



# THE EPISTLE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



August/September 22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio

2010



## Pastoral Thoughts

by Fr. Jim Doukas

Recently I was distressed to hear that so-called Christians (members of the Orthodox Church, as well as non-Orthodox) have at one time or another visited members of the occult: astrologers, tarot card readers, spiritualists, fortune tellers. What they may be seeking is uncertain to me, but I shudder to think that "Christians" could seek out such satanic measures to find out their future or whatever. It is not difficult to determine what the Orthodox Christian view is. In effect, by dabbling with the occult, even if "only in fun," one denies the loving and gracious Lordship of God.

Fr. Stanley Harakas, in his two books, *Contemporary Moral Issues Facing the Orthodox Christian* and *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions & Answers*, writes extensively on these topics. Concerning astrology he states:

"One of the most characteristic things happening today in our country is the revival of all sorts of views and approaches to life which had at one time been dismissed as "unscientific foolishness." All of us have noted a wide spread increase in astrology and various forms of occultism, such as satanism, witchcraft, spiritism, etc.

As Orthodox Christians we may respond to this sort of development in one of 3 ways, at least. We can see it as a positive sign that people are searching for reality which goes beyond the mere physical; or we can see it as an indifferent phenomenon of little or not interest or regard to us; or we can see this development as a threat to the Orthodox Faith, a denial of the Christ-like way of living, and a destructive way of believing, thinking and acting.

In order to arrive at one of these conclusions it is necessary to ask ourselves what the Orthodox Faith teaches about God and man's nature, then see how it fits the views which make up the astrology and occult movements. (continued on p. 14)

## Save the Date

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010  
St. Demetrios Golf Outing



Join us for FUN, at the St. Demetrios Golf Outing!

Contest, prizes and great golf at one of the newest golf courses in Cleveland, followed by a great dinner to start the fall season off right!

Sign up as an individual or as a foursome.  
**Space limited to 36 foursomes and will fill up quickly.**

The cost is only \$125 which includes golf, lunch and the dinner, or just \$30 per person for the dinner which will begin around 5:00 p.m.

Sponsorships are available for as little as \$100 to show your support of the Church and increase your company's exposure to the community.

Get additional information at [www.saintdemetriosrr.org](http://www.saintdemetriosrr.org)



**What:** 3rd annual golf outing, Shamble format, everyone drives, select best drive and play your own ball for the rest of the hole. Lunch before golf and dinner following golf.

**Cost:** \$125 pp, or \$500 foursome, \$30 for dinner only

**Where:** Sweetbriar Golf Course, Legacy Course, Avon Lake, OH  
[www.sweetbriargolfclub.com](http://www.sweetbriargolfclub.com)

**When:** Thursday September 9, 2010  
10:30 a.m. registration / 12:00 noon Shotgun

**Who:** Anyone interested in golf, good times, laughter and anyone interested in a good dinner (all are welcome to attend!)

**Other:** Putting contest, prizes and skill prizes  
Sign up quickly, as the spots will fill up FAST!

**Purpose:** To benefit St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and to promote fellowship within the community

*The Epistle* is the official publication of the

**Greek Orthodox Community of St. Demetrios**



**Phone: (440) 331-2246**

**Fax: (440) 331-8407**

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

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Sunday Services: Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

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Fr. James Doukas, Priest.....(Home) 440-899-3257

Eleni Papouras-Jenks, Office Mgr [sdrroffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdrroffice@sbcglobal.net)

Nick Hillman, Operations Mgr [activitycenternick@yahoo.com](mailto:activitycenternick@yahoo.com)

Mark Kolas, Accountant [sdaccountant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdaccountant@sbcglobal.net)

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Manuel P. Glynias, **President**.....216-857-3388

Lia Augoustidis, **Vice President**..... 440-933-0500

Steve Steffas, **Secretary**.....440-899-7652

Steve Alex, **Treasurer**..... 440-835-2348

David Grubb, **Financial Secretary** ..... 440-835-2118

Angelo Coutris.....440-333-3674

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Vasiliki Diamantis.....216-541-4797

Nikolaos Petousis.....440-808-8783

Byron T. Spooner ..... 440-333-5013

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Sophia Tjotjos.....440-331-4000

Greg Kolocouris, Legal Advisor

**ST. DEMETRIOS' TRUST BOARD OF MANAGERS**

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Constantine Corpas..... 440-740-1158

Steve Kacludis.....440-871-2784

Manuel Steffas.....440-871-6362

Crystal Thomas.....440-356-1032

Donna Vassos.....440-331-5547



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**CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS' CONTACTS**

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Maria Statheros...216-226-1680

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**OCF (ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP)**

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**PARISH MISSIONARIES/ RELIEF WORK**

**IOCC**..... Pascalis Papouras, U.S. Program Director

Ph: 410-243-9820 email: Ppapouras@iocc.org

**OCMC**..... George & Pauline Russell in Albania

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



**Call 440-409-0099 to book St. Demetrios Hall for your wedding, baptism, holiday, school or business gatherings!**

**Check out our link at**

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

## From the President's Pen

I would like to personally thank each and every person who gave their time, talent and treasure to make our 2010 festival a huge success!

As we are all aware, the economy has not yet recovered and we are doing our best to stretch the money we do have available to operate our church until the holidays. If you are able to fulfill your 2010 pledge early, it would help fund our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter expenses, as well as preparing for our 2011 budgeting process.

On a bright note, St. Demetrios and Annunciation churches have received a wonderful gift from the Joan Lambros Estate. Her estate consists of a condo in Lakewood, and liquid assets. Upon sale of the condo, we will split the proceeds 50/50 with the Annunciation Church. The net proceeds will fund a scholarship in her memory, and the balance will help with the operating of our church.

God Bless, - *Manuel P. Glyniadis, President*



Excerpt from the June 20 Plain Dealer in response to a reader survey "What is your favorite thing to do in Cleveland in the summertime?" I love going to the ethnic festivals during summer. I just went to St. Demetrios over the weekend. It had delicious Greek food, nice jewelry, everything about it was great, especially seeing the crowds of people.'

