



December 2023
USPS 8048, No10

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Monday - Friday

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The Orthodox Way

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Mission Statement: Loving God and One Another in Spirit and in Truth

Every now and then I like to open the big blue book; the 75th Anniversary Commemorative History of the Saint Demetrios Community and Her People. This last time was especially poignant, just as Presbyter Vasso and I are preparing to say goodbye to this community and make our way towards our new parish assignment. As I flipped through the pages, I noticed that family names and faces which began as new and unfamiliar three years ago, have become more familiar.



I was especially humbled to see the section on all the priests and noticed all the various eras; the differing times and costumes, and the many names of priests and their families who have served this God loving community. To have served a small, three-year part in the Saint Demetrios family is an honor, and we are grateful to have made and been made into a spiritual family together.

I'm glad that the flower farm named Dahlialand Gardens on Boyer became the new home for this parish. I get the sense that the church campus has always been part of the neighborhood and know that the larger community surrounding the property has embraced St. Demetrios. I know that the community of Saint Demetrios has nurtured Presbyter Vasso and I the same way a flower garden acts as a nursery. Our Lord Jesus Christ, Saint Demetrios, and yourselves, made our first parish assignment as Assistant Priest and Presbyter Vasso exceedingly joyful.

We wish to thank our Metropolitan Gerasimos for allowing us to come here, and to thank Father Photios and Presbyter Katherine for their love, guidance, and friendship. We would like to thank all of you individually and ask your forgiveness if we have offended you in any way.

As I look back into the Big Blue Book and gaze at the families photographed from 1996, and then look out into the Church on Sunday in 2023, I see how much we all have changed but also how we are the same. Whether the photo needs to include more people or whether the people have fallen asleep, we are still one family in Christ. Your name and families have become familiar to me, and I will continue to pray for you as we move on to our new assignment. Thank you for allowing us to serve and join this family.

With love in Christ,

Fr. James and Presbyter Vasso Kumarelas

Fr. James and Pres. Vasso Going Away Luncheon

*Please join us for going away and thank you luncheon
for Fr. James and Pres Vasso on Sunday, December 17 after liturgy.*

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church - 2100 Boyer Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

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

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

Christmas Pageant Sunday School Ser- vice Project	3
Service Above Self Award OCMC	4
YAL Stewardship	5
Stewardship Charts Playroom Update	6
H.O.P.E. St. Demetrios Day	7
St. Demetrios Recognition	8
Philoptochos St. Philaret	9
Philoptochos Luncheon Bake Sale	10-11
Bookstore YiaYias and Friends Papouthes	12
Raft Island	13-15
Raft Island Community Christmas Card	15
Chis Pallis Invested as an Archon	16-17
General Assembly Annoucement	17
Souliotes and Dance Group Glendi	18
December Calendar	19
Liturgies in December	20

Memorials & Candles

On December 3, a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **George Barnecut** and **George Plumis** (seven years since their passing), by his wife, and his sister, Frances Barnecut and family.

On December 3, a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Kostadinos and Panayiota Makris** (twenty-one years and fourteen years since their passing), by their niece and nephew, Paula and Chris Macris.

On December 3, Three Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Pete Economou and Elizabeth and Spiros Xenos** (twenty-two years, seventeen years and thirty-three years since their passing), by Mary Economou and family.

On December 6 Two Holy Altar Table Vigil Lights are offered in loving memory of **Nicholas Katholos** (in honor of his nameday), by his wife, Kalliopi Katholos and family.

On December 10 a Ten-Year Memorial Service and a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light are offered in loving memory of **Athanasia "Loula" Lambert**, by her children, George, Andy, Mike and Patti Kost and her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

On December 10 a Forty-Day Memorial Service and the Coffee Hour are offered in loving memory of **Anastasios "Tasos" Christophilis**, by his wife, Voula Christophilis, his children and grandchildren.

On December 10 a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Demetra Thomas**, of Ohio, (three months since her passing), by her niece, Sofia Damascus and family.

On December 10 a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Kristin Nelson**, by her parents James and Stella Nelson.

On December 10 a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **James Gus Carkonen** (one year since his passing), by his wife, Aimee and his daughter Sophia Athina.

On December 27 a Six-Month Memorial Service and the Coffee Hour are offered in loving memory of **Stephanie Deliganis**, by her parents, Sam and Vicki Deliganis and her sisters, Anna, Zoe, Chryssa and their families.

On December 31 a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Betty Kusulos** (twenty-six years since her passing), by her husband Harold and her daughters and grandchildren.

On December 31 a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Kristina Kusulos** (eleven years since her passing), by her sisters and her children, Michael, Vasiliki, Molly and Christian.

Christmas Pageant



Join us on **Sunday, December 24, 2023** following Liturgy, in our church sanctuary, for our annual Christmas Pageant, "The Christmas Story."

No class on **Sunday, December 31, 2023.**

Wishing you a blessed Nativity

Sunday School Christmas Service Project



This year's Christmas service project is a food drive for the **Backpack Brigade** (www.backpackbrigade.org). The Backpack Brigade provides weekend hunger bags to Seattle-area school kids in need. They work to ensure that children and families with limited financial means, who rely on the public school's free breakfast and lunch programs, are nourished throughout the weekend by providing non-perishable food items.

