

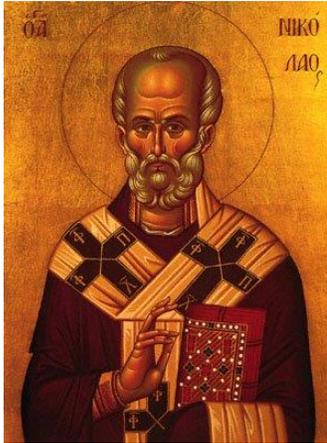


## ST. DEMETRIOS NEWSLETTER

### ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH Warren, Ohio

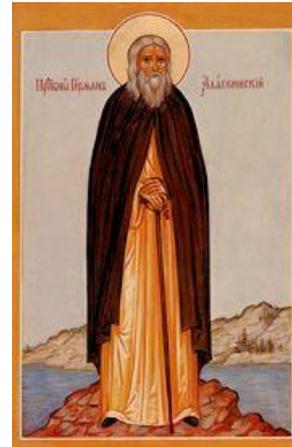
VOL. 2020-12 DECEMBER

#### Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra-December 6



Saint Nicholas lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

#### Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska & First Saint of America-December 13



Saint Herman was born near Moscow in 1756. In his youth he became a monk, first at the Saint Sergius Hermitage near Saint Petersburg on the Gulf of Finland; while he dwelt there, the most holy Mother of God appeared to him, healing him of a grave malady. Afterwards he entered Valaam Monastery on Valiant Island in Lake Ladoga; he often withdrew into the wilderness to pray for days at a time. In 1794, answering a call for missionaries to preach the Gospel to the Aleuts, he came to the New World with the first Orthodox mission to Alaska. He settled on Spruce Island, which he called New Valaam, and here he persevered, even in the face of many grievous afflictions mostly at the hands of his own countrymen in the loving service of God and of his neighbour. He brought many people to Christ by the example of his life, his teaching, and his kindness and sanctity, and was granted the grace of working miracles and of prophetic insight. Since he was not a priest, Angels descended at Theophany to bless the waters in the bay; Saint Herman used this holy water to heal the sick. Because of his unwearying missionary labours, which were crowned by God with the salvation of countless souls, he is called the Enlightener of the Aleuts, and has likewise been renowned as a wonderworker since his repose in 1837.



## 2020 St. Demetrios Church Parish Information

**Proistamenos**  
**Fr. Constantine Valantasis**  
Cell (330) 469-4386

### 2020 Parish Council

*Dr. George Ploumbis-President*

*Steve Zervas-Vice President*

*Michael Pontikos- Treasurer*

*Ely Louie Vardavas-Secretary*

*Matthew Kassos-Assistant Treasurer*

*William Angelis-Assistant Secretary*

*George Halkias*

*Tom N. Kalogeras*

*Michael Kontos*

*Frank Manios*

*George Pahoulis*

*Anthony Payiavlas*

*Mary Ann Raptis*

*Christ Zoumas*

*+ Glory be to God for all things! +*



**ORTHROS:**  
SUNDAY 9:00AM

**DIVINE LITURGY:**  
SUNDAY 10:00AM

**CONFESSIONS:**  
SATURDAY 4:00PM  
OR BY APPOINTMENT

**VESPERS:**  
SATURDAY 5:00PM

### *Parish Information:*

#### **St. Demetrios Church**

429 High Street, NE

Warren, OH 44481

**Church Phone: (330)394-9021**

**Fax: (330)394-9077**

**Website: [www.stdemetrioswarren.org](http://www.stdemetrioswarren.org)**

**Email: [church@stdemetrioswarren.org](mailto:church@stdemetrioswarren.org)**

**FACEBOOK:**

*Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church : Warren, OH*

#### **St. Demetrios Community Center**

3223 Atlantic Street, NE

Warren, OH 44448

**Church Phone: (330)394-9021**

**Fax: (330)394-9077**

**website: [warrengreekcenter.com](http://warrengreekcenter.com)**

### **Catechism:**

**TBA**

#### **Parish Council Meetings:**

*1st and 3rd Wednesdays 6:30pm*

#### **Ladies Philoptochos Society:**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 6:30pm  
(no meetings in June, July or August)*