## Summer 2010 Capital Improvements

The new ADA compliant and accessible exterior doors in the lobby and hall were installed just prior to the festival. Handicap-accessible push plates have been also been installed outside and inside the doors, that open the doors for several seconds for people who need assistance. Please note that the door simply requires a little extra pull when entering due to the mechanism. We also ask that the mechanized door NOT be propped open for long periods of time so that the timer can remain in working order.

The insulation/painting project was begun in July, when insulation was pumped into the church walls. This has already shown noticeable results; even on very hot days, the air conditioning was effective even at lower temps. The painting of the walls of the Narthex, Church, candle & choir rooms was then completed on Aug. 7. In conjunction with the painting, new speakers were installed in the church.



We replaced the two microphone speakers in the middle with four throughout the sanctuary, so that all pews can better hear. - *Nick Hillman*

(left) Home Committee rep Gus Callas, Fr Jim in his hard-hat, board member Sophia Tjotjos and neokoros Nick Statheros observe the painting progress.

## Speaking of Stewardship...<sup>3</sup>

I would like to thank the MANY parishioners that gave their Time, Talent & Treasure this year to our Food Festival. The St. Demetrios Food Festival was one of the most successful festivals we've had in years! Not only did God bless us with amazing weather, He also blessed us with the dedication & love from our parishioners. It was such a joy for me to walk around the festival & see everyone from our Parish that came together to help make this a success. Whether they were 8 or 88 years old, I love how everyone pulled together to do their part in making our festival a memorable one. Also a huge thank you to all the gentlemen who did all the pre-cutting and the work force of our senior ladies who did all the rolling, baking and stuffing. Without our "seniors with class" our festival would not be the event that it is. THANK YOU!

If not you - Who? If not now - When? I'd like to share with you the following message from a Stewardship brochure I received called "A New Perspective" : "It was Sunday and the Parish Council members were counting the Sunday offering in the church office as the trays were being brought in from Divine Liturgy. One faithful parishioner found his way back to the Church office & politely inquired, "How much do I owe?"

This well-intentioned parishioner was asking if he was up-to-date on his pledge, but his question reveals something about our thought process in offering our gifts to the church. No matter how generously we support the Church, can we ever feel that we have given in proportion to the blessings we have received?"

Stewardship should be our response to God's grace which will move us from grace to gratitude. Just as we love because God first loved us (I John 4:14), we should give because God first gave to us.

It is never too late to become a member of the St. Demetrios Church! If you still need complete your 2010 Stewardship Pledge, or if you are new to our church, you may find the Pledge forms in the Lower Narthex or in the church office.

-*Lia Augoustidis, Vice President & Stewardship Chairman*

### Why we need your Stewardship dollars:



Sadly, the utility companies are just as strict... ☺

# Parish News

## OUR NEWEST LITTLE ANGELS

**Maria**, daughter of Mike & Ariadni Dagiasis, was born on May 24, 2010.

**Evan Nicholas**, son of Nick & Heidi Vroutos, was born on May 28, 2010.

**Stephanos Giorgos**, son of Paul & Lia Fresty, was born on May 29, 2010.

## THOSE THAT HAVE PUT ON CHRIST

**Niko Roditis**, son of Steve & Calypso, was baptized on June 12, 2010. His 'nono' is John Vianos.

**Chloe Anne Pyros**, daughter of Andrew & Anne, was baptized on June 27, 2010. Her 'nono' is Jack Pyros.

## CROWNED WITH STEFANA

**Mark Petro and Sydnie Brabenec** were married on June 5, 2010. Their koumbaro is Jimmy Thomas of St. Epremte Albanian Orthodox Church.

**Ryan Hillman and Christina Sgondea** were married on June 12, 2010. Their koumbara is Jean Hillman.

**George Theofilos and Barbara Bain** were married June 26, 2010. Their koumbara is Parisa Kontos of St. Demetrios Church, Warren.

**Nicholas Mason and Laura Morton**, both of New York, were married here on July 31, 2010. Their koumbara is Stephanie Glynos of St. Vasilios Church, Peabody, Mass.

## Congratulations to 2010 Graduates:

**Spyro Efpraxias**, a graduate of Westlake High School, St. Demetrios acolyte and Hellenic Dancer, will be attending LCCC this fall.

**Anton Glyniyas**, a graduate of Bay Village High School, where he wrestled, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in his conference. He also played Lacross and the guitar. He will be majoring in Business Admin and minoring in art.

**"EFHARISTO"** Thanks to Nick & Anna Athanasakis for donating the new Icon stands for seasonal icons and the Bible Study for donating the new Holy Bread Table for the chapel, in memory of James Pappadakes and Kay Schmitz.

### FESTIVAL APPRECIATION DINNER

Mon., Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Cultural Hall

All those who worked to make the 2010 Festival a success are invited to an appreciation dinner!

**Festival Fun Facts:** 40 days of prep = 6,000 working hrs.  
~40,000 people attended~we sold: 125 pans of pastitsio,  
12,000 dolmades, and more than 5,000 pieces of  
galaktoboureko~ Busiest line at the Drive-thru = 42 cars

## ASLEEP IN THE LORD



**John Kostas**, husband of Sofia, father of Karri, John Jr. (Valerie), Sonya (Carlos) Ramos and Daniel Kostas, grandfather of John, Tiffany and Joseph Kostas, brother of James (Kay), uncle, great-uncle and 'nono' of many, passed away on June 2, 2010.

**Thomas Paparizos**, father of Delores Tony (Larry), Lydia Sullivan (Robert) and Gary, grandfather of three, passed away on June 3, 2010.

**Vasiliki Salivaras**, mother of Dean, Andy, Stavros (Flora) and Maggie Tsouklis (John); grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 6; aunt of Loula Zapis (Xenophon) and many more nieces and nephews, passed away on July 5, 2010.



