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Monday - Friday

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# The Orthodox Way

Mission Statement: “*To proclaim the Gospel of Christ in the Orthodox Tradition while creating a vibrant, loving, compassionate and supportive community.*”



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Paul Harvey Aurandt (September 4, 1918 – February 28, 2009), better known as Paul Harvey, was an American radio broadcaster for the ABC Radio Networks. He became famous especially for his *The Rest of the Story* segments aired on radio. The following story was first broadcast on Christmas Eve, 1965, though it has since been replayed several times since then.

*This is about a modern man, one of us, he was not a scrooge, he was a kind, decent, mostly good man, generous to his family, upright in his dealings with others. But he did not believe in all that incarnation stuff that the Churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense to him and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just could not swallow the Jesus story about God coming to earth as man. I'm truly sorry to distress you, he told*

*his wife, but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve. He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he would much rather stay home, but that he would wait up for them. He stayed, they went. Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier, then went back to his fire-side chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another and another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. Well, when he went to the front door, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter they had tried to fly through his large landscape window. Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze. He remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter -- if he could direct the birds to it. He quickly put on his coat and galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn, opened the door wide, and turned on a light. But the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in and he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow making a trail to the yellow lighted wide open doorway of the stable, but to his dismay the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them, he tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms -- instead they scattered in every direction except into the warm lighted barn. Then he realized they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature, if only I could think of some way to let them know they can trust me. That I'm not trying to hurt them, but to help them. How? Any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him. If only I could be a bird myself he thought. If*

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*The Orthodox Way* is published monthly. Parishioners who wish to contribute content or announcements are asked to email information to Lefteris Sitaras at lsitaras@saintdemetrios.com by the 20th of the month.

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church reserves the right to edit, alter or reject any content.

# Memorials and Candles

## Memorials and Holy Altar Candles from November

Three Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights were offered in loving memory of her father, **Mike Deligan**, and in honor of her son, **Michael Betts**, and her grandson, **Michael Betts** by Kay Betts and family on November 8.

One Holy Altar Table Vigil Light were offered in loving memory of **Katherine Ales** (2 years since her passing) by her daughter Maria Ales and family and her son John Ales and family on November 12.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights were offered in loving memory of her father, **Theodore G. Andrews** (seventeen years since his passing), by Katherine and Joseph Burke on November 18.

A Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of beloved husband **Costas Exarhos** by his wife Helen Exarhos on November 19, 2017.

A Holy Altar Table Vigil Light was offered on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in loving memory of **Josephine Sabbag** (nine years since her passing), by her daughter and son-in-law, Barb and Phil Sancken and Family.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **George Tsakilos** (29 years since his passing). Offered by his wife, children and grandchildren on November 26, 2017.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of beloved son **Kenneth Eacrett** (14 years since his passing) and beloved mother **Anna Chigaras** (14 years since her passing). Offered by Sandra Mykris and family on November 26, 2017.



## **New Arrivals**

Congratulations to the proud parents, Kayla and Andrew Sophinos on the birth of a baby boy, Nicholas Andrew, born November 13th, 2017, weighing 6 1/2 lbs. and 21" long. The proud grandparents are: *Kary Roumeliotis, Kathy Garske, Louis and Dianne Sophinos* of Lake Park, FL. Great grandparents: *Chris Roumeliotis* from Wenatchee and *Fran Sophinos* from Springfield, MA.



## **We wish to Thank...**

James G. Retelas and Katherine G. Retelas Fancher and family for financially supporting the December St. Philaret feeding of the homeless.

In loving memory of parents, Anastasia G. Retelas, Gus S. Retelas and Uncle Jim S. Retelas

## Memorials and Holy Altar Candles for December 3rd

A Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Panayota and Kosta Makris** (8 years and 16 years since their passing) by their niece and nephew, Paula and Chris Macris and family

A Forty-Day Memorial Service donation and a Two Holy Altar Table Vigils are offered in loving memory of **Margaret Cooper**, by her husband, Gus Cooper, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Herb Anthony Williams** (fourteen years since his passing), by his wife, Margaret Rottle Willimas and his sister-in-law Cathy Rottle.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Demetrios and Eula Begleris** (nine years and thirty-seven years since their passing), by their daughters, Renee Knowles, Stephanie Lembesis and Elaine Lambert.

A Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **George Barneicut** (one year since his passing), by his wife, Frances Barneicut, their children and grandchildren.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **George and Catherine Chriest** (46 years and 6 years since their passing). Offered by Janie and Rob Drumhiller and their family.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Gregory Tsopanou** (13 years since his passing) and **Panagiota Tsopanou** (12 years since her passing). Offered by their daughter Maria Vassiliou and family.

## Memorials and Holy Altar Candles for December 10th

A Three-Year Memorial Service and the Coffee Hour are offered in loving memory of **George Velaoras**, by his wife, Erene Velaoras, his children, Joanna Velaoras, Loui and Tina Velaoras and grandchildren.

Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Peter Economou** (sixteen years since his passing), **Elisabeth Xenos** (twelve years since her passing) and **Spiros E. Xenos** (twenty-seven years since his passing) by Mary Economou and family.

The Eight Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Pauline Stamos** (thirty-nine years since her passing), by Vasilike Stamos and Family.

