

# THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4,  
ISSUE 1  
SEPTEMBER 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.*

A Blessed  
Ecclesiastical  
New Year to all!!!

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Greek Bible Study	2
A Message from our Priest & Sunday School Director	2
Re-Catechism Lecture Series 7: Discovering the New Testament	2
St. Demetrios and Panagia Youth meet for social outing	3
Philoptochos Annual Dinner	3
Register for St. Demetrios Sunday School	4

## MESSAGE FOR THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR: ON THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT

With summer coming to a close and students going back to their classrooms, the Orthodox Church celebrates the "Feast of the Indiction", otherwise known as the beginning of the ecclesiastical year. Every September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Gospel reading prepares all people for the coming year which will no doubt be filled with joys and sorrows, blessings and difficulties.

We hear when Jesus entered Nazareth and preached by quoting the words of the Prophet Isaiah (61:1-2) which foretold the coming of the Messiah:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* (Lk. 4:18-19).

The Spirit of the Lord is indeed upon all of humanity, with so many blessings bestowed upon us. In his letter, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I speaks to us of the blessing many of us forget about: creation itself.

*Our God created the universe and formed the earth as a perfect dwelling place for humanity. The world that surrounds us was thus offered to us as a gift by our Creator as an arena of social activity but also of spiritual sanctification in order that we might inherit the creation to be renewed in the future age.*

This message is not merely to promote an "environmentally-friendly message" within the Orthodox world; rather, it is to admit that we are responsible to keep well the blessings given by God to humanity, along with repenting for our sins. His All Holiness continues:

*In praying for the natural environment, we are praying for personal repentance for our contribution - smaller or greater - to the disfigurement and destruction of creation, which we collectively experience regionally and occasionally through the immense phenomena of our time.*

In his Indiction message, His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto (Canada) expounds the topic of repentance further by reminding us that, "[While] all of us live on earth, we should think of heaven. For, truly, "here we do not have an enduring city, but we seek the city that is to come."



→ Con't on pg. 3

## A Message from our Priest & Sunday School Director

All of us in Canada pay particular attention to the education of our children. We send them to school; we hire tutors and do everything in our power to prepare them for a better future in our society. All this is good and beneficial, but as humans we are not just flesh and bones. We are also spirit. Our souls need nourishment as well, as is said in Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." You will not find that type of education in any Canadian school. **That is what we offer at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Sunday School.**

We teach our children the Orthodox faith, our Sacraments, to love God and respect people, to be part of the big picture of being Greek and Orthodox. When, God willing, the time comes to step into society, along with the secular knowledge and education, they are prepared to defend their faith and protect their spirit. If not, they get lost in a Godless society, unprotected and easy prey to heretics.

Our children have only one opportunity in life to get this spiritual education. If they miss it, tomorrow might be too late. No one will ever consider skipping even one year of school; yet when it comes to spiritual education, we neglect it.

The entire Sunday School team – Fr. Konstantinos, our spiritual counsellor; Mr. Basile Polidoulis, the director; and all the teachers – are doing our part to give this education to our children. We are calling upon you to do your part, to enrol the children to Sunday School and to bring them every Sunday to St. Demetrios Church.

Remember that secular education is good, but not enough. Christ said: "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)

If you wish, we invite you to come in and participate one Sunday in one of the classes, to get a first-hand experience of what Sunday School is all about.

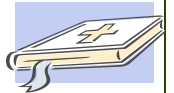
We hope to see you soon. If you need more information, please see us after the service.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Paolidis, Parish Priest

Basile Polidoulis, Sunday School Director

### 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 G.O. Church. Sessions begin Thursday September 27, 2012.

## Re-Catechism Lecture Series 7 DISCOVERING THE NEW TESTAMENT

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



### First Session —

#### "Introducing the Good Book"


*A general discussion about the Bible*

**When:** Tuesday, September 18th  
6:45 to 8:30 p.m. (Compline 6:45-7:00)  
**Speaker:** John Kapsalis, M.T.S.  
**Where:** St. Demetrios Church (30 Thorncliffe Pk. Dr.)

