

St. Demetrios

Greek Orthodox Church

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Saginaw, MI 48603

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Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Cook (517) 515-9565

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

Under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the

Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew I

2014/15 Parish Council

President - Megan Rodriguez (2016)

Vice Pres. - Dr. David Nichols (2016)

Treasurer - Dennis Ostler (2016)

Secretary - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Thomas Barris (2016)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Bill Delong (2016)

Yvonne Delong (2016)

Soula Economou (2017)

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Joanie Porchia (2017)

Eftihios Siradakis (2016)

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Altar Boy Advisor

Panayiotis Metropoulos

Chanters

Ted Veremis Andreas Skoutelas

Maria Metropoulos

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Choir

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Asst. Director - Elan Nichols

Philoptochos President

Virginia Ulmer

Sunday School Director

Tena Mendyk

Sunday School Directors

Alexia & Evan Houpis

AHEPA President

George Zaharopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President

Vicki Clifford

GOYA Advisors

Dr. Andrew Bazakis

Bessie Bone

Dance Group Directors

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

Alexander Sarantis & Jacob Bone

Diakonia Editor

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

DIAKONIA

MARCH 2016

Forgiveness & Repentance

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

This month we begin the Great Forty Days of Lent, the forty days of preparation for Holy Week and Pascha. The dominant theme for these days is repentance, and we see this throughout the church. The colors in the church are darkened, the joyful melodies are replaced with the hymns of repentance, the lights are dimmed, and in every service we add the prayer of St. Ephraim in which we ask God to help us to see our own faults rather than judging our brothers. Our goal in the Great Forty Days is simple: to learn and to practice repentance.

Repentance is often thought of as feeling sorry or guilty for our sins. But while repentance may begin with feeling sorry, true repentance also demands action because to repent means to change. In Greek the word “μετάνοια” (translated repentance) literally means to change direction, and is the same word which is used for the prostrations we make so often throughout Lent. To repent is to turn back to God, to seek actively the communion with God which is our salvation. But we can't move closer to God while rejecting our fellow-man, just like we cannot truly unite with our fellow-man without simultaneously encountering God.

Dorotheos of Gaza illustrated this spiritual truth by comparing it to a wheel, in which God is the hub and we stand on the rim. We can draw closer to God by journeying up the spokes, but only by also drawing closer to our fellow-man. If we fail to love our neighbor, we cannot love God; and if we do not have the love of God, we cannot love our neighbor. As St. John the Evangelist says, “If someone says, ‘I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?’”

Though the first of the Great Forty Days is Monday, March 14th, Lent actually begins in the evening of the 13th at Forgiveness Vespers. During the service we will chant the first Lenten hymns, and change the coverings in the church from the bright white of Sunday to the purple of Lent...but the name “Forgiveness Vespers” actually comes from a tradition which takes place after the service is finished. Before the faithful are dismissed, they gather at the front of the church and, forming a great circle, one by one we bow and ask forgiveness of every person there, asking “Forgive me” and responding “God forgives us all.” It's a beautiful service, though at times it might feel awkward or embarrassing, moving some to tears and some to embarrassed laughter. But we do it because we need it, because no amount of fasting, tithing, or prostrations will do us any good if we do not have love for each other. Before we can repent, before we can know God and accept His forgiveness, we must forgive each other.

We might ask why we need to ask and grant forgiveness to everyone, especially when we feel like we haven't done anything to each other that would need forgiving. But as Fr. Freeman says, “You don't know what you have or have not done. But it is commonly understood in Orthodoxy that ‘each person is responsible for the sins of the whole world.’ Our lives are deeply connected—we are never uninvolved in the lives of others. What I have done and what I have not done affects the lives of the whole world. I may have had no direct hand, and yet I cannot excuse myself as if I have no share in what happens everywhere. The world is as we make it.”

Continued on back page...

