

Ιερος Ναος Αγιου Δημητρίου
Saint Demetrios
 Greek Orthodox Church + Upper Darby, PA



METROPOLIS OF
 NEW JERSEY

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25 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ · MARCH 2018

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ · ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS
 Ε' ΤΗΣ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑΣ · Αγ. ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΙΑΣ · 5TH SUN. OF LENT · ST. MARY OF EGYPT

ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! ΖΗΤΩ Η 25Η ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ!

“Ολοι προσκαλοῦνται νὰ συμμετάσχουν στὴν Παρέλαση γιὰ τὴ διπλῆ
 ἔορτή. Μετὰ τὴν Παρέλαση νὰ ἔλθετε ὅλοι ἐδὼ στὸν “Άγιο Δημήτριο γιὰ
 τὴν δεξίωση καὶ ἐκδήλωση τῆς Ὁμοσπονδίας στὶς 4.30 μ.μ.

All are invited to participate in this year's parade for the 25th of March
 and afterwards to come back to St. Demetrios for the Federation
 Reception and Dance Performances at 4.30 p.m.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ · SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Δευτέρα, 26 Μαρτίου	6.00 μ.μ.	ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟΝ
Monday, 26 March	6.00 p.m.	GREAT COMPLINE
Τετάρτη, 28 Μαρτίου	5.30, 6.00 μ.μ.	9Η ΩΡΑ & ΠΡΟΗΓΙΑΣΜΕΝΗ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ
Wednesday, 28 March	5.30, 6.00 p.m.	9TH HOUR & PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ · LAZARUS SATURDAY

Σάββατον, 31 Μαρτίου	8.30, 10.00 π.μ.	ΟΡΘΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ
Saturday, 31 March	8.30, 10.00 a.m.	ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΪΩΝ · PALM SUNDAY

Κυριακή, 1 Απριλίου	8.30, 10.00 π.μ.	ΟΡΘΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ
Sunday, 1 April	8.30, 10.00 a.m.	ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

THE ANTIPHONS OF THE ANNUNCIATION

ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝ Α΄· ΗΧΟΣ Β΄

Στίχ. α'. Ὁ Θεὸς τὸ κρῖμά σου τῷ
Βασιλεῖ δός, καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου
τῷ νἱῷ τοῦ βασιλέως.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου,
Σῶτερ, σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. β'. Ἀναλαβέτω τὰ ὅρη εἰρήνην τῷ
λαῷ, καὶ οἱ βουνοὶ δικαιοσύνην.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου...

Στίχ. γ'. Εὐαγγελίζεσθε ἡμέραν ἐξ
ἡμέρας, τὸ σωτήριον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἡμῶν.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου...

Στίχ. δ'. Ὦμοσε Κύριος τῷ Δαυΐδ
ἀλήθειαν καὶ οὐ μὴ ἀθετήσει αὐτήν.
Ἐκ καρποῦ τῆς κοιλίας σου θήσομαι
ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου σου.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου...

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίᾳ Πνεύματι·
καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰώνας
τῶν αἰώνων. Ἄμην.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου...

ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝ Β΄· ΗΧΟΣ Β΄

Στίχ. α'. Καταβήσεται ὡς ὑετὸς ἐπὶ¹
πόκον, καὶ ὥσει σταγῶν ἡ στάζουσα
ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ δι' ἡμᾶς
σαρκωθείς, ψάλλοντάς σοι,
Ἄλληλούϊα.

Στίχ. β'. Ἡγίασε τὸ σκήνωμα αὐτοῦ ὁ
Ὑψιστος.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ δι' ἡμᾶς...

Στίχ. γ'. Ὁ Θεὸς ἐμφανῶς ἥξει, ὁ Θεὸς
ἡμῶν καὶ οὐ παρασιωπήσεται.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ δι' ἡμᾶς...

ANTIPHON I; TONE 2

Vs. 1: *O God, give Your judgments to the King, and Your righteousness to the King's Son.*

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Vs. 2: *Let the mountains raise up peace for Your people and the hills in righteousness.*

Through the intercessions...

Vs. 3: *Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God.*

Through the intercessions...

Vs. 4: *The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it, "I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins."*

Through the intercessions...

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

Through the intercessions...

ANTIPHON II. MODE 2.

Vs. 1: *And He shall come down like rain on the fleece, like raindrops falling on the earth.*

Save us, O Son of God, who became...
incarnate for us. We sing to You,
Alleluia.

Vs. 2: *The Lord Most High has sanctified His tabernacle.*

Save us, O Son of God, who became...

Vs. 3: *God will come openly. He is our God, and He shall not be silent.*

Save us, O Son of God, who became...

Στίχ. δ'. Ἀνατελεῖ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις
αὐτοῦ δικαιοσύνη, καὶ πλῆθος εἰρήνης,
ἔως οὗ ἀνταναιρεθῇ ἡ σελήνη.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Γείτε Θεοῦ, ὁ δι' ἡμᾶς...

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Γείτῳ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.
Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεί, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας
τῶν αἰώνων. Ἄμην.

Ο Μονογενὴς Γείδος...

ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝΩΝ Γ'. ΗΧΟΣ Δ'

Στίχ. α'. Ἐσται τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ
εὐλογημένον εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, πρὸ τοῦ
ἡλίου διαμένει τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ· καὶ
ἐνευλογηθήσονται ἐν αὐτῷ πᾶσαι αἱ
φυλαὶ τῆς γῆς, πάντα τὰ ἔθνη
μακαριοῦσιν αὐτόν.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ· ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ· ΗΧΟΣ Δ'
Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ
Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος
Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Γείδος τοῦ
Θεοῦ, Γείδος τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ
Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ
καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ
βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ
Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Στίχ. β'. Εὐλογητὸς Κύριος, ὁ Θεὸς τοῦ
Ἰσραήλ, ὁ ποιῶν θαυμάσια μόνος,
Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν...

Στίχ. γ'. Καὶ εὐλογητὸν τὸ ὄνομα τῆς
δόξης αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα καὶ εἰς τὸν
αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος, καὶ πληρωθήσεται
τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ πᾶσα ἡ γῆ.

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν...

ΕΙΣΟΔΙΚΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ

Εὐαγγελίζεσθε ἡμέραν ἐξ ἡμέρας
τὸ σωτήριον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἡμῶν. Σῶσον
ἡμᾶς Γείτε Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν,
ψάλλοντάς Σοι Ἀλληλούϊα.

Vs. 4: *In His days, righteousness and abundance of peace shall flourish, until the moon is removed.*

Save us, O Son of God, who became...

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

Only begotten Son...

ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝ III. MODE II.

Vs. 1: *Let His name be blessed unto the ages; His name shall remain before the sun, and all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed in Him; all the Gentiles shall bless Him.*

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ. FOR THE FEAST. MODE IV

Today is the culmination of our salvation, and the revelation of the age-old mystery. For the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace. Therefore, let us join him, and cry aloud to the Theotokos: “Rejoice, Maiden full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

Vs. 2: *Blessed is the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Today is the culmination...*

Vs. 3: *And blessed is the name of His glory forever and unto ages of ages, and all the earth shall be filled with His glory. Today is the culmination...*

GOSPEL ENTRANCE HYMN

Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, “Alleluia!”

ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΜΟΝ· ΗΧΟΣ Α'

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν
Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν
φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου
Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ,
δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωήν· διὰ
τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν
ἔβόων σοι ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ
Ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ
βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου,
μόνε φιλάνθρωπε.

ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ· ΗΧΟΣ Δ'

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν...

ΤΟΥ ΝΑΟΥ, ΗΧΟΣ Γ'

Μέγαν εὔρατο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις σὲ
ὑπέρμαχον ἡ οἰκουμένη, Ἀθλοφόρε, τὰ
ἔθνη τροπούμενον. Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου
καθεῖλες τὴν ἔπαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ
θαρρύνας τὸν Νέστορα, οὕτως Ἄγιε,
Μεγαλομάρτυς Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν τὸν
Θεὸν ἰκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα
ἔλεος.

KONTAKION ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ, ΠΛΑΓΙΟΣ Δ'

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ
νικητήρια, ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν
δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, ἀναγράφω σοι
ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἀλλ' ὡς
ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, ἐκ
παντοίων με κινδύνων
ἔλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοι· Χαῖρε
νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

RESURRECTIONAL; MODE I

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; glory to Your kingdom; glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

FOR THE FEAST; MODE IV

Today is the culmination...

FOR OUR PATRON SAINT, MODE III

All the world has you, its mighty champion, fortifying us in times of danger, and defeating our foes, O Victorious One. So, as you humbled Lyaios's arrogance by giving courage to Nestor in the stadium, thus, O holy Great Martyr Demetrios, to Christ our God pray fervently, beseeching Him to grant us His great mercy.

KONTAKION OF THE FEAST, PLAGAL IV
To you, the Champion Leader we
your flock dedicate a feast of victory
and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued
out of suff'rings, O Theotokos. But as
you are one with might that is
invincible, from all dangers that can
be do you deliver us, that we may cry
to you, "Rejoice, O Bride unwedded."

READING FROM THE APOSTLE: HEBREWS 2.11-18

Προκείμενον· Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχή μου τὸν Κύριον,
καὶ ἡγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτῆρί μου.

Στίχος· Ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπείνωσιν τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ·
ἰδού γάρ, ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν μακαριοῦσί με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαῖ.

Ἄδελφοί, ὅ ἀγιάζων καὶ οἱ ἀγιαζόμενοι ἔξ ἐνὸς πάντες· δι' ἣν αἵτιαν οὐκ ἐπαισχύνεται ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοὺς καλεῖν, λέγων· "Απαγγελῶ τὸ ὄνομά σου τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου, ἐν μέσῳ ἐκκλησίας ὑμνήσω σε". καὶ πάλιν· "Ἐγὼ ἔσομαι πεποιθὼς ἐπ' αὐτῷ". καὶ πάλιν· "Ιδοὺ ἔγὼ καὶ τὰ παιδία ἃ μοι ἔδωκεν ὁ Θεός". Ἐπεὶ οὖν "τὰ παιδία" κεκοινώνηκε σαρκὸς καὶ αἵματος, καὶ αὐτὸς παραπλησίως μετέσχε τῶν αὐτῶν, ἵνα διὰ τοῦ θανάτου καταργήσῃ τὸν τὸ κράτος ἔχοντα τοῦ θανάτου, τοῦτ' ἔστι τὸν διάβολον, καὶ ἀπαλλάξῃ τούτους, ὅσοι φόβῳ θανάτου διὰ παντὸς τοῦ ζῆν ἔνοχοι ἦσαν δουλείας. Οὐ γάρ δῆπου ἀγγέλων ἐπιλαμβάνεται, ἀλλὰ "σπέρματος Ἀβραὰμ" ἐπιλαμβάνεται. "Οθεν ὥφειλε κατὰ πάντα τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ὄμοιωθῆναι, ἵνα ἐλεήμων γένηται καὶ πιστὸς ἀρχιερεὺς τὰ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, εἰς τὸ ἱλάσκεσθαι τὰς ἀμαρτίας τοῦ λαοῦ. Ἐν ᾧ γάρ πέπονθεν αὐτὸς πειρασθείς, δύναται τοῖς πειραζομένοις βοηθῆσαι.