## Memorials and Holy Altar Candles for December 17<sup>th</sup>

A One-Year Memorial Service, two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights and the Coffee Hour are offered in loving memory of **Chris Chriest**, by his loving wife, Effie Chriest and their children, Valentina, Harry, George and their families.

## Holy Altar Candles for December 31<sup>st</sup>

The Eight Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Katina Halkia**, (seven years since her passing), by John A. and Dimitra Stavros and Family.

## A Special Message from Fr. Photios

Dear Saint Demetrios Family,

Dorina Craciun, a member of our parish, fell ill during the early morning of October 16th, 2017. She suffered a heart attack, and was taken by ambulance to Swedish Hospital in Issaquah. She has been in ICU and in a coma since October 16th, struggling to stay alive. She is a single mother, and her two children, Elizabeth (20) and Jonathan (16), attend Sunday services regularly, with Jonathan serving in the altar most Sundays.



Unfortunately, Dorina lost her medical insurance a month prior to her medical emergency, so the family is in dire need of help. Please pray for Dorina's health and recovery as well as for her children, Elizabeth and Jonathan, who are holding vigil at their mother's bedside.

Please also visit the 'Go Fund Me' website which has been established on behalf of the family, <https://www.gofundme.com/dorinacraciun>, and make a donation to help them with their mounting medical bills.

For more information, please contact Fr. Photios at the church office or through email, [frphotios@saintdemetrios.com](mailto:frphotios@saintdemetrios.com).

## Honoring Simoni and Saundra

*Photos courtesy of Bassam Bayouk*



Simoni Shirland and Saundra Maroussis were honored on Sunday, Nov. 19 for their many years of service to our parish. Many people from our ministries spoke about the many contributions of these wonderful women.

*"The dedication and contribution of Simoni (22 years) and Saundra (13 years) has impacted St. Demetrios and the Community greatly. Their contributions are so appreciated and we thank them and their families for their years of service and for all of the impact they have had on us all. We are so grateful and so thankful for them!"* Georgine Looney, Parish Council President

## Photos from our Visit with Fr. Zacharias

*Photos courtesy of Cliff Argue*



*Thank you to Chris and Vicki Pallis, for hosting our first Orthodox Home Fellowship on November 4th*

## A Message from Karen

Greetings from the Church Office!

November was productive and busy at the Church. I met with some water conservation specialists from the Seattle Public Utilities. They are part of a Green Team at the City of Seattle that provided us with a free audit of our water usage. The report will be transmitted to the Church soon and it appears that we will be able to cut our water bill in half. It is a great lesson in how much value there is to have another set of eyes review our bill and physical building to give us sustainability tips to put in practice.

We also received and compiled bids to have our carpets cleaned. I am looking forward to the Church receiving her very own Christmas present: clean carpets! Speaking of presents, I wanted to show off our new washer and dryer located in the old kitchen. Mike Gikas was instrumental in shopping the best value and installing the new units. Again, thank you to Jim Christo and George and Happy Tsantilas for the generous gift.



I am surrounded by a great team: Father Photios, Father Daniel, Maria B., Lefteris and Tedros.



We are surrounded by a great church family. I was beside myself to witness the baking of the prosphora. It is hard to put into words the closeness and joy that the act of service brings. On that note: Merry Christmas! Service is the best gift of all.

Karen S. Evans  
Office Supervisor

## **General Assembly Meeting**

**Sunday, December 3  
Large Hall after Divine Liturgy**

**WE STILL WANT YOUR FESTIVAL  
FEEDBACK**

**Please take a moment and complete this  
7 question survey:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L7HFL3N>**

**Thank You!**

## Announcements

### **This 'N' That Shop Christmas Sale**

The This 'N' That Shop Chairpersons will have a Christmas sale on **Sunday, December 3rd**, after the Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendar and come to shop for some great items that did not sell at the Festival.

**All proceeds will go to Hurricane Maria relief fund.**

### **Papouthes Group: A Ministry for our Grandfathers**

Our next Papouthes group meeting will be on Wednesday, **December 6, 2017** at Myconos Greek Café located at 310 NE 72nd Street in Greenlake at 12:00 noon.

Those that wish to carpool may meet at St. Demetrios at 11:00 am. We will also join the Greek Lunch group at this event.

For reservations or questions, please contact Manuel Tramontanas at 206-783-4466 or [agapemom@hotmail.com](mailto:agapemom@hotmail.com)

Please RSVP so we can let the restaurant know how many seats to reserve. Thanks!

### **Yiavia & Friends Luncheon**

Our next Yiayias & Friends luncheon will be on **Thursday, December 7**, at **Bay Cafe**, located on Fisherman's Wharf in Ballard. The Bay Cafe is located at 1900 West Nickerson. Time is **11:30 a.m.**

I appreciate knowing how many to expect, so please let me know if you plan to attend. Contact me, preferably by email: [mndamascus@comcast.net](mailto:mndamascus@comcast.net) (or alternately by phone: [509-951-2975](tel:509-951-2975)). You do not have to be a Yiavia to join us! All women are invited!

### **Altar Boy Retreat**

All Altar Boys are invited for a special day retreat on **Saturday, December 16th**.

Join us at 2 pm in the Small Hall for an awesome retreat and review of what it means to be an Altar Boy. Spend time with our clergy and see the importance of serving in the Altar.