We are collecting the food items listed below through **Sunday, December 24, 2023**. Donations may be dropped off in the Sunday School office. As of November 19, 2023, we have raised \$946 and collected approximately 150 non-perishable food items! Help us reach our goal of collecting at least 300 items!

Special thanks to Bob and Despina Read for donating the proceeds of their Baklava Cheesecake sales to the Backpack Brigade!

Backpack Brigade Needed Food Items

Kraft mac-n cheese microwavable cups	Small individual dry cereal cups
Chicken noodle/vegetable/tomato soup (pop top)	Top ramen
Cup o Noodles	Fruit cups
Fruit snacks	Juice (8 oz containers)
Famous Amos Cookies (individually wrapped)	Craisins
Rice Krispie treats (small, individual)	Raisins (lunch box size)
Individual peanut butter cups	Hershey's kisses
Nutrigrain/granola/fig bars (no nuts)	Instant oatmeal
Meat sticks with/without cheese	Nalley's chili
Bumblebee tuna lunch kits	

Thank you for helping these needy families!

The Stephanie V. Deliganis Service Above Self Award



Stephanie was devoted to Saint Demetrios Parish. She served ministries including All Saints Camp, Sunday School, Choir, and the Greek Festival throughout her 43 years. When her health was failing, she was determined to make the most of her time serving the Church and Faith she loved.

Stephanie volunteered to restart our Choir, an incredible commitment during the final months of her life, demonstrating true *ἀγάπη*.

The Stephanie V. Deliganis Service Above Self Award was established to support the youth of Saint Demetrios who have demonstrated commitment to more than one Saint Demetrios Ministry in their pursuit of higher education, another value she held dear. In remembrance of her gifts to our community, we are honored to offer this opportunity.

CRITERIA:

1. Nominated by other than self or family
2. Displayed exemplary service

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Enrolled or intending to pursue higher education
2. Member of St Demetrios
3. Service in choir and or Sunday school preferred

AWARD:

1. Awarded annually
2. Awarded in March perhaps at the March 25th celebration
3. Amount of \$5,000

Nominations should be sent to: Stephanie Deliganis Scholarship award, St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church



OCMC Missionaries dedicate anywhere from three months to many years of their lives serving and sharing the Orthodox Faith with people of cultures different than their own. Their service in the mission field is made possible through the steadfast prayers and financial support of the Orthodox Christians that send them to offer this living witness. Our aim is to call people from all walks of life – from laypeople to priests, students to teachers, healthcare professionals to engineers, laborers to lecturers, retirees to those considering a second career – to serve Christ and His Church in the mission field.

If you are called to missions, or want to support those who are, we invite you to visit the pages of OCMC missionaries at www.ocmc.org/how-we-serve/missionaries. Learn more about their work, hold them in your prayers, and help fund their service, so that together we can all live out the commission of Christ to “go to all nations!”.

For more information on the work of the OCMC, visit www.ocmc.org or call 877-GO-FORTH. God Bless You

YAL Seattle Updates

Here's what's new for YAL Seattle:

Second Sunday brunch: We're starting a post-liturgy brunch on the second Sunday of every month. This is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with other young adults while supporting our amazing Greek-owned restaurants. Our next one is on December 10.

Pilgrimage to All Merciful Savior Monastery: Join us on Saturday, December 9, for a pilgrimage to All Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island. More details to come.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF): If you are a college student in the Seattle area, join our OCF group at the University of Washington.

Join our GroupMe group chat:

https://groupme.com/join_group/85524228/CUbVqV5a

Follow us on Instagram: @ocf_uw

Connect with YAL Seattle:

We've moved from WhatsApp to GroupMe. Join the group for the latest updates and event information.

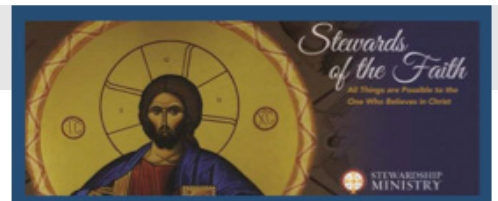
GroupMe: https://groupme.com/join_group/95398216/v3zQQsYC

Email: yalseattle@gmail.com

Instagram: [@yalseattle](https://www.instagram.com/yalseattle)

Stewardship Letter

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6 NKJV)



As 2023 draws to a close, we are grateful for God's goodness working in our midst and empowering us to do His work. This could not have happened without the generosity of our faithful parishioners, many of whom sacrificially gave of their time and talent in addition to their finances throughout the year. Our church ministries continue to thrive with the help of volunteers who help make things happen.

In 2023:

- An increasing number of volunteers spent countless hours using their talents to help where needed.
- We saw a 10% increase in stewardship giving compared to five years ago.
- The median pledge rose to \$600 from \$520 last year.
- 5% (21 households) increased their yearly giving from the \$500 level to the \$1000 level.
- 63% (276 Households) give 22% of total giving while 3% (11 Households) give 20% of total giving.
- We invested 7% in our church ministries, 3% over last year's amount.

