

October 2023 USPS 8048, No 7

Office Hours

9:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Friday

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saintdemetrios.com

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The Orthodox Way

HE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I write to you as we are getting underway in our new ecclesiastical and school year. We always have our Festival at the end of September, and the event serves as a kickoff to begin once more many of our programs and ministries that have been placed on hold for the summer. Without a doubt, the most visible ministry that gets a restart each year is our Sunday School. While the Sunday School is important, the Divine Liturgy is even more important. I want to encourage all of us to come to Divine Liturgy and do everything within our



power to arrive on time. The Liturgy is a Holy Mystery whereby we receive the grace of God. We can never understand it, but amazingly so... we always feel better after having come to church. Parents, please bring your children to the Liturgy and not just to Sunday School. Throughout this year, we will have talks about the Divine Liturgy in our Ministry and Life meetings which will take place on the second Sunday of each month, following our services. It is our goal that these sessions will increase our appreciation and understanding of the Liturgy and Divine Worship.

For the past year, we have been searching for a Parish Administrator and a Youth Director for our community. Though we have not yet found those individuals as of yet, I'm asking all of you to keep this in your prayers to God. Until we can fill these positions, we will need to rely on volunteers to help out in the office from time to time but most especially, we need people who are willing to assist our parish in youth ministry. Currently, we are looking for help in the organization of JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth, ages 7-12) and GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America, ages 13-18). We are also seeking to establish a Youth Council, to help integrate our youth and family ministries. If you feel a calling within your heart that you would like to assist to any degree, please contact Fr. Photios or Fr. James. Fr. James has taken on some of the duties of a Youth Director, but as you know, he will be leaving us at the end of the year. Having a vibrant youth program is not an option for us; it is a must. With all of us pulling together and with all of the talent within our community, I am confident we can have a strong Youth ministry!

On Sunday, September 24th, we held a General Assembly following the Liturgy to update the community on the current state of our finances, ministries and the Strategic Plan. During the meeting, the Strategic Plan attracted most of the attention with much discussion. The Parish Council received a fair amount of criticism in regard to the plan and its lack of execution. The truth is that we began the plan as the Pandemic was starting in the Spring of 2020, and though the mandates were lifted in the Spring of last year, it has taken a lot of time for people to feel comfortable in returning to Church. Then in March of this year, we lost our Parish Council President, Barbara Trehearne, who passed away suddenly, and who was also the executive director of our Strategic Plan. Our intention in holding the assembly was to be transparent with the community, and to inform everyone that we were moving forward. We have accomplished many things within the Strategic Plan that we intended to do, and yet there are so many other things still to be done. As a Parish Council, we are committed to staying the course of our Strategic Plan and we will regularly communicate our progress.

One of the goals of the strategic plans is engagement. A new Women's Ministry is starting this month. It will meet on the second Saturday of each month from 3:30pm to 5pm. At each meeting, a short presentation will be offered, generally by one of the priests, on a subject of interest, followed by a group discussion. The time together will be focused on fellowship and supporting one another in everyday struggles and interests that are held in common. A full schedule will be released in the future, but the theme for Saturday, October 14th is "Women

- Continued on Page 2 -

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.

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Memorials & Candles

On October 8 a Memorial Service and a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light are offered in loving memory of **Billie Platis** (forty days since her passing), and **George Platis and Eula Platis Collins** (ten years, and fifty-three years since their passing), by Harry and Alethea Platis, Stephanie Platis and Alexandra and Matt Flugstad and family.

On October 8 a Holy Altar Table Vigil Light is offered in loving memory of **Andreas Lolos** (five years since his passing), by his parents, Nick and Panagiota Lolos.

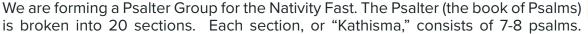
Condolences

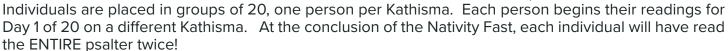
We express our Deep Condolences to Harry and Alethea Platis and their family for the passing of Harry's sister, **Billie Platis**. May her memory be eternal!

