

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING THE PASCHAL FEAST

This excerpt from a letter by Saint Athanasius was written around 340 AD to prepare the people of Alexandria for the celebration of Pascha.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8
APRIL 2011

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

APRIL 17TH

Palm Sunday - Fish Luncheon

APRIL 22ND

Good Friday – Youth Retreat

APRIL 24TH

PASCHA: The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

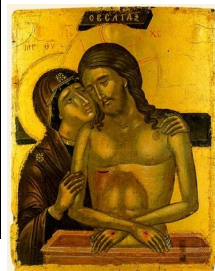
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Brethren, how fine a thing it is to move from festival to festival, from prayer to prayer, from holy day to holy day. The time is now at hand when we enter on a new beginning: the proclamation of the blessed Pascha, in which the Lord was sacrificed. We feed as on the food of life, we constantly refresh our souls with his precious blood, as from a fountain. Yet we are always thirsting, burning to be satisfied. But he himself is present for those who thirst and in his goodness invites them to the feast day. Our Savior repeats his words: *If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.*

He quenched the thirst not only of those who came to him then. Whenever anyone seeks him he is freely admitted to the presence of the Saviour. The grace of the feast is not restricted to one occasion. Its rays of glory never set. It is always at hand to enlighten the mind of those who desire it. Its power is always there for those whose minds have been enlightened and who meditate day and night on the holy Scriptures, like the one who is called blessed in the holy Psalm: *Blessed is the man who has not followed the counsel of the wicked, or stood where sinners stand, or sat in the seat of the scornful, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.*

Moreover, my friends, the God who first established this feast for us allows us to celebrate it each year. He who gave up His Son to death for our salvation, from the same motive gives us this feast, which is commemorated every year. This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast, as he brings us together to form one assembly, uniting us all in spirit in every place, allowing us to pray together and to offer common thanksgiving, as is our duty on the feast. Such is the wonder of his love: He gathers to this feast those who are far apart, and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other.



HYMNS OF PRAISE ONLINE IN GREEK AND ENGLISH

The Εγκώμια, or Hymns of Praise, are chanted by everyone during the "Matins of Holy Saturday" service (held on Good Friday evening). This year, they will be available in both Greek and English at our parish! To find them in both Greek and English, visit

www.gocanada.org/greatlent

ALTAR SERVERS & GIRLS GROUP MEETINGS

Both the Altar Servers Group and Girls Group will be having a short meeting on **Sunday, April 10th** after the Divine Liturgy (12:30—1:00 p.m.). The Altar Servers will be meeting with Dr. Nick Vozoris, leader of the Altar Servers. The Girls Group will be meeting with Patricia Rakopoulos, President of the Metropolis Youth Board. During both meetings, upcoming Holy Week preparations (Altar Server schedule, *Myrofores*, etc.) will be discussed.

If you are interested in participating in either one of these groups, e-mail us at stdemetriostoronto@gmail.com!



ALTAR BOY / MYROFORA SIGN UP FORM

Name: _____

Name of Parent: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Allergies: _____

Webpage of the Month:

www.OrthodoxWiki.org/Holy_Week

OrthodoxWiki.org is a free-content encyclopedia and information centre that has articles about everything Orthodox. The "Great and Holy Week" article discusses the journey throughout Holy Week and Pascha (historically, in today's day and age, and the various customs associated with Holy Week).

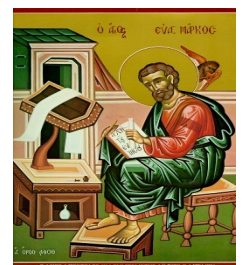
Learn more about your faith online, with close to 3,800 articles on a variety of topics!



This Month, We Celebrate...
St. Mark the Evangelist

The 411...