#### **JOY and GOYA:**

*(see Weekly Bulletin for times and location)*

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS:**

**TBA**

# Pastoral Message

Beloved Faithful,

This month's pastoral message was given by the Arch pastor of Pastors. The first to hear this Christmas message were the Christians of Constantinople anywhere between 379-382 AD. His words are just as poetic, powerful and relevant today as they were then. Take your time with this reading that you may spiritually digest its message in a way that will be edifying to you. I know you will be blessed by the words of this Great Father, who is only one of three Saints to be given the title of "Theologian" by the Church.

## **St. Gregory The Theologian (Nazianzus): The Holy Father's Homily on the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

### **Christ is born, glorify Him!**

Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him!

Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope.

Again, the darkness is past; again Light is made; again Egypt is punished with darkness; again Israel is enlightened by a pillar. The people who sat in the darkness of ignorance, let them see the great Light full of knowledge.

Old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. The letter gives way, the Spirit comes to the front. The shadows flee away, the truth comes in on them. Melchizedek is concluded. He who was without Mother becomes without Father (without mother of His former state, without father of His second). The laws of nature are upset; the world above must be filled. Christ commands it, let us not set ourselves against Him.

O clap your hands together all you people, because unto us a Child is born, and a Son given unto us, whose government is upon His shoulder (for with the cross it is raised up), and His name is called The Angel of the Great Counsel of the Father. Let John cry, prepare the way of the Lord; I too will cry the power of this Day.

He who is not flesh is now Incarnate; the Son of God becomes the Son of Man, Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Let the non-believers be offended, let the sophisticates deride; let heretics talk until their tongues ache. Then shall they believe, when they see Him ascending into heaven; and if not then, yet when they see Him coming out of heaven and sitting as Judge.

This is our present Festival; it is this which we are celebrating today, the Coming of God to Man, that we might go forth, or rather (for this is the more proper expression) that we might go back to God – that putting off of the old man, we might put on the new; and that as we died in Adam, so we might live in Christ, being born with Christ and crucified with Him and buried with Him and rising with Him.

***For I must undergo the beautiful conversion, and as the painful succeeded the more blissful, so must the more blissful come out of the painful. For where sin abounded grace did much more abound; and if a taste condemned us, how much more does the passion of Christ justify us?***

***Therefore let us keep the Feast, not after the manner of a heathen festival, but after a godly sort; not after the way of the world, but in a fashion above the world; not as our own, but as belonging to Him who is ours, or rather as our master's; not as of weakness, but as of healing; not as of creation, but of re-creation.***

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Costa

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE BEFORE ENTERING THE  
CHURCH FACILITIES**

**By voluntarily entering this church facility:**

- **I affirm that I am not currently ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.**
- **I acknowledge that while safety measures are being taken by the church, it cannot guarantee the safety of every person present.**
- **I agree to abide by the social distancing and safety guidelines being practiced in this church.**
- **I consent to hold the church harmless against any damages or claims regarding my voluntary presence here.**

**If I am not able to agree to and affirm the above statements, I will not participate in this worship service in person and may choose to join online at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church : Warren, OH**

**IMPORTANT: DURING THIS PHASE, ALL ATTENDEES MUST ABIDE BY  
THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

1. **According to State of Ohio regulations, Masks must be worn at all times except when receiving Holy Communion. Those with valid medical exceptions, special needs and children 10 and under do not need to wear masks. If you do not have a mask, one will be available.**
2. **Hands must be sanitized upon entry.**
3. **There will be no more persons than 50% of the church capacity while maintaining spacing occupying one area (inclusive of the priest, staff, and any volunteers)**
4. **Each person, including children, must sign in for contact tracing.**
5. **You will be directed to your seating area by an usher and are asked to remain in that area for the duration of the service.**
6. **Honor the icons and other sacred objects by a reverent bow and making the sign of the Cross instead of kissing.**
7. **Refrain from shaking hands or kissing others during the service.**
8. **Instructions for receiving Holy Communion and antidoron will be explained by the priest.**
9. **At the conclusion of the service please exit and return to your vehicle without congregating.**

***Thank you for your cooperation and understanding***

# YASOU CLUB

To all our YASOU friends ... We Miss YOU!!