Citizen of the Year

We present the Citizen of the Year awards on St. Demetrios Day. Please submit your nominations to **info@St.Demetrios.com**

St. Demetrios Psalter Group for Nativity Fast





Many of our saints, including St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil, have written on the importance of daily Psalter reading. These groups are a wonderful way to make praying the psalms a part of our daily routine during the Nativity Fast.

We need at least 20 people to form the group that will begin on November 15, 2023. To join the group or for more information, please contact **Paula Macris** by November 10, 2023 at **pmcmacris@gmail.com**.

May God bless our efforts!

Fr Photios' Message Continued from Page 1 -

& the Bible: Understanding the Role of Women in the World Today, from – a Scriptural Perspective." The Women's Ministry has not yet been given a formal name, but most likely this will be decided at the first or second gathering! Women of all ages are welcome!

Please know that we have other ministries underway that will be announced throughout the coming year. May our Lord bless us in all we do this new ecclesiastical and school year!

In Christ's love,

+Fr. Photios

Sunday School Update



SUNDAY SCHOOL SOWING SEEDS FOR CHRIST



Sunday School got off to a great start this fall with a welcome back pizza party on September 17! Kids had an opportunity to meet their new teachers, enjoy fellowship with their classmates, and have their backpacks blessed with Holy Water by Father Photios and Father James. Special thanks to Steve and Kari Manos for donating the pizza, Nicole Balkenbusch for picking up our cake dessert and beverages, and Gabe Bayouk for taking photos.

We are grateful for our wonderful volunteer Sunday School

teachers for

sharing their time and talents with the youth of our parish and teaching them about our faith through this year's theme of "The Feast Days of the Orthodox Church."

Pre-school/pre-K Lana Georges, Christina Bayouk

Kindergarten Elena Smagley, Noreen Bayouk

1st Laura Kemmerer, Zoe Facilla

2nd/3rd **Eleni Athans, Nicole Balkenbusch**

4th/5th Andrew Aliferakis, Stephanie Dikeakos, Ershad Oweis, Christina Tapia

6th Presv. Katherine Dumont, Carmen Karagiorgos

7th-12th Gabriel Bayouk, Paul Kassab, Gil Morgan, Chris Hegge

Special thanks also to Eleni Athans and her family and Christina and Noreen Bayouk for their assistance with helping to clean our classrooms and organize our curriculum over the summer months.

Adopt A Senior

Sunday School kids are invited to join the "Adopt a Senior" program to connect with our beloved St. Demetrios senior citizens. Kids are asked to regularly send a card, drawing, or hand-written note to an assigned senior to let them know we are thinking of them.

Important Announcement

For parents of kids in Pre-school through 3rd grade: Please pick up your kids directly from their classroom following Liturgy. And to all parents: Please wait until your child's teacher opens the door to dismiss them so that we have full focused time in class.

We are so pleased that more families have returned to church with increased Sunday School attendance! For more information on our program or to volunteer, please contact Paula Macris at pmcmacris@gmail.com

Bookstore News

The Lord has blessed us with the changing of the seasons and as the sun sets earlier, it reminds us to take time to rest – after the festival that is! Visit the Bookstore to treat yourself to a new prayer book; there are over half a dozen to choose from. Newly arrived, and for the first time, is the Orthodox Christian Prayer Book. It's small size (4x6 inches) makes it very portable and yet it is still full of useful prayers. This lovely prayer book has a teal cloth cover, gilded edges, and three ribbons for marking your favorite prayers. Inside you'll find morning prayers, Small Compline, Small Paraklesis, prayers before meals as well as before and after Holy Communion and various occasional prayers. It also lists the fasting periods of the Church through 2029.



Looking for an extra special gift? We can help! Below are some ideas for one-of-a-kind gifts as we head towards Christmas:

Custom prayer rope – select the color, number of knots and type of beads

Family tree icon – one icon with up to six Saints representing your

family

Icon of your favorite Saint – select the image and size; they can even be embroidered **Gold or silver cross pendants**

And of course, **Bookstore gift certificates** are available in any amount

These custom gifts come from small retailers or monasteries, so be sure to place your order in October to ensure December delivery.

Want to learn Byzantine Music?



