

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8
April 2013

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.

Holy Week
begins April 28th.
Come & Pray
with us!

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LET THE SAINTS DO THE TALKING...

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Approaching Holy Week, it's always difficult speaking appropriate words in giving spiritual nourishment to all of us as we prepare to participate in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. So, instead of this, a wiser option was taken: "let the Saints do the talking" - that is, let the words of our Saints show us the path we should take as we come close to the Holy Days of Pascha.*

Καλή Ανάσταση.

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On Fasting...

"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honoured, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast but also the eye, the ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice. Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eye fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.... Let the ear fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip. Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from fowl and fish, but bite and devour our brothers?" (St. John Chrysostom)

On Loving Your Neighbour...

"Rejoice at every opportunity of showing kindness to your neighbour as a true Christian who strives to store up as many good works as possible, especially the treasures of love." (St. John of Kronstadt)

On Pure Prayer...

"What is pure prayer? Prayer is brief in words but abundant in actions. For if your actions do not exceed your petitions, then your prayers are mere words, and the seed of the hands is not in them." (Saying of the Desert Fathers)

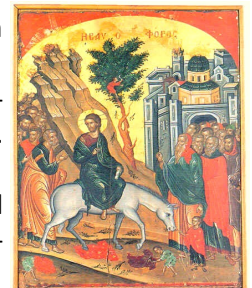
On Holy Week...

"Let us always be fearful, keeping before our eyes the Saviour's sufferings. Let us always keep in mind His sufferings, because it was for us He suffered, the dispassionate Master; for us He was crucified, the only sinless One.... Come, let us meditate on His sufferings with tears, thinking on fear, meditating with trembling, saying to ourselves, 'Christ our Saviour for us the impious was given over to death'.... And what shall I give You in return for this, Master? Glory to you, Lover of mankind! Glory to you, O Merciful! Glory to you, O Long-suffering! Glory to you, who pardon every fault! Glory to you, who came down to save our souls!" (St. Ephraim the Syrian)



Upcoming Events
this Holy Week

1. On Palm Sunday, April 28th, the Philoptochos will have its annual Fish Luncheon after Liturgy. Reserve your table today!
2. His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto (Canada) will be presiding at the Passion Service on Holy Thursday evening (6:45—10:30 p.m.). Go to our website for a full schedule of services.
3. On Good Friday, the Altar Servers and Girls Group (12-18 years old) will be having a "Good Friday Retreat" from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Register by e-mailing us at stdemetrios@livingorthodoxy.com.



Confessions at St. Demetrios Church



As a sacrament, it was established by Christ with His words to the Apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (Jn. 20:22-24) As we "change our mind" about sin, the Church gives the opportunity to faithful to ask forgiveness from God through Confession.

We would like to inform all Orthodox Christians that confessions will be heard at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church by:

His Grace Bishop CHRISTOFOROS of Andida

- **Wednesday, April 3rd & Thursday, April 4th**, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

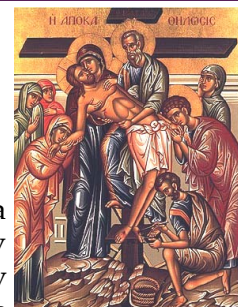
The Very Rev. Fr. Christodoulos Papadeas

- **Holy Monday (April 29th) and Holy Tuesday (April 30th)**, Times TBA

Confessions can also be heard by our Parish Priest, **Rev. Fr. K. Pavlidis**, every **Wednesday and Friday before Holy Week**, from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m.. God forgives...all we have to do is ask. God bless!



Divine Services of April & Holy Week 2013



As we enter the month of April, our Church continues its journey to Pascha with various Lenten Divine Services. Every week until Lazarus Saturday (April 27th), services include the **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** (every Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m.), **Salutations Service/Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos** (every Friday, 7-8:30 p.m.) and **Sunday Matins & Divine Liturgy** (8:45 a.m. – 12 noon). Lazarus Saturday will have Matins and Divine Liturgy from 8:45 to 11:00 a.m., while the program for Holy Week services is below.