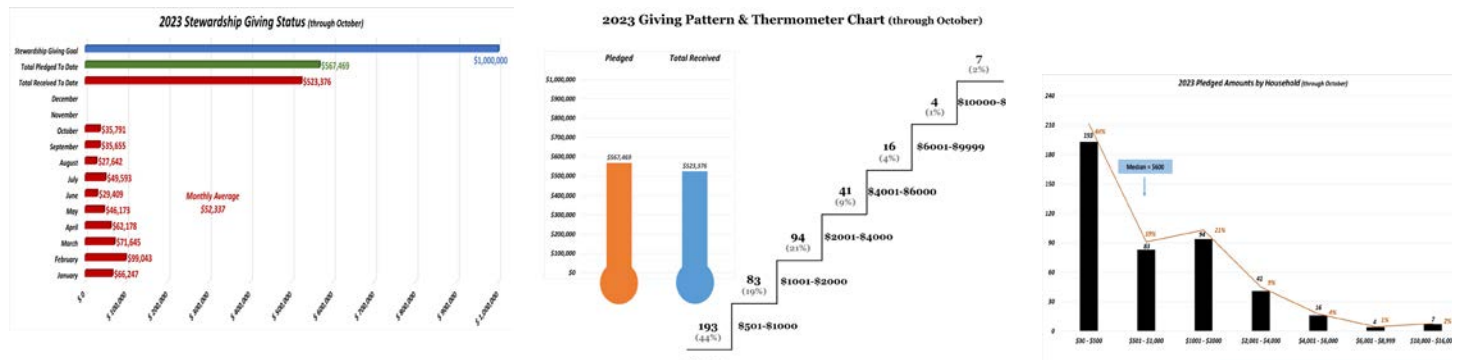
We are thankful to all who continue to cheerfully give back unto the Lord in gratitude for His abundant blessings that He has bestowed upon each one of us. Your faithful support has enabled our church to be a spiritual source to our parishioners and a beacon of light to our community.

Celebrating Christmas is a reminder of the greatest gift God gave to mankind, His son - our Lord Jesus - to whom we give all Glory, Honor, and Worship. May the heart of Christmas - the love of Jesus, the joy of grace, and the peace of God - be yours today and always. From our families to yours, we wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Stewardship Committee

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, so please feel free to contact us:

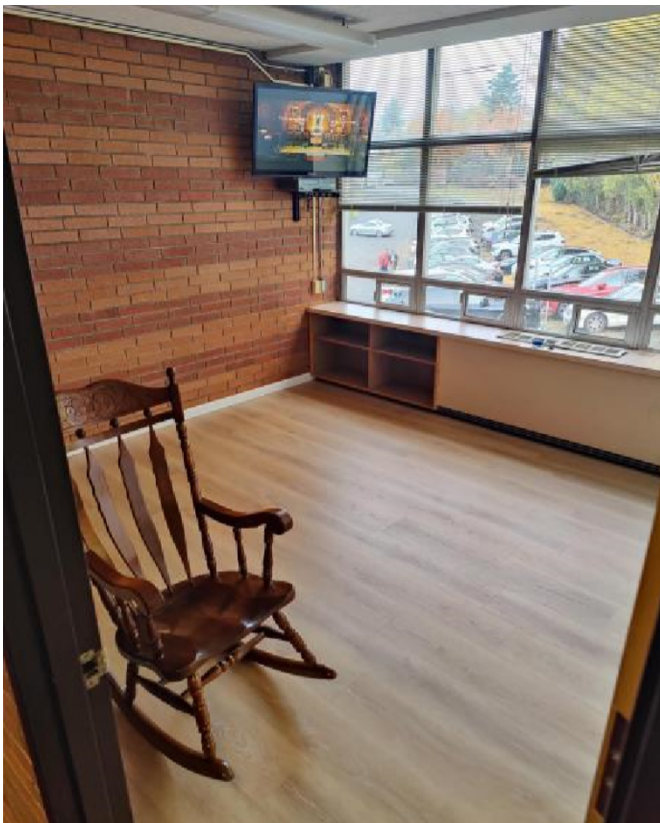
Gabriel Bayouk (ggb0719@hotmail.com)



Playroom Update

The renovations for the playroom have begun! Did you see our new floor? The TV is also working and you can now watch the church service live! There is more to come... stay tuned. We still have some more items on the Amazon wish list if you would like to donate! We thank you again and can't wait for you to see the finished project.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/KBSIG9H6W7TF?ref_=wl_share



H.O.P.E. News Helping Orthodox Parents Educate



We had so much fun at our last meeting going on a scavenger hunt and making stained glass. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 5, 2023**. We will make more fun crafts and talk about Christmas.

Please contact hope@saintdemetrios.com if you would like to join our group!

St. Demetrios Day



Thank you to Ana Omusoru for decorating our icons.

St. Demetrios Recognition

Please join in congratulating the following parishioners for their significant contributions to St. Demetrios

2023 Citizen(s) of the Year



Bassam Bayouk

Bassam has been a dedicated volunteer at St. Demetrios for several years. He has been involved as a Parish Council member, Sunday School teacher, altar assistant, and festival volunteer. In 2019, he served as the Parish Council President. In this position, Bassam was an effective leader who always took time to listen to parishioners' concerns while remaining unflappable and approachable. He was a very visible President who, with his humble demeanor, dedicated many hours of assistance to church ministries.