Prokeimenon: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

Verse: *For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.*

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Brethren, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1.24-38

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις συνέλαβεν Ἐλισάβετ ἡ γυνὴ αὐτοῦ, καὶ περιέκρυβεν ἔαυτὴν μῆνας πέντε, λέγουσα ὅτι οὕτω μοι πεποίηκεν ὁ Κύριος ἐν ἡμέραις αἷς ἐπεῖδεν ἀφελεῖν τὸ ὄνειδός μου ἐν ἀνθρώποις. Ἐν δὲ τῷ μηνὶ τῷ ἔκτῳ ἀπεστάλη ὁ ἄγγελος Γαβριὴλ ὑπὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰς πόλιν τῆς Γαλιλαίας, ἥ ὄνομα Ναζαρέτ, πρὸς παρθένον μεμνηστευμένην ἀνδρί, ὡς ὄνομα Ἰωσήφ, ἔξ οἴκου Δαυΐδ, καὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῆς παρθένου Μαριάμ. καὶ εἰσελθὼν ὁ ἄγγελος πρὸς αὐτὴν εἶπε· Χαῖρε, κεχαριτωμένη· ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ· εὐλογημένη σὺ ἐν γυναιξίν. Ἡ δὲ ἰδοῦσα διεταράχθη ἐπὶ τῷ λόγῳ αὐτοῦ, καὶ διελογίζετο ποταπὸς εἴη ὁ ἀσπασμὸς οὗτος. Καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἄγγελος αὐτῇ· Μὴ φοβοῦ, Μαριάμ· εῦρες γάρ χάριν παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ. Καὶ ἰδοὺ συλλήψῃ ἐν γαστρὶ καὶ τέξῃ υἱόν, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν. Οὗτος ἔσται μέγας καὶ υἱὸς ὑψίστου κληθήσεται, καὶ δώσει αὐτῷ Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς τὸν θρόνον Δαυΐδ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ βασιλεύσει ἐπὶ τὸν οἶκον Ἰακὼβ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, καὶ τῆς βασιλείας αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔσται τέλος. Εἶπε δὲ Μαριάμ πρὸς τὸν ἄγγελον· Πῶς

ἔσται μοι τοῦτο, ἐπεὶ ἄνδρα οὐ γινώσκω; Καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ ἄγγελος εἶπεν αὐτῇ· Πνεῦμα Ἀγιον ἐπελεύσεται ἐπὶ σὲ καὶ δύναμις ὑψίστου ἐπισκιάσει σοι· διὸ καὶ τὸ γεννώμενον ἄγιον κληθήσεται υἱὸς Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἴδοὺ Ἐλισάβετ ἡ συγγενής σου καὶ αὐτὴ συνειληφυῖα υἱὸν ἐν γήρει αὐτῆς, καὶ οὗτος μὴν ἔκτος ἔστιν αὐτῇ τῇ καλουμένῃ στείρᾳ· ὅτι οὐκ ἀδυνατήσει παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ πᾶν ῥῆμα. Εἶπε δὲ Μαριάμ· Ἰδοὺ ἡ δούλη Κυρίου· γένοιτο μοι κατὰ τὸ ῥῆμά σου. Καὶ ἀπῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτῆς ὁ ἄγγελος.

In those days, Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, “Thus the Lord had done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.” In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How shall this be, since I have no husband?” And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

ΕΥΧΗ ΤΗΣ ΔΟΞΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΕΠΙ ΤΗ ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΕΟΡΤΗ

Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ τὰ σύμπαντα τῷ σῷ κράτει συνέχων τῇ θείᾳ σου καὶ πανσθενεῖ βουλῇ κυβερνῶν, ὁ ἑκάστῳ ἔθνει τὰς ἴδιας ὁροθεσίας θέμενος, τὸ δὲ εὔσεβές ἡμῶν “Εθνος ἔξαιρέτως εὐεργετήσας, τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τῆς σῆς ἀληθείας αὐτῷ χαρισάμενος, καὶ πρὸς τὸ φῶς τῆς ἀληθοῦς ἡμῶν θρησκείας καθοδηγήσας, ἐξ αὐτοῦ δὲ μεγάλους τῆς Ἐκκλησίας πατέρας καὶ διδασκάλους ἀναδείξας, καὶ ἐλεύθερον μὲν αὐτὸν ἐπὶ αἰῶνας διατηρήσας τῇ θείᾳ σου χάριτι, δουλωθὲν δὲ στηρίξας καὶ διασώσας καὶ εἰς ἐλεύθερον αὖθις βίον αὐτὸν ἔξαναστήσας, Αὐτός, πανάγιε Δέσποτα, πρόσδεξαι τὰς εὐχαριστηρίους ἡμῶν δεήσεις ἐπὶ τῇ ἀπελευθερώσει καὶ τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ αὐτοῦ. Καὶ τὰς μὲν ψυχὰς τῶν ὑπὲρ Πίστεως καὶ Πατρίδος ἡρωϊκῶς ἀγωνισαμένων καὶ ἐνδόξως ἐν τοῖς ἱεροῖς ἡμῶν ἀγῶσι πεσόντων ἢ ὑπὸ τῶν πολεμίων ἀναιρεθέντων πατέρων καὶ ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν μετὰ τῶν ἀπ' αἰῶνός σοι εὐαρεστησάντων ἀνάπταυσον· Ἡμᾶς δὲ πάντας ἀξίους τῆς ἐλευθερίας ἀνάδειξον, ἐν εἰρήνῃ καὶ ὁμονοίᾳ διατήρησον καὶ εἰς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν καὶ σοὶ εὐάρεστον καθοδήγησον, τοὺς πιστοὺς ἄρχοντας ἡμῶν ἐν εἰρήνῃ καὶ ὁμονοίᾳ διατήρησον καὶ λάλησον ἀγαθὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν ὑπὲρ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας σου καὶ παντὸς τοῦ λαοῦ σου. Σὺ γὰρ εῖ ὁ Βασιλεὺς τῆς εἰρήνης καὶ Σωτὴρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν, καὶ σοὶ τὴν δόξαν ἀναπέμπομεν, τῷ Πατρὶ καὶ τῷ Υἱῷ καὶ τῷ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἄμην.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΣΧΑ 2018

Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ Σάββατον, 31 Μαρτίου	9.00 π.μ. 10.00 π.μ.	”Ορθρος Θεία Λειτουργία
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΪΩΝ Κυριακή, 1 Απριλίου	9.00 π.μ. 10.00 π.μ. 7.00 μ.μ.	”Ορθρος Θεία Λειτουργία Α' ”Ορθρος τοῦ Νυμφίου
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ Δευτέρα, 2 Απριλίου	9.00 π.μ. 7.00 μ.μ.	Θ' ”Ωρα καὶ Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία Β' ”Ορθρος τοῦ Νυμφίου
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ Τρίτη, 3 Απριλίου	9.00 π.μ. 7.00 μ.μ.	Θ' ”Ωρα καὶ Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία Γ' ”Ορθρος τοῦ Νυμφίου (Κασσιανή), **ΧΟΡΟΣΤΑΤΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΕΒΑΣΜΙΩΤΑΤΟΥ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΟΥ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ, κ. ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΥ**
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ Τετάρτη, 4 Απριλίου	9.00 π.μ. 4.00 μ.μ. 7.00 μ.μ.	Θ' ”Ωρα καὶ Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία **ΙΕΡΟΥΡΓΟΥΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΕΒΑΣΜΙΩΤΑΤΟΥ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΟΥ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ, κ. ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΥ** Μυστήριον τοῦ Εύχελαίου ”Ορθρος τοῦ Νιπτῆρος μὲ χρίση Εύχελαίου
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ Πέμπτη, 5 Απριλίου	8.00 π.μ. 7.00 μ.μ.	Θ' ”Ωρα καὶ Ἐσπερινὴ Λειτουργία Ἅγ. Βασιλείου (Ο Μυστικὸς Δεῖπνος) ”Ορθρος τῶν Παθῶν τοῦ Κυρίου (12 Εὐαγγέλια)
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ Παρασκευή, 6 Απριλίου	9.00 π.μ. 3.00 μ.μ. 7.00 μ.μ.	Βασιλικαὶ ”Ωραι Ἐσπερινὸς τῆς Ἀποκαθηλώσεως ”Ορθρος τοῦ Ἐπιταφίου Θρήνου (Ἐγκώμια) μὲ περιφοφὰν τοῦ Ἐπιταφίου
ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ Σάββατον, 7 Απριλίου	9.00 π.μ. 11.00 μ.μ.	Θ' ”Ωρα καὶ Ἐσπερινὴ Λειτουργία Ἅγ. Βασιλείου (1η Ἄναστασις) ”Ορθρος τοῦ Πάσχα
ΜΕΓΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ Κυριακή, 8 Απριλίου	12.00 π.μ. 11.00 π.μ.	Ἀκολουθία Ἀναστάσεως μὲ Θεία Λειτουργία Ἐσπερινὸς τῆς Ἅγαπης

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2018

LAZARUS SATURDAY Saturday, 31 March	9.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy
PALM SUNDAY Sunday, 1 April	9.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	Orthros Divine Liturgy 1st Orthros of the Bridegroom
GREAT & HOLY MONDAY Monday, 2 April	9.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy 2nd Orthros of the Bridegroom
GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY Tuesday, 3 April	9.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy 3rd Orthros of the Bridegroom (Hymn of Kassiani) **HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS OF NEW JERSEY PRESIDING**
GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY Wednesday, 4 April	9.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy **HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN EVANGELOS OF NEW JERSEY PRESIDING** Service of Holy Unction (Evchelaion) Orthros of the Niptiros with Anointing of Evchelaion
GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY Thursday, 5 April	8.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	9th Hour & Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil Orthros of the Passion of Christ (12 Gospels)
GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY Friday, 6 April	9.00 a.m. 3.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Royal Hours Vespers of the Unnailing (Apokathelosis) Orthros of the Lamentations at the Tomb with the Procession of the Epitaphios
GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY Saturday, 7 April	9.00 a.m. 11.00 p.m.	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (1st Resurrection) Midnight Office of Pascha
GREAT & HOLY PASCHA Sunday, 8 April	12.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Resurrection Service & Divine Liturgy Agape Vespers