We invite all parishioners to begin Holy Week at our Church and pray together for a blessed Holy Week and Pascha!

holy week 2013

AT ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 28th	Holy Monday April 29th	Holy Tuesday April 30th	Holy Wednesday May 1st	Holy Thursday May 2nd	Good Friday May 3rd	Holy Saturday May 4th	Sunday of Pascha May 5th
8:45 am— 12:15 pm: Matins, Liturgy & Blessing of the Palms	7—8:30 pm: Bridegroom Service	7—8:45 pm: Bridegroom Service ~ Hymn of St. Kassiani the Nun	8:45—11 am: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 6:00—7:30 pm: Holy Unction (ευχέλαιον)	8:45—11 am: Liturgy of the Last Supper 6:45—10:30 pm: The Passion Service	9—10:30 am: The Royal Hours 2—3:30 pm: "Descent from the Cross" Service 7—9:45 pm: "The Praises" Service	8:45—11 am: "First Resurrection" (Liturgy of St. Basil) 10:45 pm — 2 am: Resurrection Service & Paschal Divine Liturgy	11 am— 12 noon: Agape Vespers

Come and Celebrate with us!

Celebrating Orthodoxy and Hellenism: Sunday of Orthodoxy & March 25 1821 Celebrations

On **Sunday, March 24th**, our Church celebrated two great feasts as Greek Orthodox Christians.

The **Sunday of Orthodoxy** remembers the victory of the Church over iconoclasm and all heresy. The feast is marked with a procession of icons around the Church and the reading of the *Synodikon of Orthodoxy*.

March 25 1821 is a day of national significance for all Greeks, as it marks the beginning of the War of Independence. It is celebrated with a Doxology of Thanksgiving for our freedom. Thanks to parishioner Thekla Bardouniotis for the pictures.



Left: Participating in the procession of the icons are: Fr. K. Pavlidis, Parish Priest; Fr. E. Bardouniotis; the Hon. D. Azemopoulos, Consul General of Greece in Toronto; Members of the Church Council and Philoptochos; Youth of our Parish; and the Altar Servers.

Right: During the Doxology of Thanksgiving for “March 25th 1821”, youth from our Church dressed in traditional Greek costumes and carried the Greek and Canadian flags. Participating in the Doxology were also members of the Greek-Canadian community-at-large in Toronto and vicinity. Ζήτω η 25η Μαρτίου 1821!



Pictures from the Hellenic Home Visit of our Youth



**Kali Anastasi
from everyone at**



Livingorthodoxy



*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

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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 many Orthodox faithful from Toronto and vicinity. A constituent member of the Greek Community of Toronto [greekcommunity.org], it is under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada) [gometropolis.org].

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

Parish Priest

Parish Council President

Philoptochos President

Religious Education Director

Altar Servers Group

St. Paraskevi Girls Group

Re-Catechism (English

Orthodox Discussion Group)

Rev. Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis

Mr. A. Haros

Mrs. Z. Veroutis

Mr. B. Polidoulis

Dr. N. Vozoris, Mr. T. Prattas

Mrs. M. Hatzidemetriou-Fiuza,

Mrs. V. Evans-Makropoulos

Mrs. F. Kapsalis, Mr. J. Kapsalis,

Mr. C. Makropoulos, Mr. T. Prattas

**Θυμήσου !! Δώσε λίγο αίμα
σώσε μια ζωή**



13 April 2013

9:00am to 5:00pm

**POLYMENAKION CENTER
30 Thorncliffe Park Drive**

Donate blood to save lives



**Fr. K Pavlidis, the Parish Council,
Philoptochos, Sunday School Teachers,
Chanters, Choirs, Altar Boys, &
the staff of our Church wish you a
SPIRITUALLY UPLIFTING HOLY WEEK
& BLESSED PASCHA!**

*Christ
Risen!*