PARISH COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION OF OUR PARISH

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

The Parish Council is looking for parish members to join 3 of our committees. Additionally, we would like a member from all of our organizations to get involved in these committees too. We know there's great talent in our parish. Our goal is a greater involvement by our parish members to provide more ideas, more opportunities and more resources in these 3 areas. If you have the time and are interested in helping please see the council chairs listed below:

- HELEN MORRIS - SPECIAL EVENTS
- DR. ANDY BAZAKIS - CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
- DR. DAVID NICHOLS - STEWARDSHIP

Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule

Mar. 6	Prosforon: Georgia Caris Fellowship: Meatfare Potluck Everyone bring a dish to pass
Mar. 13	Prosforon: Tasia Kokas Fellowship: Cheesefare Luncheon
Mar. 20	Prosforon: Kim Gowenlock Fellowship: Kitty Gavalas & Joni Porchia
Mar. 27	Prosforon: Erin Haenlein Fellowship: AHEPA



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

ALTAR VIGIL CANDLES



- 1/24 - For Anatolej by Tatiana
- 1/24 - In Memory of George & Dorothy Kouvelas by Elaine Kimmerly & Family
- 1/25 - A successful operation for George Georgiou by John Tsiros
- 2/14 - Peace of mind for Marsha Stamas by Jim Stamas

PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

We had a special board meeting the end of January and I truly appreciate the great turnout! A lot of issues were discussed to prepare us for our next general meeting.

At our general meeting, we covered a lot of important topics and resolved several issues. Another great turnout, lots of discussion, many decisions. This great group of women can really get things done! THANK YOU!!

Our church is having a "clean-up day" on February 27th from 9am to 2pm. There will be several of us from Philoptochos there to help clean and organize.

On March 6th, the church will be having a potluck luncheon following church services in recognition of Meatfare Sunday. Please bring a dish to pass and we can all enjoy each other's specialties. This promises to be a day filled with food, friends and fun!

We were saddened by the passing of Pete Veremis, husband of our sister in Christ, Litsa Veremis. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Veremis family. May his memory be eternal.

God's blessings to all...

Virginia Ulmer
President

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL

†Peter John Veremis

Departed Feb. 16, 2016

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
4970 Mackinaw Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

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Permit # 107

Church Office Hours:
9a.m. - 1p.m. Tues. & Thurs.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The wrong date was
posted in last month's
bulletin for the
Greek'tober' Fest.
The correct date is....

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER
1ST!!!**



Father's Message Continued...

We might ask why we need to ask and grant forgiveness to everyone, especially when we feel like we haven't done anything to each other that would need forgiving. But as Fr. Freeman says, "You don't know what you have or have not done. But it is commonly understood in Orthodoxy that 'each person is responsible for the sins of the whole world.' Our lives are deeply connected—we are never uninvolved in the lives of others. What I have done and what I have not done affects the lives of the whole world. I may have had no direct hand, and yet I cannot excuse myself as if I have no share in what happens everywhere. The world is as we make it." So let's begin Lent the right way, indeed, in the only way we can. We must repent...that is what this season is all about, learning to see our own sins and not to judge each other. Let's begin as we hope to end: together, united in love with Christ and His Church.



**GREEK
FESTIVAL
BAKING
SCHEDULE
FOR MARCH**

9A.M. - SUNDAY

March 13 - Cut spinach

9 A.M. - MONDAY

March 14 - Spanakopita

9 A.M. - FRIDAY

March 18 - Baklava

**CHAIR PEOPLE NEED
FOR KATAIFI &
RICE PUDDING**

If interested and available see Kevin Kato
or any Festival committee member.

