

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!

• **NOVEMBER 9TH**

St. Nektarios Feastday
(Patron Saint of our Chapel)

• **NOVEMBER 15TH:**

Advent Begins
(Christmas Fast)

• **NOVEMBER 21ST:**

Entrance of the Theotokos
into the Temple

“ A HOLY FAMILY ” — THOUGHTS ON THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Beloved in the Lord.

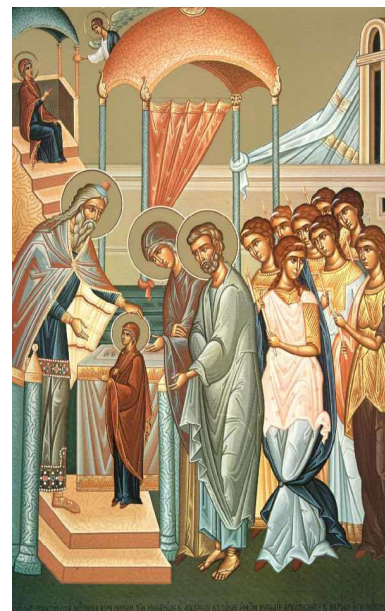
On November 21st every year, our Holy Orthodox Church celebrates a very holy family. Although they did not have children for most of their lives, God heard their prayer and gave them a daughter, who served as “God’s ladder” (as she was chosen to be His mother when He was born in the flesh). The parents were the Righteous Ancestors of the Lord Joachim and Anna, and the daughter is our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

So the Ancestors of the Lord could show their thanksgiving, they dedicated their daughter to God. From three until twelve years of age, the Theotokos lived in the Temple and was dedicated to God. That’s why our Church offers the Virgin Mary and her family as an example for all, telling the faithful, “we should be like *her* family.”

All Christians are called to not just go to Church; rather, we are called to **be** the Church! Just like our families aren’t defined as ‘where we live’, the Church is *not the building*, but the people of God gathered together to worship Him. Families can experience the love of Christ when their example in life is Jesus Christ.

A great start in this journey of faith is when we read the Bible as a family. We spend so much time watching television or going to the movies; so, we should always remember to spend time with our Lord through reading about His love for us. It’s as easy as getting together every evening and reading together; it’s up to us if we want to make the time.

It’s also very important for parents and children to pray at home and at Church *together*, especially when families receive Holy Communion together. It’s said that, “the family that prays together, stays together.” Although we have busy lives, praying together shows children that this is just as important (even more important!) as anything else we might do throughout our lives.



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Ο ΔΙΑΒΕΒΛΗΜΕΝΟΣ ΘΕΣΜΟΣ

Ας ιδώμεν τι είναι τα Κατηχητικά σχολεία και ποιά η προσφορά τους εις την ζωή των παιδιών και των νέων.

Ο θεσμός των Κατηχητικών δεν είναι σημερινός. Είναι της Εκκλησίας αρχαίος θεσμός, γνωστός από τους πρώτους αιώνες του Χριστιανισμού. Σκοπός του να κάμει γνωστήν την Χριστιανικήν αλήθειαν εις όσους την αγνοούσαν και είχαν την επιθυμίαν να βαπτιστούν. Εις αυτούς προσφέρετο η Χριστιανική αλήθεια σε μαθήματα, που ωνομάζοντο Κατηχήσεις. Εις αυτάς με μέθοδον και σύστημα απεκαλύπτοντο αι αλήθειαι της πίστεως. Και όταν η εκπαίδευσις ολοκληρώνετο, οι κατηχούμενοι ατεγράφοντο σε καταλόγους και ητοιμάζοντο δια το άγιον Βάπτισμα εις το οποίον προσήρχοντο με βαθείαν συναίσθησιν των υποχρεώσεων που ανελάμβαναν σαν νέα μέλη της αγίας Εκκλησίας.