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Πρός τόν εὐλαβέστατον Ἱερόν Κλῆρον,
Τούς Ἐντιμοτάτους Ἀρχοντας τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ ἡμῶν Πατριαρχείου,
Τούς Προέδρους καὶ τά Μέλη τῶν Ἐκκλησιαστικῶν Συμβουλίων,
Τάς Προέδρους καὶ τά Μέλη τῶν Φιλοπτώχων Ἀδελφοτήτων,
Τούς διδάσκοντας καὶ διδασκομένους τῶν Κατηχητικῶν καὶ Ἑλληνικῶν Σχολείων,
Τάς ὄργανώσεις τῆς Νεολαίας καὶ ἀπαν τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῶν εὐσεβῶν Ὁρθοδόξων
Χριστιανῶν τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως Νέας Ἱερσέης.

«Ἐπε δέ Μαριάμ· ἵδού ἡ δούλη Κυρίου· γένοιτο μοι κατά τό ρῆμα σου» (Λουκά 1, 38)

Ἄγαπητοί ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφοί,

Ἡ 25^η Μαρτίου ἀποτελεῖ γιά κάθε ἑλληνική ὁρθόδοξη ψυχή ἡμέρα θρησκευτικῆς εὐφροσύνης ἀλλά καὶ ίστορικῆς μνήμης, ἡμέρα διπλῆς ἔορτῆς, τῆς προσωπικῆς καὶ συνάμα τῆς ἑθνικῆς μας παλιγγενεσίας. Ὁ ἑλληνικός λαός, μέ απαράμιλλη σοφία, συνδύασε τήν ἀπαρχή τοῦ ἑθνικοπελευθερωτικοῦ του ἀγώνα μέ τήν ἔορτή τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ τῆς Θεοτόκου, ταυτίζοντας ἔτσι τήν ἀπαρχή τῆς σωτηρίας τοῦ γένους τῶν Ἑλλήνων μέ τήν ἀπαρχή τῆς σωτηρίας τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους. Κοινό στοιχεῖο τῶν δύο αὐτῶν γεγονότων εἶναι ἡ ἀνυπολόγιστη καὶ εὐλογημένη ἀξία τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ, ὅπως πολύ σωστά ἀποτυπώνει ὁ ποιητής, εἶναι

«δύο λευτεριές πού σμίγουνε μέσα στήν ἴδια μέρα...
ἡ λευτεριά τοῦ Ἑλληνα καὶ ἡ λευτεριά τοῦ ἀνθρώπου».

Στὸν Εὐαγγελισμό, ἡ ἔννοια τῆς ἐλευθερίας σαρκώνεται μέ τή συγκατάθεση τῆς Παναγίας στό χαρμόσυνο μήνυμα τοῦ Ἀρχαγγέλου Γαβριήλ γιά τόν ἐρχομό τοῦ Βασιλιᾶ τῆς Ζωῆς καὶ τῆς Ανάστασης, τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ Λόγου. Τό «γένοιτο μοι κατά τό ρῆμα σου», πού λέει ταπεινά ἡ ἀειπάρθενος Μαρία, γίνεται Εὐαγγελισμός τῆς σωτηρίας ὅλου τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους, τῆς νίκης κατά τοῦ θανάτου καὶ τῆς δυνατότητας ἐπιστροφῆς του στόν χαμένο παράδεισο. Κλείνει ὁριστικά τό κεφάλαιο τῆς φθορᾶς καὶ τῆς ύποδούλωσης στήν ἀμαρτίᾳ καὶ ἀνοίγει τό κεφάλαιο τῆς λύτρωσης καὶ τῆς ἐλευθερίας.

Ὄχι τυχαία, λοιπόν, ὁ Εὐαγγελισμός γίνεται αἰῶνες μετά μήνυμα ἀνάστασης τοῦ ὑπόδουλου ἑλληνικοῦ γένους, γεμίζοντας τίς ψυχές τῶν Ἑλλήνων μέ τήν ἐλπίδα ὅτι ἡ Παναγία ὡς «Ὕπερμαχος Στρατηγός», θά τούς βοηθήσει στόν δίκαιο Ἀγῶνα τους. Ὁπως χαρακτηριστικά διαλαλοῦσε ὁ Κολοκοτρώνης, ὁ Θεός ὑπόγραψε γιά τήν ἐλευθερία τῆς Ἑλλάδος καὶ δέν παίρνει πίσω τήν ὑπογραφή Του. Ὁ Εὐαγγελισμός τοῦ ἔτους 1821, λοιπόν, ἀποτελεῖ ἀναμφίβολα τήν ἀπαρχή τοῦ ἀγώνα τῶν Ἑλλήνων γιά τή λευτεριά, καθώς παίρνει σάρκα καὶ ὀστᾶ ἡ ἀπόφασή τους νά ἀποτινάξουν τήν τυραννία τῆς μακρόχρονης σκλαβιᾶς καὶ νά διεκδικήσουν τήν αὐτοδιάθεσή τους.