**Diane "Dena" Michaels** (nee Scocos), mother of Costas (Evelyn) Mavromichalis, Anne (Gary) Gross and Peter (Barbara) Mavromichalis; grandmother of Tom Gross, Anna (Andrew) Mavromichalis-Revy, Peter Gross, Kevin (Virginia) Gens, and Dina (Dorian) Green; great-grandmother of one, passed away on July 7, 2010.



**John J. Koces Jr.**, husband of Stella (nee Facaros); father of Katherine Stanley (Donald), Karen Walsh (Dennis), Phillip Facaros (Elizabeth), Samuel Facaros (Heather) and Katherine Doren (David); grandfather of 14; great-grandfather of one, passed away on July 9, 2010.



**Hristos "Chris" Vamvillis**, husband of Noni, brother and uncle of many, and owner of Victory Lunch for 35 years, passed away on July 11, 2010.



**Pete Catavolos**, husband of Irene, father of George (Kathie) and Christina, grandfather of Pete, Alexandra and Michael, passed away on July 30, 2010.

Fr. Jim and Presvytera Goldie wish to sincerely thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy at the loss of Presvytera's father, Steve Pirovolos.

### Commemorative Album

A limited number of extra copies of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Album are now available for sale at \$50 each. The 200-page album includes hundreds of photos, as well as a copy of the documentary DVD. To purchase your copy, please stop by the church office Mon-Fri or the Catacomb Bookstore on Sundays.

## Welcome Back to all our Ministries!

**CHOIR** – Circle your calendars for our first rehearsal on **Tues., Sept. 7th** at 7:00pm. Our first singing of the liturgy will be Sunday, Sept. 12th. Let's get off to a great start by all being there for our fall start up. We are working hard at revamping everyone's choir books to include new music to have alternates to the same music each and every week. Also, in the mix of things is the Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert which will take place on Sunday, December 12th from 5:30-8:00pm. Finally, a word about the choir convention in July. We had a good turnout with 8 choir members from St. Demetrios attending. A special thanks and congratulations to Dan Packis, who -uped for the scholarship committee, and Margaret Safos, our new Regional Representative.- *Bill Matzorkis, Director*

**PHILOPTOCHOS** - We have an exciting year ahead! And it's so good to know that we will be in our Hall with the new tables that Philoptochos purchased for the community. The tables arrived this summer and I hope that everyone is enjoying them. We no longer need tablecloths, so the clean-up for us all is easy! Please help us by disposing of your own cups & plates on Sundays.

As we begin the New Ecclesiastical year, our Circles are working and busy! The **Literacy Circle** volunteers read with students at Louis Agazzis Elementary School. Many of them are returning to work with the same students, but there are many new opportunities to help too. Please contact Janine Lambros (216.534.6017). **Warm-Up-America**, is our on-going Knitting group, led by Elpida Kosmidis, (440-779-8959) who can give you details about projects until they start their group projects in the Fall. The **Social Services Circle** has some ideas for future projects. We also hope to start a new program that we heard about at the Clergy Laity.

We also have some of our Yearly Fund Raising events that are coming up that are in need of a Chairperson(s), like our Holiday Bake Sale. If you could help in the organizing of this, please see me soon! We already have our Chairperson for the St. Demetrios Day Luncheon. Mrs. Dora Selos has again graciously accepted to chair our Church's celebration. Mark Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> on your Calendar and the evening before for Vespers and a Coffee Hour served by our Philoptochos.

Don't forget we are still collecting Recipes! Our goal is to have our cookbook organized and ready to print and sell for the Festival 2011! There's a chance that we may be able to get a Celebrity to share a recipe or two! Wouldn't you like to have your family favorite in there too? Mail or Email your recipes, with or without a short note with it. If you would like to be on this committee, please let me know as well.

Don't forget that EVERY MONDAY is Pizza Monday at Romeo's (440.331.1155; 2064 Clague Rd, Westlake.) Mention St. Demetrios on any Monday of the month and Philoptochos receives 15% back. They have a variety of items on their menu to choose from; coupons in the office. They have been very generous to us for many of our events so please support them. If we don't get many more families to support this we may get dropped, so please make "Monday" your pizza day at Romeo's!

If you know of someone in need, please approach Fr. Jim or <sup>5</sup> myself and we will help in any way we can. If you do not let us know, or come forward, we cannot help. Please be sure to get this message out. It is my greatest fear that we are not helping enough and that families in our own community are going without. This is always done, *privately* and with *dignity*. When our Board meets, names are not used to discuss a person's needs.

With the start of September we also start our new Membership year. So you will soon start seeing our Membership Requests forms for 2010-2011 in the Hall and in the Mail. Along with those we also have Board openings. If you have been a Member in good standing for the past year and would like to be a Board member, let me know. We will continue to have General Meetings with a Speaker or Special event each month this. We will try Thursday evenings, rather than the Tuesdays we did last year. -*Jeanne C. Paras – Philoptochos President*

**THEOTOKOS FELLOWSHIP** – Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month to discuss religious and spiritual books. Discussions will resume on **Mon., Oct. 4**, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**YASSOU CLUB** – Save the date for our first fall event on **Tue., Sept. 7** at 5:30 p.m. in the hall with Dinner & a Movie.

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*We are also excited to introduce two new Orthodox organizations to the the Cleveland area:*

### ***St. Panteleimon Orthodox Christian Outreach*** **Cleveland's Newest Orthodox Service Organization**

This Pan-Orthodox ministry's main purpose is to visit with and minister to Orthodox Christians who are unable to attend services and programs at a local parish. They serve residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other group homes. They will also serve patients in psychiatric hospitals and inmates in jail, if needed. Presently operating under the umbrella of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Lakewood, it is made up of caring individuals from various Orthodox parishes who are committed to "loving our neighbors as ourselves." St. Panteleimon was chosen as the patron saint because his name means "all-merciful."