Currently, Bassam serves as the St. Demetrios Youth Protection Administrator. In this role, he ensures that adult parishioners who work with the youth of our parish are in compliance with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America requirements for youth protection. On a personal note, Bassam is a very kind and caring individual with a strong Orthodox faith who exemplifies the characteristics of a citizen of the year.



Stephnie Deliganis

Stephanie Deliganis passed from this life on June 20, 2023. In her short 43 years on this earth, Stephanie's life exemplified true, unwavering Christian love. Despite years of personal pain and suffering due to unknown causes and a variety of medical misdiagnoses, she turned repeatedly to her faith and love of Christ to strengthen her. She served St. Demetrios as a Sunday School teacher and a Book Store volunteer as a young woman. It was in her last year of life, after finally receiving a devastating diagnosis of extremely advanced and aggressive appendiceal cancer, that she re-dedicated herself to our Church in earnest. St. Demetrios had been without a chanter and without a choir for several months in late 2022 and the first part of 2023. Our two priests had to tag team serving in the altar and chanting. It was less than ideal situation for them as well as for the worshippers. What did Stephanie do? As compromised as her health was, she nevertheless stepped forward to organize a choir and selflessly led others to raise their voices in praise to our Lord. No self pity for Stephanie. She led the choir until she could no longer do so. Her example of service is truly an inspiration to all of us. May her memory be eternal.



Leadership Achievement Award

Barbara Trehearne



The leadership Achievement Award is given periodically to a parishioner who over many years has made significant contributions to the St Demetrios Community. This year Barbara Trehearne receives this award. Barbara was our leader for the Strategic Plan and guided this parish through Covid. She was on the Parish Council for several terms and was President many of those years. She was also a board member of Philoptochos.

Philoptochos



Christmas is not about opening presents but about opening our hearts. Our mission is to always be open and aware to the needs of those around us. Where there is pain, hunger, sickness, unemployment, despair, we try and want to be there with our hearts for the philanthropic purposes of the Church.

The holidays are always a busy time for everyone and our Philoptochos is busy with open hearts and faith to perform charitable work to with discretion, courtesy and kindness.

We are preparing Christmas baskets for our shut-in members of St. Demetrios Church. Thanks to Katina Ruh for leading this effort!

Georgia Kalasountas and Linda Kyrimis teams continue to provide monthly or bi-weekly meals for folks on the edge of society. With the strong leadership of Deena Maroutsos, we help provide social services for financial emergencies. Mary Damascus oversees grant distribution to applicants and Patti Kost is in the lead for up lifting our seminarians and faithfully visiting the sick, and homebound. Messages for support and love are faithfully sent by Stella Nelson.

We are celebrating 70 years as a society at St Demetrios at our annual Christmas luncheon in the church hall on December 9, where we will be honoring the living and past presidents. Thank you to Elaine Pagones and her committee for organizing this wonderful event.

To support our efforts our Philoptochos is having a Christmas bake sale. The orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 17th. Thanks to Alexa Thompson for overseeing the pre-orders and to Nina Varlamos and Eleni Christofilis for their leadership in making the pastries.

With our open hearts we thank you as community for supporting us for 70 years! We wish you and your families a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord!

Emilie John and Pam Plumis
Co-Presidents

Upcoming dates:
December 6- Board meeting
December 9- Christmas luncheon
December 17- Pick up bake sale orders
Shut in bags are distributed
January 3- Board meeting
January 28- Celebration Coffee hour of our 70th Anniversary

St. Philaret Homeless Thank You



Thank you to Alexandra Delegans for the generous monetary donation to our homeless feeding ministry in loving memory of George Delegans.

Despite the setbacks due to Covid & the loss of our long-running serving site under the I-5 freeway, St. Philaret hopes to carry on its mission of feeding the less fortunate, at least opportunistically. We welcome any thoughts or ideas you may have for a future serving event; feel free to contact Chris Macris at **(425) 888-2535** or chris@enerdynesolutions.com.

God Bless you!



PLEASE JOIN
SAINT DEMETRIOS PHILOPTOCHOS
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Christmas

LUNCHEON

Celebrating 70 years

Saturday, December 9th, 2023 at 11:30am

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church ~ Large Hall

RSVP to Pam Plumis by December 3rd
206.349.8341 | pjplumis@gmail.com



Tickets: \$40 per Person
Starting Sunday, Nov. 12th
during coffee social.



2023 St. Demetrios Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale



Philoptochos is once again preparing Christmas pastries and Vasilopites on a pre-sale basis. Please use the form below to place your order. Include payment with your order—checks made payable to **St. Demetrios Philoptochos**. Credit cards also accepted over the phone by calling Alexa Thompson at 206-229-7892. **Orders will be taken from now until Saturday, December 9.**

Email Alexa with questions: alexavance@hotmail.com.

