

St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

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989-793-8886

Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Cook (517) 515-9565

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

Under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the

Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I

2014/15 Parish Council

President - Megan Rodriguez (2016)

Vice Pres. - Dr. David Nichols (2016)

Treasurer - Dennis Ostler (2016)

Secretary - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Thomas Barris (2016)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Bill Delong (2016)

Yvonne Delong (2016)

Soula Economou (2017)

Eleni Morris (2016)

Joanie Porchia (2017)

Eftihios Siradakis (2016)

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Altar Boy Advisor

Panayiotis Metropoulos

Chanters

Ted Veremis Andreas Skoutelas

Maria Metropoulos

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Choir

Director - Toula Brown

Asst. Director - Elan Nichols

Philoptochos President

Virginia Ulmer

Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

Sunday School Directors

Alexia & Evan Houpis

AHEPA President

George Zaharopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President

Vicki Clifford

GOYA Advisors

Dr. Andrew Bazakis

Bessie Bone

Dance Group Directors

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

Alexander Sarantis & Jacob Bone

Diakonia Editor

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

DIAKONIA

JUNE 2016



The Joy of Ascension

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

Christ is Risen!

On the 8th of this month, we will say goodbye to Pascha for this year, and it is hard not to be a little sad. Just as it is hard when any joyous day – such as a birthday, or a reunion – comes to an end, it can be hard to say goodbye to Pascha. And as a result, we might think that the feast which falls on the next day, the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, would be a day of sadness. After all, Pascha has ended, and Christ is leaving the disciples behind. And yet, in the Gospel reading, we find that after the Ascension all of the disciples “returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.” (Luke 24:52-53)

So what is this joy of the Ascension? We know the joy of the Resurrection, that Christ has trampled down death by death, removing forever the fear and the sting of death, transforming it by taking it unto Himself. This joy we know. But Ascension is no less a joyous feast, because on this day we begin to prepare for the feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit and more, we rejoice in the completion of the union between God and man.

As Christ, the God-man, ascends in the flesh and sits down at the right hand of God our human nature is now raised with Christ above all others. Our human nature, which Christ took unto Himself through the Virgin Mary, which was glorified at the Transfiguration, slain at the Crucifixion, and raised, transformed and glorified at the Resurrection is now at the right hand of God.

In the Ascension of Christ we see the promise of the Kingdom of Heaven, foretold by St. John the Baptist when he proclaimed that “the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,” and promised to all by Christ. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:3) The Ascension of Christ is the promise and the reality of the Ascension to heaven for all humanity, and in this and in the promise of Christ that He is with us “now, and unto the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20) we and the disciples rejoice.

Finally, the Ascension is the foreshadowing of the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit, in which the Church is fully established as the people of God and the Body of Christ, sent with the Good News into all the world. As we read in the Vespers for Ascension from the prophet Zechariah, “And in that day it shall be / That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, / Half of them toward the eastern sea / And half of them toward the western sea; / In both summer and winter it shall occur.” On Ascension we look forward to the glad day of Pentecost, when the living water of the good news of Christ’s saving work flowed out from Jerusalem to all the nations through the living Body that is the Church, until in all places, at all times, and in every season, the Gospel is proclaimed. Glory to God!

PARISH COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Saginaw, Michigan is to promote the tenets of Orthodox Christianity in the community through ministry, evangelism and spiritual leadership.

VISION OF OUR PARISH

To worship God, Fellowship with One Another, and to Serve the World.

Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule

- June 5 Prosforon: Penny Metropoulos
Fellowship: Doug & Leta Povich
- June 12 Prosforon: Peggy Nemode
Fellowship: Stephanie & Andrew Mehl
- June 19 Prosforon: ?
Fellowship: GREEK FESTIVAL
- June 26 Prosforon: Carol Musulin
Fellowship: Sign up on Summer Fellowship Schedule



Many thanks to all the women who prepare the Prosforon each week. It is truly an important offering for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you are unable to prepare Prosforon for your scheduled Sunday, please contact the church office promptly.



ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES

- 4/1 - In Memory of Viacheslav Khroulev by Marina
- 4/24 - Better health for, Stephanie Stephan, by Dr. & Mrs. George Ulmer
- 4/30 - For Peace in Family, Peace of Mind, Peace & Happiness in our Country, Spiritual Favors and Thanksgiving for Marc, Bill, & Melina Paez by Eleftheria Paez
- 4/30 - Holy week candle by Matina Ioannides
- 5/8 - Happy Name Day, for Thomas Kondogiani, by Marge Paron
- 5/15 - In Memory of, Gust Kouvelas, by Elaine Kimmerly & Family
- 5/21-27 - In Memory of Dean and Helen Merritt by George and Fran Rouman

PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

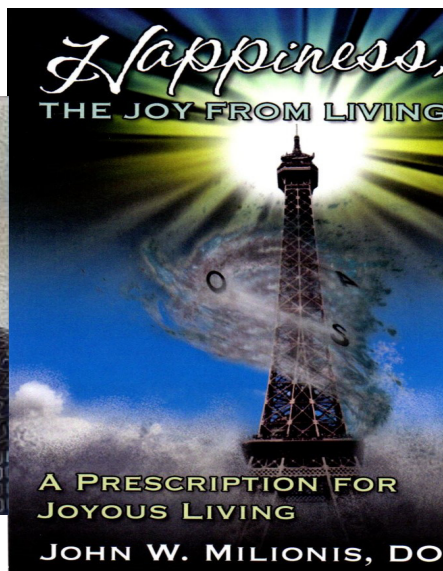
Our "Kali Orexi" cookbook is available for sale for \$12.00 each. It's full of wonderful recipes submitted by church members and friends. The first several pages has a fascinating "Introduction to the Greek cuisine by Dr. Lou and Soula Economou". Don't miss the opportunity of owning this book...not only will you be getting some great new recipes, but you will learn the history behind some of our food traditions. FASCINATING! They are going fast so see Bo Tarachas to purchase.

Each Philoptochos chapter in our metropolis is being asked to bake 27 dozen koulourakia to be shared at our National Philoptochos Biennial Convention being held on July 3rd to the 7th in Nashville, TN this year. We will be getting together for a day of baking toward the end of June.

Our next meeting will be in September...so relax...and have a healthy, happy summer!

May God bless you all...

Virginia Ulmer
President



BOOK SIGNING

at Helen & Adam Morris'
Morning Emporium Coffee Shop,
2125 N. Center,
with former parish member
DR. JOHN MILIONIS
Friday, June 10th from 1pm to 4pm.



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4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Saginaw, MI
Permit # 107

Church Office Hours:
9a.m. - 1p.m. Tues. & Thurs.
Office # 989-793-8822
Email Address:
stdemetriosmi@gmail.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Congratulations to
Helen Zaharopoulos,
the daughter of
Georgia and late
Kosta Zaharopoulos,
for her May 2016
graduation from
Wayne State

University Law School.

Upon completion of her degree,
Helen is being promoted to join J.P. Morgan
Chase's Dispute Resolution & Regulatory
Inquiry Group in Columbus, Ohio from her
current role with the company as an
Investment Associate in the greater Detroit
area, which she's had since 2011.

Helen graduated from Heritage High
School with honors, from the University of
Michigan with honors, and now from Wayne
State Law School with distinguished awards.

We wish Helen much success in all
her future endeavors.

38TH SAGINAW GREEK FESTIVAL

*Hundreds of
Volunteers needed*

*All Hands on Deck—
Men and Women of all ages
Kids and Teenagers*

Setup-

- *Monday June 6, 4:00 pm- Fence and Sign Up
- *Saturday June 11, 9:00 am- Stage up and Electrical
- *Tuesday June 14, TBD - Festival Setup
- *Wednesday June 15, TBD - Festival Setup
- *Thursday June 16, TBD- Festival Setup



Friday, June 17
Saturday, June 18
11 am – 11 pm
Sunday, June 19
11 am – 5 pm

Takedown-

- *Sunday June 19 TBD- Takedown Festival
- *Monday June 20 TBD- Takedown Festival

*All Hands on Deck—
Men and Women of all ages
Kids and Teenagers*

*Hundreds of
Volunteers needed*