You can get involved by referring relatives & friends, making a donation or volunteering. Anyone interested in more information, can contact Gerald Largent at 440-376-7799 or [stpanteleimonoco@yahoo.com](mailto:stpanteleimonoco@yahoo.com)

### ***The Healing Hearts Fund***

Co-founded by our own Irene Panagopoulos and Mary Bozikis of St. Paul Church, the group's mission is to invest in the well-being of our struggling neighbors by providing basic necessities including food, clothing, education supplies, medication, and childcare & eldercare help.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time," said Irene. "I was tired of being helpless or standing by when people were struggling and I felt that this was a way I could have a small, yet positive impact in this world and actually feel like I was helping people."

# Celebrate Youth!

## Hellenic Dancers

Congratulations to all the Micro, Junior and Senior dancers who performed at the festival! (below): Instructor Eleni Giavroutas and the Micro Dancers; Instructors Mary & Angelia Szekely with the Junior Dancers; Instructor Eleni Papouras-Jenks with the Senior Dancers.



*Photos: Mary Szekely & Eleni Papouras-Jenks*



## COMING UP...

**Fri., Sept. 10** – Senior Dancers perform at St Nicholas Greek Festival, Lorain, Ohio.

**October 2-3**- Metropolis Folk Dance Workshop in Pittsburgh.

**Thu., October 7**- Senior Dancers performing at Rocky River Civic Center for the Cuyahoga County MRDD.

## Acolytes

Scheduled rotation will begin on **Sun., Sept. 19** (the week after Sunday School begins.) Both returning and new Altar Boys should contact the church office to be put on the schedule.

## GOYA

**Sun., Aug. 29** – Picnic from 2 -5 p.m. at Bretton Ridge Park in North Olmsted (off Lorain Road, west of Stearns.) Come kick off the new year with a cookout for GOYA and families. Enjoy the baseball field, volleyball courts, or swimming pool. FREE for GOYA members; all others \$4/ person (if swimming) or \$2/ person (if not swimming.) This day is a fast day, so no meat will be served. GOYA will provide pizza, drinks and paper products; please bring a salad or dessert. RSVP with what you are bringing, to Betty Poulos (440-899-6317.)

**Sun., Sept. 12**- Swearing in of officers and 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with GOYA and parents.

**Sun., Sept.19** – Gyro sale

Basketball Skills Camps will begin October 26.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Due to the future expansion of our student body, we are looking for new teachers for the 2010-11 school year. There will be an informational meeting on **Thu., Sept. 2** at 7 p.m. for those interested. Please consider giving your time and talent to this worthy ministry! Student registration form on p. 8

This year, the Youth Choir will rehearse on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month (except October) from 10 a.m.-Noon, followed by a pizza lunch. Also look for some future fundraisers that will allow us to take a youth choir trip.– *Diane Matzorkis*

The Senior Hellenic dancers took a very short break after the festival before heading to The Music Settlement summer camp on July 2 to perform and teach Greek dances to elementary school children at University Circle.

(below) Lee Santarelli, Andrea Giavroutas, Eleni Santarelli, Sophia Kopasakis, Cassie Packis, Sia Young, Angelia Szekely and Eleni Papouras-Jenks at the Greek Cultural Garden in Cleveland. Thanks to our parent driver Helene Santarelli!



# Saints Alive! 2010 Vacation Church School

**Keep the feeling of VCS in your home all year long:**

- ❖ Set aside a regular time for daily reading. Even busy families eat at least *some* meals together, so try reading at the dinner table.
- ❖ When the children are young, mom or dad can do the reading, using a Bible that has pictures you can show the children.
- ❖ Older children can take turns reading. No need to read too much, too fast. One chapter at a time is sufficient.
- ❖ Start with the biographies of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read with faith and the expectation that God will really and truly speak to you through what you read.
- ❖ Don't worry about passages you may not understand. Concentrate on those you do. The more you read, the more you will understand, as one passage often explains another.
- ❖ Try to memorize at least one verse that really speaks you. Say it out loud as a family three or four times until its learned.



Photos: Nick Hillman

Once again, we had a very successful Vacation Church School, with more than 60 children in attendance and help from many volunteers.

Thanks to all who donated their time and treasure for this wonderful annual event!

(above) St. Demetrios kids at snack time

(right) Coordinator Maggie Steffas showing the proper way to make the sign of the Cross

(below, left) Fr. Jim with the teen volunteers

(below, right) Fr. Jim blessing pets on the day we focused on St. Modestus.



## ZAPIS ACTIVITY CENTER



**Nick Hillman, Activities Director**  
[activitycenternick@yahoo.com](mailto:activitycenternick@yahoo.com)

Kids' Open Play	Sun	11:30 a.m.	School year
Open Walk	M-F	9:30 a.m.-Noon	Year round
Men's Basketball	Mon	9:00 p.m.	Year round
GOYA Boys' basketball	Mon/ Wed	7-9 p.m.	Starting In October
Exercise with Sophia	Tue/ Thu	8:30 a.m.	Year round
GOYA Girls' Basketball	Tue/Thu	7 – 9 p.m.	Starting In October
Men's Basketball	Fri	8:30 p.m.	Year round
Kids' (5-12) Basketball	Sat	1-3 p.m.	Starting in December

Kudos to Andrea Chiviles, daughter of Anthony & Jean Chiviles, for being awarded "Athletic of the Year" of the Sixth Grade class at Rocky River Middle School! As fall sports, band, etc., begin, send us your proud photos for *The Epistle!*

# St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

## 2010-11 SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

*Director Tina Hericks*

*There is no Sunday School tuition fee for members in Good Standing,  
but donations will be gladly accepted.*

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Students Name(s)	Nameday date	Birthday	Grade*	Allergies

\*Children must be at least 4 years old on the first day of classes in order to in the pre-school grade.

Sunday School classes begin on Sunday, Sept. 12.

Please fill out and drop off, mail or fax (440-331-8407) to the church office or register outside the school office on the two prior Sundays, immediately after Divine Liturgy.

# St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Balourdas Hellenic Cultural School

22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116

Ph: 440-331-2246

Fax: 440-331-8407

email: sdrroffice@sbcglobal.net

## 2010-11 GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency/cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship No.** \_\_\_\_\_ *Members of St. Demetrios Church must have made a minimum \$300 payment toward their 2010 pledge at the start of the school year*

*Non-members of St. Demetrios Church- contact the office for new 2010-11 policy.*

Please return completed registration forms along with payment to the office prior to September 14 (Blessing Day/ Αγιασμος.) This will be the final day to sign up your children.

