

# Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

1400 N. O'Plaine Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 - Tel (224) 513-5530

[www.saintdemetrioslibertyville.com](http://www.saintdemetrioslibertyville.com)

## The Arena

December - 2019

**CLERGY:** Fr. Cosmas Halekakis  
Fr. John Sardis (Retired)

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** 9:00am Matins  
10:00am Liturgy

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**OFFICE MANAGER:**  
Presvytera Michelle Halekakis

**CHANTER:** Yanni Halekakis

**ALTAR BOYS:** Michael Halekakis  
Gregory Halekakis

**PARISH COUNCIL:**  
Jim Karagiannes, President

**STEWARDSHIP:**  
Gus Tziavaras

**MAINTENANCE:**  
Jim Karagiannes

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**  
Maria Earth

**GREEK SCHOOL:**  
Tina Inman

**FAMILY MINISTRY:**  
Allena Barbato  
Tina Cantore

**GOYA :**  
Demetra Giannakakis

**PHILOTOCHOS :**  
Nancy Paganis

**AHEPA:**  
Petros Macheras

**BOOKSTORE:**  
Dr. Mary Nunchuck

**ATHLETICS:**  
Tom Earth

**YOUNG AT HEART:**  
Fr. John Sardis

### *We Need More Bees!*

Every day, as we “go green” and endeavor to be better stewards of God’s creation, we hear that certain plants or animals are dying off in records numbers. A few years back, it was announced that the number of honeybees was declining faster than ever. Without bees and pollination our whole ecosystem is at risk. We were told we need more bees! Ironically, the same applies to our Church!

Far too often our parishioners and families see fit to make negative comments on everything that is wrong with our Church. The Parish Council isn’t administrating properly. The organizations and ministries aren’t doing enough. Don’t even get me started on all the things that the priest is doing wrong!

Perhaps we should consider the words of Saint Paisios:

*Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say, “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.” And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.*

*Now, if you ask a honeybee, “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply, “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow. You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.*

*As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see...the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.*

Indeed, we need more honeybees in our Church! There will always be the temptation to see the bad and the negative in people and in situations. The challenge for us in the Church, is to stay positive and full of God’s joy. The saints experience difficult and tragic lives, but they are always filled with joy. They are never negative. The next time a “fly” approaches you with the latest gossip, scandal and complaint about our parish, be the bee! Respond with positivity, love and seek to spread Christ’s grace and joy!

- Fr. Cosmas

# Parish Announcements

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> during coffee hour. Our kids will sing carols and perform a brief play, please plan on attending! Our Sunday School program takes place after Holy Communion. Kids and teachers should receive Communion first, to allow more class time. If you would like to help, or if you have any questions about our program, please contact Maria Earth at [earthmg1@yahoo.com](mailto:earthmg1@yahoo.com).

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Our Women's Group with Presvytera Michelle will be continuing on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7pm. Please RSVP to the Church office if you plan on attending.

## GOYA

The Goya and Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 8th following coffee hour. We will have lunch, play games and sing Christmas Carols. Please RSVP by calling the Church office.

## YOUNG AT HEART

Don't forget our Young at Heart Lunches every third Tuesday of the month!...next lunch on Dec. 17. Doors open at 11am, lunch at noon. For all those 55 and older...Please join us for lunch and fellowship!

## OPEN GYM NIGHT

We will be continuing our open gym night every Thursday from 6:30pm – 9:30pm at the River Trail School 333 O'Plaine Road in Gurnee. We'll be playing basketball, volleyball and lots of other sports! Gym hours will be: 6:30 – 7:30 (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade), 7:30 – 8:30 (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade), 8:30 – 9:30 (High School and young adults). Please join us – everyone is welcome! For more information please contact Fr. John.

## GREEK SCHOOL

Our Greek School program takes place every Thursday, from 5pm to 7pm at our Church. Our kids are learning to read and write, and carry on conversations in Greek! For more info please contact Tina Inman at [tzi8462@gmail.com](mailto:tzi8462@gmail.com).

## FOOD DRIVE

We will be collecting nonperishable food items for the KOOL Food Pantry in Waukegan. We will be collecting through the end of the year. Please donate!

## CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

We're completing our annual Christmas Toy Drive! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to purchase a toy for children in need. Please make sure to bring the gifts with the ornament attached, back to Church by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CHRISTMAS CARD

We will be having our Annual Community Christmas Card again this year...you can sign up during Coffee Hour. Please call the Church office for more info and sign up today!

## VISIT FROM THE MAYOR!

The Honorable Sam Cumingham, the Mayor of Waukegan, will be visiting us on Sunday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> during coffee hour to present our parish with an official proclamation from the City of Waukegan recognizing our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Please plan on being with us!