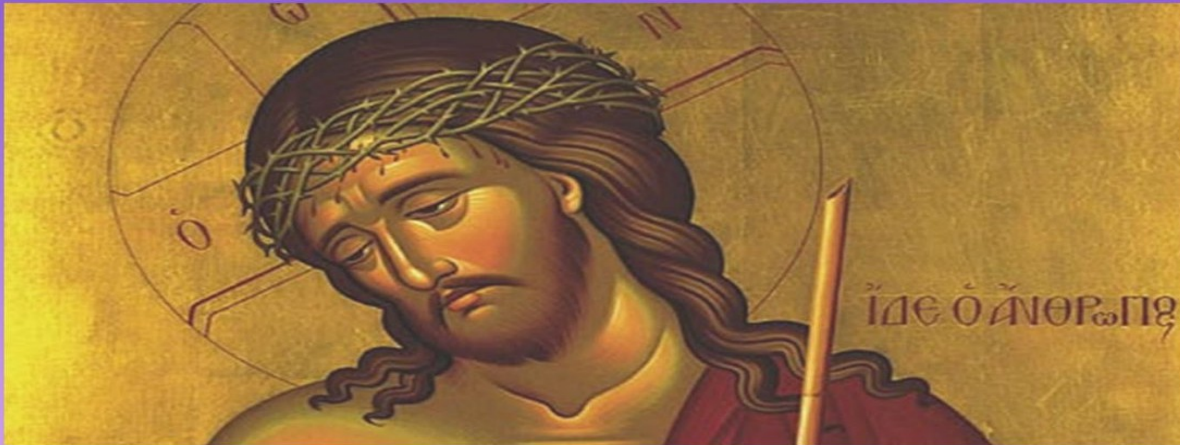
Feastday	April 25th
Lived	1st century A.D.
Type of Saint	Evangelist



GOOD FRIDAY YOUTH RETREAT 2011

LOVING LIKE CHRIST

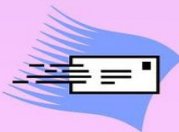
*"A new command I give you:
that you love one another as I have loved you."
~ Jesus Christ (John 13:34)*



***Join us this Good Friday at our Church
for our Annual Youth Retreat!***

Who? Children & Youth (Up to 19 yrs. of age)
Where? St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
When? Good Friday April 22nd, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Cost? \$5/participant (includes Lenten Lunch)

**Buy Your Tickets from our Sunday School
Teachers until Palm Sunday!
Space is limited!**



**stdemetriostoronto@gmail.com
linda@lhodesigns.com**

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

EVENT: "ST. DEMETRIOS GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT 2011"
GROUP: "ST. DEMETRIOS TORONTO IS MY CHURCH"

ABOUT HIS LIFE...

The founder of the Church of Alexandria (and the Church in the continent of Africa), St. Mark wrote the second Gospel account that we have in the New Testament. The accounts that are described come from St. Peter the Apostle, as St. Mark was his travel companion and interpreter. He is one of the "Seventy Apostles" that we hear about in Luke 10:1. He martyred in 68 A.D. His Gospel accounts are read during Great Lent.



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. It is one of the four Churches of the Greek Community of Toronto. 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.

*St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Religious Education Newsletter*

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YOUR INBOX? E-MAIL US!**

**STDemetriosToronto
@GMAIL.COM**

Parish Priests

**Religious Education Director
Religious Education Advisor**

Homiletic Speakers

5-and-Under Class Teachers

JK-SK Class Teachers

Gr. 1 Class Teachers

Gr. 2 Class Teacher

Gr. 3 Class Teachers

Gr. 4-5 Class Teachers

Gr. 6-7 Class Teachers

Gr. 8-9 Class Teachers

Gr. 10-12 Class Teacher

Young Adult League Leaders

Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis

Rev. Fr. Triantafillos Porfiris

Basile Polidoulis

Komissa Polidoulis

John Kapsalis, Tim Prattas

Linda Hudson, Georgia Vlahos, Patty Tsiolis

Despina Epaminondas, Chrysoula Kapogiannis

Kathe Bouzios, Eleni Skandalakis

Kassiani Logotheti

Vicky Nikolaos, Vasilis Papagiannis

Elena Qirjazi

Georgia Panagiotopoulos-Grivogiannis,

Eftila Qirjazi

Kiki Zourbanos, Fotini Kapsalis

Chrysostom Makropoulos

Vicki Vokas, Niko Sotiropoulos

Re-Catechism Pascha 2011 The Christian Arts

Where?

*St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
(30 Thorncliffe Park Drive, Toronto, 416-425-2485)*

All Sessions from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011

Praising God through Song: Music in the Orthodox Church

Tuesday, May 17th, 2011

Windows to Heaven: Orthodox Iconography

**** Special Guest Speaker: Fr. Theodore Kourfos, Iconographer**

Tuesday, May 31st, 2011

Fish, Anchors and more: Christian Symbols through the centuries

All Are Welcome! Come and Join Us!

For more information, e-mail us at

stdemetriostoronto@gmail.com