After our retreat, we will enjoy a pizza dinner then we will head to the movie theater to see  
***Star Wars: The Last Jedi!***

Please join us for a great day together. Contact Chris Macris at 425-888-1327 or Lefteris Sitaras at 206-631-2504 or [lsitaras@saintdemetrios.com](mailto:lsitaras@saintdemetrios.com) to participate.

The retreat is free and dinner is included. Retreat begins at 2 pm and ends at 8:30 pm. Transportation to and from the movie is provided.

## Parishioners of the Year



Congratulations to Eleni Christofilis and Doug Chandler on being named St. Demetrios Citizens of the Year for 2017. Their ongoing dedication and love for the church and their ministries is appreciated and acknowledged! We are fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers in our community that lead by example and are humble in their efforts.

Thank you and Congratulations!

### **THANK YOU From Simoni & Saundra**

I would like to thank our Parish Council, Fr. Photios, Fr. Daniel, Fr. John, Dn. Perry, our Church Ministries and all Parishioners and Friends for the wonderful retirement reception, the gifts, well wishes and flowers for Saundra and myself last Sunday. It was heart warming and emotional. It was a privilege to serve for 22 years at St. Demetrios Church!

With much appreciation and gratitude,  
Simoni and family.

My warmest thanks and appreciation to Fr. Photios, Fr. Daniel, Parish Council, Church Ministries, Friends and Family at St Demetrios. Your kind words and generous gifts will forever hold in my heart. It has been such an honor to be part of the church staff and knowing you all.. I am thankful for that opportunity and look forward to continuing service in our community.

Happy Thanksgiving with many blessings always,  
Saundra

### **2018 Youth Ministry Events**

January 11-14: Folk Dance Festival  
January 26 - HOPE & JOY Family Bingo Night  
January 27 - All Saints Camp Registration Opens & Camp Benefit Dinner  
February 2 - Godparents Sunday  
February 19 - Lent Begins  
March 4 - Parish Oratorical Festival  
March 17-18 - GOYA Lent Retreat  
March 31 - Make Palm Crosses  
April 6 - Holy Friday Retreat  
April 20-22: Family Retreat at All Saints Camp  
May 13 - Mother's Day Breakfast  
June 3 - Last Day of Sunday School  
June 17 - Father's Day Breakfast

### ***ALL SAINTS CAMP***

July 8-14 - High School & Elementary Camp  
July 15-21 - Advanced Camp

# Phil optochos News

## Message from President Nina

I want to wish you all a blessed Christmas season and thank you for your support of all of our Philoptochos ministries this year. I look forward to working with anyone who wishes to join us in the coming year as we minister to the less fortunate in our community ~ all are welcome! Gratefully, Nina

## Thank You from the Camp Agape Sinatra Chocolate Wine Ball

The 9th annual Sinatra Chocolate Wine Ball, a benefit for Camp Agape NW, was held at Herban Feast in Seattle on Sunday, November 12th, 2017. Camp Agape NW, a mission of the Philoptochos Chapters of St Demetrios, the Church of the Assumption, Holy Apostles and St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Churches, provides a cost free week long camp to families with children with cancer. Emcee Nick Allard of Kiro7 TV and Chairperson Susan Reichmann thanked the guests who enjoyed a seasonal dinner menu, Washington wines and artisanal chocolates. Ten year old camper Dryden Shirks, a leukemia survivor spoke of what Camp Agape meant to her. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated in making this year's event such a success!

## Thank You to the Panos Family!

Our chapter once again wishes to thank the Panos family for their generous support of our program to feed the homeless men who come to St Martin de Porres Mens Shelter in search of nourishment. Their letter reads...

*Over the course of the past year, we understand that almost 5,000 meals have been prepared by Philoptochos thanks to your dedication to this cause. Our family would like to renew our commitment to sponsor this worthy cause for the 20th consecutive year in loving memory of our wife and mother, Harula Panos. Realizing the greater need for financial support for hot meals at the shelter beyond the holiday occasions, we have been delighted to partner with the St Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society and to sponsor your monthly program to feed the homeless on a full year basis and for the years to come. Thank you again for your service.*

*Sincerely, Steve, Artemios and Rebecca, Stavros, Lula and Chloe, Alexander and Christina, Lily and Nicholas Panos*

## Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

All are welcome to attend our meetings and events:

No regular meeting in December – Merry Christmas!

December 21<sup>st</sup> – cook for St Martin de Porres Men's Shelter

December 27<sup>th</sup> - cook for Jubilee Women's Center

January 18<sup>th</sup> - cook for St Martin de Porres Men's Shelter

January 21<sup>st</sup> - regular meeting at church after Divine Liturgy

January 24<sup>th</sup> - cook for Jubilee Women's Center

## Saint Demetrios Philoptochos Contacts:

**President:** Nina Varlamos 206-499-0369  
[ninavarlamos@msn.com](mailto:ninavarlamos@msn.com)

**Camp Agape NW:** Georgia Gianacos Steenis 206-419-6867 [gianacos@gmail.com](mailto:gianacos@gmail.com)

**Jubilee Women's Shelter and Dress for Success:**  
Georgene Karambelas [karambelas@comcast.net](mailto:karambelas@comcast.net)  
206-829-9337

**Sunshine:** Mary Damascus 509-951-2975  
[mndamascus@comcast.net](mailto:mndamascus@comcast.net)

**St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter:**  
Helen Kalasountas 425.641.0472

**Visitation:** Kay Betts 206-546-2370  
[yassou@frontier.com](mailto:yassou@frontier.com)

**Advisor:** Susan Reichmann 425.772.1605  
[susanreichmann@yahoo.com](mailto:susanreichmann@yahoo.com)

## Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale

Our annual Christmas Bake Sale will be **Sunday, December 17th** after Divine Liturgy. Pre-orders are due by Tuesday, December 12th and will be available for pick up on Sunday, the 17th only. You may order online through the Saint Demetrios E-News and we will be taking orders at the coffee hours so be sure to place your order early so you aren't disappointed! Greek pastries handcrafted by Philoptochos make great gifts for your office as well as your friends.

