



# SAINT·DEMETRIOS·GREEK·ORTHODOX·CHURCH

## ΙΕΡΟΣ·ΝΑΟΣ·ΑΓΙΟΥ·ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

The Rev. Gregory Gilbert  
Presiding Priest

Αιδ. Γρηγόριος Γκίλμπερτ  
Τερατικῶς Προϊστάμενος

### MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings to all St. Demetrios Parishioners during Holy Week.

I hope and pray that everyone is safe and coping the best you can considering current circumstances. The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected every corner of the world and every aspect of our lives. Our businesses, careers, education, social lives and the ability to congregate have all been impacted. I strongly urge everyone to continue following the guidelines as set forth by the CDC and, please, encourage your loved ones to do the same. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

As Parish Council President, I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such a hardworking, talented group of Parish Council Members, Parish Staff, Ministry leaders, and our Reverend Father Gregory Gilbert. We all view our beloved St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church as our spiritual home and all who gather therein, members of our extended family. Therefore, we should check in with one another to make sure we are OK, especially the elderly, those alone or less fortunate. Although our Church doors are temporarily closed, we are always open and available to offer assistance where needed. Please call the Parish office or Father Gregory if a situation of need arises. I am confident that with your help, we will overcome this scourge and together we will emerge stronger than ever.

***We must remain resolute and united by our FAITH!***

As Parish Council members, we are working very hard to raise funds and make the adjustments necessary to keep our Parish functioning. We will continue to pay, without pause, our Priest, Psalti, office administrator and facility custodian. In addition, our Greek School is a priority and we will continue to pay a reduced Greek School staff for the remainder of the amended school year so that our children can complete their scholastic year requirements via online classes. We recognize these services as essential to our St. Demetrios Community and will continue these payments for as long as possible. We continue to follow the directives as set forth by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos and share His approval of our efforts.

As with all Parishes, our primary sources of income are our fundraising events, membership dues/stewardship, and tray collections/Pangari. We rely on these events for our budget and operating expenses. The loss of the following events, and others, represents a major financial loss for our Parish:

- Our Largest fundraiser, The Upper Darby Greek Festival, originally scheduled for May 14, 2020, is now cancelled until further notice.
- Holy Week contributions, Easter Candles and offerings. No Participation Permitted.
- Our Philoptochos' main fundraiser, the popular annual Bid-N-Buy, originally scheduled for April 4, 2020, is now cancelled until further notice.

- The St. Demetrios Inaugural Golf Outing benefiting our Greek School, originally scheduled for June 22, 2020, is now cancelled until further notice.
- First annual Greek School “Kid-n-Buy” benefiting our Greek School, originally scheduled for April 25, 2020 is now cancelled until further notice.
- End of Greek School and Sunday School Yearly events are also cancelled.

We have applied for the CARES Act and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance for Federally funded financial relief. All Church services are streamed live and available online via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StDemetriosUD/> or through our Website at [www.SaintDemetrios.org](http://www.SaintDemetrios.org). We have created on-line opportunities, with the help and guidance of Fr. Gregory, for our Parishioners to participate virtually with “Light a Candle On-Line” . We are exploring other avenues as well and will inform you accordingly. A “Donation” link is located on our website and is active and ready to accept your electronic donations. We pray this is short lived.

Many have asked us, “How can we help our Church?” ... “What can we do? ...” There are a few things to take into consideration:

- First, please take care of yourselves and your loved ones, especially our elderly who are most susceptible. In order for us to continue as a healthy Parish, we need Healthy Parishioners. You are our “Extended Family” and we care about each and every one of you.
- Call your fellow Parishioners and check in on them periodically. If a need arises and help is required, please contact our Parish office.
- Please visit us online and participate in our Church services via live streaming. Although not a substitute for personal participation, it is our only alternative for right now. It will give us an opportunity to pray together and enjoy a sense of “Community”.
- Help those who are “digitally” challenged and/or unable to view Church services online. They would really appreciate the assistance and the opportunity to bring St. Demetrios Church closer to them.
- Please support our Beloved St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church by renewing your annual membership or becoming a member for the first time. We welcome you and your family into our Community. In these uncertain times, we understand that many challenges face our families. We do not want to burden you any further. However, for those who are able to, we ask that you give from your heart at this time of great need. All funds will be utilized for the continued operation of our Parish.

Our beloved St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community is unified and committed to overcoming this challenge. It is truly unsettling to see our Priest and Psalti conducting Church services, especially during Holy Week, with absolutely no faithful present. St. Demetrios Church will always be there for us, especially, when we need it the most. Let’s not take it for granted. We ask for your continued support during this unprecedented time. We ask God for the strength needed to overcome this adversity and the wisdom required to bring us closer to HIM. Καλή Ανάσταση!

Yours in Christ,



Michael Economou  
Parish Council President