

# 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

### February - 2019

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** 9:30am Matins  
10:00am Liturgy

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-1p.m.

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Jackie Vatisas

**CHANTER:** Yanni Halekakis

**ALTAR BOYS:** Louis Karagiannes  
Michael Halekakis

**PARISH COUNCIL:**  
Jim Karagiannes, President

**STEWARDSHIP:**  
Gus Tziavaras

**MAINTENANCE:**  
Jim Karagiannes

**CHURCH REPAIRS:**  
John Zouras

**EVANGELISM:**  
Daniel Alvarez

**CHARITABLE GIVING :**  
Nancy Paganis

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**  
Maria Earth

**GREEK SCHOOL:**  
Jackie Vatisas

**YOUTH NIGHT:**  
Rae Anne Alvarez / Nectaria Zouras

**GOYA :**  
Demetra Utter / Jennifer Stianos

**PHILOTOCHOS :**  
Niki Tziavaras

**AHEPA:**  
Petros Macheras

**BOOKSTORE:**  
Dr. Mary Nunchuck

**COUPLES GROUP:**  
Allena Barbato

**ATHLETICS:**  
Petros Macheras

### Getting Ready for Great Lent

In Her wisdom, the Orthodox Church, does not allow us to abruptly enter the fast of Great and Holy Lent. Great Lent is, at the same time, both a journey and a battle. It is the journey of every Christian toward the Resurrection of our Lord, and it is also the "good fight" that every one of us wages against sin and temptation. Since journeys and battles require preparation to be successful, our Church calendar allows us several weeks to gird ourselves for battle, and pack necessary provisions for our spiritual excursion toward Golgotha. The weeks of preparation, with their corresponding themes, are as follows:

The first Sunday of preparation is that of The Publican and The Pharisee. The major theme for this Sunday, and consequently for this week, is that of humility. In *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* Saint John Climacus describes humility in this fashion: "Humility is constant forgetfulness of one's achievements. It is the admission that in all the world one is the least important and is also the greatest sinner. It is the mind's awareness that one is weak and helpless. Just as birds fear the sight of a hawk, those who practice humility fear the sound of an argument. A man truly humble within himself will never find his tongue betraying him. What is not in the treasury cannot be brought out through the door."

The second Sunday of preparation for Great Lent is The Prodigal Son. The major theme for this Sunday is that of repentance and confession. In *The Spiritual Life* Saint Theophan the Recluse discusses the importance of repentance and confession: "Why, then, do you write that you are afraid to go to confession? Many people have such a fear, but why you? Allow me to clear up the matter for you. The (father) confessor is merely the witness, the Lord accepts the sins. It is He who commands the confessor to give absolution to the person who confesses. It is the Lord who is merciful. He is just waiting for a person to confess his sins, and as soon as he does, He immediately forgives him. What is there to fear from such a Lord? Go to the Lord calmly, but with a contrite heart; go as the prodigal son went to his father in the parable. The father of the returning son did not rebuke him or scold him; rather, he reached out to embrace and kiss him. The same thing is waiting for you. The arms of the Lord are already reaching out toward you."

The third Sunday of preparation for Great Lent is Judgment Sunday (also Meatfare Sunday). The major theme of this Sunday is that of almsgiving or charity. Saint John Chrysostom reflects on "almsgiving" or giving to the poor when he states: "Do you see that the failure to give alms is enough to cast a person into hell-fire? For where will he avail who does not give alms? Do you fast every day? So also did those foolish virgins, but it availed them nothing. Do you pray? So did they. What of it? Prayer without almsgiving is unfruitful." Saint Basil also speaks of almsgiving when he writes: "He who takes another's clothing is called a thief, but he who fails to clothe the naked, if he could, deserves the very same name. The grain in your barns belongs to the hungry. The coat in your closet belongs to the naked. The shoes rotting in your basement belong to the barefoot. The silver hidden in boxes belongs to the needy. You sin against all those whom you are able to help, but fail to do so."

The last Sunday of preparation before Great and Holy Lent is the Sunday of Forgiveness (also Cheesefare Sunday). The theme of this day is, of course, forgiveness. Before we enter the Lenten Fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. *A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons.* We do not travel the road of Great Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from each other, but draw us even closer together.

