

THE MESSENGER

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 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!

THANKSGIVING DAY

October 10th

GREAT VESPERS FOR

ST. DEMETRIOS

October 25th

ST. DEMETRIOS

FEAST DAY

October 26th

OXI DAY PARADE

October 30th

THANKSGIVING DAY — NOT JUST IN OCTOBER

The second Monday of October is when Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving. This festival's theme is to "give thanks" for everything we have. The picture that we have of this feast is the wonderful turkey that awaits us on the Thanksgiving Day table, with the other treats we will indulge in. It's a celebration that we all look forward to for different reasons: great food, no work, no school, football.

Although Canada celebrates Thanksgiving once a year, does the Church have a "festival" like this on its calendar? The answer is **yes**. In fact, there are countless days. The Church celebrates "thanksgiving" (without the turkey, stuffing and football, of course) every single time a Divine Liturgy is celebrated.

The Liturgy's theme is "giving thanks". The "Anaphora", the core of the Liturgy, gives us a great picture of how we, as Christians, 'give thanks': *"It is proper and right to hymn You, bless You, praise You, give thanks to You and worship You in all places of Your dominion: for You are God [the Father]...Your Only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. You brought us from non-existence into being, and when we had fallen away You raised us up again...."* During the Anaphora, we continue thanking God for His coming down to earth in the flesh, His death on the Cross for us, His rising on the third day and the entire plan of salvation. We thank God for the Saints, for all the living and for the dead (praying for them to be with Him in Paradise).

When we participate in the worship of our Faith by coming to Church, we thank God for His blessings. We praise Him as our King, and we as His people. As we approach the Liturgy, we should be mindful of His blessings in our lives and receive Holy Communion, being united with Him and our neighbor. As we sit down at our "Thanksgiving Day table", let's take a moment to give thanks for all the blessings we have and take a moment to remember those and pray for those who might not enjoy the same blessings as we do, hoping that they will also enjoy all of God's blessings—both food for the body and of the soul.

The Sunday School of St. Demetrios Toronto would like to wish you and your family a **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Glory and thanksgiving be to our Lord forever!

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BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR PARISH VIA...



St. Demetrios Toronto is my Church!



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Channel: [StDemetriosToronto](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStDemetriosToronto)



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ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH Ι.Ν. ΑΓ. ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΥΡΟΒΛΗΤΟΥ

A great champion has the whole world, found you to be when in grave perils, for you do put to flight the heathen, O victorious one. As you did humble Lyaeus' arrogance, and gave boldness to Nestor in the stadium, thus, O holy Great Martyr Demetrios, do you entreat Christ our God that we may be granted great mercy.

~ Apolytikion, St. Demetrios the Great Martyr

COME AND CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR WITH US!

Tuesday, October 25th, 2011

Hierarchical Great Vespers 7:00—8:30 p.m.

*His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios will preside,
 assisted by the Priests of Toronto and vicinity.*

Wednesday, October 26th, 2011

Matins & Hierarchical Div. Liturgy 8:30—11:30 a.m.

*His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios
 will celebrate the Divine Liturgy.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION...



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HOLY GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIOS, INTERCEDE FOR US!

Άγιε του Θεού, πρέσβευε υπέρ ημών!



A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Lord Jesus Christ, you received the children who came to You, receive also from the lips of your child this evening prayer. Shelter me under the protection of your wings that I may lie down in peace and sleep. Awaken me in due time that I may glorify You, for You alone are good and love all people.

IF JESUS HAD FACEBOOK, WOULD HE TAG YOU?

On the “3rd Sunday of Luke” (this year, it will be October 9th), we hear of the resurrection of the son of the widow of Nain by Christ. The reading is pretty standard: Jesus, His disciples and a crowd of people see a funeral procession with a mother crying over her dead son. Just as He did so many other times, Jesus commands the dead man to rise and (guess what) the young man lives again. The people seeing this become afraid and exclaim, “God has visited His people.” A very nice gospel reading, when we first listen to it. It’s a Gospel reading that reminds me of Facebook.

Facebook has changed our lives. It is a tool that many of us – if not all of us – use. The new formats every six months notwithstanding, it is a tool for many people to “stay connected”. The Groups, the Events, the videos, pictures and other ‘special applications’ just make our trip online a bit more fun. So... if Jesus had Facebook, who would He tag?



Definitely, the people in today’s Gospel reading would be tagged. The video would be pretty cool: a person being raised from the dead is not something we all see every day, so it would have thousands of “Likes”. Throughout His life, people like the Virgin Mary, the disciples, those who betrayed Him and crucified Him – they’d all find a place in Jesus’ Facebook. However, would we be in His pictures, His videos? Could He tag us?

Today’s Gospel reading ends with an interesting quote: “God has visited His people.” It’s one of those things that we think might be a stagnant event, something that just happened “back then”. What all of us – myself included – fail to sometimes recognize is that He visits us *every single day!* From the moment we arise from our sleep, to the moment we rest again, Christ is there to talk to us, to be with us. He is the One who wants to talk with us when times are tough, to weep when we weep, to stand with us when no one wants to, to have a relationship with us. He’s the friend that is more than a *Facebook* friend – He’s the Friend who actually wants to call us, to go out and chat, to have a *real relationship* with all of us. Yet, if we want a relationship with Him – as surprising as it sounds – it’s all in our hands.

All of us need to realize that God has, indeed, visited His people and that He is waiting for us to answer His knock at the door of our hearts. Religious Education (either through Sunday School and Youth Group for our kids or the “Re-Catechism” for the adults) is the best way for us to find out who *Jesus Christ* is all about. The best way to find out not only who He is, but that He loves us with a love that we can’t even begin to describe. At the end of the day, Religious Education is the only way that we can start not only “talking the talk”, but also “walking the walk” in our Orthodox lives.

My brothers and sisters, Jesus can tag us, ‘add’ us, be together with us only if we choose to be with Him. To make Him a priority in our lives. To make sure that we are Christians in every sense of the word—not just in name. So, if we take anything from this article, it’s this: Christ wants a relationship with all of us, and He’s knocking on the door of our hearts. As we are invited to be His friends, to learn about Him and His love for us, to be invited to His Heavenly Banquet, let us remember that it’s never too late to be faithful disciples. It’s never too late to see God visited His people and will visit them forever. It’s never too late for Jesus to tag you.

‘Will we allow Him in the door of our heart?’ is the question of the day.

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY... ABOUT TREATING YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

The Lord said, “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

~ Luke 6:31-36 (*Gospel Reading of the Second Sunday of Luke*)





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. Our Church is a constituent member of the Greek Community of Toronto [www.greekcommunity.org] and under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada) [www.gocanada.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

Re-Catechism 5 The Orthodox Family



Where?

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

The Sessions

Tuesday, September 20th, 2011

Tuesday, October 4th, 2011

Tuesday, October 18th, 2011

Tuesday, November 1st, 2011

Tuesday, November 15th, 2011

Tuesday, November 29th, 2011

** Every Session begins at 7:00 p.m.

For better or worse?": Marriage Today

A great decision: Adoption or Abortion?

Mars and Venus: Communication

Individuals and their place in the Church:

Singles, Divorcees and Widows

Lady Gaga in a Christian House:

Secularism in the Orthodox Family

Your Spiritual Family: Worshipping together (Divine Liturgy)

Come and Join Us!

For more information, e-mail us at ...

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