

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4,
ISSUE 2
OCTOBER 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.

Hope to see you
all at our Church's
Feastday,
October 25-26!!!

IN THIS ISSUE...

Greek Bible Study	2
A Message from our Priest to all Parents and Students	2
Celebrate Your Child's Baptism, Chrismation & First Communion at St. Demetrios!	2
St. Demetrios Altar Servers at the ROM	3
Beginning of Sunday School September 30, 2012	3
Re-Catechism Lecture Series 7: Discovering the New Testament	4

LET'S CELEBRATE!

FEAST OF ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR

As a member of this parish for years, it's always a special time of year when October 26th approaches. The feastday of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr is one that is anticipated by countless faithful all across the globe, from Thessaloniki) to Toronto. Thessaloniki, Greece is the city where St. Demetrios suffered martyrdom, sacrificing his life for Christ in a time of persecution. Toronto, on the other hand, has a special bond with St. Demetrios, as he was the third saint to be honoured with a Church in the city (after St. George and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary). There are countless baptisms, weddings, first communions, funerals, along with other sacraments and services, that have taken place in the Church – a Church that was built because of the Greek Orthodox Christians of Toronto and vicinity coming together to honour the Myrrh-Streamer and Great Martyr.



All year long, but especially on his feastday of October 26th, we remember his conviction and faith in Christ. He emulated St. Paul's words: he no longer lived for himself, but Christ lived in him (cf. Gal. 2:20). His witness for the Truth continues to provide an example for us all – showing our love for God and to hold Him first in our lives. Together with St. Nestor the Martyr, he has provided this example of witness to Orthodox Christians who honour him in so many ways.

One can say the most important way to honour St. Demetrios the Great Martyr would be to attend the divine services celebrating his memory. As every year, **Great Vespers** will be held on the eve of the feast (October 25th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.). Leading us in our celebrations will be our Metropolitan, His Eminence Sotirios of Toronto (Canada), together with all the clergy of Toronto and vicinity. The next day, October 26th, the morning services of Matins and Divine Liturgy will be held, once again led by His Eminence. The opportunity to receive Holy Communion is definitely the high point in any way of celebrating his feast, since uniting with our Lord Jesus Christ was St. Demetrios' goal in life.



→ Con't on pg. 3

A Message from our Priest to all Parents and Students

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On October 26th, the Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr and Myrrh-streamer. As the Patron Saint of our Church, we honour his memory with the following services:

October 25th, 2012

Hierarchical Great Vespers 7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

Presided by His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto (Canada), assisted by the clergy of Toronto and vicinity.

October 26th, 2012

Festal Matins and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto (Canada).

We ask that all parents, children and youth of our parish attend all the divine services to honour our Patron Saint. All young men are asked to serve in the Altar, while all young ladies are asked to assist during the services. If you are interested in volunteering during the services, please let us know in advance to prepare a letter detailing your service.

For a letter to excuse you and/or your children from daily activities because of the feast, please contact our Church's office

Finally, on the night of the Great Vespers, we ask that all children and youth stay after the service for a small reception with His Eminence.

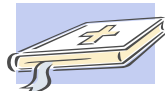
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Church office at 416-425-2485 or at stdemetrios@livingorthodoxy.com.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis, Parish Priest

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

For those who wish to attend Bible study in Greek, sessions are held every Thursday at 7:30pm inside St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.



For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed in Christ.

~ Galatians 3:26

Celebrate Your Child's Baptism, Chrismation & First Communion at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church!



Baptism, Chrismation and First Communion are significant milestones in the spiritual life of an Orthodox Christian.

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been the spiritual home of thousands of baptisms since 1962.

We realize how important this moment is
 in the lives of our families.

With bilingual services, we strive to make your child's baptism a spiritually uplifting and prayerful experience — one that you will remember for years to come.



To book your child's baptism,
 contact us...

By Phone: 416-425-2485

By E-mail:

St.Demetrios@GreekCommunity.org

Online: www.GreekCommunity.org

St. Demetrios Altar Servers Beginning of Sunday School at the ROM September 30, 2012



On Saturday, September 15th, several Altar Servers visited the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto and saw the various exhibits, which included an display on Byzantium (including a 4th-century Altar Table, icons and coins from the empire). In the picture above, the Altar Servers at the ROM with a dinosaur fossil (held by our youngest Altar Server, Alexander P.).

If you child would like to join the Altar Servers, please contact us at stdemetrios@livingorthodoxy.com.

Throughout the month of September, parents and guardians signed up their children and grandchildren for the new Sunday School year. Over 100 students have already registered for our religious education program.

On Sunday, September 30th, Fr. Konstantinos held the Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmos) service at the end of the Divine Liturgy. God bless our Sunday School students, parents and teachers!

Find out about God...
anytime, online!



Livingorthodoxy
.com

LET'S CELEBRATE! (CON'T FROM PAGE 1)

These liturgical celebrations are important for all of us to honour our Saint. Truly, if we do not honour our saints by coming to Church, can we really say we *honour* them in the way they deserve to be honoured? Praying together as a spiritual family honours the Saint, while at the same time praising our Lord God who graced us with saints to serve as our examples.

Something else we can do to honour his memory would be to participate in that which he was so passionate about: Sunday School and Catechism. He was a teacher of the Faith for the people in his hometown and brought many to Christ. We should do the same with our children – and even ourselves – with our children attending Sunday School and our youth, young adults and families attending the Re-Catechism sessions we offer. In this way, we can learn about Christ and His wonders continually.

Furthermore, as Christians, we should never be weary in showing compassion whenever we can. They could include people who are destitute financially, spiritually or otherwise. It could include organizations who help out in the community (especially within our Church, like the Philoptochos, Council, etc.). Philanthropy is always a way to show that freely we have received from God, freely we give back to His people (cf. Mth. 10:8).

Finally, let's remember to say «χρόνια πολλά!» and "happy name day!" to those who are celebrating their feastday on October 26th. A simple message (be it through calling, text or e-mail) is always a great way to show them that we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ, praying for them on their nameday.

Brothers and sisters: let's celebrate the memory of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr, giving glory to God for His servant's sacrifice!



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Religious Education Newsletter

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**WANT THIS NEWSLETTER IN
YOUR INBOX? E-MAIL US!**

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

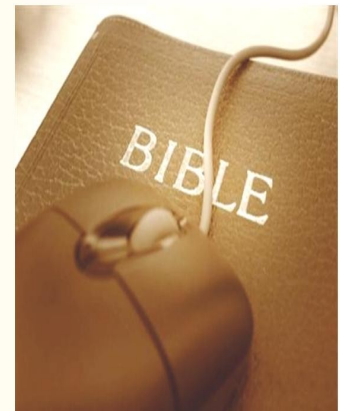
Mr. John Kapsalis

Mr. Chrysostom Makropoulos

Mr. Tim Prattas

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!**

 **@StDemetriosToronto**

 **Channel: StDemetriosToronto**

 **LivingOrthodoxy.com**

 **StDemetrios@LivingOrthodoxy.com**

 **T: 416-425-2485 - F: 416-425-2954**

Third Session —

“Seeing the Early Church through Acts & the Corinthian Epistles”

When: Tuesday, October 16th

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

Speaker: C. Makropoulos

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

Next Sessions:

Oct. 30th Paul and his Epistles (Dr. F. Kapsalis)

Nov. 13th James, Peter, 1 2 3 John & Hebrews (Fr. B. Hladio)

Nov. 27th The Eschaton: Jude & Revelation (T. Prattas, M.Div.)

Come and Join us!!