## AHEPA

AHEPA scholarship applications are currently available on our website...Please apply! Coming Events: on Jan. 5 – Laser Tag Fundraiser at Battle House Chicago in Lake Barrington. On Jan. 12 - Pancake Breakfast after services at Church. Please visit us at [AHEPA218.ORG](http://AHEPA218.ORG) or email us at [LITTLEFORT@AHEPA218.ORG](mailto:LITTLEFORT@AHEPA218.ORG) regarding any of our charitable activities, fund raising events, social activities, or scholarships.

## BOOKSTORE

Don't forget our Bookstore for great Christmas gifts! Our Bookstore will be open on Sunday, Dec. 22 and on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> after morning services for last minutes gifts. Specialty orders must be placed by Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> to allow enough time for shipping. Please stop by our Bookstore on Sundays!

## METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Our Metropolis is having it's annual Christmas Open House at the National Hellenic Museum on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 7pm. Light appetizers and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome!

## YOUTH SAFETY

We are almost fully compliant with the new Youth Safety policies of the Archdiocese! Anyone working with our youth is trained and screened for safety.

# *Philoptochos – Ladies Charitable Society*



Our Philoptochos is the philanthropic arm of our parish, helping needy families in Lake County and beyond. If you haven't had a chance to join Philoptochos this year, please join us. Our Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Demetrios welcomes all ladies of our community to join us in continuing the charitable work. Our chapter is composed of a vibrant group of women of all ages coming together in sisterhood to accomplish our mission of helping those in need.

Philoptochos has had a busy fall beginning with our kick-off meeting/dinner; our Fall Food Fest; and we attended the national Children's Medical Fund Luncheon. As we look ahead, please mark your calendar for the Philoptochos Christmas Dinner – December 5th at 6:30pm at Liberty Restaurant. We encourage EVERY woman at St. Demetrios to join us in our efforts. For more information, please contact us by phone: Nancy Paganis, 847-505-4489.



## *Philoptochos Christmas Dinner*

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30p.m.