Hope this finds all of you well. After the last Governor DeWine news conference we have decided not to hold a Christmas Party this year. As things have not progressed in the downward trend with new cases, it is prudent for us to postpone our activities until 2021.

While most of us are forced to carry out our daily routines inside (our trash goes out more than we do), many have seen this as an opportunity to use this period to pick up a new skill. We cannot wait to hear these new endeavors when we get together....such as how much rest did you get, how many drawers and closets did you organize and how many movies did you watch.

May each of you have a wonderful, healthy and fattening Holiday Season. Enjoy this time with your family. Until we meet again, please stay safe. We love each of you.

Christina Kapolis  
President



Tom Kalogeras  
Vice President

Angie Kalogeras  
Secretary



Franze Ioannou  
Treasurer

MERRY CHRISTMAS

## COMMUNITY DINNERS

The Community Dinners have been cancelled until further notice, due to social distancing regulations.

There will, however, be a Christmas Turkey Drive. We will be accepting turkeys in December, to distribute to those in need. We will also accept \$5 and \$10 giftcards from stores such as the Dollar Tree, Family Dollar or Walmart, to distribute to children for Christmas. Please contact Fr. Costa or the office for more information.

## Days When Marriages or Baptisms are Not Permitted

### Marriages are not performed on:

Fast days or during fasting seasons; these include the Great Lent and Holy Week, August 1-15, August 29 (Beheading of St. John the Baptist) September 14 (Exaltation of the Holy Cross), December 13-25.

Nor are marriages celebrated on the day before and the day of a Great Feast of the ord, including

**Theophany** (January 5 & 6), **Pascha, Pentecost, and Christmas** (December 24 & 25).

### Baptisms may not be performed:

From Christmas Day through the Feast of Theophany (December 25-January 6), during Holy Week or on any of the Great Feastdays of the Lord.

## BULLETIN MAILING

We receive a lot of returned mail because parishioners have either moved or gone away for the winter. Because bulk mail is considered "junk" mail, it is not forwarded to a new address and is destroyed or returned to the church at double the cost of full postage! For this reason, unless the office is contacted with a new or changed address, it will be necessary to remove the returned, undeliverable mail from the mailing list until we are informed of the updated address. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please visit our website or facebook page for information on virtual Sunday school lessons. Please fill out the registration form in this bulletin, so that your children will receive lesson packets in the mail to coordinate with the online lessons. For more information, please contact the church office.

## BIBLE STUDY

Please visit our website or facebook page for Fr. Costa's Bible Study lessons. The first Bible Study has been posted.



## GREEK SCHOOL

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Greek School registration will be postponed until further notice.



## COFFEE HOURS

According to the policies set forth by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, coffee hours, fellowship activities and fund raisers following Divine Liturgy will resume soon. Those who are hosting the coffee hours must follow the State of Ohio regulations regarding serving food. For more information, please contact the church office.

## PRIEST VISITATIONS

Please inform the church office of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut ins", so that they may be visited and receive the grace and comfort of the sacraments.

## A Christmas Prayer From The Orthodox Tradition

+Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Before Thy, birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with trembling on this mystery and were struck with wonder: for Thou who hast adorned the vault of heaven with stars hast been well pleased to be born as a babe; and Thou who holdest all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Thy hand art laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation has Thy compassion been made known, O Christ, and Thy great mercy: glory to Thee.