## Shut In Parishioners

Every year we deliver a gift of baked goods to our shut in parishioners. If you are aware of someone who is a shut in, please call our Visitation Chairperson Kay Betts at [206.546.2370](tel:206.546.2370) or [yassou@frontier.com](mailto:yassou@frontier.com) so we don't miss anyone. If you would like to help with visitation in your part of town, please let Kay know you are available. Everyone is welcome to help and it means so much to those we take time to visit.

## Philoptochos Warm Coat Drive

Do you have an extra coat or jacket in your closet? With winter quickly approaching, there are adults and children on the streets of Seattle for whom the cold and wet weather is a constant and unwelcome reality. Philoptochos will be collecting coats and outerwear for men, women and children during the Christmas holiday season to distribute to those in need at Jubilee Women's Center, St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter and St. Philaret Feed the Homeless Ministry.

There is a barrel to collect donations in the Narthex until Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please take time to look for new or gently used clothing items to bring to church. Hats,

*(Continued on bottom of Page 13)*

# Youth Ministry News



Sunday, December 3

December's Theme:  
**"What to do with all those TOYS"**

Join us in the Toy Room (unless otherwise noted) directly after communion (think of it as pre-Sunday School!) for a bit before moving down to coffee hour. In each meeting we discuss a subject that affects our children and community, and share ways to support one another--our Orthodox Christian faith and our culture are at the center of these conversations.

For more information, and to join the [St. Demetrios Mommy & Me](#) Facebook group, please contact Pres Michelle Trianat at [michelle.triant@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.triant@gmail.com)

## Orthodox Connections

**Next Meeting Sunday, December 3**

Follow Orthodox Connections on [Facebook](#), a ministry for our teens and young adults.

## Family Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 18th

All HOPE & JOY youth, GOYAns and their families are invited to sing Christmas carols to our neighbors on Monday, December 18th.



We will meet in the Fr. Homer Library at 6 p.m. for a short practice then hit the neighborhood at 6:30 p.m. Hot Chocolate for everyone at 7:30! Please bring a flashlight. Parents and teens are needed to help chaperone and Sing! Please RSVP to Lefteris Sitaras at 206-631-2504 to participate or to help out.

## Winter Orthodox Youth Retreat

January 13 - 15, 2018.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

This year's speaker will be Fr. Jeremiah Vollman from St Paul Orthodox Church. Come join him for a weekend of fun activities, games and discussion on how to come to the awareness of God and ultimately to own your own faith.

Enjoy fun outdoor activities, Fire on Father, games, dancing, and more! WHO: Junior & Senior High School Teens (7th-12th Grades)

WHEN: Saturday, January 13th - Monday, January 15th 2018

WHERE: Cedar Springs Camp in Lake Stevens, WA

COST: \$160 YOUTH. Deadline for registration is Dec.4.

Register at [www.tinyurl.com/orthodoxretreat](http://www.tinyurl.com/orthodoxretreat)

For more information contact Tina Soubeih at [orthodoxretreat@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxretreat@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer at [www.tinyurl.com/pnworthodoxvolunteers](http://www.tinyurl.com/pnworthodoxvolunteers) or contact JoyAnn Wise at [pnworthodoxvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:pnworthodoxvolunteers@gmail.com).

## YAL Christmas Party

Friday, December 22

Please join us for our 11th annual YAL Christmas Party on Friday, December 22nd from 8 pm till close at Varlamos Pizza in the U District.

All young adults ages 18 and up are invited to celebrate the holidays with great music, delicious appetizers and cool drinks at the cash bar. Feel free to invite friends for another fun night of fellowship. Plus, all guests will be entered to win great Christmas gifts!

Cost is \$20 per person includes appetizers, raffle ticket and a donation to All Saints Camp. Tickets available at the door. Come and support a great cause and get into the Holiday spirit!

RSVP via the [Seattle YAL](#) Facebook page.

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## Our Youth working with St. Philaret



Thank you to our Souliotes Dance group  
for assisting our St. Philaret  
Ministry on Wednesday, November 1.

Thank you to the following people for  
helping out:

*Niko Antonopolis, Yianni Contoravdis,  
Dale Hazapis, Sophia & Maria Katinas,  
Leah Koceski, Sophia Lallas, Blue & Maria  
Lazarou, Chris Macris,  
Con Mitalas and Vasili Varlamos.*

*Photos courtesy of Brian Koceski*

## Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 28th. It was a fun night filled with pumpkin decorating, the maze of mystery and more.

