

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4,
ISSUE 3
NOVEMBER 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.

Join us for the celebration of our Chapel, St. Nektarios!



Thursday, November 8th
Great Vespers 7-8:30 pm

Friday, November 9th
Matins 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:15-11 am

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A TIME TO REMEMBER: PRAYING TO GOD, WITH POPPIES & SILVER CROSSES IN HAND

Every November 11th, Canadians commemorate Remembrance Day. From memories during our school days, it is a day filled with the sight of red poppies. This flower became an international symbol of mourning and remembrance from Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae's Poem, "[In Flanders Fields](#)". No matter what the conflict, our soldiers put their lives in harms way so we can live in freedom. Some of them came back to tell their story, while others perished in battle. Us wearing poppies is a tribute to their sacrifice.

For Orthodox Christians, **Remembrance Day** should not simply be about poppies or observing a "moment of silence" at 11 a.m. This day should be about remembering both the fallen and those who survived *in a prayerful way*. It should be connected with prayers of thanksgiving for freedom, for God to grant rest to those who perished, to give consolation to the families of the grieving and for peace in the world.



All these prayers can be encapsulated in the sight of the **Silver Cross mother**. The Silver Cross is awarded to the mother of a soldier who died in battle. Every year, this mother shows us the pain and anguish suffered in the loss of a loved one. Orthodox Christians should pause and reflect, since their sorrow is *our sorrow* (for, as St. Paul says, "weep with those who weep" - Romans 12:15). These families must always be in our prayers — on Remembrance Day and always.

Finally, Remembrance Day should be a day that we, as a community of faith, come together to thank God for the freedom we have. Our anthem's verse, "God keep our land glorious and free", should be a sincere prayer for all of us. One reason we are free is because of the sacrifice of these men and women in battle. We hope that you will join us in honouring those who are no longer with us, praying for their eternal rest, and remembering their sacrifice. *May their memory be eternal and grant peace to our world, O Lord!* A blessed Remembrance Day to all!



REMEMBRANCE DAY MEMORIAL
At the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 11th, we will be having a special memorial for all veterans and victims of wars.



St. Demetrios Youth Give Back to their Church! (October 20, 2012)

To help our Church for the feastday of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr, members of our Church's Girls Group and Altar Servers volunteered their time to help in the preparations on Saturday, October 20th.

Beginning at 4:30 p.m. with a prayer led by Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis, the **Altar Servers** began cleaning up the Altar area and preparing the altar coverings, Hierarchical candelabras, processional crosses and *hexapteriga*, candles, Altar server robes and more. At the same time, the **Girls Group** members separated into two groups. The first group began to fix a beautiful card for the upcoming visit of His Eminence to our Church, while the other sorted out icons and books that were in disarray. The day concluded with a pizza dinner for all youth, kindly donated by Fr. Kosta.



The Girls Group tasks were organized by Mrs. Valerie Evans-Makropoulos and Mrs. Militsa Hatzidimitriou-Fiuza, while the Altar Server tasks were organized by Dr. Nick Vozoris and Mr. Tim Prattas. We thank them for their leadership in organizing the day. We further would like to thank all the parents and guardians who supported our parish for this day to be such a success.



Finally, all of us at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church would like to thank the youth who came out to give back to their Church. **We couldn't have done it without you!**

It is our prayer that Saints Demetrios, Paraskevi and Nektarios— the Patrons of our Church, Girls Group and Altar Servers, respectively—intercede for you all to our Lord! **God bless you all!**

The Feastday of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr (October 25 - 26, 2012)

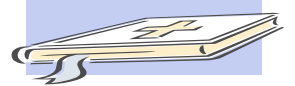
On October 26th, our Church celebrated the feastday of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr. On the eve of the feast, our Church had a Hierarchical Great Vespers service, presided by His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto (Canada) and assisted by the clergy of Toronto and vicinity. That evening, over 1500 faithful from all across the city came to celebrate the memory of St. Demetrios and venerate his icon. To assist us that evening, members of our Church's Girls Group (girls from 12-18 years of age, led by Mrs. Valerie Evans-Makropoulos) assisted the Philoptochos Society. During the dinner, members of the Girls Groups and Altar Servers presented His Eminence with a card, welcoming him to the parish.

On the feastday, His Eminence celebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Fr. B. Hladio and our Parish Priest, Fr. K. Pavlidis. At the end of the Liturgy, lunch was served to everyone.

Many thanks to the members of the Girls Group; our tireless Altar Servers (led by Nick Vozoris), who served very prayerfully in the altar on both days of the feast; all members of the Parish Council and Philoptochos Society, for their co-operation; members of the Byzantine Choir and our chanters for their service; and all volunteers and staff who made it such a successful feastday! God Bless! Και του χρόνου!



**GREEK
 BIBLE STUDY
 EVERY THURSDAY
 AT 7:30 PM!**



Pictures from our Church's Feastday



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To see more pics of the Feastday and other events, go online to...



LivingOrthodoxy.com



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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

Re-Catechism Lecture Series 7 DISCOVERING THE NEW TESTAMENT



*Re-connect with Christ
through the pages of Scripture*

Contact us for more info!

St. Demetrios Toronto is my Church!

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Come and Join us for our Sessions...

**“The Epistles of James,
Peter, John & Hebrews”**

When: Tuesday, October 30th

Speaker: Rev. Fr. B. Hladio

“Paul and His Epistles”

When: Tuesday, November 13th

Speaker: Maria-Fotini Kapsalis, Ph.D.

“The Eschaton: Jude and Revelation”

When: Tuesday, November 27th

Speaker: T. Prattas, M. Div.

Where: St. Demetrios Church (30 Thorncliffe Pk. Dr.)

Time: 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. (Compline 6:45-7:00)