- Fr. Cosmas

# Parish Announcements

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School received a very generous donation last year that was used to purchase iPads. Our Jr High students have begun using the iPads to research topics and explore Orthodox apps. We are planning on using the iPads in all grade levels as the year goes on. We are very excited about this new part of our ministry! Looking ahead, March 17th is Sunday of Orthodoxy and the icon procession. Please send your child to Sunday school with an icon that Sunday.

## AHEPA

We are accepting scholarship applications. Be sure to apply for AHEPA Chapter 218, District 13, and National. Join our chapter as we host our Superbowl party at the Church Hall on Sunday February 3. Coming Soon: AHEPA District 13 will be screening "Greece Year Zero", a historical documentary of the last 100 years of Greek history with a guest speaker. Further details to come. 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 fund raising, social activities, or scholarships.

## BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Western Region Family Basketball Tournament will be hosted by Annunciation Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin the weekend of February 8, 2019. We are hoping to have men's, boys girls and co-ed (7-12 yrs) teams this year. Players are responsible for registering and purchasing a weekend meal package. More information about the tournament can be found at [greekball.org](http://greekball.org). If you are interested in playing on either of these teams please contact Maria Earth ([earthmg1@yahoo.com](mailto:earthmg1@yahoo.com)) or Tom Earth ([tearth23@yahoo.com](mailto:tearth23@yahoo.com)) by December 15th.

## ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Our parish Oratorical Festival will take place on March 17th after church. Our 7th-12th graders are encouraged to write a speech, write an essay or sing a vocal solo. The winner in these categories will receive a gift card and move forward to the Metropolis level. Our 3rd - 6th graders are asked to write 30-90 second speeches about a topic of their choice. Please see the website below for more information or contact Maria Earth. <https://www.goarch.org/-/st-john-chrysostom-oratorical-festival>

## YOUNG AT HEART

Don't forget our Young at Heart Lunches every third Tuesday of the month!...next lunch on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 11am, lunch at noon. For all those 55 and older...Please join us for lunch and fellowship!

## BOOKSTORE

We are honored to have author, Paula Renee Burzawa, visit us on Sunday, February 17. She has written three books about her travels to Greece. Of note is Tasso's Journey which tells of her Papou's time in the Greek Army during World War II, his capture by the Nazis as well as the invasion of their village. It continues with the telling of his experience during the Greek Civil war which followed. Another is Eternal Stones and Other Memories of Greece which is a series of short writings of true life experiences of Greece. Mrs. Burzawa is a Greek American and a life long member of the Greek Orthodox Church. She, her husband and two children reside in the Chicago suburbs. Please join us for some short readings as well as for her book signing during coffee hour on that day.

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# How to Read the Bible



Presented by Gordy Jelatis Hoke, M.Div. (847) 986-6076, [ghoke@mindspring.com](mailto:ghoke@mindspring.com)

**Wednesday, February 27, 7:00–8:30 p.m. at St. Demetrios**

The Bible is not like any other book. We don't start at Page One and read to the end. It has many writers from many times. It can seem cryptic and overwhelming. But on the plus side, Scripture can instruct and inspire us. It is a pillar of the Church that points to a Christian life and eternal rewards. This one-night presentation seeks to make the Bible more readable, understandable, and rewarding. It offers practical suggestions for finding clarity and meaning in Scripture. It touches on Bible history and organization. It considers the different writers, their motivations, and their audiences. The presentation will be brief and light, with an opportunity for questions. Attendees will leave more inclined to make Bible reading a regular part of their lives, not out of obligation, but from a joyful thirst for the Word of God. (Snow date: March 6)

# **SUPERBOWL PARTY!!!**



**Sunday February 3rd, Little Fort will be hosting a Superbowl viewing party at the St. Demetrios Church hall. Great views of the game in HD on a 100-inch projector screen. Come out and enjoy the game in a family friendly environment. Giordano's Pizza, wings, and soda are included in the event entry fee.**

**Event Fee: \$25\* (Kids 12 and under = Free)**

**Event Begins at 4:30PM**

**RSVP: [LITTLEFORT@AHEPA218.org](mailto:LITTLEFORT@AHEPA218.org)**

**\*All profits to be donated to St. Demetrios Church**

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

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*Ladies Charitable Society – Philoptochos*

# **Makaronada Luncheon**



***Sunday, March 3rd, 2019***  
***Following Services in the Church Hall***

Come and join us for our annual Makaronada  
Luncheon in celebration of Meatfare!