Thanks to the following people for attending:

*Demetra, Luc & Zoe  
Fr. Daniel, Penelope and Maria  
Mike & Marina  
Eric, Eleni, Niko, Nasi and Kosta  
Sarah, Steven and Elena  
Pete and Panos  
Brian, Jiovanna, Alexandra,  
Leah, Pantelis and Tristan*



*Harvest Festival Participants take a break from all the activities to learn about the Icon of the Raising of Lazarus*

## Sunday School News

### Christmas Program

Join us on **Sunday, December 24** after Liturgy for the annual Christmas Program "Just A Little Christmas," in the Large Hall.

### Sunday School Program Christmas Service Project

*"For I was hungry and you gave Me food;  
I was thirsty and you gave Me drink..."*  
Matthew 25:36.

This year's Sunday School Christmas service project will support the St. Philaret the Almsgiver Feed the Homeless Program. Over the past 13 years, St. Philaret has served over 25,000 hot meals and distributed over 3,000 pounds of clothing, toiletries, and other essential items directly to the homeless on the streets of Seattle. Although an outreach ministry of St. Demetrios church, we are supported 100% by individual monetary donations.

We are collecting funds to help sponsor the monthly meals for 2018 with the goal of raising \$1,800. Please bring your donations to your Sunday School classroom by **Sunday, December 24, 2017**.

Thank you and God bless you for your support of this worthy cause during this season of giving!

### Class Schedule Reminder

No Sunday School on **December 31, 2017**.



## Greek Dance News

### BAKLOVA - YUM!



On **December 3rd and 10th**, the dance program will be selling baklava for the holidays. Buy a plate for \$12, a party platter for \$30, a 1/2 pan for \$55, or a full pan for \$110. Please contact Maria Barbas at [mbarbas@saintdemetrios.com](mailto:mbarbas@saintdemetrios.com) or Nina Varlamos at [ninavarlamos@msn.com](mailto:ninavarlamos@msn.com) before 12/3, if you would like a whole or a half pan. ENJOY!

### SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, January 7th**, for the FDF Dress Rehearsal performance. Everyone is invited to celebrate the hard work of the groups that will be participating in FDF this year. This is the one and only opportunity to dance in front of an audience before the competition. Come and support these hard working dancers and singers! Note, due to the timing of Lent, FDF is scheduled one month earlier this year, January 11-15th, in San Francisco, CA. Good Luck to all of our dancers!

**Thank you** to all that supported the dance ministry by purchasing holiday wreaths and See's candy. Your contribution is much appreciated.

PHILOPTOCHOS  
CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE  
DECEMBER 17



The Philoptochos are baking Vasilopeta, Tsoureki, Melomakarona, Kourambiethes and other Holiday Sweets.

**Tsoureki - \$6.00**  
**Vasilopeta with coin - \$15.00**  
**Koulourakia - \$6.00 dozen**  
**Melomakarona - \$10.00 dozen**  
**Korambiethes - \$15.00 dozen**  
**Paximathia - \$8.00 dozen**

If you wish to pre-order, please call Lena LaMarche at 206-383-6934. Online order form available in the weekly eNews and on [www.saintdemetrios.com](http://www.saintdemetrios.com)

Place your order on time for the Holidays!

Pick up all orders on December 17th after Divine Liturgy.

St. Demetrios Philoptochos thanks you for your support!

## Announcements

G.O.C.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Orthodox Christian Mission Center



Enjoy your favorite Greek food & grocery items including:  
olive oil • cheeses • olives • honey • baklava • dried figs • dolmas • phyllo • pasta  
wine • seasonings • beans • grape leaves • chocolates • cookies • preserves • coffee & tea  
Gift Baskets: Pasta • Wine & Chocolate • Sweets • Tea & Preserves • Coffee

All proceeds will be benefit **OCMC**, 220 Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086 • [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)  
Greek Orthodox Church of Assumption • 1804 13th Ave, Seattle [www.assumptionseattle.org](http://www.assumptionseattle.org)



HOPE & JOY Family BINGO Night  
Friday, January 26th

All HOPE & JOY youth, GOYAns and their families are invited to an evening of BINGO on **Friday, January 26th** at 6:30 pm in the Small Hall.



Cost is \$10 per person. \$20 for a family of 4 or less. RSVP to Lefteris Sitaras, 206-631-2504