Chris will be teaching a weekly Byzantine Music class starting on Mondays at 6:30pm. This class is for complete beginners, as well as anyone who

wants to build on any knowledge they might already have. No previous musical experience necessary, everyone is welcome! If you would like to stay up

to date on the class, please talk to Chris after services or send him an email at **ckouldukis@ saintdemetrios.com** to be added to the email list. We look forward to seeing you there!



Liturgies in October

Oct.	Service	Time		
1	2nd Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:15am		
8	3rd Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:15am		
15	15 Sunday of the 7th Ec. Council Orthros & Divine Liturgy			
18	St. Luke the Evangelist Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:30am		
20	20 Artemios, Great Martyr Orthros & Divine Liturgy			
22	22 6th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Divine Liturgy St. James 23 the Brother of the Lord Orthros & Divine Liturgy			
23				
26	26 St. Demetrios, Great Martyr Orthros & Divine Liturgy			
28	28 Holy Skepi of the Theotokos Orthros & Divine Liturgy			
29	8:15am			

Philoptochos

Grants Awarded-

Due to the success of our fundraisers this past year, we were able to award grants to various outreach projects that meet our Philoptochos mission statement.

The Philoptochos Board was able to give:

\$250- To purchase yarn for our Philoptochos members to knit baby blankets as a welcome gift to our Church.

\$600- To purchase ingredients to provide a monthly breakfast to a Homeless Shelter program in Snogualmie, WA.

\$1500- To provide funding for hygiene and snack kits for King County homeless population.

\$2000- To help fund with Holy Apostles Church 10,000 meals for local food banks through 'The Outreach Program'.

\$4000- To offer scholarships for Ukrainian Refugees/immigrants to assist in paying for college level courses.

Shut In Visitations-

Patti Kost has been spearheading visits to our shut ins. If you would like to join her team to visit various people, please contact Patti.

Also, if you know of a shut in that would like a visit from one of our members, please email Patti with their names.

Patti Kost contact information-pattikost@comcast.net

Festival Booth-

Thanks to Despina Read for creating the beautiful holiday wreaths that were sold at our Philoptochos Booth at the annual festival.

Upcoming Events-

October 11	Board Meeting at 10:00am in the library				
October 15	1st General meeting in the library following Liturgy				
October 25	5 Vespers for St. Demetrios Day				
	Duaa Bayouk is overseeing refreshments following the service				
October 26	Feast day of our church- St. Demetrios				
October 29	Make a Difference Day- Sunday School children will write get well card to children in the hospital and Christmas cards to soldiers.				
	Dale Hazapis – Chairperson				
October 29	Tray will be passed in church for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.				
	Vassie Skoulis- Chairperson				

With the talents and time of wonderful members, we are able to help people in need.

Please join us this year!

Yours in Christ,
Emilie John and Pam Plumis
Co-Presidents

FELLOWSHIP

Stewardship Letter

As we welcome the Fall season, we hope you had a blessed and enjoyable summer. Many thanks to all our parishioners who were able to attend the General Assembly meeting on September 24th. Some of the highlights from the first part of the year that were shared at the meeting are:



- Continued the focus on Stewardship of our faith as being all inclusive of Time, Talent, and Treasure.
- In some of their sermons, Fr. Photios and Fr. James have helped us better understand the meaning of being stewards of our faith as did the apostles and saints.
- Held a couple of Zoom meetings focused on answering questions about stewardship.
- Working on materials suitable for Sunday school children about stewardship.
- Engaged in several one-on-one discussions with parishioners to answer any questions about Stewardship and ways to be involved in church activities.
- Many parishioners have answered the call by increasing their annual giving; consequently, 2023 stewardship giving
 is up 10% compared to five years ago.
- Thanks to many parishioners, pledged giving in the \$1000 \$2000 giving bracket has increased by 5% compared to last year.
- Parishioners have pledged 55% of this year's giving goal. 80% of the pledged amount has already been given. We
 are prayerful that pledges and giving levels will rise in the later part of this year to get closer to the church's operating
 budget and to enable us to better support our community outreach programs.
- Provided a secure on-line option to fill out pledge cards and to give electronically.
- Provided financial visibility chart of income and expense which are posted monthly on the board outside of the small hall.

