classes; Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (grades 2-12)
December 17	Christmas Pageant Program
December 24	Christmas Eve; No Church School
January 7	Church School Classes Resume;
	Church School Staff Mtg.
January 14	Church School Classes
January 21	Church School Classes
January 28	Church School Classes;
	Godparent Sunday; Tridion Begins

**Christmas Pageant:** Please join us on Sunday, December 17th, for our Christmas Pageant Program. All of our Church School students are invited to participate. The Pageant will begin after the Divine Liturgy.

**'Sock it to me':** 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 month of December 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

**Godparent Sunday, January 28th:** Please extend an invitation to your child's/children's Godparent(s) to attend Divine Liturgy on January 28th. This is an opportunity for our students to attend church school classes with their Godparents and have fellowship with each other, strengthening their special bond.



## YOUTH BASKETBALL



The 2017-2018 Metropolis Basketball season has begun. The first games of the season were held over the weekend of November 4th. This year our Parish is fielding 5 Teams; two boys GOYA, one girls GOYA and two in the JOY (Middle School) division. The League is growing and has expanded to the largest number of teams in many years.



In addition, the Metropolis is offering Jr. JOY clinics for younger children (ages 8 to 10) to practice their skills. For further information, please visit the Metropolis website or contact our Parish office.





## ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK AND LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL

The Greek School children will celebrate the holiday season with our annual Christmas Program and Party. Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join the holiday festivities, which will include decorating the Christmas tree and singing Christmas carols. Santa will visit too! Tuesday, December 12, 2017 (Snow Date: December 19) 5 – 6 pm In the Church Hall A light dinner will be served.



Χαρούμενα Χριστουγεννα και Καλη Χρονια!

When we return to school on Tuesday, January 2nd, the children will welcome the new year by participating in the traditional vasilopita cutting.

### GOYA

GOYA has an exciting December ahead of us!

**December 2nd:** GOYA will be volunteering at Daniel's Table (10 Pearl Street Framingham, MA) from 9 am-12 pm. We will be preparing food for those who are in need of a hot meal.

**December 3rd:** GOYA Meeting immediately after church school. We will discuss the February St. Demetrios GOYA Dance theme as well as our GOYA Christmas Party.

**December 8th:** Annual Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House Making. If you have not signed up and reserved a house, email Jill Kovatsis (ja.k@verizon.net) to do so!

We are working on putting together a GOYA Paintball excursion in Ashland during the winter break (week between Christmas and New Years). More information will be forthcoming but if you are interested, contact Fr. Vinnie!

### January

Our annual GOYA Christmas party with Yankee Swap and ugly sweaters! Date/time and location will be forthcoming!

Registration is now open for MBC's Winter Camp, held during President's Day Weekend. Go to [www.metropolisofbostoncamp.org/winter.html](http://www.metropolisofbostoncamp.org/winter.html) to register!

We look forward to a wonderful Christmas season and a happy New Year. Please remember to RSVP and keep in touch. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Fr. Vinnie (frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org) or Jill Kovatsis (ja.k@verizon.net).

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING



The much-anticipated Christmas Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House Making night is almost here! Everyone is welcome!

Join us Friday, December 8 at 6:30 pm. There is a sign-up poster in the church lobby.

- Sign-up/reserve your kit ASAP
- Kits are \$20
- Admission is a canned good
- Make sure to bring extra decorations for your house if you want!

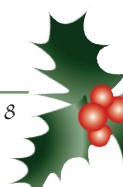
## FAMILY FIRST FRIDAY



Last month's Family First Friday was a blast! We had a pizza party and talked about what we were most thankful for. Families also brought canned goods that were used for our Veteran's Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner baskets. We are very grateful for the generosity and prayers of our families.

December's Family First Friday will be celebrated in conjunction with our annual parish night's Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House building evening. Join us on December 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm for a wonderful family Christmas evening!

Our January Family First Friday will be on January 5th with Divine Liturgy at 6:30 pm for the Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of the Waters. Please join us for this most joyous celebration!







# PHOTOS

## An Evening to Honor Veterans



## Senior Guild Luncheon







# PHOTOS

Fr. Nick Blessing Prayer Shawls



Preparing for Christmas!