Menu features Slow-cooked Beef with Greek Noodles!

Reservations can be made on Sundays during Coffee Hour

Donation: Adults \$15 and Children \$10



# Thank You to our 2019 Stewards!\*

Fr. Cosmas & Pres. Michelle Halekakis  
 Adamopoulos, Eleftherios & Joanne  
 Alvarez, Daniel & Rae Anne  
 Androus, John  
 Androus, Pete & Lisa  
 Androutopoulos, Antonia  
 Anest, Bill  
 Anest, Peter and Thalia  
 Attiah, Catherine  
 Camacariss, Julie  
 Camacariss, Sandra  
 Carreon, Michael & Sophia  
 Chalifoux, Ken & Jennie  
 Christofidis, Rosalie  
 Conopeotis, George & Donna  
 Costopoulos, Steven & Brenda  
 Couvall, Loverne  
 Csahiouini, Anastasia  
 Damron, Chloa  
 Danos, Basil & Maria  
 Danos, Panayotis & Elizabeth  
 DeMoon, Anthony & Cathie  
 Dinatale, Paraskevi  
 Dowman, Jim & Dina  
 Earth, Tom & Maria  
 Ebarle, Liberato & Betty  
 Ebarle, Megan  
 Fardelos, Demitri & Pam  
 Flatray, Margaret  
 Galatsianos, Theodore & Denise  
 Gaulin, David & Denise  
 Georgas, Maria  
 Georgatsos, Demetri & Cathie  
 Giannakoudis, Dimitrios & Katarzyna  
 Halekakis, Michael  
 Halekakis, Yanni  
 Hatzis, Emmanuel & Flora  
 Hill, Brian  
 Hoobler, Jeff  
 Inman, Jeremy & Tina  
 Iskalis, John & Dana

Iskalis, Tom & Doris  
 Jelatis-Hoke, Gordy & Connie  
 Kalegina, Olga  
 Kanne, Ed & Koula  
 Kapsalis, Spyros & Stela  
 Karagiannes, Betty  
 Karagiannes, James and Niki  
 Karagiannes, Louis  
 Karigiannis, Fofi  
 Katres, Mary  
 Katris, Christos & Nicoletta  
 Keating, Roman  
 Keeling, Jason & Irene  
 Korellis, Thomas & Tonia  
 Koulogeorge, George  
 Koulogeorge, John & Anastasia  
 Kournetas, Chris & Donna  
 Kournetas, John & Vicky  
 Kouvaras, Evan & Vasiliki  
 Kouvelis, Michael & Christine  
 Krissek, Thomas & Donna  
 Lannan, Michael & Mary  
 Lelo, Allen & Cecelia  
 Leventis, Dino & Marie  
 Magnuson, Nathan  
 Marhefka, Keith & Jennifer  
 Marinakos, Billy & Vikki  
 Mauer, Timothy & Ellen  
 Merelos, Jenny  
 Mitropoulos, Elias A.  
 Nikitas, Nicholas & Maria  
 Nikolaou, Peter & Triantafylli  
 Paganis, George & Nancy  
 Palmer, Richard & Christine  
 Pantelopoulos, John & Kathy  
 Papadakis, Stavros & Lilibeth  
 Pasinski, Cathy  
 Patterson, Theofane  
 Pavlos, John & Ida  
 Pavlos, Melissa  
 Perizes, George & Karen

Petropoulos, Peter & Voula  
 Petropoulos, Tess  
 Phillips, Dick & Nikki  
 Phillips, James & Ruby  
 Phillips, Steven  
 Pissios, Milton & Helen  
 Polydoros, Spyros & Betty  
 Pylarinos, Nikolaos & Sonia  
 Ramirez-Mantzoukis, Juan & Sofia  
 Rodis, Olga  
 Sakas, George & Maria  
 Salazar, Daniel & Maria  
 Saunders, Donald & Stavroula  
 Scheef, Donald & Nunchuck, Mary  
 Simopoulos, George & Jean  
 Snavely, Irene  
 Sokorelis, Kostas & Antonia  
 Stamayannos, Areti  
 Stergiou, Demetre & Konstantina  
 Stergiou, Eleni  
 Stergiou, John & Zenona  
 Stergiou, Sophia  
 Stianos, Nick & Patty  
 Strzyzewski, Michael & Frieda  
 Tsakos, Dimitrios & Aphrodit  
 Tsarouhtsis, Dimitrios  
 Tsarouhtsis, Theodora  
 Tsausis, Ethel  
 Tzavaras, Angelo & Popi  
 Tziavaras, Constantine & Nikoletta  
 Utter Family  
 Vatistas, Demetrios & Jaclyn  
 Vervilos, George & Monica  
 Vlahakis, Demetri  
 Vlahakis, Dino & Sofia  
 Wade, Chrisavgi  
 Woosley, Eva  
 Xanthopoulos, John & Virginia  
 Zanze, Robert & Irini  
 Zouras, John & Nectaria

