

# **St. Demetrios**

## **Greek Orthodox Church**

4970 Mackinaw Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603

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& Thurs. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fax 989-793-8896

Hellenic Center Catering Dept. 989-793-8659

Hellenic Center Direct Line 989-793-8886

### **Parish Priest**

Fr. Timothy Cook (517) 515-9565

### **Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit**

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

### **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios

### **Under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the**

### **Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople**

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew I

### **2017/2018 Parish Council**

**President** - Eftihios Siradakis (2017)

**Vice Pres.** - Dr. David Nichols (2018)

**Treasurer** - Dennis Ostler (2018)

**Secretary** - Marge Paron (2017)

Dr. Thomas Barris (2017)

Dr. Andrew Bazakis (2017)

Micah Chisholm (2018)

Vicki Clifford (2018)

Soula Economou (2017)

Joanie Porchia (2017)

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez (2018)

James Stamas (2018)

### **Parish Ministries & Organizations**

#### **Altar Boy Advisor**

Dr. George Zubulake

#### **Chanters**

Andreas Skoutelas

Dr. Andy Bazakis

Andrew Thomas, Erin Haenlein

#### **Choir**

**Director** - Toula Brown

#### **Philoptochos President**

Virginia Ulmer

#### **Sunday School Director**

Tena Mendyk

#### **Greek School Director**

Elan Nichols

#### **AHEPA President**

George Zaharopoulos

#### **Daughters of Penelope President**

Vicki Clifford

#### **GOYA Advisors**

Dr. Andrew Bazakis

Dr. Bessie Bone

#### **Dance Group Directors**

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

Ashley Dietzel, Kellie Malacos

#### **Diakonia Editor**

Megan Sarantis-Rodriguez

# DIAKONIA

SEPTEMBER 2017



## **The Transforming Power of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross**

By: Fr. Timothy Cook

Can you imagine wearing, or even seeing someone wearing, an image or a model of a guillotine around their neck? Or someone wearing a medallion with an image of the electric chair? These are symbols of death, and not just death, but a shameful, painful death – a death fit only for criminals. It would be beyond bizarre to find a group of people who used one of these things as their symbol, as their banner, that which represented everything they stood for. And yet, this is exactly what Christ and His Church have done with the Cross. The Cross was an instrument of torture, a grisly and excruciatingly painful way to execute traitors and criminals. To say the least, it would seem odd for this gruesome tool to become the symbol of Christianity, since what we preach is life, love, peace, and hope – all things that the Cross was originally designed to stamp out and destroy.

But this is what Christ does – He transforms things that are broken and makes them whole, even things that are dead and fills them with life. The Cross itself is now a symbol of hope because Christ has made it a gateway to life and hope, instead of an instrument of shame and death. He does not destroy the Cross, nor does He remove our suffering – He transforms it. Through the Cross, Christ humbles Himself even to the point of joining us in our suffering and death, so that we meet Him in our suffering, and even in death cannot be separated from Him.

St. Paul says in his letter to the Romans, “if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be united in the likeness of His Resurrection.” (Romans 6:5) Christ Himself said, “Whoever wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24) This is why we wear the Cross, why we celebrate and venerate the Cross – because the Cross has become a symbol and the pathway to the Resurrection. It is our banner of victory, our symbol of hope, and the healer of all our wounds.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Lifting Up of the Precious Cross by once again lifting it up for all to see, and for all to venerate. But what we see now, and what we venerate, is not a symbol of death and pain, but of the love and mercy of God Who transforms even pain and death into repentance and life, and who, through the Cross, transforms us from sinners into Saints. Καλό Μήνα! Blessed month!



# PARISH COUNCIL

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## VISION OF OUR PARISH

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



## *Prosforon & Fellowship Schedule*

- Sept. 3 Prosforon: Kathleen Gavalas  
Fellowship: Kathleen Zacharko & Marge Paron
- Sept. 10 Prosforon: Liliane Bakos  
Fellowship: Labor Day Potluck
- Sept. 17 Prosforon: Angela Barris  
Fellowship: Tom & Joan Billingsley
- Sept. 24 Prosforon: Taylor Blohm  
Fellowship: Drs. Kevin & Bessie Bone

*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



- 7/22 - In Memory of Edward Figueroa, departed 6 months. For his birthday July 22 by Gabriella Economous (Daughter-In-Law).
- 7/23 - For Anatoliy Amamorlici, Happy Birthday on 7/26, by Tatiana Tambsima.
- 7/30 - Better Health for Tony Koutras by Pete and Sandi Ahejew.
- 7/31 - Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by Sophia & Johnathan Bernhart.
- 7/31 - Better Health for Antoni Koutras by Sophia & Johnathan Bernhart.
- 8/6 - Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by George Athanasioulis
- 8/6 - For Austin Nichols, for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, by Eddie & Gabriella Economous
- 8/6 - Better Health for Eddie Economous by Gabriella Economous
- 8/7 - Better Health & Families & Relatives, for Giorgios Stavros, by David & Elan Nichols
- 8/13 - Better Health for Theresa Hitchens by Marge Paron & Family
- 8/13 - Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by Stella Korbakis
- 8/20 - Better Health for Helen Nikolakakos by Gerald & Litsa Hoefling

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism** - May 28<sup>th</sup> – Haines (Loukas) Grissom, godmother was Julia Povich

**Chrismation** - June 26<sup>th</sup> Ryan Fehn was chrismated. Godmother is Mariam Haddad.

### Funerals

Eva Mourtzouhos – August 4<sup>th</sup>

Angelo Ellis – August 10<sup>th</sup>

### Memorials

July 9<sup>th</sup> – Maria Paron (40 days)

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Maria Eliades (40 days)

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mary Sefferly (40 days)

August 20<sup>th</sup> – Tula Sharrard (1 year)

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

There will be a short meeting, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to introduce the new officers and our new members. We will also review our yearly timeline of activities.



**Daughter's  
Of  
Penelope**

We hope everyone had a safe and happy summer! This month's meeting will be on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> after church services. We will be discussing plans for our fundraiser "GYRO & BAKLAVA SALE" to be held in October.

This is also a great opportunity to join the Daughter's! If you'd like to be a part of a fun group of ladies, that help those in need and the disadvantaged in our local community, come to the meeting! We'd love to have you join us!



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**To our Collegiate Scholarship  
Recipient**

**Alexander Sarantis** - Currently a junior at Beloit College, in Wisconsin, was awarded the Katina John Malta Scholarship from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in NY.



Sunday School starts Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Fill out one form for each child and turn into the church office.

# Community picnic

✦ Blessing of the Backpacks!

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
After Church Services



We're providing the main dish & beverages.

Bring a dish to pass.

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## 2017-18

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_