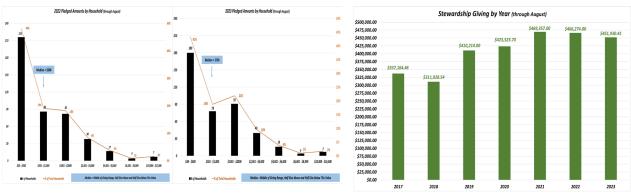
We are thankful to all the parishioners who cheerfully give of their time, talent, and treasure in serving our Lord and His house. The bible says: "Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." (2 Cor 9:7-8 NKJV).

The charts below are provided for your visibility. We are prayerful that the generosity of our parishioners will surpass last year's to enable our church to meet its financial obligations, serve our families, and sustain our ministry and community outreach programs.

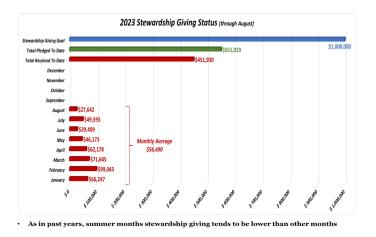
In Christ,

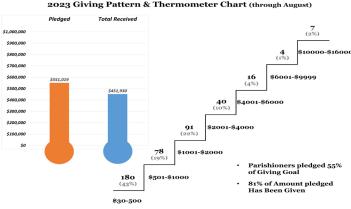
Your Stewardship Committee Members

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, so please feel free to contact us: Gabriel Bayouk (ggb0719@hotmail.com) or info@saintdemtrios.com



A 5% pledge increase in the \$1000-\$2000 giving category compared to last year





Yiayias & Friends Lunches

The next YIAYIAS & FRIENDS lunch will be held at the new KOSTAS OPA, 1924 N 45th, Seattle, 206-466-4000, on Thursday, October 5th, at 11:30am.

A reminder that our group meets on the <u>First Thursday of each month at 11:30 am</u> - please watch the

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



We are an informal group, where all women are welcome! To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Cathy **chowoo@comcast.net** or

text 206-282-9641 (Also, kindly reach out and tell those women who do not use electronics about our lunches - we want to include everyone we can). Wishing everyone a great Fall!



Our next Papouthes group luncheon will be:

• Thursday, October 19, 2023, at Spiro's Pizza and Pasta located at 1841 Aurora avenue N, Shoreline, Washington 98133 at 12:00 noon

Please RSVP to Manuel Tramountanas so we can let the restaurant know how many seats to reserve. Thanks! For reservations/ questions, contact Manuel Tramountanas at agapemom@normail.com or 206-783-4466.



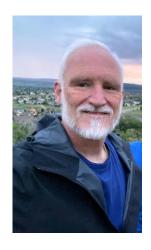
Festival Donations

We wish to thank **Pete and Marilyn Limberopoulos** of "the Rusty Pelican Cafe" of Woodinville, "Rusty Pelican Cafe" of Edmonds and "Rusty Pelican Cafe" of Mill Creek for their Gold and Silver sponsorship, **Christina Economou and Rich Grunder** for their Silver sponsorship, **Athan and Cindy Tramountanas** and **Karen Oboy** of "Odgen Murphy Wallace Attorneys" for their Silver sponsorship, **Tina Derezes** for her Bronze sponsorship, and **Panagiotis and Nicoletta Gennaios** for the donation of homegrown oregano. Your generosity is truly appreciated!



Thank you to all who supported

"The St. D's Triune Trekkers"







This year, the Triune Trekkers took 1st place in the country and raised \$7,100 for the Missions!

God Bless our Sponsors:

Steve Ahrens
Clifford & Theodora Argue
Eleni Athans & Family
Stella Athans
Frances Barnecut
Gabriel Bayouk
Lena Bayouk
Alexandra Delegans
Tina Derezes

Dale Hazapis
John & Emilie John
Terri & Hannah Karis
Candace Kelly
Bishara & Diane Kharoufeh
Timothy & Avalon Kmet
Arthur & Fannie Kolios
Tait & Sunday Lane
Chris & Paula Macris

Demetris & Emily Manolopoulos Jim Markezinis Chris & Vicki Pallis Alice Panagakis John & Lisa Panagiotou Markos & Angelique Saffle John & Penny Sakellaris Antonios & Antonia Touras Anonymous (2)

Congratulations to the Weekly Amazon Gift Card Winners:

Stella Athans, Alexandra Delegans, Alice Panagakis, Markos Saffle, & Antonia Touras

Special Thanks to the "Trekkers":

Fr. Photios, Fr. James, & Dn. Perry

The funds will be used to train and send missionaries into the world. For more information on OCMC, visit www.ocmc.org or call 877-GO-FORTH.