Orders will be ready for pick up after church on Sunday, December 17. (11a to 12.30p)

Mail the order form below, along with your check to:

**Alexa Thompson
6002 50th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115**

----- *ORDER FORM (Cut Here)* -----

Name _____

Cell # _____

Home Tel # _____

Email _____

Vasilopita with coin _____ @ \$20 each = _____

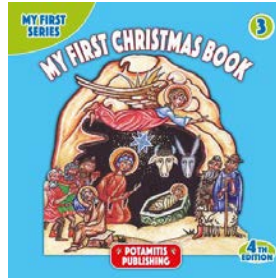
Melomakarona _____ @ \$20 doz = _____

Kourambiethes _____ @ \$20 doz = _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Merry Christmas

The Christmas Shop is open! Come visit the Bookstore and shop new gifts, ornaments, and stocking stuffers. Most items are under \$25 and make special gifts that will last for years to come. We recommend beautiful Nativity diptychs or triptychs – there are several styles and sizes to choose from. There are also new double-sided ornaments and new styles of the popular, non-breakable ornaments featuring Christ, Theotokos, Angels, St. Nicholas, or the Nativity. For small children we recommend the book, My First Christmas Book. It's well suited to toddlers and provides simple illustrations of the Nativity. For pre-school aged children, My Orthodox Matching Game is an excellent choice. It's similar to the game Memory that many of us grew up playing, but the cards display items found in the Church. A thoughtful gift for all ages is the Orthodox Christian Prayer Book, small in size with gilded edges and multiple ribbon bookmarks. It's full of prayers for all occasions including Morning Prayers, Small Compline, and Small Paraklesis. Cross pendants also make a lovely gift. They come in multiple styles and are made of sterling silver with gold plate, making them affordable jewelry options.



Yiayias & Friends Lunches

Greetings to all as we enter the Nativity Season.

Our next YIAYIAS & FRIENDS lunch will NOT be held on the usual first Thursday, but instead will be on Wednesday, December 13th, 11:30am, at **SPIRO'S PIZZA & PASTA, 18411 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, (206)546-2900**

PLEASE RSVP to Cathy, chowoo@comcast.net or text **206-282-9641**, so the restaurant staff will know how many to expect. Also be sure to tell those who do not use electronics about our events; all are welcome.

Watch the e-News or ask to join our private Facebook page YIAYIAS & FRIENDS for up-to-date information.

Papouthes Group

Our next Papouthes group luncheon will be

- Thursday, December 21, 2023, at **The Hook Seafood Broiler located at 18521 76th Ave West Edmonds, Wa 98026**. at 12:00 noon.

Those that wish to carpool may meet at Saint Demetrios at 11:00 am. Please RSVP so we can let the restaurant know how many seats to reserve. Thanks! For reservations or questions contact **Paul Plumis at pplumis@comcast.com or 206-370-2670**



On Raft Island, the Peninsula's last summer camp carries on, with updates

As a child growing up across the water within eye-sight of All Saints Camp - Ted Kenney was always enthralled by the peaceful setting of our beloved Camp facility. Having recently watched the reconstruction of our dock, Ted's curiosity - now as a journalist for the local on-line paper "Gig Harbor Now (www.gigharbornow.org) reflected on those long-ago days and decided an article on the Camp for the Gig Harbor community would shed additional light on this true gem we so proudly own. Below is Ted's reflections include a bit of history as well as commentary on our great All Saints Camping program and outreach uses including Camp Agape."

POSTED ON OCTOBER 26TH, 2023 BY: TED KENNEY

Residents on the east side of Lay Inlet enjoy looking across the bay at All Saints Camp and Retreat Center, a heavily forested stretch of Raft Island shoreline that provides a home to wildlife and brilliant fall colors. The view hasn't changed in decades.

Neighbors might have worried earlier this month, when barges and heavy equipment pulled up at the 17-acre site. But when the vessels and gear shipped out a few days later, the only visible change was a spiffy new dock that replaced a dilapidated wooden one dating back more than 50 years.

All Saints Camp and Retreat, which is owned by the Greek Orthodox Church, is making some changes — but small ones. The Pierce County Planning & Public Works website describes the intended work at All Saints as “Non-profit camp master plan expansion and re-development.”



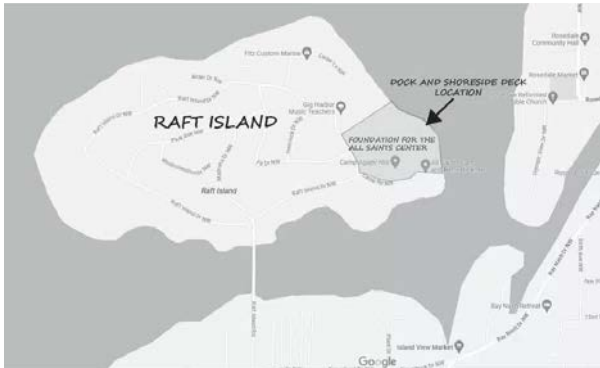
The new dock at All Saints Camp and Retreat. Photo by Ted Kenney

What's planned

But Paul Plumis, an advisor to the camp's board of directors, said the description sounds bigger than it is. The camp wants to replace its main lodge (which is not visible from the water) and a few cabins, and the county requires a new master plan first, he said.

The current lodge, which was there when the church acquired the camp in 1980, has “outlived some of its structural integrity and its functionality can be enhanced with a more updated model,” Plumis said.

“Currently the ‘lodge’ serves as a dining area and multi-use space simultaneously, which can prove challenging. Ideally, we can separate the dining space from the multi- use space in a future design. We also want to provide a facility for camper usage and youth gatherings far into the future,” he said.