Μπορείτε να δώσετε την εγγραφή των παιδιών σας, μαζί με την πληρωμή, στο γραφείο της εκκλησίας οποτεδήποτε αρχίζοντας τώρα έως την ημέρα του Αγιασμού. Δεν θα δεχτεί καμία εγγραφή χωρίς πληρωμή ΚΑΙ να είναι οι γονείς μέλοι του Αγ. Δημητρίου.

Student(s) Name (English & Greek)	Attended Greek School last year? (Yes/ No)	If Yes, which Gr. Completed?	Grade in day school and name of day school	TUITION
1.				\$300
2.				\$250
3.				\$100



\$20.00 *per child* for Books \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE \*:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Must be paid in full at the start of the school year

**Payment Method:** \_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Credit Card: Master Card, Visa, Discover (circle which applies)

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Tue., Sept. 14-** Agiasmos (Blessing Day) & Orientation. Parents must accompany their children into church at 5 p.m.

**Thu., Sept. 16** - 1<sup>st</sup> full day of classes, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

# THE 2010 GREEK



**Serving up the Best Greek food!:** Vi Delaney, Rena Kachevas, Alexandra Gesing, Mary Szekely, Christina Trillis, Mary Paterakis, Toula Dimitropoulos, Helen Asimou



(above, clockwise from top left): Byron Spooner & Jim Souris; Betty Poulos & Maggie Steffas; Artie York & Cathy Hillman; Lily Anitas, Sophia Tjotjos & Jenny Abersold.



**Busy at the Drive thru:** Aggie Arabian, Anna Goldense, Jim N. Apotsos & Cindy Sears



(right) Vivian Herouvis, Stella Harris & Lee Saphos



(below) **Kitchen Crew:** Brian Prok, George Soulas & Tony Nikokirakis; John Packis, Maria Statheros & Nick Petousis



(bottom, right) Jimmy Alex, Dan Packis, Tony Nikokirakis, John Packis, Bill Vassos and Tom Theodore

(above) The Nicks (Statheros & Hillman) at the Taverna  
(below) Ageleke Zapis, Maria Pettet, Cindy Bountogianis & Mary Gastis



# FESTIVAL



(l-r) Chocolatier Toula Pyros & family; Pastry servers Maryanne Bayes, Liz Bliss, Lula Dagiasis, and Alex Veras & Joe Glynias.



(left) Pete Stamatis, George Dagiasis, David Grubb & Jim Selos in the business office; (right) GOYA members manning the pop stand.



*Photos courtesy of Allen Arabian, Nick Pyros, Mary Szekely & Eleni Papouras-Jenks*

## Let us Entertain You!

(below, left) Greek-Canadian Chris Van Vliet, host of Channel 19's "The Buzz" broadcast live at the festival on Friday, enjoying our great food and dancing; Junior Dancers showing their kefi! (right) Teddy Poulos, Angelia Szekely, Kostas & Mavroidis Mavroidis of Kefi Band; Singers Eleni Nikolakis and Stelanie Tsirlis. (below) The Senior Dancers weaving the "Gaitanaki."



# AROUND THE WORLD: OCMC Medicine & ministry in Uganda

By Stacy Loejos

Where do I begin? How do I go about putting on paper, an experience that plays in my mind like a favorite song. Over and over again it plays, most of it memorized, but never getting old. Nothing I write will truly do Uganda justice, but I owe it to it's beautiful people to try.

After a very long and eye opening journey, I was able to meet up with the other members of our medical team. Now a team of eight, we would later go on to see more than 3,800 patients during our travels to different villages.

Upon arrival, I tried to ward off any thoughts of "what did I get myself in to?" but quickly realized I didn't have to try very hard. The initial culture shock I faced was quickly dissolved by the overwhelming warmth and hospitality that engulfed us. "You are most welcome," they would say, as our hosts greeted us as if long lost family had finally come home. From that moment on, that's exactly what we were - family.

I went to bed that first night, as I am sure we all did, with a racing mind full of all the sights, smells, sounds, and emotions evoked by a radically different land. I finally dozed off thinking about what one of the priests said as he greeted me earlier. "Are you ready for the clinic tomorrow?" "Yes, I think so," I said, not knowing at all what to expect from the following day. He took my one hand and smiled in a way that said he DID know what to expect from the following day. "Ah," he sighed. "These people have been waiting for you."

Each morning after a breakfast of bread, bananas, and Jiffy peanut butter (perhaps the best tool I packed from home,) we would head out to one of the many villages to set up our clinic. The rides to and from were an experience in themselves. In the mornings, we bounced around on unpaved orange clay roads, passing the sometimes long rides with songs, plans for the day's clinic, and conversations with our hosts and translators about the differences and similarities between America and Uganda. Through all of the obvious differences however, the similarities quickly surfaced and served as a glue, bonding our Ugandan hosts to our team, and us to theirs. Amidst similarities like our Orthodox faith, respect, sense of humor, and a genuine love for people, it's no wonder how we all "just fit."



Despite my best efforts, I'm convinced that there was no way to fully prepare for that first clinic. (pictured, above.) We were greeted like honored guests, with crowds of people and curious children, singing and often dancing, grabbing our hands, bowing, hugging, smiling those radiant smiles and repeating "Afoyo, Afoyo" (Thank you, thank you). After a few minutes of greetings, our team got to work putting together our clinic. Sometimes in abandoned churches or buildings, other times a mud hut, all the while doing the best we could with no electricity and no running water to set up makeshift areas for triage, patient care, and a pharmacy.