Liberty Restaurant

Please call Nancy Paganis to RSVP

At (847) 505-4489



# Thank You to our 2019 Stewards!

Fr. Cosmas & Pres. Michelle Halekakis	Frangos, George & Maria Galatsianos, Dinos & Maria Galatsianos, Theodore & Denise Gallos, Dena Garvanian, Adam Gaulin, David & Denise Georgas, Maria Georgatsos, Demetri & Cathie Georgouses, Gina Giannakakis, Bill Giannakakis, Demetra Gountanis, Beatrice Gountanis, George & Diana Gramatis, Chris Haggerty, Mr. & Mrs. David Halekakis, Michael Halekakis, Yanni Haramis, George Haritos, James & Denise Hatzis, Emmanuel & Flora Hill, Brian Hill, David & Tessie Hoobler, Jeff Hristoforatos, Paul & Maria Iliadis, Spyridon & Christina Inman, Jeremy & Tina Iskalis, John & Dana Iskalis, Tom & Doris Jelatis-Hoke, Gordy & Connie Kacos, Dean & Catherine Kalegina, Olga Kalkanis, Bessie Kalkanis, Patty Kalkanis, Tim & Voula Kalkanis-Mihos, Daniel & Georgia Kallianis, Dino & Elaine Kallieris, Spiros & Theodora Kanne, Ed & Koula Kapsalis, Spyros & Stela Karabatsos, Kostandinos & Notah Karagiannes, Betty Karagiannes, James and Niki Karagiannes, Louis Karas, George & Karen Kardoush, Bassem Karigan, Alexis Karigan, Andrew & Elaina Karigan, Theresa Karigiannis, Fofi Katres, Mary Katris, Christos & Nicoletta Katris, Elaine Katris, Konstandinos & Christine Keating, Roman Keeling, Jason & Irene Kobus, Margie Kokinis, William & Demetra Kokinis Jr., William Korellis, Thomas & Tonia Kotsiovos, Gus & Maria Koulogeorge, George Koulogeorge, John & Anastasia Kourliouros, Athanassios Kournetas, Chris & Donna Kournetas, John & Vicky Kouvaras, Ewan & Vasiliki Kouvelis, Michael & Christine	Krissek, Thomas & Donna Kritikos, Emmanuel & Bessie Lannan, Michael & Mary Lelo, Allen & Cecelia Leoris, Jim & Kathy Leventis, Dino & Marie Liarakos, Spiro & Fotini Logothetis, Demetrios & Marianthe Loucas, Eugenia Lundy, Arthur & Maria Macheras, Petros & Demetra Maggos, Renee Magnuson, Nathan Marhefka, Keith & Jennifer Marinakos, Billy & Vikki Markoutsas, Dennis & Connie Markoutsis, Nick Markoutsis, Stanley & Flora Mauer, Timothy & Ellen Mentzelopoulos, Anastasia Mentzelopoulos, Demetri & Stella Merelos, Jenny Merilos, Martha Mitchell, Cliff & Sophia Mitropoulos, Elias A. Moberg, Bret & Zacho Nakis, Ellen Nakis, Francis Nastos, Bertha Nastos, Nicholas Nikitas, Nicholas & Maria Nikolaou, Peter & Triantafylli Oliveri, Danilo & Helen Opal, Robery & Maria Paganis, George & Nancy Palmer, Richard & Christine Pann, John & Peggy Panos, William Pantelopoulos, George & Yiota Pantelopoulos, John & Kathy Papadakis, Patricia & Maria Papadakis, Stavros & Lilibeth Papagiannes-George, George & Elaine Pasinski, Cathy Patterson, Christianna Patterson, Theofane Patterson, William Pavlatos, Michael Pavlos, John & Ida Pavlos, Melissa Perizes, George & Karen Petropoulos, Beverly Petropoulos, Peter & Voula Petropoulos, Tess Phillips, Dick & Nikki Phillips, James & Ruby Phillips, Steven Pipinis, Therapon & Luvy Pissios, Milton & Helen Polydoros, Spyros & Betty Pomrening, Norm & Anthoula Popp, Beth Poulos, James & Anna Poulos, John & Jamelyn Psihos, Helen	Pylarinos, Nikolaos & Sonia Ramirez-Mantzoukis, Juan & Sofia Rendulic, Ivan & Sarah Rodis, Olga Roiniotis, Georgette Roiniotis, John Roupas, Demetrios & Sophia Roupas, Konstantinos & Peggy Sakas, George & Maria Salafatinos, John Salazar, Daniel & Maria Saunders, Donald & Stavroula Scheef-Nunchuck, Donald & Mary Scheve, Carol Serelis, Nicholas & Elizabeth Simopoulos, George & Jean Skaramagos, Bessie Sloth, Tim & Soula Snavely, Irene Sokorelis, Kostas & Antonia Souleles, Chrisovalantis & Heather Stamayannos, Areti Stavrou, Dimitri & Hara Stergiou, Demetre & Konstantina Stergiou, Eleni Stergiou, John & Zenona Stergiou, Sophia Stianos, Nick & Patty Strzyzewski, Michael & Frieda Tabrizi, Dominic & Maria Tasiopoulos, John & Connie Tombras, Peter Trage, Ed & Helen Tsakos, Dimitrios & Aphrodit Tsarouhtsis, Dimitrios Tsarouhtsis, Theodora Tsausis, Ethel Tsiampas, Peter & Sofia Tsitiridis, Greg Tsouloufis, Gus & Diane Tzavaras, Angelo & Popi Tziavaras, Constantine & Nikoletta Unwala, Maria Vastistas, Demetrios & Jaclyn Vastistas, Georgia Vervilos, George & Monica Vervilos, Maria Vlahakis, Demetri Vlahakis, Dino & Sofia Vlahos, Gus & Georgia Vlahos, Spyros & Maria Wade, Chrisavgi Wojcik, Demetra Woosley, Eva Xanthopoulos, John & Virginia Xenos, Gust & Marge Yonke, Peter & Georgann Zanze, Robert & Irini Zouras, John & Nectaria Zygokostas, John & Effie
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260 Steward Families  
\$350,000 total pledged  
\$1,350 average per family

# December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p><b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Saint Luke</b>                      9am Orthros                      10am Liturgy                      Council Elections                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>5pm Greek School                      6:30pm Open Gym                      6:30pm Philopt.                      Christmas Party                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>9am Services                      St. Nicholas                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p><b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Saint Luke</b>                      9am Orthros                      10am Liturgy                      GOYA &amp; Seniors Luncheon                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>7pm Parish Council                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>9am Services                      St. Spyridon                      5pm Greek School                      6:30pm Open Gym                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p><b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Saint Luke</b>                      9am Orthros                      10am Liturgy                      Metro. Open House                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>11am Young at Heart                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>5pm Greek School                      6:30pm Open Gym                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p><b>Sunday Before The Nativity</b>                      9am Orthros                      10am Liturgy                      Christmas Program                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>9am Services                      Eve of the Holy Nativity                      FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>9am Services                      Holy Nativity                      Merry Christmas!</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>FAST FREE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p><b>Sunday After The Nativity</b>                      9am Orthros                      10am Liturgy</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>FAST DAY</p>				

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GOYA & Seniors

**CHRISTMAS**  
 **PARTY**



Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
After Coffee Hour in the Church Hall

We'll have lunch, play games, sing Christmas Carols & More!  
Please call the Church Office to RSVP