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



HOPE is a ministry for babies and children ages 40 days to Pre-K. We meet every First Tuesday of the month for Fellowship and a lesson about our Holy Orthodox faith. We will meet at 9:30 am from October-May. Here is what we have to look forward to:

9:30 am: Meet in a Sunday School classroom room 1049:40 am: Craft Time: Complete the craft for the month.

10:00 am: Lesson from Fr. Photios or Fr. James

10:15 am: Snack Time

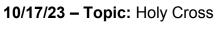
10:30 am: HOPE Dismissal - play in the playroom

If you are interested, please register your child using the following link https://forms.gle/uSgEjUqntecPfagP9 or send us an email at HOPE@SaintDemetrios.com. Please register by October 15, 2023.



H.O.P.E. lessons
begin
October 17th!

Here is our HOPE schedule for the whole year!



11/7/23 – Topic: Our Church

12/5/23 – Topic: Nativity and Saint Nicholas

1/9/24 - Topic: Icons and Saints

2/6/24 - Topic: Lent

3/5/24 – Topic: Communion and Prosphoron

4/2/24 - Topic: 5 Senses in the Church

5/3/24 – Topic: Pascha and Decorate Epitafios **6/4/24 –** End of Year Party – Meet at the Park



We look forward to a fun and fulfilling year! If you have any questions, please email us hope@saintdemetrios.com.

Saint Demetrios Ministries

AHEPA

Chris Economou

All Saints Camp

Christina Chacharon

Acolytes

Chris Macris

Book Store

Theo Argue Heather Stotz Lindsey Stotz

Bible Study

Fr. Photios

Book Club

Fr. James

Cutural Book Lending Library

Anthony Maroussis

Dynamis - Men's Fellowship

George Hatziantoniou

Eternal Light Program

George Constantine

Saint Philaret

Chris Macris Doug Chandler

2023 Parish Council

Dale P. Hazapis, Pres
Brian Koceski, 1st VP
George Plumis 2nd VP
Alexandra Flugstad, Secretary
Gil Morgan, Treasurer
Alex Skoulis, Bob Read,
Dimitri Themelis, Eirene Bekris
Emanuel Magoulas, George
Hatziantoniou, George Xidias,
Jim Kost, Steven Stanos,
Frs Photios & James

Sunday School

Paula Macris

Festival

Jim Kost

Greek Folk Dance

Maria Barbas Steve Manos

Greek School

Demetra Apostolou Manaois

International Orthodox Christian Charities IOCC

Kim Angelis

Orthodox Christian Mission Center OCMC

Chris Macris Cliff Argue

Welcoming

TBD

Philotochos

Pam Plumis Emilie John

Social Services
Matt Talbot Center
Missions Possible
Homebound Parishioners
St Martin De Porres Shelter