Celebrating Divine Liturgy  
November 19th



# CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3- 14th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School General Assembly GOYA Navy Game, 6:30 pm	4 Parish Council Seminar, 6:30 pm	5 Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm Vespers AT Lexington, 6 pm	6- St. Nicholas Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Senior Guild Luncheon	7 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 pm GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	8 Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House Making Family Night, 6:30 pm	9 JOY Navy Game, 2 pm Joy Blue Game, 6:30 pm
10-10th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School Pageant Rehearsal Stewardship Luncheon Parish Council Elections GOYA Navy VS BLUE Game, 2 pm	11 Vespers AT Worcester, 7 pm	12- St. Spyridon Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	13 Parishing Council Meeting, 7 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7 pm	14 GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	15	16- Agape Prayer Group, 8:30 am Habitat for Humanity, 9 am Pageant Rehearsal, 9:30 am Hellenic Nursing Home JOY Blue/Navy, 2 pm/6:30 pm
17- 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School Pageant GOYA Navy/Blue Game, 1 pm/6 pm GOYA Girls Game, 7 pm	18	19 Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	20	21 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 pm GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	22 St. Demetrios Young Professionals Christmas Party, 7 pm	23
24 Sunday before Nativity Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Christmas Eve Vespers, 6 pm	25- Christmas Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church Offices Closed	26 JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	27	28 GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	29	30
31 Sunday before Theophany Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am	1- New Year's Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 Church Offices Closed	2 Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	3	4 GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	5 Vespers Liturgy for Epiphany, 6 pm	6- Epiphany Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am
7 Synaxis of John Baptist & Forerunner Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School	8	9 Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	10 Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7 pm	11 GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	12	13
14 Leavetaking of the Theophany of Our Lord Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Vasilopita Sunday Church School	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Offices Closed	16 Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	17	18 GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm Vespers AT Arlington for St. Athanasios, 6:30 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	19 Liturgy AT Arlington for St. Athanasios, 9 am	20 Agape Prayer Group, 8:30 am
21 15th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School	22	23 Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	24 Vespers AT Mansfield for St. Gregory	25 Liturgy AT Mansfield for St. Gregory, 9:30 am GOYA Girls Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	26	27
28 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am Church School	28	30- Three Hierarchs Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Greek School, 4 pm JOY Practice, 6 pm GOYA Boys Practice, 7:30 pm	31			



# STEWARDSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS

## PHILOPTOCHOS

*"Heaven and earth are united today."  
Hymn from the Vigil on Christmas Eve*

We are leaving the month of November to enter into the Advent-Christmas Season. Before we take a leave of Thanksgiving let me take this opportunity to thank Valerie Wiegel and Andrea Katsenes for chairing the special veterans event, "Honoring our Veterans." We were grateful to see so many of our veterans participate. Thank you, Valerie and Andrea and a very special thank you to our veterans. God bless you and keep you always! Thank you to all of our wonderful parishio-

ners who generously donated to our Dignity Matters supply and fund drive. With your loving support, the Philoptochos was able to assist our fellow sisters in the Greater Boston area who are homeless or otherwise in need with their health/sanitary needs.

### Upcoming Events

- Community Christmas Card
- December 17th Bake sale and Boutique
- December 29th Soup Kitchen at Salvation Army Framingham also known as Miracle Kitchen
- March 2-3 Annual Women's Retreat, more information to come

By now you have received our letter about the icon of Panagia. What a beautiful legacy we can leave our church for, it will serve as a reminder to the generations to come of our love for Panagia our role model, and our faithfulness to St. Demetrios Church.

May the intercessions of the Mother of God be with you and yours always.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas filled with Christ's love, peace, and joy.

The Philoptochos Board

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners,

The Stewardship Committee and the Parish Council would like to invite you to our annual **Stewardship Brunch** to be held immediately following Liturgy on **December 10**. We hope that all of you can join us for this fun event.

**2018 Stewardship Materials.** At the end of November, we mailed out stewardship materials for 2018, including a brochure about the meaning of stewardship, a letter from the Stewardship Committee, and Commitment Cards where you can indicate how you plan to offer your time, talent, and treasure in support of our Church and its ministries.

**Time and Talent.** Today, we at St. Demetrios support more than 20 different ministries tailored to meet the needs of a wide range of groups. From Church School to the Senior Guild, these ministries are supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who devote many hours of their time and their immeasurable talents in the service of God. We have teachers, bakers, quilters, carpenters, cleaners, writers, accountants, lawyers, dishwashers, coffee makers, coaches, dancers, singers, visitors, and people who set up tables and clean up after events. Each of our many volunteers is fulfilling St. Paul's message to the Colossians by working at whatever they do with all their hearts as working for the Lord, not for men. (Colossians 3:23).