All Saints Camp is on the eastern side of Raft Island. Pierce County Planning and Public Works map

Plans for the new lodge are expected to be completed within a year, he said.

The county's planning department website placed a \$400,000 project value on All Saints Camp and Retreat Center's new dock and adjacent shoreside deck.

All Saints, the last of a breed

Gig Harborites may be surprised to learn a sleepaway camp still exists on the peninsula. There used to be several, including Camp Colman at the mouth of

Horsehead Bay and Camp Ta-Ha-Do-Wa on Tanglewood Island (next to Fox Island).

They are long gone, but All Saints Camp and Retreat Center carries on the tradition.

Before 1980, the site at 205 Camp Road NW on Raft Island was Camp Blanchet, owned and operated for 30 years by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). During this time, the camp maintained a higher profile on Lay Inlet than its Greek Orthodox successor would. Hundreds of young people from around Puget Sound descended on it every summer, arriving and departing by boat in the years before Raft Island's bridge opened in 1957.

In one notorious incident in 1963, Camp Blanchet's vessel, a 33-foot converted U.S. military landing craft called the Walrus, fell apart and sank in Henderson Bay while packed with campers en route from a sleepover on the Key Peninsula. Everyone onboard survived by holding onto a rope together, swimming to Cutts Island and then hollering until rescuers heard them.



All Saints Camp is on the eastern side of Raft Island. Pierce County Planning and Public Works map

A private island, for a time

Before Camp Blanchet, the property was a private estate. In July 1928, a Tacoma Daily Ledger article headlined "California Man Buys Island Here" announced that George O. Noble, a wealthy mining engineer, had acquired Raft Island's entire 200 acres. The Californian planned a personal estate with "a private wharf, stables for riding horses, roads, trails and terrace landscaping," the newspaper said.

The History of Raft Island, a booklet published by island resident Andy Buffington in 1998, explains that after Noble built his estate on site of the future Catholic and Greek Orthodox camp, he spent little time there and "by 1932 he had left the island for good." (Noble did, however, bring electricity to Raft Island.)

In 1942, Jess Kuhns bought Raft Island for \$30,000 and moved into Noble's house, Buffington's history says. The CYO bought the house and surrounding land from him and opened its facility — later named after the first Catholic bishop in the Pacific Northwest — in 1950.

By the late 1970s, the CYO decided to sell Camp Blanchet and invest the proceeds in its other camp properties. The island had by then become a "residential neighborhood," the camp's executive director told the Catholic Northwest Progress. The increasingly busy waters around the camp made it the CYO's "least desirable unit."

One church to another

When word leaked of Camp Blanchet's possible sale, some neighbors contemplated buying it, as an investment but also to prevent its development. Many were relieved when the Greek Orthodox Church stepped up as a buyer, with a plan to keep it a camp.

Today, All Saints Camp and Retreat Center is a quiet neighbor, especially since the COVID pandemic cut attendance numbers. It is used for four or five weeklong camp sessions during the summer, Plumis said. Its capacity — with one cabin currently out of service — is 132 campers, but a typical session brings only about 50 kids and staff, he said.

The menu for campers "incorporates some Greek food — and it is enjoyed — along with traditional 'camp' style food," Plumis said. Other aspects that differ from typical Boy Scout or YMCA camps are cabins named after Greek Orthodox saints, icon-making workshops, prayer service in the chapel and group discussions on the Orthodox faith. This is alongside "a regular camp program with arts and

crafts, swimming, athletics” and more, Plumis said.

The camp is technically owned by the two Greek Orthodox churches in Seattle, but it is available to students in the area from all Greek and other Orthodox Christian churches, including Russian, Serbian, Antiochan (Syrian) and more, Plumis said. Some of these groups, like the Romanian Orthodox, can fill an entire camp session with their kids, while others send theirs to join the largely Greek Orthodox sessions.

“Unfortunately, it’s not used nearly as much as we would like to,” Plumis said of the camp. Its 501(c)(3) non-profit status limits its rentals to groups outside the Orthodox faith to 50 days per year, he said.

The challenge in filling the camp with Orthodox kids all summer is that there are simply not that many to draw from. “The pool of Orthodox kids in the churches, simply is not there,” Plumis said.

“Boy Scouts have used our camp in days when dollars were more plentiful for outdoor education, especially from Tacoma-area schools,” he said. “We just need to encourage even more usage for such a great facility.”

Other groups using All Saints

One longstanding user besides the Orthodox youth camps is Camp Agape Northwest, an annual sleepaway camp for children with cancer from all faiths, and their families. It has operated at All Saints Camp and Retreat Center since 1997.

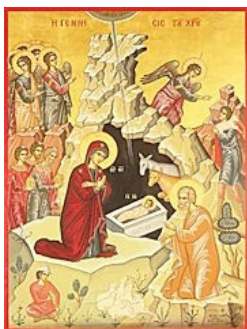
Camp Agape is one week per summer, during which neighbors of the camp can hear and feel its energy. Usually between 15 and 20 families participate, including parents, siblings and sometimes even grandparents. It is entirely volunteer-run, and can bring together as many as 100 staff members, including a one-one-one buddy for every child with cancer and their siblings.

“With the waterfront, accessible cabins, trails in the woods, sports courts, large green space, the chapel, and the kitchen, we have everything we need to give families experiencing cancer an amazing week,” said Christina Bradic, interim director of Camp Agape.