"Where are all these people coming from?" I thought to myself, as the crowds seem to have multiplied every time we looked up. People were just everywhere. The fact that we were so busy was a good distraction from the reality of what was in front of us. There were hundreds of people, having just walked miles in the scorching sun to come, and usually barefoot at that. There were women with babies tied to their backs, (pictured, below left,) children with babies tied to their backs, men with multiple children in tow, and elderly too weak to stand, taking a seat in the dirt to wait. "Oh my God, these people are so sick," I kept thinking, as the unending lines of people explained their many ailments to us. "Malaria, fevers, malaria, "worms", malaria, dehydration, malaria, seizures, malaria..." This, I quickly learned was field medicine, and though overwhelmed at times, our team became a well oiled machine, learning from each day and applying it to the next.

The ride back was always the most difficult. All of us exhausted physically and emotionally, covered in a fine layer of orange dust. Though we didn't always talk right away, I think all of our minds were in the same place, trying to "download" what we just saw, trying to rationalize the many people we had to turn away in order to see the very sickest. How we had to pack up an entire clinic to beat the setting sun, but with a line of people still pleading to be seen. Re-living the pictures of desperate faces, trusting us to give them some relief, and certainly praying to God, hoping we served His people with as much love and compassion as we could, and asking for the strength to do it all again tomorrow.

If space would allow, I could go on for pages about the finest details of this experience. These few words seem to barely scratch the surface of the impression Uganda has left on me.

## AROUND THE COUNTRY: Clergy & Laity Meet

However, none of these words would matter if I don't take time to point out the most ingrained memory I brought back. The absolute joy with which these people exist is overwhelming and humbling. They have nothing and give everything. Among such need, there is very little want. Even as they pull themselves out of the shadows of war, surrounded by disease and poverty, they chase away what would be justified sorrow with such joy and resilience. How is this possible? We witnessed a big part of the answer as we attended our first Liturgy together. Gathered in a large hut of mud and sticks, we experienced the most beautiful Liturgy I could have ever imagined. Standing barefoot in the dirt after walking miles to get there, the people sang the liturgy by heart! Adults and children alike not only sang by heart, but with such faith, vigor, smiles, such joy, and at times with a gentle away back and forth as their beautiful voices meshed into the hymns they knew so well. THIS is their joy. THIS is Orthodoxy. THIS is our faith in it's purest form.

In hindsight, I remember beginning this trip thinking we were providing all the service. That I was using my God-given talents to help those in need, and that however small, we would somehow change their lives for the better. How silly that all seems now that I'm home, forever changed and having been given so much. I'm left to wonder "who needed this mission more?"

At the airport, as we said our tearful "until we meet agains" to our new Ugandan family, one of the priests said it best as we hugged. "The tears you have in your eyes right now, are because you now have Uganda in your heart."



Members of the 2010 OCMC Uganda mission. Stacy Loejos is in the back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left.

*Recaps on the IOCC and YOCAMA Mission Trips in the next issue.*

The 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America met the first week of July in Atlanta, GA. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios addressed more than 1,000 participants, representing 299 parishes, during a combined opening session of Clergy-Laity and National Philoptochos. (324 parishes were not represented at all) St. Demetrios' Delegate was board member Vasiliki Delaney. Starting by noting that there have been three consecutive generations conducting the 40<sup>th</sup> Clergy-Laity Congress, the key points included three negative and positive points. The negative points were that 2008 brought serious economic repercussions, domestically and internationally (although thanks to many gifts, we did not have to cut our ministries) and saw the U.S. involved in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Third, was the oil spill and ecological disaster caused by greed and irresponsible human error in the Gulf of Mexico and other areas. On the positive side, was the October 2008 Synaxis in Constantinople followed by a Biblical Symposium in Asia Minor with the heads of the Autocephalous Churches in Rhodes and Crete. Second, a 3-day of the North and South Archdioceses of America to enhance Orthodoxy in the U.S. Finally, the theme "Gather My People to My Home, Come and See." (To read the Full text of the Address go to [www.goarch.org/news/2010congresskeynote](http://www.goarch.org/news/2010congresskeynote)) A patriarchal representative also conveyed the blessings of Patriarch Bartholomew. (For full text of the message [www.goarch.org/news/congresspatriarchaladdress](http://www.goarch.org/news/congresspatriarchaladdress)) For full details of resolutions and photos, visit [clergy-laity.org](http://clergy-laity.org).

During the course of the week several meetings and forums took place including: Philoptochos General Assembly, Chancellors Meeting, and meetings of the Archdiocese Benefits Office, Church Musicians, Sisterhood of Presbyteres, Administration Committee and two strategic forums on Orthodoxy and the Orthodox reality in America. I heard Michael Jaharis, Vice Chairman of the Archdiocesan Council, speak on how "we have to maintain" programs like: Linguistic transition, youth development, accessing Spiritual Guidance for those converting, remain accessible to all parishioners through education, connecting Hellenism and innovative change in education. He noted that there are 800 people in Leadership 100 and 150 in Faith/Education and we must preserve our Faith and language. "The path we choose is the key to Orthodoxy," he said, finishing by stating to also 'come and listen.'

On Tue., July 6, I attended the Archdiocesan Finance/Stewardship Committee meeting. Points of interest included that the National Ministries Commitment represented 68% of total revenue of 2009 of \$25,280,004. The balance of revenue was from unrestricted contributions, grants from Leadership 100 and Faith Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism and the areas of the direct mail campaign. Our legal settlement was 4.1 million and currently 3.1 million. It was noted that the Metropolises of Chicago, Boston and Detroit collected 100% of their allocations. And that there will be a penalty for not paying our commitment on time for the Archdiocese after 60 days @ 2% compounded. There can be reconciliation at the end of the year with incentives. In conclusion, the Greek Orthodox Church is the wealthiest Christian Church (next to the Jews) as the Patriarchate will continue to receive one million dollars per year in 2010-2011. We are a \$25 Million Budget Church and our goal in three years is to be \$100 Million Budget Church. I also attended the Administration Committee and Music Ministry meetings. Points of interest for the Admin meeting was the Ministry Resources, Parish Council Practice and video. Presently, \$11.8 million is allocated for ministries with a budget of \$26 million in the next two years, and \$36 million goal for the next 3 years. The Music Ministry is emphasizing youth involvement, and in chanting the Orthros and becoming more involved in the Liturgy. A panel of choir directors discussed their methods of bringing in youth and making choir interesting. – Respectfully submitted, *Vasiliki Delaney, Parish Council Member, Delegate 2010*

*In the next issue: Mrs. Delaney's report concludes with a report on Leadership 100.*

If you think about your Orthodox Faith...you will note that as Orthodox Christians we hold that God is creator and ruler of the Universe and all that is in it.