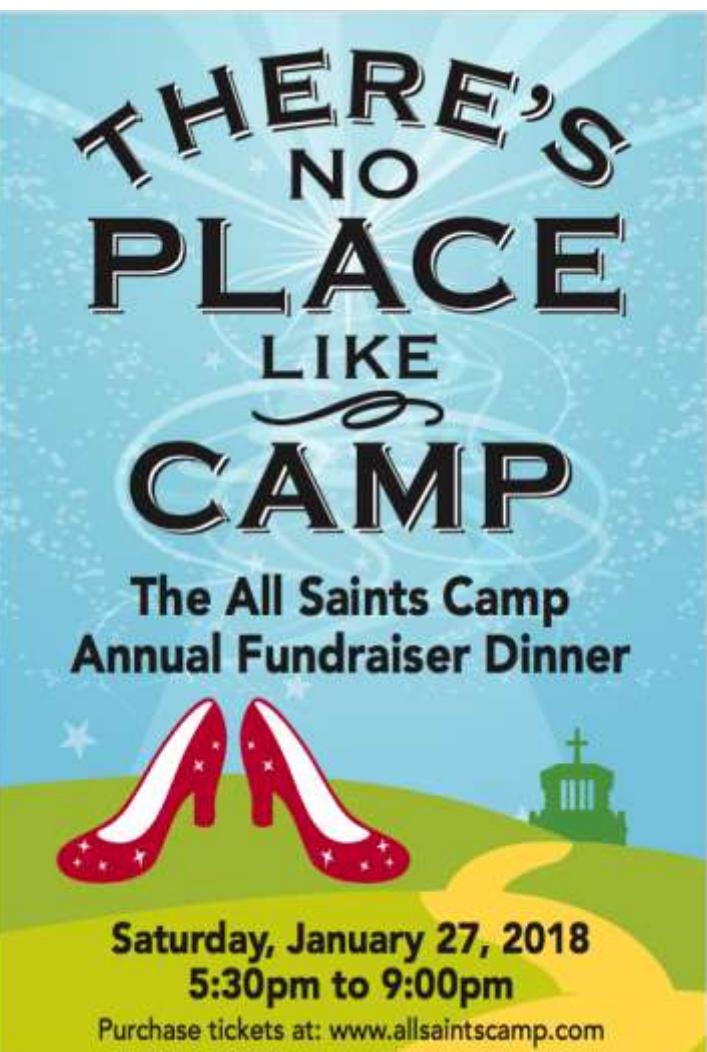


### NOON Years Eve Party

Join us on December 31st for a "Noon Years Eve" Party. After Divine Liturgy, join us for a special coffee hour and count down to the new year at Noon. No need for the kids to stay up late! Join us for a party at church and stay to watch the Seahawks vs Cardinals game on the big screen!

Liturgy starts at 9:30 am, Seahawks play at 1:25 pm. Spend the last day of 2017 with friends and our parish family.

Reservations not needed. Just come for the fun. To donate a dish for the pot luck lunch, please contact Karen at 206-631-2503 or by email at [karensevans@saintdemetrios.com](mailto:karensevans@saintdemetrios.com)



## Bookstore News

### **December is a great time to visit your St. Demetrios Bookstore for icons and gifts.**

One of our newest saints, St. Porphyrios, is commemorated on December 2. St. Barbara's feast day is December 4, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra is on the 6th, The conception by St. Anna of the Holy Theotokos on the 9th, St. Spyridon of Trymithous on December 12th, St. Herman of Alaska on the 13th, St. Eleftherios the Holy Martyr on the 14th, The Three Holy Youths in the Fire with Prophet Daniel and Dionysios of Zakynthos--all on December 17th, St. Anastasia the Great Martyr on the 22nd, St. Eugenia the Righteous New Martyr on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is born, the Adoration of the Magi and commemoration of the Shepherds also occurs. St. James (Iakovos) is on the 26th, St. Stephen First Martyr on December 27. Your bookstore has icons for most of these spiritual luminaries and events and many icons of other saints and of the Theotokos and of Christ..

Don't forget books: The Book Study Group which meets Tuesday at 11 a.m. is just starting to read *For the Life of the World* by the late Fr. Alexander Schmemann. His son-in-law, Thomas Hopko, also has written an important book, *The Winter Pascha*, which is perfect for reading during the Christmas Lenten Season. Please pick up your copy of each book. Also a wide range of Christmas icon cards is available, both in Greek/English and in English only.

**In our large children's section**, lovely icons for children include: **Noah's Ark, Scenes from The Creation, Archangels, and Guardian Angels with boys or girls**. Books, too numerous to list, range from board books to books on saints to special books for teens and young adults.



Adults and children alike will delight in gift items Beautiful **ceramic icon holders of incense, holy water, and holy oil** as well as **ceramic medallions with icons** are in the display case, and **bejeweled Christmas ornaments** are on the middle table. **Stocking stuffers suggestions include incense of various scents, key chains, prayer rope bracelets, laminated prayer cards, miniature icons, diptychs, and triptychs**. So give presents of lasting value that will go on enriching the lives of family and friends.

Your bookstore staff--Heather, Lindsay, and Theodora--wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas and thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our beloved St. Demetrios

## Orthodox Missions News

Consider joining a short-term mission team in 2018!

Why missionary work? It's a great opportunity to make a difference in someone's life by ministering to other's spiritual and physical needs. Within these 2-3 week excursions, team members may share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, minister to the youth, provide healthcare, and participate in various forms of outreach. Here are the current 2018 mission team opportunities:

Please contact OCMC at 877-GO-FORTH ([877-463-6784](tel:8774636784)) or see the website [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org) and click on the "Teams" link for information and mission team applications.

Country	Date	Focus
Albania	3/16 to 3/26	Outreach with the youth of Albania's capital Tirana
	5/21 to 6/1	Outreach in Tirana for Orthodox seminarians
	6/12 to 6/30	Youth work at an Orthodox summer camp
Ghana	8/6 to 8/21	Youth work at annual national camp program
Guatemala	4/27 to 5/6	Healthcare and education at an Orthodox clinic
	6/18 to 6/30	Teaching youth & adults about the Orthodox faith
	11/9 to 11/18	Healthcare and education at an Orthodox clinic
Indonesia	6/26 to 7/9	Teaching youth of the St. Thomas Orthodox House
	7/3 to 7/16	Teaching & witnessing to the faithful of Medan
Kenya	4/30 to 5/8	Teaching as part of a clergy retreat in West Kenya
	8/8 to 8/20	Teaching at a retreat of women from local tribes
	11/28 to 12/8	Youth work at a Nairobi Orthodox school
	11/28 to 12/8	Youth ministry at an annual workshop for leaders
Mexico	7/27 to 8/2	Constructing a mission home with Project Mexico
	8/11 to 8/18	Teaching youth & adults about the Orthodox faith
United States	7/20 to 7/31	Youth camp program near Pilot Station, Alaska

