

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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!

- May 13th:
Ascension of our Lord
- May 23rd:
Pentecost & Victoria Day Weekend (No Classes)
- May 30th:
All Saints Day

PARISH PRIEST'S MESSAGE

Beloved in the Lord,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is risen!

As we open an Orthodox Christian calendar, we find that all our Sundays are centred around the Great Feast of Pascha. As we enter into the Pascha of our Lord, we enter into a passage from death to Life. This is the key to the liturgical year of the Church. Christianity is, after all, the proclamation in this world of Christ's Resurrection. Orthodox spirituality is Paschal in its inner context, and the real content of the Christian life is joy. According to one of the greatest liturgical theologians of the 20th century, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, "Pascha is the real beginning of the liturgical year...because Pascha truly opens our understanding of time."

When dealing with children, the only thing a child accepts easily is joy. Christ tells us we should be just like them, when we hear, "whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (cf. Mark 10:15, Luke 18:17) To become like a child, according to Christ, means to be capable of that joy to enter into communion with nature, with other people, without suspicion or fear or frustration. Only within the framework of this joy can we understand everything else.

The world was dark, and Someone brought light and warmth. The world was sad and Someone said, "death is no more!" This is what Christ did in the world. It was cold, sinful and cruel, and He came and said, "Rejoice!" Christ gave His peace to the disciples, offering His joy as the beginning of the Christian experience in the world.



As we celebrate Pascha, I greet you in the Name of the Resurrected Christ and pray the Resurrected Christ blesses you and your families—both during the Feast of Feasts and always!

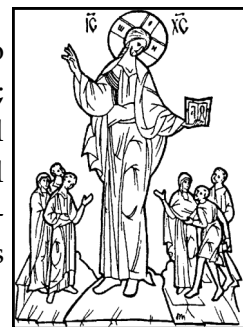
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη ο Κύριος!

Yours in the Risen Lord,
+ Fr. Konstantinos Pavlidis

Thank You, Everyone!

The Reverend Fathers would like to thank everyone who helped during this Holy Week: the Myrofores; Altar Boys; the Organizers, Volunteers, Parents and Youth that assisted us during our Good Friday Retreat; the Chanters; the Mixed Choir; the *Orpheas* Choir; the Parish Council; the Philoptochos; and all the other volunteers who helped make this Holy Week spiritually uplifting for thousands of faithful!

Χριστός Ανέστη!



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JESUS CHRIST— SON OF GOD, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

During the forty days of Pascha, the Church celebrates the Resurrection of Christ. The Sundays during Pascha instruct the faithful that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

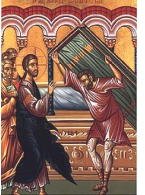
On **Thomas Sunday**, we remember Jesus breathing on the disciples and saying to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven...." We also remember how He revealed Himself to Thomas, after Thomas doubted the Resurrection. We see that Christ is the Saviour of the world in that He rose from the dead and was able to appear to His disciples in a miraculous way.

On the **Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women**, we remember how Jesus rose from the dead as the Myrrhbearing women were prepared to anoint His body with spices. This Sunday reminds us that Jesus was Perfect Man (that He suffered as we suffer, and He died as we die) and Perfect God (that He rose from the dead and was not subject to corruption).

On the **Sunday of the Paralytic**, we remember Jesus' miracle of raising a paralytic up and helping Him walk again! More than this, He showed the paralyzed man that He was the Messiah, the Son of God. The gospel reading shows us that, as God, Jesus can heal bodily and spiritual illnesses and invites everyone to have a relationship with Him.

On the **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**, we remember Jesus' discussion with a woman of Samaria. She was a woman who lived sinfully. Yet, Jesus did not judge her and put her on the right path towards salvation. St. Photini, the Samaritan Woman, is an example for all of us — it's never too late to ask forgiveness and have a relationship with Christ.

On the **Sunday of the Blind Man**, we remember Jesus how Jesus healed the blind man from his illness. We are taught that people are never ill because God "punishes them". Jesus answers His disciples as to why people are ill: "that the works of God might be made manifest" (or, that God might be glorified). Every person has the opportunity to glorify God—it's up to us to glorify Him and praise Him, even if life is difficult.



SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, MAY 30TH, 2010

All St. Demetrios Sunday School students will be attending the

End of the Year Party!