### Next Sessions:

**Oct. 2nd** Good News: The Four Gospels (Fr. K. Paolidis)  
**Oct. 16th** Seeing the Early Church through Acts & the Corinthian Epistles (C. Makropoulos)  
**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.)

### Contact us for more info!


 **St. Demetrios Toronto is my Church!**

 **@StDemetriosToronto**

 **Channel: StDemetriosToronto**

 **LivingOrthodoxy.com**

 **StDemetriosToronto@LivingOrthodoxy.com**

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



## St. Demetrios and Panagia Youth meet for social outing



In the first week of July, youth from our Church met with youth from the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Virgin Mary for a social outing on the Danforth. Our thanks to Patricia Rakopoulos, Youth Director of the Cathedral, for organizing this youth event! During the year, our youth will hopefully meet with other youth and young adults from other Greek Orthodox churches and communities —in Toronto and all across Canada! More information on future events on our website, [www.LivingOrthodoxy.com](http://www.LivingOrthodoxy.com).

The Greek Ladies  
Philanthropic Association of  
Saint Demetrios  
30 Thorncliffe Park Drive  
Toronto, ON M4H 1H8  
Tel. 416-425-2485

Cordially invites you to join us for a  
fun-filled evening at our  
**Annual Dinner**

September 27, 2012

At 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$20.00

R.S.V.P.

To reserve tickets, or for more  
information, please contact  
Theodora Koutsombou 416-429-0215  
Popi Kebezis 416-421-9268

## Where the Good News Is!



LivingOrthodoxy  
.com

### NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR (CON'T FROM PAGE 1)

The blessings that we see on this earth - along with those which we do not see from Above - are because we realize that God is the One who guides us on the path to repentance. Our Metropolitan reminds us that we should,

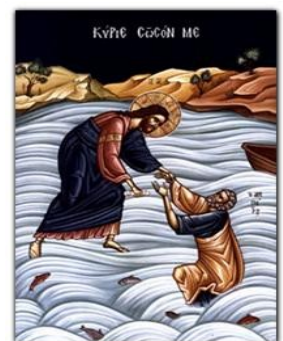
*...Reconcile and balance our material and spiritual life. Let us not show injustice to the heavens and our earthly hypostasis. Let us live as workers upon this earth, working all the while for our eternal life in heaven. Our psychosomatic hypostasis demands this balance. Only with this balance can we find true joy.*

This "change of mind" is made to be so difficult by some. However, before He would need to "heal the brokenhearted" in spirit, everyone can have a healthy relationship with Christ by merely following simple rules of life, commandments to live by. As His Eminence says, "Make your home a small church. The family should pray together. Eat together. Celebrate together. Go to Church every Sunday and great feast day together. Children should go to Sunday School."

Preaching the Gospel might seem simple, but it can only be effective if it is adhered to by the listeners. Christ tried with those in Nazareth, but they rejected Him. As we begin this new ecclesiastical year, may we adhere to His teaching and have Him as Lord and Saviour of our souls.

All of us wish you a blessed new ecclesiastical year!

Καλή εκκλησιαστική χρονιά!





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

30 Thorncliffe Park Drive

Toronto, ON M4H 1H8

Tel: 416-425-2485

Fax: 416-425-2954

[st.demetrios@greekcommunity.org](mailto:st.demetrios@greekcommunity.org)

**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](http://www.greekcommunity.org)] and under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada) [[www.gometropolis.org](http://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

We will be starting the new **SUNDAY SCHOOL** year on **SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> 2012**

# ST DEMETRIOS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School starts every **SUNDAY** at **10:30 AM** in the Church



Parents - Don't let anything else come in the way between **YOUR** child's relationship with God: Please bring your children to Sunday School and help them grow their faith in God!