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem. Today He who knows no beginning now begins to be, and the Word is made flesh. The powers of heaven greatly rejoice, and the earth with mankind makes glad. The Magi offer gifts, the shepherd proclaim the marvel, and we cry aloud without ceasing: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

(From the Festal Menaion of the Orthodox Church; hymns from the Third Hour and Matins.)



## Bulletin Information

If you have information or news to share with the parish, please bring or mail it in to the Church Office no later than the *20th of each month*. The bulletin committee works very hard to help keep you informed, but we need your help.

This includes births, marriages or baptisms, graduations, etc. locally *and* out of town.

Any church organizations or groups who would like information or pictures in the bulletin, please e-mail them to the church:

[church@stdemetrioswarren.org](mailto:church@stdemetrioswarren.org)

THANK YOU!

**Dear St. Demetrios Family: On behalf of the St. Demetrios Philoptochos Society we would like to express our sincere thanks for your support of the altar cloth, Priest vestment, processional fans and cross fundraiser. We raised \$30,395.00 to meet our project goal. This could not have been achieved without your generosity and expression of love for our church and patron Saint Demetrios, and the love and respect felt for our Proestamenos, Father Costa Valantasis.**

**Listed below are the items and people who donated:**

**PROCESSIONAL FANS & CROSS**

Matthew, Katie, Elizabeth & Nicholas Kassos,  
In loving memory of their beloved  
Wife & Mother + ANN KASSOS +

**PURPLE ALTAR CLOTH**

Philoptochos  
Chrisanthy Partis  
Anonymous donation  
Maria Anagnostou & Dr Sevasti Yeropoli

**PURPLE MEMORIAL TABLE**

Dean & Anna Nikolaides

**PURPLE VESTMENTS**

Mr & Mrs. Steve Zervas & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. John Condoleon & Family

**MULTI COLOR ALTAR CLOTH**

Angel Ploumbis  
Anna Halkias

**MULTI-COLOR VESTMENTS**

Steve & Maria Lyras & Family

**MULTI COLOR MEMORIAL OVERLAY**

Chrisanthy Partis

**GREEN ALTAR CLOTH**

Tom & Angie Kalogeras  
Fotis & Mary Ann Raptis

**GREEN MEMORIAL OVERLAY**

Ellen (Partis) Frink

**BLUE MEMORIAL OVERLAY**

Era (Partis) Griffin  
John Partis

**GREEN VESTMENTS**

Mocha House Family:  
George & Kaliopi Liakaris  
Nick & Krista Liakaris & Family  
William & Maria Morris & Family  
Bill & Kitsa Axiotis & Family

**BLUE ALTAR CLOTH**

Kreatsoulas/Morgan families

**BLUE VESTMENTS**

Eli, Sandy & Michael Hilas

**RED ALTAR CLOTH**

Anthony & Tina Payiavlas & Family

**RED VESTMENTS**

Georgia & Chrissy Dascoulias  
Dr. Jim & Peggy Kondolios  
Helen Michalos  
Anthitsa Tempesta  
Georgette Kondolios  
Mr & Mrs. James Payiavlas  
Maria Anagnostou  
Sevasti Yeropoli

**6' FOLDING TABLE – GOLD**

Dean & Anna Nikolaides

**SMALL WOODEN TABLE-GOLD**

Arlene & David DiCesare

**STIKHARION**

Satin Dean & Anna Nikolaides  
Cotton Steve & Barbara Bournias

**WHITE VESTMENTS**

John & Mary Hilas  
Estelle Hilas  
Chris & Vivian Zoumas  
Angelo & Amy Zoumas & Christian  
Anna Zoumas