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where? Polymenakion Cultural Centre (Upstairs Hall)

More Details to Follow Shortly!!



ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY YOUTH RETREAT A MAJOR SUCCESS!

Beloved in Christ,

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Once again, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church led the way by hosting the most successful Youth Retreat throughout the Metropolis of Canada! With over 300 children and youth, who enjoyed over 700 crafts and an abundant Lenten lunch, our Retreat was truly a community effort for this day to be as successful as it was! Many of you pre-registered your donations in kind and your availability to volunteer and still many more just showed up, rolled up their sleeves and took on any available task! For all of you, we are very grateful!!!

Along with our thanks, we would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of a few things. It was originally communicated that a contribution of \$2 per child would be requested at the door in order to help cover the costs of our retreat. However, the night before the retreat, we received a phone call informing us that an anonymous Sponsor had come forward and was interested in donating the entire costs of the retreat. Their only stipulation was that the money collected at the door be forwarded as a donation to the Greek Community and not held by the Sunday school. This very generous Sponsor covered all the costs for the crafts and also supplied 160 drinks, lollipops for every child and all the lettuce, bananas and grapes in the luncheon. The Sponsor has asked to remain anonymous but we all wish him good health and God's blessings! Along with this Sponsor, many parents donated the balance of the food for the luncheon, as well as the Philoptochos who made many pans of *Kritharaki*. These acts of generosity showed how our community came together in an impressive example of "**Giving to our neighbour, Giving for Christ.**" That was our theme for this year's retreat and we are very proud to be a part of such a generous community!

In closing, may we wish each and every one of you a blessed Paschal season. May "the Light that can never be overtaken by night," our Lord Jesus Christ, bless us and guide us all throughout our journey to His Heavenly Kingdom!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

The Organizing Committee

Happy Mother's Day! - A Prayer for Orthodox Moms Everywhere

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who did come into this world not to be ministered to but to minister and to give Your life as a ransom for many: Help me, I pray You, in my life and all that I do, especially in the ministry of caring for the children which You have given me. Enable me to be patient in tribulations, to instruct with a gentle spirit and to serve in humility of heart with love. May I live having You as my rock and my strength, showing forth Your virtues and leading my family upon the path of Your saving commandments. May the All-Holy Theotokos and Virgin Mary serve as my example, as she loved You with all her heart. May my family and I continue to glorify You, together with Your beginningless Father and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.





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

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**WANT THIS NEWSLETTER
IN YOUR INBOX? E-MAIL US!**
[**stdemetriostoronto@gmail.com**](mailto:stdemetriostoronto@gmail.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. 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.

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| Parish Priests | Rev. Fr. Konstantine Pavlidis
Rev. Fr. Triantafillos Porfiris |
| Religious Education Director | Basile Polidoulis |
| Religious Education Advisor | Komissa Polidoulis |
| Homiletic Speakers | John Kapsalis, Tim Prattas |
| 5-and-Under Class Teachers | Linda Hudson, Georgia Vlahos, Patty Tsiolis |
| JK-SK Class Teachers | Despina Epaminondas, Chrysoula Kapogiannis |
| Gr. 1 Class Teachers | Kathe Bouzios, Eleni Skandalakis |
| Gr. 2 Class Teacher | Maria Douvis, Jenny Economou |
| Gr. 3 Class Teachers | Vicky Nikolaos, Vasilis Papagiannis |
| Gr. 4-5 Class Teachers | Elena Qirjazi |
| Gr. 6-7 Class Teachers | Georgia Panagiotopoulos-Grivogiannis,
Eftila Qirjazi |
| Gr. 8-9 Class Teachers | Kiki Zourbanos, Fotini Kapsalis |
| Gr. 10-12 Class Teacher | Chrysostom Makropoulos |
| Young Adult League Leaders | Vicki Vokas, Niko Sotiropoulos |

RE-CATECHISM PASCHA

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Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at Re-Catechism!

Where?

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

Who?

Everyone is Welcome!

When?

Every other Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The Sessions

Tuesday, April 20th, 2010

The Resurrection of Christ in the New Testament

Tuesday, May 4th, 2010

Trampling Down Death

Tuesday, May 18th, 2010

Life: Both Here and Eternal



“ Free Babysitting offered at each session “

For more information, e-mail us at

stdemetriostoronto@gmail.com

or go to our website at

www.re-catechism.com

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