Saint Demetrios Calendar of Events • March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Meatfare The Martyr Evdokia the Samaritan 1st John 3:9-22 Mark 14:10-42	2 Meatfare Hesychius the Martyr St. Nicholas Planas 1st John 3:21-24; 4:1-11 Mark 14:43-72; 15:1	3 Meatfare The Holy Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus 1 John 4:20-21; 5:1-21 Mark 15:1-15	4 Meatfare Gerasimus the Righteous Daniel, Prince of Moscow 1 John 1:1-13 Mark 15:20,22,25,33-41 Kollyva demonstration (4:00 pm)	5 ✠ ◆ Meatfare First Saturday of Souls Conon the Gardener 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 Luke 21:8-9,25-27,33-36 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Great Vespers (5:00 pm)
6 ✠ Meatfare Sunday Judgement Sunday 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 Matthew 25:31-46 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Meatfare Sunday Potluck	7 Cheesefare 7 Hieromartyrs of Cherson Laurence of Megara 3 John 1:1-15 Luke 19:29-40; 22:7-39	8 Cheesefare Theophylaktos of Nicomedia Hermas of the 70 Jude 1:1-10 Luke 22:39-42, 45-71; 23:1	9 Cheesefare 40 Martyrs at Lake Sebaste Ceasarios the Righteous Hebrews 12:1-10 Matthew 20:1-16	10 Cheesefare Kodratos & Companions Anastasia of Alexandria Jude 1:11-25 Luke 23:1-31,33,44-56	11 ❖ Cheesefare Sophronios of Jerusalem Theodora the Righteous Zechariah 8:7-17 Zechariah 8:19-23 Mt. Pleasant Paraklesis (5:30 pm)	12 ✠ ◆ Cheesefare Second Saturday of Souls Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 Matthew 6:1-13 GOYA Retreat - Southgate Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am)
13 ✠ Cheesefare Forgiveness Sunday Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 Matthew 6:14-21 Orthros (8:50 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Festival - Spinach prep Forgiveness Vespers (5 pm)	14 ◆ Clean Week Benedict the Righteous Isaiah 1:1-20 Genesis 1:1-13 Proverbs 1:1-20 Spanakopita Baking (9 am) Great Compline (6:00 pm)	15 Clean Week Agapius the Martyr Manuel the New Martyr Isaiah 1:19-2:3 Genesis 1:14-23 Proverbs 1:20-33	16 ✠ Clean Week Sabina the Martyr of Egypt Isaiah 2:3-11/Genesis 1:24-2:3 Proverbs 2:1-22 Presanctified Liturgy (5 pm) Lenten meal & discussion (Sunday School/GOYA hosting)	17 Clean Week Alexis the Man of God Patrick of Ireland Isaiah 2:11-21 Genesis 2:4-19 Proverbs 3:1-18	18 ❖ Clean Week Cyril, Pat. of Jerusalem Isaiah 3:1-14 Genesis 2:20-3:20 Proverbs 3:19-34 Festival Baking Day - Baklava (9:00 am) Akathist Hymn (6:00 pm)	19 ✠ ◆ Clean Week Third Saturday of Souls Miracle of the Kollyva 2nd Timothy 2:1-10 Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Great Vespers (5:00 pm)
20 ✠ ☩ Sunday of Orthodoxy Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 John 1:43-51 Orthros (8:50am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am) Procession of Icons Daughters' Meeting	21 ◆ James the Confessor Thomas, Pat. of Const. Isaiah 4:2-5:7 Gen. 3:21-4:7 Proverbs 3:34-4:22 Great Compline (6:00 pm) Parish Council Mtg. (7 pm)	22 Basil of Ancyra Kalliniki & Vassilisa Isaiah 5:7-16 Gen. 4:8-15 Proverbs 5:1-15	23 ✠ Nikon & Companions Isaiah 5:16-25/Genesis 4:16-26 Proverbs 5:15-6:3 Presanctified Liturgy (5 pm) Lenten meal & discussion (Philoptochos hosting)	24 Forefeast of Annunciation Tikhon of Moscow Isaiah 6:1-12 Gen. 5:1-24 Proverbs 6:3-20	25 ✠ ⇐⇐ Annunciation Hebrews 2:11-18 Luke 1:24-38 Orthros (9:00 am) Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) Great Vespers/Salutations (6:00 pm)	26 ◆ Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel 26 Martyrs in Crimea Hebrews 2:2-10 Luke 10:16-21 Great Vespers (5:00pm)
27 ✠ ☩ Sunday of Gregory Palamas Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 Mark 2:1-12 Orthros (8:50am) Divine Liturgy (10:00am) AHEPA Luncheon	28 ◆ Hilarion the New Herodion of the 70 Isaiah 8:13-9:7 Genesis 6:9-22 Proverbs 8:1-21 Great Compline (6:00 pm)	29 Mark of Arethusa Martyr Cyril the Deacon Isaiah 9:9-10:4 Genesis 7:1-5 Proverbs 8:32-9:11	30 ✠ St. John Climacus Isaiah 10:12-20 Genesis 7:6-9 Proverbs 9:12-18 Presanctified Liturgy (5 pm) Lenten meal & discussion (Parish Council hosting)	31 Holy Hieromartyr Hypatius Innocent of Alaska Isaiah 11:10-12:2 Genesis 7:11-8:3 Proverbs 10:1-22		

• Shaded days denote a fast day. ✠ denotes a Liturgy ◆ Great Vespers/Compline ❖ Akathist/Paraklesis ✠ Presanctified Liturgy ⇐⇐ fish/wine/oil allowed ☩ wine/oil allowed