**WHITE ALTAR CLOTH**

Chios Society

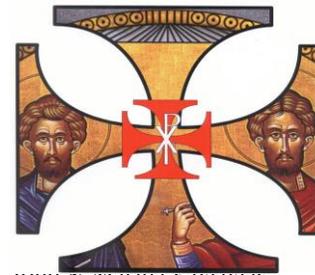
**GOLD VESTMENTS**

Mr & Mrs. Frank Manios  
Dr. Pat & Irene Buccino

**GOLD ALTAR CLOTH**

Constantinos & Anna Glaros  
Dorothy Sideropolis  
Alex & Cynthia Savakis  
Patty Gianakos  
Pete Kiniklis  
Mr & Mrs. John Binikos  
Anna Graham  
Elaine Roshetsky  
Senior Citizens  
William & Luann Andamasaris  
Maria Anagnosto  
Dr Sevasti Yeropoli  
Church Board

**PHILOPTOCHOS**



JOHN & MARIA PAYIAVLAS

**GOSPEL COVER GOLD**

Helen Michalos

**GOSPEL COVER PURPLE**

Alexandra Vlahos

**GOSPEL COVER MULTI  
COLOR**

Alexandra Vlahos

Thank you again for your  
generous support.

Sincerely,

Anna Nikolaides  
Fundraiser Chairman

St. Demetrios  
Philoptochos

## OFFICERS

Alexandra Vlahos, Pres.  
330-646-8078

Karen Valantasis, VP1  
330-207-4095

Maria Tsapos, VP2  
330-856-6077

Chrissie Katsaros, Sec.

Dorothy Sideropolis, Treas

Maria Anagnostou, Treas

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kitsa Aivazis

Effie Deuble

Anna Nikolaidis

Chrysanthe Partis

Lilli Radu, Sunshine

330-766-0993

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Katherine Gentithes\*

Despina Diakakis\*

Maria Scapetis \*

Kokoni Xanthoulis\*

Anna Arvanitis\*

Panayiota Tsardoulis\*

Nina Biliuris\*

Angela Tsagaris \*

Dimitra Loukas \*

Sophia Ticoras \*

Stella Achladis \*

Tina Safos \*

Joanne Goumas

Marika Veneris

Maria Anastasiadis

Helen Eliadis \*

Katie Ticoras \*

Julie Gianakos \*

Thalia Tsimpinos

Antigoni Ann Ernst \*

Maria Chimbidis

Patricia Gianakos

Carrie Daniel

Elizabeth Ney

\*deceased



## ST. DEMETRIOS PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

“Ζωοδοχος Πηγη” #85 CHAPTER #6014

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Fr. Constantine Valantasis



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

*We were sorry to have to cancel the GYRO DRIVE THRU SALE, due to the COVID-19 flair up. Thank you for your support of our projects.*

*We are planning to have a VASILOPITA SALE for the New Year. Look to the weekly bulletin or the Church website and Facebook page for more details.*

*If anyone knows of families or individuals in need for the holidays, please contact Fr. Costa with the names before December 15, 2020.*

*Look to the January Monthly bulletin for information about the Annual Vasilopita and our next meeting.*

**PLEASE STAY SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS and MAY GOD BLESS US ALL !**



Hospital Visitations

Even though hospitals may ask your religious affiliation, **THE HOSPITALS DO NOT CALL THE CHURCH OR THE PRIEST** to inform who is a patient. If you or a loved one is a patient at a hospital and would like Fr. Costa (or a Cleveland area priest if you are in The Cleveland Clinic or University Hospital) to give the Sacrament of Holy Unction for healing or Holy Communion, you must call the church office. Confidentiality laws, “HIPAA,” make it impossible for us to get that information.

**ST. DEMETRIOS  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH**

429 High Street, NE  
Warren, OH 44481  
Or  
PO BOX 4214  
Warren, OH 44482

Phone 330.394.9021  
Fax 330.394.9077



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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WARREN OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 84

Email: [church@stdemetrioswarren.org](mailto:church@stdemetrioswarren.org)

Websites:

[www.stdemetrioswarren.org](http://www.stdemetrioswarren.org)

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

FACEBOOK:

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church :  
Warren, OH

LABEL

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

**DECEMBER 2020**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ❖ December 25 – Christmas Day --  
Church Office Closed
- ❖ January 1, 2021-New Years Day – Church  
office closed