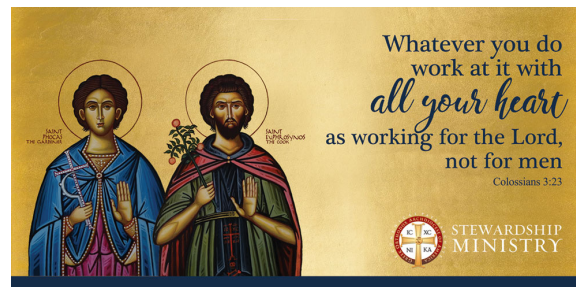
With this new year, I ask each of us to consider not only what we may offer of our treasure, but also what of our time and talents we will offer in service of God, his Church, and the many ministries of our parish.

**Financial Update.** At the beginning of the year, we projected that total donations to support annual operating expenses would be \$552,000 out of a total operating budget of \$875,000. So far, this year, our generous stewards have donated approximately \$403,000 to support our parish's operating expenses (or about 73% of the projected amount). That means that an additional \$149,000 in donations before year-end is needed to meet our annual goal.

Thank you to our many generous stewards for your continued support of our Church and its many ministries.

In Christ Jesus,

**Tom Camp**  
**Stewardship Chair**  
tcamp63@gmail.com



# NEWS AND EVENTS



## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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 and Fr. Vincent at 781.237.5561.

### SENIOR GUILD

The next Senior Guild Meeting will be Wednesday, December 6 for the Feast day of St. Nicholas. Orthros and Divine Liturgy will at 9 am and following will be the Christmas Luncheon at the Dolphin Restaurant in Natick. After Liturgy we will head to the Dolphin. Since parking is limited we suggest carpooling. At this time we are no longer able to take any more reservations.

Do not forget! We will have a Christmas Grab Game as part of the outing. To participate you must bring a *wrapped* gift (minimum of \$10).

### HONORING VETERANS CEREMONY

On Wednesday, November 15th, 2017, Philoptochos held a special ceremony to recognize the service of veterans from our parish. Veterans were presented with certificates recognizing their valuable contributions to our nation and with patriotic pins to honor their service. Our veterans, whose branches included the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, had a broad range of service starting with World War II and including The Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and up to the present global war on terror. Thank you to all those recognized and to the other members of our community who have served our nation!



## FR. MANIKAS LIBRARY

Book of the Month:

*The Virgin Mary* by Dennis Michelis

Why do Orthodox Christians throughout the world venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary so highly? This book provides the answer. Based on Holy Scripture and the Church Fathers this narrative covers every aspect of the life of this unique maiden whose genuine piety and holiness deemed her worthy to conceive, bear, and be the mother of Christ—God in the flesh.



We invite you to come and visit the parish library. The library is opened every Sunday after Liturgy. However, you are welcomed to visit the library when the Church office is opened. As outlined in the Library Policies and Procedures please fill out both cards and leave the orange card in the metal box. Date is the month and year when you borrow the book. This will help us to keep track of our books.

Remember, this library is for you and your family.

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Fr. Vinnie and Pres. Nadia invite the young professionals of our parish to a gathering at their home on December 22nd from 7-10 pm. If you are interested in attending please email Fr. Vinnie no later than December 13th at [frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org](mailto:frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org).



## 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 & EVENTS



*"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

*—Isaiah 9:6*

## **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER (ANONYMOUS)**

Lord, guide our footsteps back to that wondrous and blessed night in Bethlehem where the Light came to a dark and troubled world. Take us back in spirit to that humble stable where our blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, came to earth to live, suffer and die for our salvation.

The world is always beset by dark clouds and turbulent, troubled waters. We are often lost like sheep without a shepherd, and each one feels deep within the need for a renewal of our dormant love, faith and hope. We ask, dear Lord, that these precious gifts be given once again to us.

Lead us, we pray, like little children to that glorious first Christmas Eve—that our hearts, our minds, our spirits may be filled with Your everlasting love.

Help us join hands one with another, all God's children, to honor the Prince of Peace; and in so doing, fill our hearts with Your divine grace and bear the glow from the wonderful light which our dear Savior brought to the world—that this glow, from each one of us, may burn brightly to the glory of God.

This we ask in Your Precious Name for all humankind.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BAPTISMS

The daughter of Elias Nassios and Ashley Souza was baptized on Sunday, November 5th and named Melina. The sponsor was Dimitra Karterakis.

**May God bless them with His divine grace!**

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were generously donated by the following parishioners:

November 19:

In memory of Danny (Damianos) P. Laskaris.

In memory of Anastasos and Aphrodite Rontiris and Konstantinos and Efphimia Tase from Steve and Christine Rontiris.

November 26:


In loving remembrance of Ian McVey's birthday.



## FUNERALS

Amalia Notis Kalyvas of Natick, November 2  
William J. Vasil of Framingham, November 19

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



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