Philanthropia House

John T John

Yiayias and Friends

Cathy Chohlas

Papouthes Group

Manuel Tramountanas

Music

Christopher Kouldukis

Orthodoxy 101

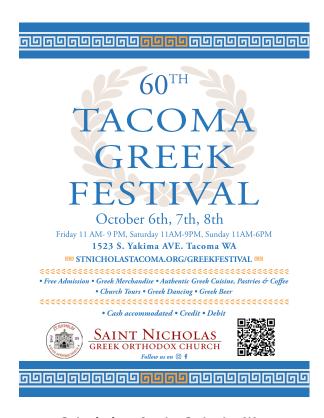
Fr. James

October 2023

SATURDAY	7 U-District Auction Sp Great Vespers Sergios & Bacchus, Martyrs	SLE Gala Fundraiser 3:30p Women's Fellowship 5p Great Vespers Nazarios, Gervasios & Prostasios St. Innocent, Apostle to America	Sp Great Vespers Hilarion the Righteous	8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 5p Great Vespers Holy Skepi of the Theotokos	Sp Great Vespers Inamikios the Righteous St. George of Drama
FRIDAY	6 Erotidos, Martyr Thomas, the Apostle	13 Karpos, Papylos Martyrs	8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy Artemios, Great Martyr St. Gerasimos of Kephallonia	27 Nestor, Great Martyr	WOCA Retreat with Bishop Gerasimos Sp Grea Akepsimas, Aeithalas Martyrs Joseph, Martyr
THURSDAY	5 11:30a Yiayia and Friends at Kosta's Opa 5p Vigil: Vespers, Orthros and Divine Liturgy (at St. Thomas in Snohomish) Eudokios the Righteous	7p Bible Study Andronikos, Domnini Martyrs Provos, Tarachos, Martyrs	19 12p Papouthes Group @ Spyro's Pizza and Pasta 7p Bible Study Joel the Prophet	26 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 7p Bible Study St. Demetrios, Great Martyr	2 Akindynos, Pegasios Martyrs Elpidophoros Martyrs
WEDNESDAY	1p Open Confession until 4pm Hierotheos, Bishop of Athens Kallisthenis & Domine, Martyrs	10a Philoptochos Board Meeting 1p Open Confession until 4pm 6:30p Family Wellness: How Kids Are Wired	18 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 1p Open Confession until 4pm St. Luke the Evangelist	15 Doen Confession until 4pm 6p Great Vespers Markianos & Chrysanthos, Martyrs	Nov 1 8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy Kosmas & Damian, Unmercenaries
TUESDAY	3 St. Dionysios the Aeropagite	10 9a Hood and Duct inspection Theophilos the Righteous	9:30a HOPE 6:30p Stewardship Meeting Hosea the Prophet	6:30p Parish Council Meeting Arethas the Great Martyr Sebastiana, Martyr	31 Stachis, Apellos & Aristoboulos
MONDAY	6p Greek Dance 6:30p Byzantine Music Class Justine, Martyr & George, Neoma Kyprianos, Hiermartyr	6p Greek Dance 6:30p Byzantine Music Class James, Son of Alphaeus, Apostle	6:30p Byzantine Music Class Leontios & Terentios, Martyrs Longinos, the Centurian	8:30a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 6p Greek Dance 6:30p Byzantine Music Class St. James the Brother of the Lord	30 APC National Clergy Retreat 6p Greek Dance 6:30p Byzantine Music Class Cleopas & Artemas, Apostles Zenobios & Zenobia, Martyrs
SUNDAY	St. Demetrios Greek Festival Znd Sunday of Luke Epistle: 2Corinthians 6:16 Gospel: Luke 6:31-36 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy Ananias the Apostle Romanos the Melodost	3rd Sunday of Luke 2Corinthians 9:6-11 Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:45a Sunday School 12p Liturgy and Life 12:45p Greek Dance Agisilaos & Archelaos, Martyrs Polychronios, Pelagia Martyrs	Sunday of 7th Ec. Council Epistle: Titus 3:8–15 Gospel: Luke 8:5–15 R:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 11:30a Philoptochos Meeting 10:45a Sunday School 12:45p Greek Dance Loukianos, Martyr Savinos the Bishop	Oct 22 Gth Sunday of Luke Epistle: Galatians 1:.11–19 Gospel: Luke 8:26–39 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:45a Sunday School 12:45p Greek Dance 7 Children of Ephesus Averkios of leropolis	Oct 29 7th Sunday of Luke Epistle: Galatians 2:16–20 Gospel: Luke 8:41–56 8:15a Orthros 9:30a Divine Liturgy 10:45a Sunday School 12:45p Greek Dance Anastasia the Roman Avramios the Righteous

The Orthodox Way (published 10 times a year by)

Saint Demetrios Church Greek Orthodox Church Permit Number 8048 2100 Boyer Ave East Seattle, WA 98112 Non-Profit Org US Postage PAID Seattle, WA USPS 8048



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 <u>sshirland@saintdemetrios.com</u> 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