December 2017

## December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 14th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 12p Haroula Panos Trisagion Sts. Stylianos, Alvyios & Nikon	27 6p Dance Practice 7p Parish Council Seminar 9a Spiritual Court 11a Book Study Everywhere Present 2p Ann Mentsis 7p Orthodoxy on Tap St. Iakovos the Persian	28 9a Spiritual Court 11a Book Study Everywhere Present 2p Ann Mentsis 7p Orthodoxy on Tap St. Stephen, the Confessor	29 9:30a Open Confession 1p Staff Meeting 6p Paraklisis 6:30p Greek School 7p Orthodoxy 101 St. Paraskevi & 79Companions of Martyrs	30 Cook for St. Martin de Porres 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Meeting with Christina, Fr. Daniel Haibakuk, Prophet	1 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Meeting with Christina, Fr. Daniel Haibakuk, Prophet	2 5p Great Vespers
3 10th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 Gospel: Luke 1:3:10-17 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a General Assembly 11:30a Play Practice 11:30a This & That -&-	4 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 4p Building Your Campus Ministry 6p Dance Practice St. Barbara	5 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 4p Building Your Campus Ministry 6p Dance Practice St. Nicholas	6 St. Philaret Cook for the Homeless 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 6p Paraklisis 7p Orthodoxy 101 St. Andrew the Apostle	7 11:30a Yiayia & Friends Luncheon at Bay Cafe St. Philaret the Merciful	8 GOYA Winter Retreat 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers St. Philaret the Merciful	9 GOYA Winter Retreat 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers Haibakuk, Prophet
10 GOYA Winter Retreat 13th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Parish Council Elections	11 11:30a VIP Christmas Luncheon 6p Dance Practice 6:30p Stewardship Meeting St. Barbara	12 9:30a Divine Liturgy at St. Spyridon 12p WOCA Meeting at St. Spyridon St. Nicholas	13 9:30a Open Confession 6p Paraklisis 7p Orthodoxy 101 St. Nicholas	14 No Hall Rental in Evening 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 7:30p A Byzantine Christmas - Capella Romana Concert St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan	15 No Hall Rental in Evening 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 7:30p A Byzantine Christmas - Capella Romana Concert St. Sosthenes & Apollo, Apostles	16 11:30a Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon 2p Altar Boy Retreat & STAR WARS St. Anna
17 11th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 1:16-24 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Philoptochos Council Elections St. Daniel & Luke, the Styliites	18 Caroling around Montlake 6p Christmas Caroling 6p Dance Board Meeting 6p Dance Practice St. Ignatios	19 9:30a Open Confession 6p Paraklisis 7p Orthodoxy 101 St. Ignatios	20 Thyrsos, Philimon & Apollonius Sts. Auxentios, Engyios & Filastrios St. Ignatios	21 Cook for St. Martin de Porres 9:30a Open Confession 6p Paraklisis 7p Orthodoxy 101 St. Ignatios	22 9:30a Royal Hours of Nativity 9p YAL Christmas Party at Varlamos Pizzeria St. Eleutherios	23 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers Prophet Haggai
24 Sunday Before Nativity Epistle: Hebrews 1:19-10:32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 12:30p Christmas Play 7p Great Vespers Christmas Eve	25 Church Office Closed 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 6p No Dance Practice St. Ignatios of Alexandria	26 Church Office Closed 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 1p Staff Meeting Saints Boniface & Aries Saints Euthenios & Theodotiki	27 Cook for Jubilee 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 1p Staff Meeting St. Ignatios of Alexandria	28 14,000 Infants Slain by Herod Markellos the Righteous St. Ignatios of Alexandria	29 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 2:30p Baptism 3:30p Reception - Large Hall St. Anastasia, Martyr	30 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters St. Anastasia, Martyr
31 Sunday After Nativity Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11a Noon Years Eve Party	1 Church Office Closed St. Basil the Great 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 6p No Dance Practice St. Stephen	2 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 6p Paraklisis 7p Orthodoxy 101 Synaxis of Theotokos	3 Theoktistos the Righteous 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 20,000 Martyrs of Nikomedea St. Stephen	4 8:30a Royal Hours of Epiphany 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters St. Anastasia, Martyr	5 8:30a Royal Hours of Epiphany 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 10a Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters St. Anastasia, Martyr	6 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 10:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 11:30a Great Blessing of the Waters Epiphany

## FR. PHOTIOS' ARTICLE

(Continued from Page 1)

*only I could be a bird and mingle with them and speak their language, and tell them not to be afraid, and show them the way to the safe, warm barn. But I'd have to be one of them, so they could see and hear and understand. At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sound of the wind. He stood there listening to the bells. Adeste Fideles (Oh Come All Ye Faithful). Listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.*

The man in the story above has a revelation, whereby he understands in a simplistic way part of the mystery as to why God became man. This is indeed a great mystery that God has taken on human flesh, in order to be with us, one of us, taking on all that is our life, so that we may completely share in His. Our hearts are filled with gladness and thanksgiving towards our Lord, Who has done everything for us. The purpose of our worship as a church is to glorify God and offer Him thanks. The Divine Liturgy is a deep mystery in and of itself, and is the most devout form of thanksgiving that we offer to God: thanking Him by remembering all that He has done for us — His birth, His Crucifixion, His Resurrection, and ultimately His Second Coming. Within the Liturgy, we offer our Lord bread and wine, and He gives us His flesh and blood... His very life!

