

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4,
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DECEMBER 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

To bring all children, youth and young adults closer to Christ and His Church through religious education, fellowship and various other events on a parish and national level.



Schedule of Christmas Services

**Monday, December 24th—
CHRISTMAS EVE**

Service of the Royal Hours of Christmas 9-10:30 a.m.
Vespertal Liturgy 7-10 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 25th—
CHRISTMAS DAY**

Matins 9 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10-11:30 a.m.

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“MERRY CHRISTMAS!”

CELEBRATING WITH CHRYSOSTOM

St. John Chrysostom was Archbishop of Constantinople in the 4th century. A prolific author, he has given us countless letters, the Divine Liturgy we celebrate every Sunday and sermons, such as the one below on the Great Feast of Christmas. The Church honours his memory every year on January 27th and November 13th.

“I behold a new and wondrous mystery! My ears resound to the shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but loudly chanting a heavenly hymn! The angels sing! The archangels blend their voices in harmony! The cherubim resound their joyful praise!

The Seraphim exalt His glory! All join to praise this holy feast. He who is above now, for our salvation, dwells here below; and we, who were lowly, are exalted by divine mercy! Today Bethlehem resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices and, in place of the sun, witnessing the rising of the Sun of Justice!

Ask not how this is accomplished, for where God wills, the order of nature is overturned. For He willed He had the powers He descended. He saved. All things move in obedience to God.

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him angels, nor archangels, nor thrones, nor dominions, nor powers, nor principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb. Yet He has not forsaken His angels, nor left them deprived of His care, nor because of His incarnation has He ceased being God. And behold kings have come, that they might serve the Leader of the Hosts of Heaven; Women, that they might adore Him Who was born of a woman so that He might change the pains of childbirth into joy; Virgins, to the Son of the Virgin.... Infants, that they may adore Him who became a little child, so that out of the mouths of infants He might perfect praise; Children,

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis, along with the Parish Council, Philoptochos Society, Chanters, Choir, Altar Servers, Sunday School, Re-Catechism, Greek Bible Study, Bookstore & all the volunteers wish you and yours...



Preparing for Christmas

By Dr. Maria-Fotini Polidoulis Kapsalis

If your family is like mine, there are a lot of preparations that need to be done to prepare for Christmas: the house gets a good cleaning, the outside lights are put up, the tree is decorated, stockings are hung, and festive tablecloths and centerpieces get placed on the tables. Christmas cards are written, and let us not forget the letter to Santa, and all are mailed to family and friends. Add to our list gift buying, wrapping, ribbons, bows and labels, and we are almost done. The turkey is purchased for Christmas dinner, and all the ingredients that go into making a very special meal. It seems that we are now ready for Christmas. But we are far from it.



Often times we worry so much about the things on the "outside" that we need to do to prepare for Christmas that we forget about the things that need to be done on the "inside". And by the inside, I mean, have we prepared our hearts? How can we welcome Jesus into our hearts if we haven't cleaned there? But you might ask, how does one prepare a heart? St. John the Baptist prepared us for the coming of Jesus by calling out, "Repent and make straight the way of the Lord." What does it mean to repent?

Repent means to own our mistakes, admit that we make them, and feel sorry for them. But repentance also means making an effort to change our behaviour so we don't make the same mistakes again. And as Orthodox Christians we go to Confession to an Orthodox priest to confess our sins, and ask for guidance that will help us change our behaviour and our lives. This is how we clean our hearts in the Sacrament of Confession. And after we cleaned up in there, we can begin all the other preparations of the heart. Remembering and reaching out to people, but not just to our family and friends, but also to strangers, and especially to the poor. This year, prepare for Christmas on the inside as well as on the outside, because then our Lord will come into our homes and our hearts, and truly bless us.

To learn more about the Great Feast
 of Christmas, visit our website!



www.

Livingorthodoxy
 .com

On the Great Feast of Christmas: Celebrating with Chrysostom (Continued from page 1)

to the Child who raised up martyrs through the rage of Herod; Men, to Him who became man that He might heal the miseries of His servants; Shepherds, to the Good Shepherd who was laid down His life for His sheep; Priests, to Him who has become a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek; Servants, to Him who took upon Himself the form of a servant, that He might bless our stewardship with the reward of freedom (Philippians 2:7); Fishermen, to the Fisher of humanity; Publicans, to Him who from among them named a chosen evangelist; Sinful women, to Him who exposed His feet to the tears of the repentant woman; And that I may embrace them all together, all sinners have come, that they may look upon the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!



I hold in my arms the cradle of Christ! For this is all my hope! This is my life! This is my salvation! And bearing it I come, and having from its power received the gift of speech, I too, with the angels and shepherds, sing: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men of good will!"