Another user of All Saints Camp and Retreat Center is Natural Spirit International (NSI), a martial arts school in Tacoma. Grand Master Kelly S. Worden has held NSI’s Water and Steel Three Day Martial Arts Training Camp at the All Saints facility every summer for the past 25 years, teaching the Worden Defense System, a “reality-based, non-sport martial art,” to as many as 85 students per session, he said.

The Raft Island site is natural and far enough from other people that attendees feel they’re “out there in the middle of the bush,” Worden said. The camp attracts martial arts practitioners from around the world, he said. “They just love the setting, the fact that the deer are right there, the otters are down at the dock.”

Community Christmas Card



Dear Parishioners, you are cordially invited to participate in our community Christmas card. Please send in your name, the way you wish it to appear to the Church Office. Donation is \$20 and the deadline is **December 12, 2023**.

Thank you for sending and sharing your holiday wishes with your fellow friends and parishioners.

Chris Pallis Invested as an Archon in New York Ceremony

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!



Congratulations to St. Demetrios parishioner Chris G. Pallis who was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Sunday October 22 in a ceremony at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York. He was given the offikion (title) of “Laosynaktis,” a position from Byzantine times for someone who helps keep order during church services. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America officiated at a special service after the Divine Liturgy blessing the 39 members of the Archon Class of 2023.

Each new Archon then was presented with the Cross of St. Andrew. Chris received it from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

While the honor is indeed recognition of past involvement and service to the Church, Archons are pledged going forward to be “Protecting the Future of Faith,” especially promoting religious freedom and human rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Mother Church of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. There are currently over 750 Archons in the U.S. who engage in education, political lobbying, fund raising and other actions mainly in support of our much-persecuted Patriarch Bartholomew who resides in a hostile environment in Turkey. Chris will be serving on two Archon committees, “Metropolis and Parish Education” and “Youth Participation Activities.”



A life-long member of St. Demetrios coming from a strong Orthodox faith-based family environment Chris Pallis has been involved, supportive and a dedicated leader in many ways in the life of the parish as well as the metropolis, and national/international church organizations.

While in junior high school and serving as president of GOYA, he organized a parish youth basketball team and arranged for a place to practice and participation in a Catholic league. He later became president of YAL, and served as co-chair of the 1985 National YAL Conference in Seattle. Chris and his wife Vicki taught Sunday School for two years. He also served on the Parish Council for a total of 19 years, including two as president, and founded and chaired the OPA Ball which raised funds for the parish and Fred Hutch Cancer Center.

Chris was and is a problem-solver, getting things done that long needed attention. He raised funds and oversaw the design and complete reconstruction of the patio and front entrance of the church. Using a bequest from a departed parishioner, along with additional funds he raised, Chris solved the need for a permanent home of the parish bookstore by developing a design to extend a portion of the building and made sure the construction was completed properly.



Chris served as treasurer of the Metropolis of San Francisco and on the board of the St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, WA. He also helped raise funds for the Agia Anna Skete on Mount Athos. He and Vicki are members of the Archdiocese Leadership 100.

More recently, Chris raised \$400,000 to begin the placement of new mosaic icons on the walls with stained glass windows of the four Evangelists. An additional

\$400,000 is needed to complete the work. In 2022, he was chair of the gala celebration of our parish centennial which included a visit of Archbishop Elpidophoros.

Chris and his extended family have established the George and Venetia Pallis Scholarship in honor of his parents which provides funds for young people to attend the Ionian Village summer camp in Greece.

Chris and Vicki are the parents of twin adult sons, Themio and George. Chris has devoted endless hours to church matters while at the same time being president of a successful commercial real estate development company, Pallis Properties, Inc. Works include apartment buildings, self-storage facilities, and anchored retail projects.

Chris becomes the fifth current Archon at St. Demetrios along with Paul Plumis, John John, Theo Angelis and Cliff Argue. All four joined in nominating Chris to receive this high honor of the church. The nomination was warmly endorsed by our proistamenos Fr. Photios Dumont, Pacific Northwest Archon Regional Commander Isidoros Garifalakis of Portland, and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

As noted on the website (www.archons.org) *"An Archon is an honoree by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.*

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission. He is also concerned with the human race's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated - and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.

This honor extended by the Ecumenical Patriarchate carries with it grave responsibilities, deep commitments, and sincere dedication. Consequently, it is of utmost importance that this honor of obligation be bestowed upon individuals of proven Orthodox Christian character, who conform faithfully to the teachings of Christ and the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, and encyclicals of the Church.

Those selected to serve as Archons have demonstrated a commitment greater than average toward the stewardship of time, talent and treasure for the betterment of the Church, Parish, Diocese/Metropolis, Archdiocese and the community as a whole. An Archon must truly be deserving of the proclamation:

AXIOS, AXIOS, AXIOS!"

Chris Pallis definitely is.