Στούς τέσσερις σκοτεινούς αἰῶνες τῆς δουλείας τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ ἔθνους πού προηγήθηκαν, ἡ Ὁρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία, ὡς θεσμός καὶ ὡς χῶρος, στάθηκε ἀληθινὴ κιβωτός του, διασώζοντας τὴ γλῶσσα, τὴν ἐθνικὴν καὶ θρησκευτικὴν συνείδησην καὶ τὶς παραδόσεις τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ λαοῦ, ἐνώνοντας τὸν ὑπόδουλο λαό σὲ σύνολο, διατηρώντας τὴν ἐπαφήν του με τὸ μακρινό ἔνδοξο παρελθόν του καὶ τρέφοντας τον με τὴν ἐλπίδα τῆς λευτεριᾶς. Άλλα καὶ τὰ ἐθνικοπελευθερωτικά κηρύγματα τῶν Ἑλλήνων Διαφωτιστῶν, τοῦ Ρήγα Φεραίου, τοῦ Ἀδαμάντιου Κοραῆς καὶ τοῦ Πατρο-Κοσμᾶ τοῦ Αἰτωλοῦ ἔγιναν οἱ σπίθες πού φωτίσαν τὶς μαυρισμένες ψυχές τῶν ὑπόδουλων Ἑλλήνων.

Πρωταγωνιστής αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἔνδοξου ἀγώνα ἔνας ὄλόκληρος λαός, πού σηκώνει τὸ κεφάλι ἀπέναντι στὸν αἵμοβόρο κατακτητή του μέ μοναδικό στήριγμα τὴν πίστη στὸν Θεό. Ἔνα ὄλόκληρο ἔθνος, μέ τὴν κραυγὴν καὶ τὴν ἀπαίτηση «ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ Η ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ» νά ύψωνεται σάν λάβαρο σὲ στεριά καὶ θάλασσα, ξεκινᾶ τὸν δύσκολο ἀγώνα του, ὑπὸ τὴν ἡγεσίαν ἀνθρώπων σεβαστῶν, κληρικῶν καὶ λαϊκῶν, μέ φλογερή καρδιά καὶ πύρινο λόγο. Πολλοί εἶναι αὐτοί πού κατορθώνουν νά ἐνσαρκώσουν τὰ ἰδανικά στὸν πιό ύψηλό βαθμό καὶ νά ἀναδειχθοῦν σὲ σύμβολα ἀπαράμιλλου θάρρους: ὁ Κολοκοτρώνης, ὁ Μακρυγιάννης, ὁ Καραϊσκάκης, ὁ Νικηταρᾶς, ὁ Παπαφλέσσας, ὁ Διάκος στὴν Ἀλαμάνα καὶ ὁ Ἀνδρούτσος στὸ Χάνι τῆς Γραβιᾶς, ὁ Καραϊσκάκης στὴν Ἀράχοβα, ὁ Ψαριανός πυρπολητής Κανάρης, ὁ Μιαούλης, ἡ Μπουμπουλίνα, ἡ Μαντώ Μαυρογένους καὶ τόσοι ἄλλοι γνωστοί καὶ ἄγνωστοι ἀγωνιστές.

Πολλές φορές, ὡστόσο, ἀπό τότε καὶ μέχρι σήμερα ἡ Ἑλλάδα βρέθηκε στὸ στόχαστρο ἄλλων λαῶν -κυρίως γειτονικῶν- πού ἐποφθαλμιοῦν μέ προκλητικό καὶ ἀνεπίτρεπτο τρόπο ὅχι μόνον ἐδάφη, ἀλλα καὶ τὴν ἴδια τῆς τὴν ἰστορία. Τό τελευταῖο διάστημα, μάλιστα, ἀναδύθηκε στὴν ἐπικαιρότητα γιά μία ἀκόμη φορά τὸ λεγόμενο «Μακεδονικό ζήτημα». Μέ τὴν πλαστογράφηση τῆς ἰστορίας, ἐπιδιώκεται ἡ δημιουργία ἐνός κρατιδίου, τό διόπιστο σφετερίζεται μέ θρασύτατο τρόπο τὸ σὸνομα καὶ τὴν ἑλληνικὴν ἰστορία, προκειμένου νά ἐπιβιώσει. Γιά ὅσους, ἔστω καὶ στοιχειωδῶς, γνωρίζουν τὰ γεγονότα, εἶναι ξεκάθαρο ὅτι ἡ ἰστορία τῆς Μακεδονίας εἶναι ἀναπόσπαστο κομμάτι τῆς ἑλληνικῆς ἰστορίας.

Οἱ ἀπανταχοῦ Ἑλληνες, ὡς συνεχιστές τῶν ἥρωών τοῦ '21, βροντοφωνάζουν καὶ ἀπαιτοῦν: «Καμία παραχώρηση τοῦ ὀνόματος τῆς Μακεδονίας» καὶ ὅτι «Η Μακεδονία ἡταν, εἶναι καὶ θά εἶναι πάντα ἑλληνική». Εἶναι ἀπαίτηση τῶν ψυχῶν τῶν Μακεδονομάχων, που ἔδωσαν τὴν ζωὴν τοὺς καὶ ἔχουσαν τὸ αἷμα τους γιά μία Μακεδονία ἐλεύθερη καὶ ἑλληνική. Αποτελεῖ ἐθνικό χρέος, λοιπόν, ὅλων τῶν Ἑλλήνων, ἡ διαφύλαξη τῆς ἰστορικῆς μας μνήμης.