The familiar icon of the Pantokrator found in the domes of churches is a reminder and expression of that great truth of our Faith. It is our belief that "ours is our Father's world" and that our trust, hope and dependence is ultimately upon Him alone. Our Orthodox Christian view of man notes that people are both sinners and weak, yet also potentially God's image and His likeness. The difference is dependent upon our relationship with God. And that is dependent upon our willingness to choose for God or to deny Him. Orthodox Christians hold to the belief that man is free to make this choice. Now, if we look at these 2 beliefs (that God is master of the world, and that we are, however, free to choose either for or against Him) then we will see very easily what our attitude ought to be when we compare this Christian belief with astrology and occultism.

Astrology is an attempt to describe the future of an individual, based on the position of certain stars, relative to the period of the year when that person was born. Astrologers make calculations on this basis and predict what events, happenings and opportunities may occur in the life of the person. People may read an astrological prediction for the price of a newspaper, have a chart prepared by an astrologer for substantially more money, and now, even have an astrological reading prepared by a computer. At the basis of this astrological prediction-making are 2 very interesting presuppositions. The first is that the position of the stars at birth control the destiny of every person born on earth. The relationship of those physical bodies determines what kind of personality I have, what will happen to me, how my life shall be lived. The other presupposition is that men and women are subject to this accident of birth for their whole lives; a person cannot escape from the determining influences which arise from the fact that he or she is an Aries or a Sagittarius. In the view of astrology, we are not really free to choose and develop our own destiny. We are forever subject to the blind and mechanical influences arising from the physical location of the stars at the time of our birth!

It is not difficult to determine what an Orthodox Christian view about astrology will be. In effect, astrology denies the loving and gracious Lordship of God. It replaces God with a mechanical view of the determination of the future by the stars. In the place of the glorious freedom of man presented to us in the Christian Faith, it describes a star-haunted mankind, foreseeing the inexorable influence of the stars on his life, as he squirms and struggles to escape the inevitable. Astrology both denies the kingship of our loving and gracious Heavenly Father, and the glory as well as the responsibility of our own freedom. Even though astrology pretends to point to what is presented to be a force beyond mere materialism, it does no such thing. It is a denial of the fundamental truths of the Christian Faith. As such we cannot be indifferent to it, nor should Christians share in it or encourage others to share in it. Horoscopes in newspapers should be ignored as denials of the

love of God and man's moral and spiritual freedom! Christians should persuade other Christians not to have anything to do with astrology. Of the three options mentioned above, astrology is definitely a denial of the Christ-like way of living: something to be rejected as unchristian!"

As for fortune telling, Fr. Harakas states:

"Foretelling the future has been part of the tradition of our culture since ancient Greek times. Often the entrails of birds or animals would be examined for indications of what would happen in the future. A presupposition of this kind of activity is the belief in fate- that is, that the future course of a person's

life is totally pre-diagrammed by blind forces, and therefore predictable. In our day, it takes the form of astrological horoscopes, dream interpretations, "reading the coffee grinds," palm-reading,, and the like. Whatever the form, because on the one hand, human freedom, choice, self-determination are made meaningless, and on the other because God's care and providence are replaced by ideas of blind , deterministic forces, the Bible and the Church have opposed fortune telling:

'(Do not) employ auguries (foretelling from omens) nor divine by inspection of birds' (Leviticus 19:26- Septuagint.)

'Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out to be defiled by them' (Leviticus 19:31.)

'And hearken ye not to your false prophets, nor to them that divine to you, nor to them that foretell events by dreams to you, nor to your auguries...' (Jeremiah 34:9- Septuagint.)

In addition, there are many canons which prohibit the same thing. For example, St. Basil "canonizes" (that is, prohibits from receiving Holy Communion for a period of time) "those resorting to divination and continuing the usages of the heathen" (Canon 63.) Even more seriously, the 6<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council (680 AD) orders "those who consult soothsayers or so-called 'hecatonarchs' or other such fortune-tellers in the hope of learning from them whatever may be revealed to them, in accordance with what the Fathers had formerly decided in regard to them, let them incur the canon of 6 years." As you can see, the Church is very much of the opinion that Christians shouldn't be involved with any fortune-telling practices. "

The message is very clear! Christians are unalterably opposed to all forms of occultism which directs a person overtly into any kind of relationship with evil, regardless of the name or method. As your Spiritual Father, I must alert you all to a Christian's enemy, evil, and the many temptations and forms it takes. The New Testament book of I Peter gives the necessary directions to all Christians.

"Awake! Be on the alert! Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, prowls round looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, firm in faith...and the God of Grace, who called you into His eternal glory in Christ, will...restore, establish, and strengthen you on a firm foundation. He holds dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:8-11)

Take heed to the warning in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. – Fr. Jim

## On the Bulletin Board

### IOCC BASEBALL NIGHT

At Progressive Field

Friday, September 10

7:05 p.m.



Cleveland Indians vs.

Minnesota Twins

Mezzanine Seats \$22

Great fireworks after the game!

Contact Millie Vovos at 440-884-1305



### Orthodox and Catholics: Together yet Apart

*The Eleanor Malburg  
Eastern Churches Seminar*  
October 8-9, 2010

Notre Dame College  
4545 College Road  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121



**This is the 26th annual Eastern Churches Seminar.** It is open to all clergy, religious and laity of the Eastern and Western churches, and is especially helpful for religion teachers and pastoral ministers to aid their understanding of the Eastern traditions.