**Please come to the
General Assembly
DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU**

**Let a member of the Parish Council
know if you would like anything
added to the agenda.**



HOSTED BY
Souliotes & St. Demetrios Dance Group

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas GLENDI

7:00 pm - December 16, 2023



St. Demetrios Seattle

2100 Boyer Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Nov 26</p> <p>13th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27</p> <p>8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:45a Sunday School 12:30p Greek Dance</p> <p>Ss. Stylianos, Alypios & Nikon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9a Baking by Philoptochos 6p Greek Dance 6:30p Byzantine Music Class</p> <p>Nathaniel the Righteous St. Iakovos the Persian</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30p Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Irenarchos, Martyr St. Stephen, the Confessor</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6p Greek School 7p OCF</p> <p>St. Paramonos & 379 Companions</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy</p> <p>St. Andrew the Apostle</p>	<p>Dec 1</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Naoum, Prophet St. Philaret the Alms-giver</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 2p Youth Event Small Hall 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>Habbakuk, Prophet St. Porphyrios</p>
<p>Dec 3</p> <p>14th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43</p> <p>8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 12:30p Greek Dance 1:30p Baptism</p> <p>Zephaniah, Prophet</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 6p Greek Dance</p> <p>St. Barbara</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30a HOPE</p> <p>St. Sabbas</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Philoptochos Board Meeting 1p Open Confession until 4pm 6p Greek School</p> <p>St. Nicholas</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7p Bible Study</p> <p>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9a Baking by Philoptochos</p> <p>Patapios the Righteous Sosthenes & Apollo, Apostles</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:30a Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon, Large Hall 3:30p Women's Fellowship 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>Conception of St. Anna</p>
<p>Dec 10</p> <p>10th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17</p> <p>8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a General Assembly 12:30p Greek Dance</p> <p>Menas, Hermogenes & Eustrachios</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6p Greek Dance</p> <p>Ss. Daniel & Luke, the Stylites</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30a Divine Liturgy (@ St. Spyridon in Seattle)</p> <p>St. Spyridon</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:30a Yiayia and Friends at Spiro's Pizza and Pasta 1p Open Confession until 4pm 6p Greek School 7p OCF</p> <p>Auxentios, Eugenios & Eustratios</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7p Bible Study</p> <p>Thyrsos, Philemon & Apollonios</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5p Great Vespers 7p Dance Group Glendi/Fundraiser</p> <p>St. Eleutherios</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10a Dance Practice 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>Prophet Haggai</p>
<p>Dec 17</p> <p>11th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24</p> <p>8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Celebration Luncheon for Fr. James and Presv. Vassio</p> <p>Prophet Daniel St. Dionysios of Zachynthos</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10a Baptism 6p Greek Dance</p> <p>Boniface & Ares Eutychios & Thessaloniki</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30p Stewardship Meeting</p> <p>St. Ignatios of Alexandria St. John of Kronstadt</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1p Open Confession until 4pm 7p Dance practice</p> <p>Juliana and Her 500 Companions Themistokles of Myra</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7p Bible Study</p> <p>St. Anastasia, Martyr</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30a Royal Hours of Christmas 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>10 Martyrs of Crete</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>St. Anyisia, Martyr</p>
<p>Dec 24</p> <p>Sunday Beofre Nativity Epistle: Heb 11:9-10; 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25</p> <p>8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 12:30p Christmas Pageant</p> <p>Eve of the Nativity</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Nativity of Christ</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30p Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Synaxis of Theotokos</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy</p> <p>20,000 Martyrs of Nikomedia</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7p Cappella Romana</p> <p>St. Nikiphoros the Leper Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>Eve of Epiphany</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>Epiphany</p>
<p>Dec 31</p> <p>Sunday After Nativity Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8</p> <p>8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Melania the Righteous Olympiodora the Martyr</p>	<p>Jan 1</p> <p>St. Basil the Great 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Circumcision of Christ New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10a Philoptochos Board Meeting 1p Open Confession until 4pm 6p Greek School</p> <p>St. Seraphim of Sarov</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 7p Bible Study</p> <p>Malachi the Prophet</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 7p Bible Study</p> <p>St. Nikiphoros the Leper Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30a Great Hours of Epiphany 11a Vespers Divine Liturgy 12:30p Great Blessing of the Waters</p> <p>Eve of Epiphany</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:30a Great Blessing of the Waters 5p Great Vespers</p> <p>Epiphany</p>

Liturgies in December

Dec	Service	Time	Dec	Service	Time
1	<i>St. Philaret the Almsgiver Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am	17	<i>11th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:15am
2	<i>St. Porphyrios Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am	24	<i>Sunday Before Nativity Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:15am
3	<i>14th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:15am	25	<i>Nativity of Christ Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am
4	<i>St. Barbara Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am	27	<i>St. Stephen, Martyr Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am
6	<i>St. Nicholas Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am	30	<i>St. Anysia, Martyr Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:30am
10	<i>10th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:15am	31	<i>Sunday After Nativity Orthros & Divine Liturgy</i>	8:15am

Submissions for the Orthodox Way

If you would like to offer a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light or sponsor the Coffee Hour in memory of a beloved family member or friend who has fallen asleep in the Lord, please contact the church office at 206-631-2500.

Please submit announcements for Memorials and Candles to Simoni at sshirland@saintdemetrios.com by the 20th of the month to appear in the next newsletter. Submissions after the 20th will appear in the following newsletter.

All other inserts and announcements can be sent to the Orthodox Way editors at info@saintdemetrios.com.

The above are parishioner contributed announcements to The Orthodox Way

Donations