Οἱ Ἑλληνες ἀγαπᾶμε βεβαίως ὅλους τοὺς λαούς, καὶ εἰδικά τοὺς γειτονικούς, καὶ τὸ ἔχουμε ἀποδείξει πολλές φορές. Τό ἑλληνικό ἔθνος πιστεύει σταθερά στὸ δίκαιο. Δέν ἐποφθαλμιὰ κανενός τὸ δίκαιο, ἀλλα καὶ δέν ἀνέχεται ἄλλοι νά καταπατοῦν τὸ δικό του. Προσευχόμαστε γιά τὴν ἐπίτευξη συμφωνίας στὸ ζήτημα τῆς ὀνομασίας καὶ στηρίζουμε ὅλες τὶς εἰρηνικές καὶ ἀνιδιοτελεῖς δράσεις πού πραγματοποιοῦνται ὑπέρ τοῦ δικαίου τῆς πατρίδας καὶ τοῦ λαοῦ μας. Οἱ Ἑλληνες σὲ ὅλα τὰ μήκη καὶ πλάτη τοῦ κόσμου, καὶ ἰδιαίτερα οἱ Ἑλληνες τῆς Αμερικῆς, ύπηρξαν πάντοτε συμπαραστάτες καὶ ἀρωγοί σὲ κάθε δίκαιη καὶ εἰλικρινή προσπάθεια τῆς μητέρας πατρίδας. Αὐτό πράττουν καὶ τώρα.

Άγαπητοί μου ἀδελφοί,

Ἡ σημερινή ἡμέρα εἶναι ἡμέρα τιμῆς καὶ εὐγνωμοσύνης πρωτίστως στήν Παναγίᾳ μας, πού πάντοτε ύπηρξε βοηθός καὶ συμπαραστάτης τοῦ Ἐθνους μας, καὶ ἔπειτα τῶν ἡρώων πού θυσιάστηκαν γιά τή δική μας ἐλευθερία. Ἄς παρακαλοῦμε, λοιπόν, τήν Κυρία Θεοτόκο νά μᾶς ἐπισκιάζει μέ τή χάρη της καὶ ἄς ἀγωνιζόμαστε νά διαφυλάξουμε τήν ἐλευθερία καὶ νά τήν παραδώσουμε μέ τή σειρά μας στήν ἐπόμενη γενιά σάν ιερή παρακαταθήκη. Οἱ ἀγῶνες τῶν Ἑλλήνων ποτέ δέν ἔπειτα φανταστικές καὶ δεν πρόκειται νά πάψουν. Ακόμη καὶ σήμερα, τό εὐλογημένο ἑλληνικό ἔθνος, συμπεριλαμβανομένης καὶ τῆς φιλοθέου Ὁμογένειάς μας, πολεμᾶ καὶ ἀγωνίζεται νά κρατήσει ζωντανή τήν ἑλληνορθόδοξη ταυτότητά του.

Στόν ἀγώνα αὐτόν ἄς μᾶς καθοδηγεῖ ἡ μακραίωνη παράδοσή μας, ἡ ἱστορία μας, τό παράδειγμα τῶν πατέρων μας καὶ οἱ θυσίες τῶν ἡρώων μας, πού ἀγωνίστηκαν γιά κάθε κομμάτι ἑλληνικῆς γῆς. Τούς χρωστᾶμε καὶ ἐμεῖς τόν δικό μας ἀγῶνα, γιά μία δυνατή καὶ ἀκέραια Ὁρθόδοξη Ἑλλάδα, ὅπως ἀκριβῶς μᾶς τήν παρέδωσαν, τήν Ἑλλάδα τῶν Ἅγίων, τῶν ἡρώων καὶ τῶν μαρτύρων. Ἐχουμε χρέος νά τιμήσουμε τούς ἥρωές μας, ἐμπνεόμενοι ἀπό τό παράδειγμά τους καὶ νά φανοῦμε ἄξιοι ἀπόγονοι, ἄξιων προγόνων.

Χρόνια πολλά καὶ πάντα ἐλεύθεροι!

Ζήτω ἡ 25^η Μαρτίου! Ζήτω ἡ Ἀγία Ὁρθοδοξία! Ζήτω ἡ Ἑλλάδα μας!

Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ

† Νέας Ιερσέης ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

† Ο Νέας Ιερσέης ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Feast of the Annunciation 2018

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

"The fetters of the curse once laid on our forefather now are loosed. And so with all the world we cry out to you, 'Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace'"

My Beloved in the Lord,

Today we are granted the continual gift of salvation as we experience the unsurpassing love of God for His creation as His eternal Divine Plan for humanity finds its initial revelation in the person of the Virgin Mary who answers an unequivocal "Yes" to God when she said to the Archangel Gabriel, *"Behold the handmaiden of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38). With these words, this young woman full of devout faith became the Theotokos, the one who bears God.