Every feast day we celebrate a Divine Liturgy, giving thanks to God for all He has done, and He in return, gives us His life through Holy Communion. Sadly, so many churches of other denominations are closing on Christmas day due to the fact that their faithful prefer to stay home with their loved ones instead of going to church. The faithful reason that Christmas is a time for families to be together. As the number of churchgoers attending Christmas services each year has steadily declined, the pastors of those communities have decided to not 'fight it' any longer, but have given into the reality, and closed their parishes for the celebration of Christ's birth. Unfortunately, the number of congregations imitating this practice continues to increase each year. As Orthodox Christians, we cannot help but be grieved over this situation. What it really means is that Christians world-wide have lost the understanding of thanking God for His birth, let alone for His sacrifice on the cross, and promise of Eternal Life. We have especially lost sight of the fact that God has given us our families, and that we ought to properly give Him thanks as a family, every day of the year, but especially Christmas Day, by first attending church, and then celebrating the feast.

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels;  
Oh, come, let us adore him;  
Oh, come, let us adore him;  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

I Wish you and your families a most blessed Christmas!  
In Christ's love,  
+Fr. Photios

## Philoptochos News

(Continued from Page 6)

gloves and socks are also welcome. We hope you will help in this effort to keep our brothers, sisters and children in our own community warm. Questions? Contact Mary Damascus at [509.951.2975](tel:509.951.2975) or [mndamascus@comcast.net](mailto:mndamascus@comcast.net).

### Jubilee Womens Center Giving Tree

Our Philoptochos has partnered for the last five years with Jubilee Womens Center which offers housing, clothing and education to low income and homeless women. We help by providing dinner and fellowship once a month and by taking in donations for all a woman needs. This month we are collecting gifts for the Jubilee Giving Tree. The gifts will mean so much to the women we serve. If you would like to contribute a gift, please call Georgene Karambelas at 206-817-2523 or e-mail her at [karambelas@comcast.net](mailto:karambelas@comcast.net).

**Christmas Shopping to Benefit Camp Agape NW** As you start your Christmas shopping, please remember you that you can help Camp Agape simply by shopping! Please go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and select Camp Agape NW as your charity. It's free to join and up to 26% of your shopping will be donated to Camp Agape NW. Even if you only use the website to conduct a search and you don't buy anything, each search gives a penny to Camp Agape NW. i-give has access to free shipping deals and exclusive coupons, on top of the great deals you'll find in over 800 popular stores including: [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), Pottery Barn, REI, Staples, Petco, Expedia, Best Buy, QVC and many more. A percentage of your purchase is donated to Camp Agape NW. Many of these contributions can even be considered tax-deductible. For more information, contact Georgia Steenis at [gianacos@gmail.com](mailto:gianacos@gmail.com).

### **THANKS FROM JUBILEE**

**Jubilee would like to thank St. Demetrios for providing a Thanksgiving meal in November.**

**St. Demetrios will be providing a Pot Luck Christmas meal on Tuesday, December 19th. If you would like to donate a side dish, please contact Georgene Karambelas at 206-817-2523**

## OUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS

Thank you to all of our 2017 St. Demetrios stewards who have returned your signed pledge cards and contributed to our parish! Your continued support is welcomed and appreciated.

If you haven't become a steward yet and would like to, please visit our website (<http://www.saintdemetrios.com/stewardship/stewardship-pledge>) and sign-up online. You may also download a stewardship card, sign, and return it to the office.

The Stewardship Committee

<b>Goal</b>	\$500,000
<b>Amount Received</b>	\$418,278
<b>Amount Remaining</b>	\$81,722
<b>Total Stewards</b>	517

### 2017 Stewards

John & Margaret Ales  
 Andrew & Vicky Aliferakis  
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 Rothopi Andrews  
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 Demetre & Katherine Christofilis  
 John & Helen Christofilis  
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 Dino & Nikki Christophilis  
 Margo Christophilis  
 Kosta & Maria Christopoulos  
 Daniel & Vicky Cohen  
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 Matthew & Alexis Conner  
 Madeline Conom  
 G. Paul Constantine  
 O. George & Kay Constantine  
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 Olivia Contos  
 Dino & Cynthia Cooper  
 Gus & Margaret Cooper  
 Maria Cooper  
 Jerry & Eva Costacos  
 Barbara Cotton  
 Maria Cotton  
 Gus Courounes  
 Nicoleta Courounes  
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 Mary Dallas-Smith  
 Mary Damascus  
 Sofia Damascus  
 Daniel & Angela Daoura  
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 Nicholas & Stella Demonakos  
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 Konstantinos & Mary Ann Giakoumatis

## 2017 Stewards Continued

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Emanuel & Dina Magoulas  
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Helen Malevitis  
James Malevitis  
Perry & Eleni Malevitis  
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Bechara & Xiomara Mallouk  
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Kostaq & Gerta Mano  
Georgia Manolakos  
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Dionysios & Jessica Mavromatis  
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