Σήμερον είναι ανάγκη η κατήχησις και η προσπάθεια ανακοπής του ρεύματος της καταστροφής και της συγκρατήσεως της χρυσής ελπίδος του μέλλοντος εις την ζωήν που εισηγείται η πίστις και υπόσχεται την αληθινήν ευτυχία εις τον άνθρωπον που την κάνει οδηγόν της ζωής του.



Αυτό το έργον, το πράγματι υψηλόν και σωτηριώδες έργον, το αναλαμβάνει η αγία Εκκλησία. Με την πρόθυμον συνεργασίαν των κατηχητών-ιερέων, θεολόγων, ευσεβών εκπαιδευτικών και επιστημόνων, και των κατηχητριών της αγωνίζεται να μεταδώσει το φώς Χριστού στις ψυχές των αρνίων της ποιμένης του Κυρίου και να τα οδηγήσει εις τους χλοερούς τόπους της χριστιανικής ζωής.

Από το βιβλίο «Για μία επιτυχημένη αγωγή» του Αρχιμ. Γεωργίου Ι. Δημόπουλου (σελ. 130)

This Month, We Celebrate...
St. Katherine the Great Martyr

The 411...

Feastday November 25th
Lived 3rd century A.D.
Type of Saint Great Martyr



A HOLY FAMILY

(CON'T FROM PG. 1)

Parents give a great blessing to their children by bringing them to Sunday School (and, for youth and young adults, *Re-Catechism*) in order to learn about the Faith, the great heroes of the Church (our Lord, the Virgin Mary and our Saints) and that *God is love*. That way, our lives are grounded in the truth of the Gospel, the ways of the Lord.

This Church's Catechetical School program has a great history. Every week, our Sunday School teachers try to bring our kids closer to our Lord. This effort by our Sunday School is just a part of our learning. Understanding the Faith in our classrooms is important so that we can know how to answer the "tough questions" when it comes to what we believe.

Let us pray that all our families grow in Faith together, keeping in mind the great example of the Virgin Mary's family and making God first in our lives.



Yours in Christ,

Tim Prattas

Catechist, St. Demetrios Church

Website of the Month: www.ancientfaith.com

Ancient Faith Radio is an Orthodox Radio Station, part of Conciliar Media Ministries, under the auspices of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. Although under the Antiochian Archdiocese, it is host to podcasts from all different jurisdictions. Podcasts are available online, with programming of music, readings, prayers, lectures and interviews.

As its slogan suggests, it is succeeding in "bringing the Ancient Faith to the Modern World"!

ABOUT HER LIFE...

After searching for the True Faith, St. Katherine was baptized a Christian in Alexandria. Although many suitors wanted to marry her, she dedicated her life to Christ, her "Bridegroom". She converted the pagan philosophers and suffered greatly for being a Christian. She was martyred and joined the Choir of the Saints in Paradise. A great monastery in her honour is found on Mt. Sinai. She is the Patron Saint of the Youth Department of our Metropolis.



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
Religious Education Newsletter

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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.

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

Kassiani Logotheti

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

ΛΙΒΕΤΕ ΦΑΓΕΤΕ ΤΙΣΤΟ ΕΣΤΙ ΤΟ ΣΩΜΑ ΜΗ ΠΙΝΕΤΕ ΕΞ ΑΥΤΩ ΠΑΝΤΕΣ ΤΙΣΤΟ ΕΣΤΙ ΤΟ ΑΙΜΑ ΜΗ

Re-Catechism 3

THE DIVINE LITURGY: UNITING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

Where?

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

When?

Every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

The Sessions

Tuesday, September 21st, 2010

It's Time: The Pre-Liturgy Preparation

Tuesday, October 5th, 2010

Blessed is the Kingdom: The Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, October 19th, 2010

Putting aside the cares of Life: The Liturgy of the Faithful

Tuesday, November 2nd, 2010

The Heart of the Liturgy: The Holy Anaphora

Tuesday, November 16th, 2010

With Awe, Faith and Love, Draw Near: The Communion

Tuesday, November 30th, 2010

Ask Us: Liturgy Q and A

Come and Join Us!

"Free Babysitting offered at each session"

For more information, e-mail us at

stdemetriostoronto@gmail.com