Χριστουγεννιάτικες Εκδηλώσεις - Christmas Events of our Parish

ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ

(1-23 Δεκεμβρίου) /

FOOD DRIVE (December 1st-23rd)

Ζήτουμε μόνο τρόφιμα (που δεν έχουν λήξει) και παιχνίδια.

This year, we are only asking for food and toy donations. We ask you please make sure the food has not expired.



Χριστουγεννιάτικη Σύναξη

Νεολαίας (2 Δεκεμβρίου) /

Christmas Youth Retreat

(Sunday, December 2nd)

Η Σύναξη θα γίνει κατά τη διάρκεια της Κυριακάτικης Λειτουργίας.

The Retreat will be taking place during the Sunday Divine Liturgy.



Χριστουγεννιάτικη Γιορτή Κατηχητικού

(Κυριακή, 9 Δεκεμβρίου) /

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

(December 9th)

Για πληροφορίες, μιλήστε στον Διευθυντή, κ. Β. Πολυδούλη.

For info, please speak with the Sunday School Director, Mr. B. Polidoulis.

Για πληροφορίες και για το Πρόγραμμα Ι. Ακολουθιών...

For more info, or to see our Schedule of Services, call us at 416-425-2485 or go to our websites...

www.LivingOrthodoxy.com

www.GreekCommunity.org

ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!





**St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Religious Education Newsletter**

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Want this newsletter in your inbox?

E-mail us today!

StDemetrios@LivingOrthodoxy.com

The third Greek Orthodox Church in Toronto, St. Demetrios Church was founded in 1962. Since then, our Church has been the spiritual home of thousands of Orthodox faithful from Toronto and vicinity. Our Church is a constituent member of the Greek Community of Toronto [www.greekcommunity.org] and under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada) [www.gometropolis.org].

The Religious Education programs have been attended by many children, youth and young adults. Our tireless staff works to promote the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Parish Priest
Religious Education Director
Young Adult League Leaders**

**Parish Council President
Philoptochos President
Greek Bible Study
Re-Catechism
(English Orthodox
Discussion Group)**

Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis
Mr. Basile Polidoulis
Mrs. Vicki Vokas, Mr. Niko Sotiropoulos

Mr. Argyrios Haros
Mrs. Theodora Koutsoubou
Mr. Basile Polidoulis
Mrs. Fotini Kapsalis
Mr. John Kapsalis
Mr. Chrysostom Makropoulos
Mr. Tim Prattas

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Re-Catechism Lecture Series Presents...

FINDING JESUS CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

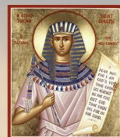


SESSIONS INCLUDE...



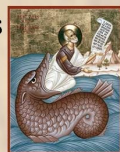
In the Beginning: Genesis
Tuesday, January 15th (T. Prattas, M.Div.)

Jealousy and Forgiveness: The Story of Joseph
Tuesday, January 29th (J. Kapsalis, M.Th.)



Seeing God: Moses and the 10 Commandments
Tuesday, February 12th (TBA)

Preaching Repentance: The Story of Jonah
Tuesday, February 26th (F. Kapsalis, Ph.D.)



Dreams, Visions and God's Judgment: Daniel
Tuesday, March 5th (C. Makropoulos)

A God-Crowned King and Prophet: David
Tuesday, March 19th (Fr. K. Pavlidis)



Praising God in Hymns: Wisdom Literature
Tuesday, April 2nd (TBA)

Describing the Suffering Servant: Isaiah
Tuesday, April 16th (T. Prattas, M.Div.)



Merry Christmas

Albanian - **Gezur Krislinjden**
Armenian - **Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev Pari Gaghand**

Brazilian - **Feliz Natal**
Bulgarian - **Chestita Koleda**
Croatian - **Sretan Bozic**
Finnish - **Hauskaa Joulua**
French - **Joyeux Noël**
German - **Fröhliche Weihnachten**
Greek - **Καλά Χριστούγεννα!**
Hebrew - **Mo'adim Lesimkha**
Italian - **Buon Natale**
Romanian - **Sarbatori Fericite**
Russian - **S prazdnikom Rozdestva Hristova i s Novim Godom**
Serbian - **Hristos se rodi**
Spanish - **Feliz Navidad**

and Happy New Year 2013!

Want to learn more about Re-Catechism?

Email: stdemetrios@livingorthodoxy.com

URL: www.LivingOrthodoxy.com

Twitter: [@stdemetriostoronto](https://twitter.com/stdemetriostoronto)

FB Page: **St. Demetrios Toronto is my Church!**