**Orthodox and Catholics: Together yet Apart:** The world and contemporary currents in Christianity pose some real challenges to the relationship of our ancient churches. The views of contemporary culture on moral and social issues present opportunities for joint witness as regards the concerns of climate change and care of this earth, but also call for some clear joint clarification on issues of protection of human life and end of life. Also, within broader Christianity there are certain teachings and practices which are not consonant with the apostolic tradition which ancient church believers unanimously revere. The estrangement between Catholic and Orthodox believers of some thousand years has brought us to some differences in doctrine and practice that have yet to find satisfactory resolution with the present situation in the dialogue.

Friday night events at the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma; Saturday events at Notre Dame College in South Euclid.

Look for info and registration forms on the bulletin board starting in September or email mbaran@ndc.edu

### The Annual John & Helen Collis Lecture "The Religion of Relics in Early Byzantium"



Presented by Derek Krueger, Professor of Religious Studies at the Univ. of North Carolina

Sunday, September 26 at 2 p.m.

Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium

Free tickets required. Available at the museum's box office: 216-421-7350.

Hellenic Preservation Society reception to follow.

## FALL GREEK FESTIVALS

**Buckeye Greek Festival**, Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 3-6) at Annunciation Cathedral, 555 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

Go to [www.GreekCathedral.com](http://www.GreekCathedral.com) for special hotel accommodation guest packages that include admission.



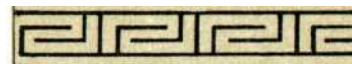
**Lorain Greek Festival** – Sept. 9-12 at St. Nicholas Church, 2000 Tower Blvd., Lorain, Ohio

Come see our St. Demetrios Dancers perform on Friday night!



**Toledo Greek Festival** – Sept. 9-12 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 740 Superior St., Toledo, celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> annual festival.

Admission is \$5 on Thu; \$3 on Fri & Sat; \$1 on Sunday. Music by Stigma on Friday and the Levendes on Saturday & Sunday. [www.toledogreekfest.com](http://www.toledogreekfest.com)



**Akron Greek Festival**– September 16-18, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 129 S. Union St., Akron celebrates its 52<sup>nd</sup> annual festival. [www.annunciationakron.org](http://www.annunciationakron.org)

## 16 SACRED SITES: Panagia Tsambika of Rhodes (Sept. 8)

On the eastern side of the island of Rhodes, 32 miles from the city between Kolymbia and Archangelos, is the church of the Panagia Tsambika.

According to tradition, the name “Tsambika” comes from a word in the local dialect, “*tsamba*” that means ‘flicker of light’ and refers to the manner in which the icon was found.

A certain shepherd was sitting near the fount of Aimachio (a historic site in Archangelos) when high up at the peak of the mountain, where the small chapel now stands, he saw something like the flickering of lights (*tsambes*.) He passed the entire night watching to see if the light moved, thinking that perhaps someone was holding a candle. The light, however, remained in one place. He watched a second and third night, and again the same light was in the same place.

Curious, yet a bit timid for fear of wrongdoers, he, along with some fellow villagers, armed themselves and went up the hill to investigate. Arriving at the peak, they beheld in amazement a silver-plated icon of the Panagia, in a cypress tree with a vigil lamp (*kandili*) lit in front of it.

The story of this strange event spread everywhere, even as far as Cyprus. There, the news was received with great surprise for an icon of the Panagia and her *kandili* had disappeared from a monastery on Cyprus. Officials from Cyprus therefore traveled to Rhodes, immediately recognized the icon as theirs, and returned it to Cyprus. The icon, however, once again left its throne and returned to the mountain peak. The Cypriot people were saddened at this and came again to Rhodes to retrieve their icon. In order to verify that it was the very same icon, they burned the back side a little, taking it and returning it to their homeland. And a third time, the icon returned “flickering” up on the mountain peak in Rhodes. It was then that the monastics built a small chapel there, dedicating it to Panagia Tsambika Kyra (The Lady.)

The original small icon of Panagia Tsambika portrays the Virgin Mary as “the One Wider than the Heavens.” For security reasons, the miracle-working icon is now kept at the “lower” church, closer to the village. The lower church, restored in 1760 by the monk Hatzigherasimos, is in the Dodecanese style, combining a cruciform vaulted ceiling, one altar and a traditional pebble-mosaic floor.



(above) The chapel at the peak, reached by climbing more than 200 steps.

(below) The “lower” church, restored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The wood-carved iconostasis is excellently hand-crafted and appears to be older than the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The church celebrates its feastday on the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8.) But on the Third Sunday of Great Lent (Veneration of the Cross,) a small celebration is held up at the peak by many pilgrims, as the uphill climb reminds one of the Lord’s walk to Golgotha.

The Panagia’s miracles are many, most having to do with barren women who beseech the Theotokos to grant them a child. In return, they vow to baptize the child at the church and name it Tsambiko (if a boy) or Tsambika (if a girl.) Therefore, this name is heard often on Rhodes. One of Panagia Tsambika’s oldest miracles is one having to do with the large land-holdings of the monastery. Their parcels originally belonged to a Turkish Pasha whose wife could not conceive. Having found out about the icon, the Pasha’s wife prayed and swallowed a small wick which had previously burned in the Panagia’s *kandili*. The miracle occurred and she became pregnant. The Turk could not believe the child was his, nor that a miracle had taken place. When the child was born, however, clutched in the palm of its little hand was the wick! With deep gratitude, the Pasha then donated all the land that now surrounds the church .

(source: Pamphlet issued by the monastery, submitted by Georgia Williams (nee Tahramanis.)

### CELEBRATIONS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS ~ WED., SEPT. 8

St. Demetrios parishioners can celebrate this important feastday with a Pilgrimage to the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, Penn., sponsored by St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church.

Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m. followed by lunch. \$20 per person for round trip transportation. The bus will leave on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 7:00 a.m. from St. Paul Church, 4548 Wallings Rd., North Royalton, and return approximately at 3:00 p.m. the same day.

RSVP to St. Paul Church (440-237-8998) by Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>.

For those who wish to travel on their own, the monastery is also holding Vespers on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 6 p.m.