\*As of January 29, 2019

122 families pledged for a total of \$189,400

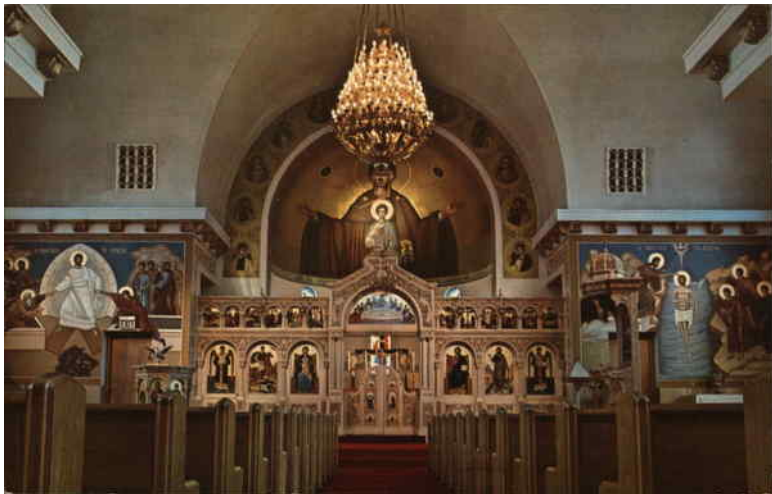
Average pledge of \$1,552 per family

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND  
PLEASE PLEDGE TODAY!**

# SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Celebrating 90 Years of*

W<sup>o</sup>RSHIP \* MINISTRY \* CH<sup>a</sup>RITY



We are celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary this year!  
Please save the date for our  
**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Dinner Dance**  
which will take place on  
**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**  
at **Concorde Banquets!**

## From the Parish Council

### PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS:

**Church Repairs** – The Council is working with the Church Repairs Committee during the winter and early Spring to ensure that adequate bids and research is done so that repairs on the roof, sealant, insulation, and exterior walkway ceilings can begin as soon as the weather permits.

**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Council is working with the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee to plan our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Concorde Banquets on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We are also exploring the possibilities of a new Parish Directory, Commemorative Album/Video, and other special events.

**Stewardship** – We are working with the Stewardship Committee to help our stewards increase their pledges to at least \$200 per month using our new Autopay software on our website. Please pledge today!

**Spring Fest** – The Spring Fest Committee is already planning our Spring Fest for May 3, 4, & 5; we are looking forward to another successful event to raise awareness of, and funds for, our Church and community.

**Greek Fest** – The Greek Fest Committee is meeting this month and has already been working very hard to ensure that this year's Lake County Greek Fest is a huge success; our Fest will take place on July 12, 13, & 14!

# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					FAST DAY	
3 <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Saint Matthew</b> 9:30am Services 4:30pm Super Bowl Party	4	5	6	7	8	9
			7pm Women's Group	5pm Greek School 7pm Philoptochos		
			FAST DAY		FAST DAY	
10 <b>Sunday of the Canaanite</b> 9:30am Services	11	12	13	14	15	16
				5pm Greek School		
			FAST DAY		FAST DAY	
17 <b>Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee</b> 9:30am Services Loukoumades	18	19	20	21	22	23
		11am Young at Heart Lunch	7pm Parish Council	5pm Greek School		
			FAST FREE		FAST FREE	
24 <b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b> 9:30am Services	25	26	27	28		
			7pm How to Read the Bible	5pm Greek School		
			FAST DAY			

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**Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church**

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**Return Service Requested**

*PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!*

**SPRING FEST**

**MAY 3, 4, & 5!**

*Lake County* **GREEK FEST**

**July 12, 13, & 14!**