As with all blessings, the blessings of her eternal reward would not come without struggle. She would find herself making a journey with her betrothed, Joseph, while she was still yet pregnant. She would have to give birth to Christ in a cave due to there not being any place for her elsewhere. Her Son would be hunted by a maniacal king thus driving her family into exile. She would experience the joy of seeing her Son *"increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men"* (Luke 2:52). She would see her Son begin His ministry and eventually enter the city of Jerusalem with throngs of people exclaiming "Hosanna!" She would witness her Son and her Lord be delivered to Pontius Pilate before being crucified in a horrific manner and dying before her very eyes. The extraordinary blessing of bearing the Savior would mean that she would have an equally extraordinary struggle. In the end, however, she would also see her Son resurrected and ascend to heaven in glory.

Likewise, though God grants us bountiful blessings every day, we must also be prepared to struggle. This struggle helps to fortify our Orthodox Christian character and prepares us to worthily receive Christ Himself. The free-will choice of the Theotokos initiated the Divine Plan which would see humanity released from the bonds of slavery to death and have the

opportunity to enter into the Lord's Kingdom. Therefore, by exercising our free will and choosing to have a personal relationship with God, we follow the example of the Theotokos and, thus, move further away from the "sickness unto death" and closer to eternal life.

Finally, today also marks the 197th anniversary of Greek Independence Day. We celebrate the Greek people rising up against the Ottoman powers and declaring that we no longer would be subject to their tyrannical reign, cruel oppression, and religious persecution. The struggle of our forefathers to gain freedom was successful, however, it would be almost another century of struggle before the rest of Greece would become free and even to this day we still struggle for religious freedom for our Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. And in their enduring sacrifice, what began at the monastery of Agia Lavra as an alliance of clergy and laity, of fathers and sons, of mothers and daughters, of tradesmen and paupers, of farmers and sailors, of statesmen and students, of Greeks and Philhellenes, lives today two centuries later as the nation of Greece.

It is my fervent prayer that as we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, that we endeavor to learn the true meaning of Christian struggle as a means to overcome evil and come closer to God thus mirroring the example of the Theotokos. Furthermore, on this Greek Independence Day, it is my sincerest hope that we remember the struggle of our forefathers and the struggle of all persecuted people throughout the world as they pursue freedom and liberty.

ZΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! ZΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ!

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Metropolitan Evangelos".

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey

Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating the following Sunday School children that took part in the 2018 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival!

Elementary Division

Evangelia Eliades	Maria Karamitopoulos
Maximos Gilbert	Nikolina Krenitsky
Lefteri Giouvannoulis	Liana Krontiris
Antoni Horozoglou	Evaggelia Tsaousidis
Panagiota Kardon	

Junior Division

Dimitroula Filipatos	Niko Krontiris
Zelda Gilbert	Yianni Krontiris
Theodora Horozoglou	Stathi Tsaousidis
Ilaria Krenitsky	

Senior Division

Martha Eliades	Theodoros Karipis
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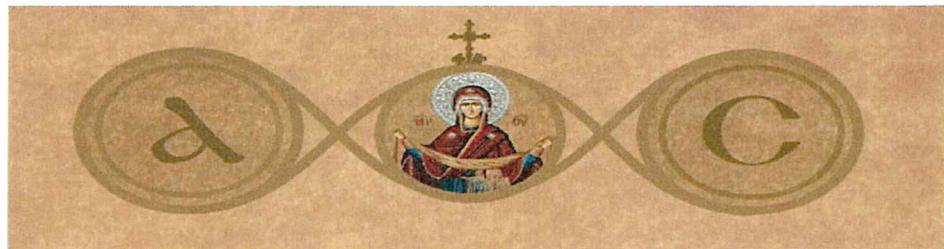
We are so proud of all of you!

Congratulations to the following finalists that will represent St. Demetrios in the District Oratorical Festival that will take place on Saturday, April 21st at St. George Media:

Junior Division: Zelda Gilbert & Ilaria Krenitsky

Senior Division: Martha Eliades & Theodoros Karipis

HOLY PROTECTION MONASTERY



Ιερά Μονή Αγίας Σκέπης

English

Ελληνικά

Saint Demetrios Sunday School Trip

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Bus to depart from St. Demetrios @ 7am and return @ 7pm

All children must be accompanied by an adult for this trip. Sunday School will pay any fees for the REGISTERED Saint Demetrios Sunday School children. The fee for adults accompanying and non-Sunday School kids is \$30.00

Please register with the form below. **All registrations & payments are due by April 15th.**
(if by check, make payable to: Saint Demetrios Sunday School)

Name: _____

Sunday School child non-Sunday School adult

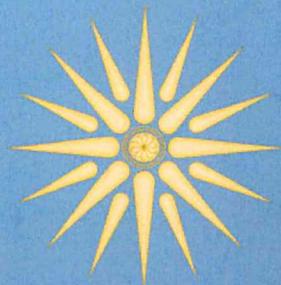
Total Sunday School children

Total non-Sunday School people x \$30.00 = \$ _____

Contact email & phone #: _____



The Federation of Hellenic-American Societies
of Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley



GREEK Independence Day Parade 2018



Sunday • March 25TH

at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway • Philadelphia

From 16th to Eakins Oval • Formation 1:00 PM • Step off 2:00 PM

**For more information contact Stathis Karadonis 856.308.2877 • George Maniatis 484.477.7577
Nick Spiliotis 267.907.5707 • George G. Horiates, Esq. 856.986.8972**